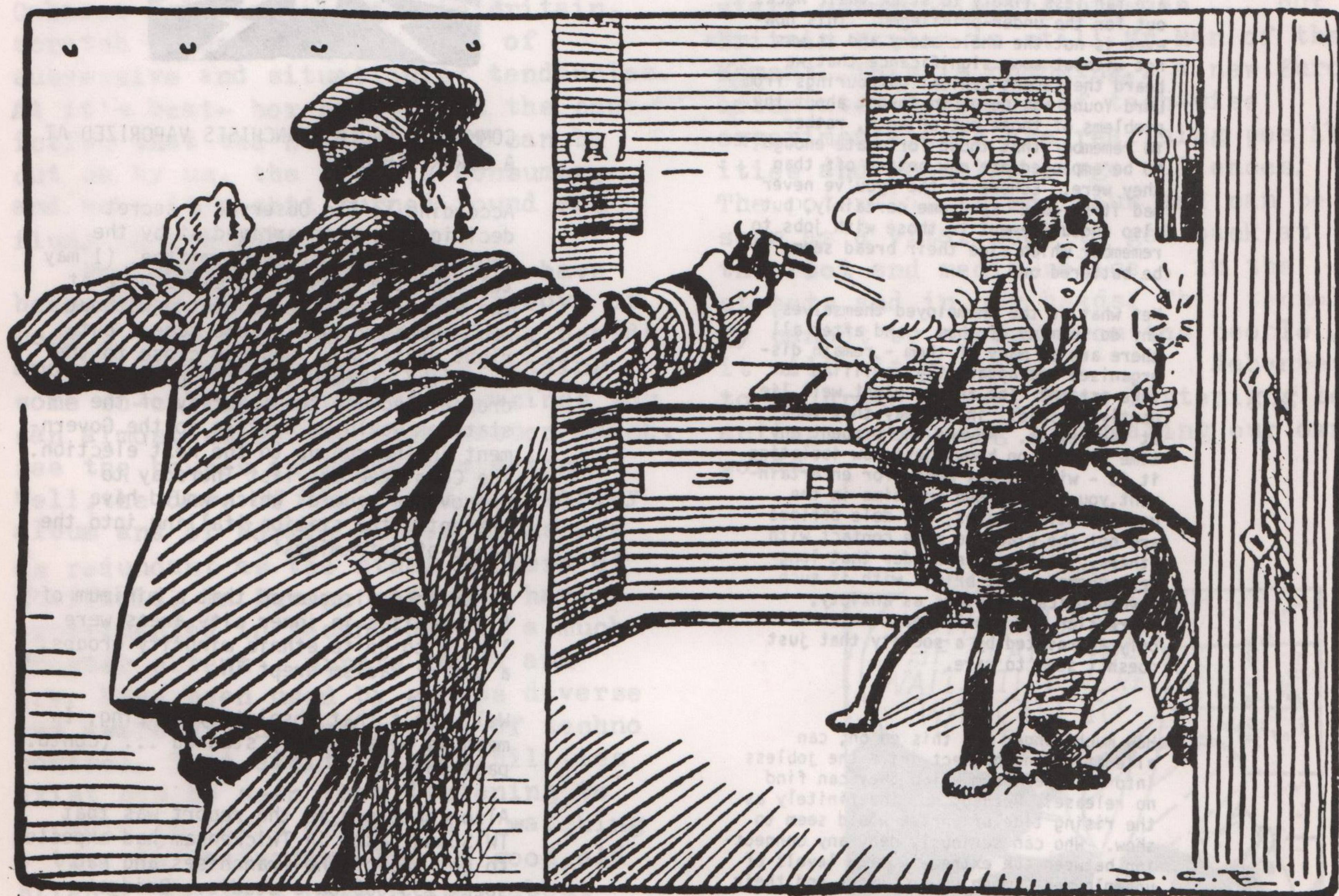


RADIO CRIMES



The microphone, struck by a bullet, flew into a thousand pieces.

.....COMMUNITY RADIO GETS THE BULLET!.....

Unemployment - fighting futility.

For some time now, unemployment has been climbing to levels higher than those seen in the great depression of the 1930s, yet the amount of active opposition to this crisis has been remarkably low. In fact, it has been so low that the government has been able to behave as if it was no crisis at all. The prospect of revolution could hardly have seemed more remote yet violent civil unrest has become so much more common that new laws are about to be passed severely curbing the ability to demonstrate and we are told that plastic bullets and water-cannons are now going to be used.

Why then do we seem to find it so easy to take on board such huge numbers of unemployed and a growing gap between well-being and poverty? The government remains apathetic and it is obvious that as long as the spectre of life on the dole hangs over those in work, they are very much easier to control. As a result, they are far less likely to stick their necks out for the under-privileged. This however is not the whole story and it was not without some significance that we heard the recent cynical outpourings from Lord Young asking us to forget about the problems of those out of work, rather to remember that those fortunate enough to be employed are now better off than they were. Echoes of the "you've never had it so good" syndrome certainly, but also encouragement to those with jobs to remember which side their bread seems to be buttered on.

Yet what of the unemployed themselves, why do so many of them - and after all there are so many of them - remain disorganised and apparently unwilling to take action? The answer might well lie, partly at least, in the way they look at themselves. Anyone who's spent any time signing on knows just how isolating it is - without any money for entertainment, you don't spend any time in the usual meeting places, and dole offices are not the place to make contact with others. It's little wonder that long-term unemployment brings with it such psychological problems as anxiety, depression and hopelessness which are only aggravated by a society that just doesn't seem to care.

How much longer can this go on, can alienation and neglect drive the jobless into a corner from which they can find no release? Perhaps not indefinitely as the rising tide of unrest would seem to show. Who can seriously deny any connection between the extremely high levels of unemployment among young blacks and their willingness to take to the streets? Frustration has spilled over into violence and as long as it remains, is likely to do so again.

So far, however, such shows of strength have been easily crushed by a well organised and more heavily equipped police-force. In future, if they are to make a more long-lasting impression they will need to organise themselves - get in

touch with all the unemployed groups in their areas. Easier said than done, perhaps, but not impossible by any means. All it would take to make a head start would be to club together the small amount of money it takes to build or buy a small FM radio transmitter to cover your area. With your own entertainment and information service you could build your own local network and even link up with groups in other areas. The possibilities are huge and it would take very little to achieve.

FREE THE AIRWAVES will, where it can, put you in touch with groups that might be able to help. If you want this summer to be a hot one, get up and do it!



COMMUNITY RADIO FRANCHISES VAPORIZED AT A STROKE SHOCK!!

According to The Observer a secret decision has been arrived at by the Cabinet's Home Office Committee. (I may tell you the news was greeted here at the Radio Crimes Nerve Centre without much sympathy and in some cases, outright derision). Sources close to the Committee claimed that the plans were dropped because the majority of the stations would be hostile to the Government in the run up to the next election. The Committee met last Thursday to approve safeguards which would have prevented the station 'falling into the hands of extremists'.

"When they discovered that a minimum of 5 franchises in inner city areas were likely to go to ethnic minority groups, a bit of racism crept in."

Well isn't that absolutely amazing, I mean we were totally stunned ... (contd. page 86)

Also contained in the report was that TW Sound based in Twickenham had expected to get one of the franchises and had spent £95,000 on a studio. Bridget Cunningham, the TW Sound Administrator, said "We have wonderful studios which are just waiting to go. We have heard nothing but if this is true, I feel rather sick."

A piece of advice: sell the studio, buy a transmitter and donate the rest to setting up a real community radio network.

FURY OVER COMMUNITY RADIO GAG.

Angry applicants for community radio franchises have threatened to block out Capital Radio in a pirate protest against the Government's scrapping of the Community Radio experiment.

The stations, who planned to be on the air in the autumn, now face a bleak future and stand to lose money raised for studios and staffing. The would-be broadcasters are furious at the back-tracking of hard-nosed Home Secretary Douglas Hurd who, in order to get the plans scrapped, is reported to have raised fears of stations being used by anti-government groups.

The statement said that the Government wanted to put off the experiment until after the much criticised Peacock report into the long term shape of British radio had been discussed. This is seen by the stations as a smokescreen for the Governments real objections which are seen to be based on fears of criticism and inner-city conflicts.

Many groups are now set to turn pirate...but if they do so they'll run up against tough new anti-pirate laws as well as being slammed for 'irresponsibility'. They'll be told they don't deserve to get licensed anyway.

When this tough new crack-down comes Free The Airwaves will defend these stations against official rage. FTA argues that it's the Government who are guilty of 'irresponsibility' and who have for crude political reasons, overlaid with racism, censored a form of communication which flourishes in other more enlightened countries from Italy to Australia.

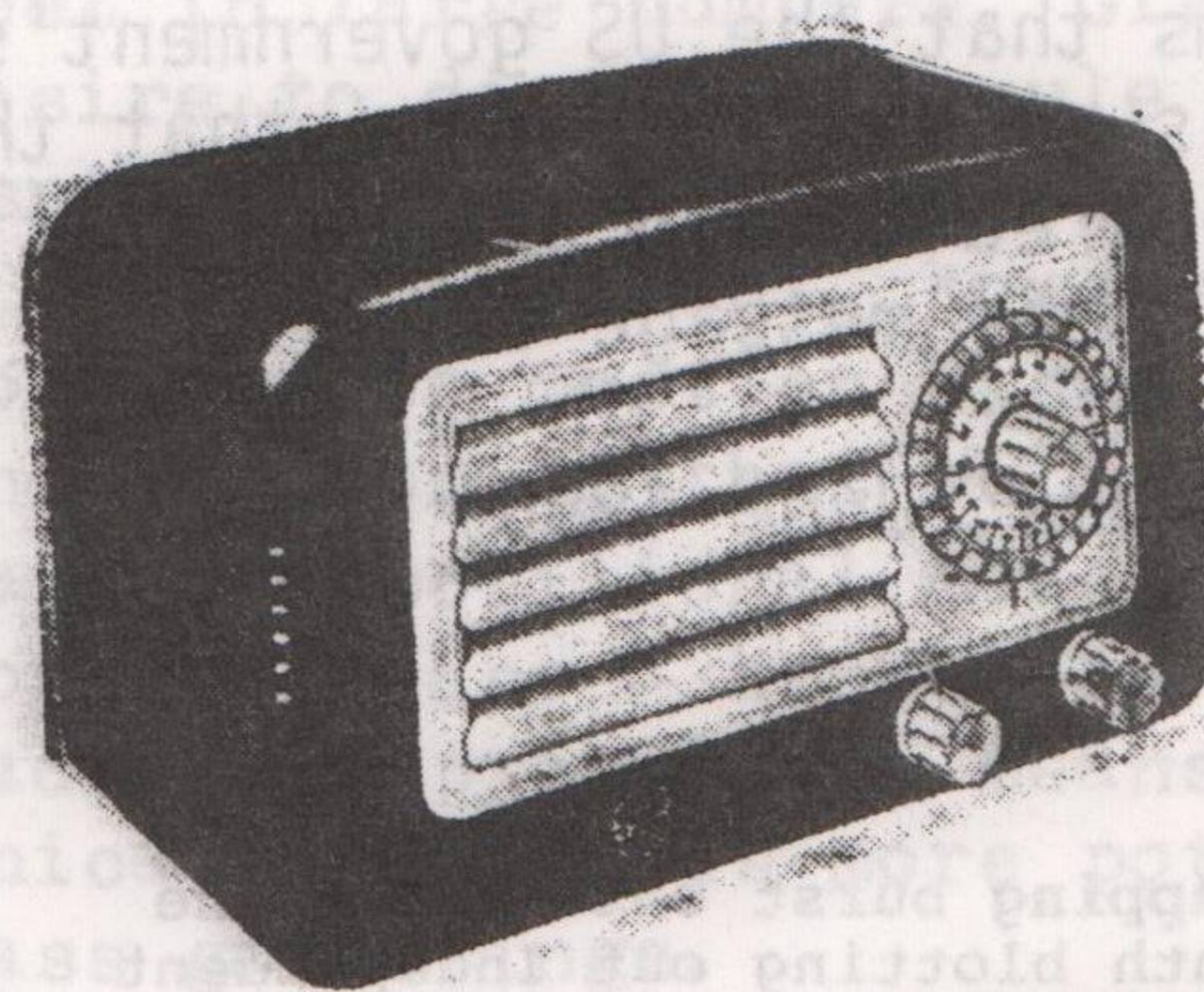
So, why should things be different in Britain? Could it be that those who seek to divide and rule our society do so partly by keeping the means of communication safely in the hands of the Murdochs and the Maxwells and well away from the likes of you and me. Hurd's shock statement shows that the Government is scared of ordinary people making programmes and communicating without controls. Hurd and Thatcher have realised that Community Radio isn't some sexy new exercise in de-regulation for entrepreneurs but a symbolic access to the airwaves

by groups silenced up until now. At the root of the decision is the preservation of the naked power of the state itself.

FTA has always said that real dissent would never be allowed in Community Radio, still less encouraged, and that the whole exercise was a sordid attempt to silence the pirates and buy off the liberal and profit hungry sections of the community radio lobby.

Radio groups must now mobilise popular opinion to support and take part in active and experimental radio - the best way to this is by broadcasting and battling with the unfair pirate crackdown that'll surely come. Writing letters to The Guardian will play into the hands of the authorities - that way the issue will soon disappear and become of interest only to those currently involved in radio.

Mass protests, shock unexpected broadcasts and high profile publicity are being taken on board by the broadcastless broadcasters. In the words of one angry station worker, 'The state'll be made to pay the price for gagging the voices of the silent'. Turn the dial to see if she's right!



RADIO FUN



VOICE OF AMERICA

According to Radio Nederland, Belgian authorities recently raided WROK, a pirate station broadcasting on VHF. The station was allegedly causing interference to the American Forces Network station. The Belgian authorities discovered that some of the station's equipment was on loan from VOA (Voice of America) Europe, whose programmes they relayed.

VOA Europe is part of the US government's Voice of America international broadcasting effort. It is beamed into Europe by satellite from Washington DC and is usually carried by continental cable networks.

It seems that the US government's image is so bad in Europe that they are prepared to aid illegal stations to get their message across.

(Monochrome, June 1986)

Radio Wapping burst onto the scene last month blotting out Independent Local Radio in North London with a blast against Raving Rupert Murdoch's News International and its sacking of 6000 printers. Jane X salutes you, Radio Wapping.

In America, where the space programme more and more resembles a billion dollar firework display, '**radio pirates**' were blamed for the sabotage of the latest Delta rocket to explode on take off. The claim was that a pirate signal was beamed at the rocket shutting down the engines, forcing ground control to abort the mission by destroying it.

The T.V. Pirates strike again! Canny Captain Midnight interrupted the programmes of 'Home Box Office', a mainly film satellite channel in the USA. As the clock struck 12, HBO viewers were surprised to see the film fade and a hand-written message appear - "\$12.50 - No Way!" - signed Captain Midnight. This would appear to be a reference to HBO introducing encoders to prevent unauthorised viewing by those unwilling to pay the charges.

Would You BELIEVE IT?

Well it's not all good news! The Department of Trade & Industry went ape shit (pardon my French) and moved in on three addresses in Norwood, South London. They took aērals used by stations LWR, Fame & Starpoint. A Trade Department spokeswoman said "They are using frequencies to which they are not entitled and they are stealing frequencies from others".

Would You BELIEVE IT?

Jane X is on the look-out for new scouts and reporters who can unearth juicy stories about high voltage radio news.

Radio Crimes needs fresh blood due to a major shake-up on the "editorial board" (4 members were electrocuted last week) Please write stating why you think you have enough resistance to put up with our ruthless and "criminal" editorial policies.

MA/Postgraduate Diploma in Deviancy and Social Policy

A two or three-year course expanding knowledge of deviant behaviour, crime and social policy through a thorough sociological approach.

BOXES OF MAGIC AT BROADCASTING HOUSE



One of the most important departments in Broadcasting House is the Control Room, where engineers are busy linking up the different studios. It is possible for them to connect a singer in one studio with a musician on a different floor. (H.B.C.)

NO MORE PEACE AND LOVE

It's a hard life being a dissenter. We are entering the dark ages for pleasure seeking dissenters. Maggie's rigorous regime of harsh reality means that the happy summertime pursuits of open-air gigs and festivals are fast becoming extinct.

Stonehenge was banned-only the police and respectable middle-class Tories on Sunday outings were allowed near the site (no dirty dole scroungers thank you). Anyone who disagrees with their so-called respectable values is not allowed the rights of assembly or dissent. The GLC is gone-another voice of dissent is annihilated and with it their summer festivals. There is a connection.

Glastonbury was over-crowded and may also be at an end. As the festival radio and harassed CND officials maintained it was possibly the last. CND's fund raising exercise has got out of hand, grown up into a larger than life celebration of alternative culture-banning Stonehenge simply meant magnifying the importance of Glastonbury.

With the demise of the open-air festivals, the introduction of the Public Order Bill and other laws that restrict mass gatherings, it will no longer be possible to meet peacefully in a show of strength. Under the new Bill we will have to seek permission to meet in large numbers. Given the Tories desire to divide and rule, permission isn't likely to be on the cards.

It's important, however, that we continue to meet en masse to exchange information so that we feel part of a larger oppositional movement, but it won't be easy-hence the importance of radio. It provides a means of communication that is more potent than mass gatherings.

Radio is vital if we are to avoid isolation and a feeling of hopelessness.

Thatcher tries to divide those who oppose her directly-like Trade Unions-and those who indirectly oppose her-such as the 'Peace Convoy'. If we can't live and meet openly as we wish, we must use a State tool-the radio-in order to strengthen and unite feelings of dissent.



THIS, IS REBEL RADIO

Struggles of national liberation have been quick to set up their own radio stations in order to give the widest possible airing for their revolutionary message. If radio can be put to such successful use in this context why not in the cause of social revolution in this country, different conditions certainly but the idea is essentially the same, the push to get people of their arses. Most 'left' and 'alternative' groups spend a great deal of time and energy producing a newspaper where the debate in its letters and reply section usually progresses with all the speed and spontaneity of unravelling concrete. A radio station in a community/neighbourhood setting, putting forward new ideas for the organisation of society and actively seeking community intervention could build on a real and developing stream of ideas and activity, the momentum of which could prove unstoppable. To all those tied exclusively to letraset and the John Bull printing outfit, good evening and welcome to the second half of the 20th century.

This is Rebel Radio broadcasting from the Sierra Maestra in the free territories of Cuba: Fidel Castro had this to say after the successful revolution which threw out the hopelessly corrupt Batista regime:

"Rebel Radio was worth ten columns of troops in the political/military struggle that was the revolution. The people were not isolated from revolutionary ideas as they had been in the days before radio transmissions."

It broadcast nightly from Fidel's mountain headquarters and could be heard over almost the entire island and had the highest rating of any of Cuba's stations despite efforts from Havana to jam it.

"We considered that broadcasting was a weapon that should not be underestimated".

The story of the anti-colonial struggle in Zimbabwe is similar. The Publicity and Information Department of ZANU negotiated with the frontline states for free radio time. Very elaborate field units of correspondents were maintained who accompanied the guerrillas all over the country, making reports of battles with the Rhodesian Army and doing interviews. All the material was brought to the rear and used on the air.



"They could hear what the regime saying how civilians had been killed in a crossfire with terrorists and then listen to us tell how the army had entered a village and simply shot unarmed women and children. Since that would have been what happened the local population would identify with us more than with the enemy" (Rafael Mugani, Radio Mozambique)

It was the impeccable nature of the broadcasts from Zimbabwean rebel radio that won so many people over - reporting both defeats and victories and talking as if they were a people's movement and not simply involving itself in a war of words with 'official' Rhodesian radio. Perhaps the greatest tribute comes from David Brooks, a member of the Rhodesian SAS. He discounts the effect of much of the 'political education' broadcast but has this to say about chimurenga (rebel) music programmes:

"That 'Chimurenga Requests' programme! It was very effective propaganda because of the songs and the emotion put into it. I felt hell this was it, damn Rhodesia, up Zimbabwe. It was totally different to our 'Forces Requests' that was just morale boosting whereas 'Chimurenga Requests' gave a really rousing spiritual feeling. It had everyone singing. I've come across Africans in the bush sitting round the radio singing."

An important message here for our own would-be home grown political radio ranters involved in the 'war of words'.



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

For those still involved in the struggle to overthrow oppressive regimes the story does not appear to be so straightforward and the setbacks that can be suffered by those waging revolutionary war become apparent.

In 1979 two men Luis Fernandez and Antonio Sanchez approached a sympathetic radio expert in Mexico City seeking advice on the type of equipment necessary to build a mobile radio station inside El Salvador. This station later became known as Radio Farabundi Marti. From 1980 they worked full time for the FMLN visiting European countries buying necessary equipment. In December 1981 while on a buying trip in Madrid they returned to their hotel to find two strangers had been looking for them. Fearing they were CIA operatives they panicked and took the first flight out which happened to be London. They were arrested immediately on arrival at Gatwick Airport, searched and accused of being Cuban spies.

The British Secret Service's image had become severely tarnished with the Anthony Blunt affair and the collapse of various Official Secrets trials. Here was a perfect opportunity to regain some lost kudos particularly in the eyes of the CIA who regarded them as incompetent blunderers. The story went that the recent expulsion of 100 Russian diplomats from England had forced them to recruit their Marxist allies in Cuba. The evidence (?) - a short wave radio receiver that could have been purchased down the Tottenham Court Road and a cood book of World War II vintage.

Neither Fernandez nor Sanchez were prepared to fully explain themselves. The most important thing was to protect the European network of the FMLN. Most of the trial was conducted behind closed doors and the result was that they received 7 years each for conspiracy to contravene the Official Secrets Act.



In 1984 they appealed, the silence that had been forced on them could now be broken. However no one from the FMLN could come forward and corroborate their stories. Brian Raymond, their solicitor, said:

"Its a real Catch 22 and I'm afraid we were caught by it. We couldn't prove they were in a secret organisation without somebody from the secret organisation. Because it was a secret organisation, nobody could come forward and say who they were."

The appeal failed. Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, who has visited them many times in prison has this to say:

"I think it is an absolute scandal they should be locked away in prison. They've never committed any crime that's been proven against this country. I believe they are there because they support the liberation struggle in El Salvador and because they support it, they are a threat to the US and Mrs Thatcher is the United States' best and closest ally. I think they are there because the Americans want them to stay there."

They will be released in August this year from Albany jail after serving 5 years for no crime except working for the overthrow of a murderous authoritarian regime."



ANADIN OR ANARCHY ?

In the muggy privatised plastic bullet summer of 1986 there'll be many storms of protest , panic , disillusionment. Some of these will be street-wise public, others will be private- opting in or out .

The words and attitudes of those who seek to control us are geared at the moment to moulding us into putty for a low-tech new super burger Macdonalds service economy. High and sexy new high tech means will control our low tech grovelling lives... unless , as a growing new movement suggests, we can turn this technology on its head and throw it back against our masters. This movement , let's for the sake of argument call it techno-anarchy, draws from a number of sources ... ranging from European pirate radio, Amsterdam squatters , new youth culture of post-Franco Spain, Cabaret Voltaire electro in Britain, scratch video .. a long list of subversive and situationist tendencies. At it's beat-box heart lies the conviction that the State itself can be cut up by us, the passive consumer, and have it's shit turned round and flung in its face.

For years British radicals have been stuck in a time warped groove of cosy 1960's schlock- preferring beards and knitting to technology- reading some so-called socialist magazines you can almost smell the Aldermaston march, see the houses in Stoke Newington. Well, the days of the token Bob Marley album and of Norman Wisdom films are as redundant as the steel workers of Sheffield. In Europe radicals have experimented in technology to a much greater extent , pirate radio and t.v. have been used by groups diverse and aware of the new growth of techno control. That exciting possibilities exist can be seen from listening to a radio in Paris or Madrid , watching a t.v. in Amsterdam. But in good old Blighty the left haggle away about Trotsky and flog boring newspapers outside tube stations every Saturday.

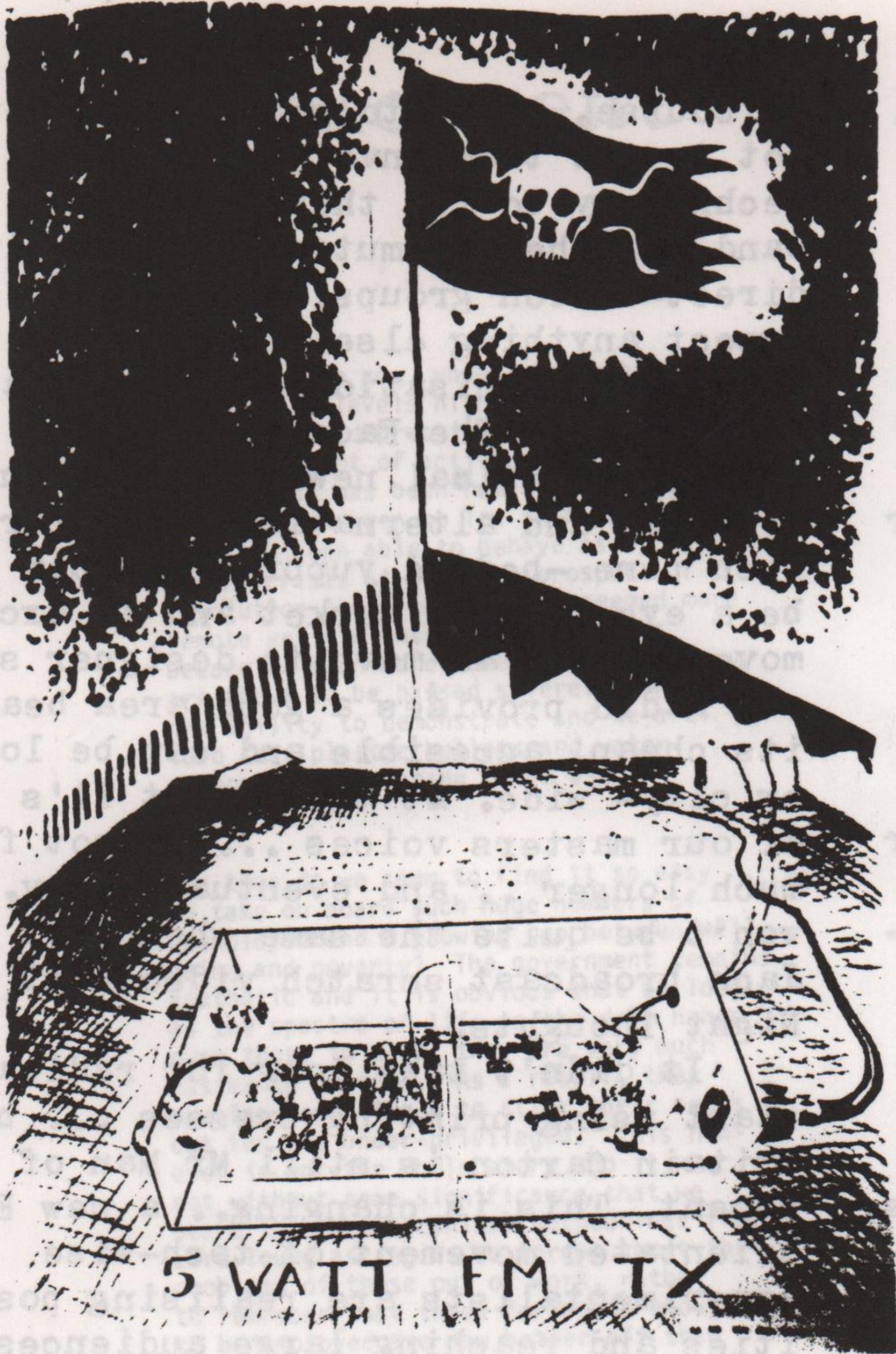
All that's beginning to change- Ken Livingstone understood and used the wish of people to be united and entertained to drum up support for the GLC. Even the Kinnockite Labour Party is using Red Wedge to modernise its cloth cap and papoose image...but this,

of course, seeks to get peoples votes, not to get them involved in using technology to run their own lives, to band together in mutually supportive direct-action groups. We couldn't expect anything else from Statist groups. Modernisation can just mean looking like The Face or dropping radical political news for fashion articles and alternative cafes for rich pine-bedded yuppies. It can just be a eye for the market and an excuse to move right , to move to designer socialism.

Radio provides a good area because its cheap, accesible and can be local or city- wide. At the moment it's full of our masters voices ...but not for much longer .. and eventually t.v. too won't be quite the same when Jill or Jack broadcast scratch video next to Night Thoughts.

It didn't take long for radicals to start using printing presses ... but in Britain Caxton is still Mr Man of the Moment. This is changing.. a new Euro orientated movement of tech-wise experimentalists are realising possibilities and reaching large audiences. The potential is enormous and can be seen as a vital tool to get back at the root and media police , in the streets and in our heads. This technology cannot be stolen from the people.. it will alter the world from Johannesburg to Ladbroke Grove, from listenign to acting, consuming to creating our own words.





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