

FROM: Head of Programme Correspondence Section

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEPHONE CALLS FOR 7 DAYS ENDING 31st OCTOBER 1967

TO: A.D.R.

31st October 1967

Copy to: The Secretary, H.Pres.(R),  
H.S. for Mr. Longmate

Radio 1 and 2 This week not much over 100 letters complaining about Radio 2 reception reached P.C.S., and less than half a dozen about reception of Radio 1. Telephone calls reported by the Duty Officer are also down.

Comment on programme content is still fairly heavy. This week there were just over a dozen letters expressing appreciation of Radio 1, just over 80 complaints (from pop enthusiasts who do not find the programmes what they want and from squarer listeners who would like the whole thing done away with), and over 80 letters of request and suggestion mainly from supporters of various disc jockeys such as John Peel and Tony Prince. Complaints from jazz enthusiasts disappointed about their programmes not being on VHF amounted to 5 this week, but there were also one or two appreciations of the current arrangements.

- " May I commend the BBC on its new Radio One and how it meets the growing needs of the listeners. It adds a variety and the right to the younger generation of this age. "
- " Radio one my foot. Radio rubbish would be a more suitable word to use. I've been expecting to hear something fantastic. I don't think you have ever heard of soul. Radio Caroline for ever. "
- " The BBC which we have always admired for its integrity and its effort to raise the appreciation of music, has now given birth to such a dreadful monster in BBC 1 that we feel quite differently to the Corporation as it sidles up to the barbaric fringe of our young people. These youngsters constitute a very ugly minority of our Youth and many of us feel very strongly that this programme is dragging them down to even greater barbarity. "
- " I wrote to you earlier this year to complain about the inadequate jazz facilities on your station, also the very badly timed programmes you did have. With the advent of Radio One (is wonderful) and your splendid jazz programmes on it I would like to compliment you on this very fine service which you now offer. I find the programmes very well timed, good in length and content. "

Letters praising Radio 2 this week amount to 3 and letters putting forward suggestions of various kinds to 25. Letters of criticism amount to over 120, and as usual are from people who are disappointed at the number of Radio 1 programmes broadcast on Radio 2 and do not find enough of the kind of sweet music they enjoy. In addition there have been 19 more complaints about the ending of "Music While You Work", and nearly 20 more from those who preferred "Housewives' Choice" to "Family Choice".

- " I would like to thank you very much for 3 new excellent programmes on Radio 2. They provide the best in their field, Album Time, Big Band Sound and Golden Sounds of Frank Chacksfield. "
- " I am 45 years old, I imagine in the majority age group of licence payees. I spent the better part of this morning twirling the radio knobs, going from one station to another trying to avoid pop and school programmes, and getting more and more angry. I am not high brow or low brow, I'm in the middle, how about catering for me too, and undoubtedly countless others who are in the same position as myself, in the house on my own all day. It's enough to have pop programmes when my family of teenagers come home in the evening. "

" So the BBC has booted again - and how! In handing over one of our best wave lengths to a set of so-called disc-jockeys with all the screaming drivel they manage to collect between them. The many sick, bedridden, blind, isolated or merely over-worked housewives of this country are now at one go deprived of every one of their alleviating programmes of their day. "

" Please put 'Melodies For You' back where it belongs! Sunday morning at 10 o'clock is a hopeless time for the unfortunate housewife, rushing to wash up breakfast things, 'do' fires, make beds, prepare lunch vegetables, clean and dust sitting-room, and lastly get ready for Church by 10.45. 'Melodies For You' is top favourite programme of the week for many people. "

Woman Weather Forecaster      About a dozen letters of criticism.

" Please, please spare us from Rosie O'Day reading the weather forecast! It sounds more like a children's fairy story. I'm sure she is a charming girl, but let us stick to a man for the weather news! "

KH/AMP

  
(Kathleen Haacke)