

END OF BROADCASTING BY RADIO 390

HIGH COURT BAN UPHELD

NORMAN HARE

Radio Staff

TO the strains of the National Anthem, Radio 390, the "sweet music" pirate station, finally went off the air yesterday. This followed a long legal battle which ended earlier in the day in the Court of Appeal.

ESTUARY RADIO, which operates Radio 390, lost its appeal against an order by Mr. Justice O'Connor in the High Court last May stopping Radio 390 from broadcasting without a licence. The Judge's order was stayed pending the appeal.

Yesterday an application by the company for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Lord Justice SELLERS said to the company: "There is no reason why you should broadcast any longer. All you have to do is to cease broadcasting 18 days earlier than you would have done."

The legal battle has cost Estuary Radio about £10,000. In magistrates' courts at Canterbury and Southend the company was fined a total of £300 for contravening the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1949.

The Marine and Broadcasting (Offences) Bill against pirate stations will operate from Aug. 15.

But Radio 390 was in a different position from the other pirates in that it broadcast from Red Sands Tower, in the Thames Estuary, which was held by the courts to be within internal waters and coming under the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

Closure announcement

Just after five o'clock yesterday Edward Cole, Radio 390's chief disc jockey, broadcast the announcement of the station's immediate closure, from the fort off Whitstable. He thanked listeners for their support since 390 first went on the air in September, 1965.

Soon afterwards the station's staff left aboard the tender Mulard for Whitstable. A skeleton crew of three remained behind to make certain that no-one tried to take over.

One of the bigger pirate stations, Radio London, which claims a weekly audience of 12 million listeners, said yesterday it would close down before the new law comes into operation.

The other big station, Radio Caroline, operating from two ships, one off the East coast and the other off the Isle of Man, said it would continue. It expects to receive sufficient finance from advertising by international companies and to operate from offices overseas.

Under the new law broadcasting from the ships will in itself not be legal.

Until a few days ago Radio London had also expected to survive, but it discovered that the cumulative effects of the new law would be too great a handicap in selling advertising to international firms.

"Benefit to public"

Mr. Philip Birch, Radio London's managing director, said yesterday: "We have repeatedly pointed out that the British public would benefit from independent radio stations operating under licence on land but the Government has said no.

"We have received hundreds of thousands of letters from listeners asking us to continue but we would be operating too close to the law. Our ship will be up for sale."

Switch off! says court, and Radio 390 men say goodbye

By FRANK GOLDSWORTHY
and MARTIN JACKSON

RAUDIO 390, the "sweet music station" which fought—and lost—a battle to prove it was outside British internal waters, closed down in final defeat last night playing the National Anthem.

"It is very disappointing but we shall not be able to continue the programmes you have enjoyed," said disc jockey Edward Cole. "But perhaps one day we shall be able to do so again. Goodbye," he added.

A little earlier, three appeal judges had confirmed an immediate death sentence on the station, dismissing an appeal by its operators, Estuary Radio, against an order of last May.

Fort

A message that the fight was lost went out to 28-year-old Cole from the firm's managing director, Mr. David Lye.

The business of dismantling and vacating Radio 390's base—Red Sands fort in the Thames Estuary—began almost immediately. No one knows what

will become of the 7,000 records and valuable transmitting equipment.

Later, the first party of the station's seven-man staff sailed ashore to Whitstable, Kent. But three stayed behind to make sure no "other pirates" try to take over the property.

The order Estuary Radio had been fighting was made by Mr. Justice O'Connor. It held that Radio 390's base was within internal waters. Thus broadcasting was illegal without a licence—which would not be given.

Refused

Pending the appeal, the station was allowed to stay on the air.

Lord Justices Sellers, Diplock, and Winn all agreed, however, that Mr. Justice O'Connor's ruling was right.

Even after the decision was announced yesterday Mr. J. P. Harris, for Estuary Radio, fought to keep the station on the air until the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act becomes law on August 15.

He asked for a suspension of the order while leave is sought for an appeal to the House of Lords which might save the company from paying costs. "We have a listening audience of between 8 and 12 million," he stressed.

Then he added: "Perhaps you may think that people in hospital or on the beaches on summer holidays should not be deprived of listening to the station."

Lord Justice Sellers: "You may break our hearts with hospitals, but not on the beaches."

Leave to appeal was refused.

After the hearing, Estuary Radio's Mr. Lye shook hands with Post Office lawyers and technical advisers who have been trying to close down his station for more than a year.

He said: "After two years of broadcasting the company has lost money. The litigation has cost us well over £10,000.

Hope

"We intend to let the company lie dormant in the hope that it will have an opportunity to use its experience going back into business if the law about commercial radio is changed some time in the future."

Coinciding with Radio 390's shutdown, Radio London—the pop pirate radio station operating from a converted minesweeper three miles off the coast of Essex—announced that it will close on August 15 as the new Act comes into force. The other big pop station, Radio Caroline, plans to carry on.



Sailing from 390 base (left to right): chief engineer Laurence Bean and announcers Graham Gill, Lee Gilbert and Roger Scott

Police question five men in boat after raid on Radio 390

Express Staff Reporter

FIVE men with a sledge hammer, a length of piping, and a spanner made a breakfast-time raid on Radio 390 yesterday.

They arrived in a 30ft. fishing boat and climbed up the "legs" of the Red Sand Towers in the Thames estuary just as the skeleton "crew" of the now out-of-action pirate radio station was waking up.

The invaders said: "This is a salvage raid."

The radio crew said the five men then started to remove brass fittings from radiators, lengths of copper wire and other metal. But they did not touch the radio apparatus.

AN S.O.S.

Engineer Douglas Seymour used a small transmitter to send an SOS to his wife in Whitstable, Kent.

His message was garbled in transmission. The police were told that a man had been injured and a policeman was flown out in an R.A.F. helicopter.

He found the raiders still there, but Radio 390's crew was unharmed and he left the fort.

The station's managing director, Mr. David Lye, later took off in a friend's plane and "shadowed" the raiders' fishing boat when it left the fort.

When it headed for Southend he informed the police.

The boat moored off Southend pier and police went aboard.

Five men were taken to Benfleet police station.

ON BAIL

After questioning about some scrap metal found on the fishing boat, the five men were released on bail to appear at Canterbury police station next Saturday.

A police official said: "We have a lot of enquiries to make and the men will appear in court if it is decided to prefer charges against them."

Radio 390 stopped broadcasting nine days ago after losing a legal battle with the Post Office.

Last night Mr. Lye said that he had ordered the crew in Red Sand Towers to take precautions against any further raids.

RADIO 390 'PIRATE' FORT TO BE ABANDONED

EMPLOYEES SEEK NEW JOBS

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

RADIO 390, the pirate station at Red Sands Tower in the Thames Estuary, will "almost certainly" abandon the war-time fort when the last of the £40,000 worth of broadcasting equipment has been removed. Employees are looking for other jobs. Their notice ends next Tuesday.

Today police will interview the four employees who were on the fort when it was raided on Sunday by a group of men looking for salvage. Equipment worth about £400 was taken.

None of the broadcasting equipment was touched but a Radio 390 engineer went to Benfleet, Essex, yesterday to identify articles found in a fishing boat arrested off Southend by Port of London Authority officials.

Five men have been bailed to appear at Canterbury on Saturday.

Tower guard replaced

The four Radio 390 men have been replaced on Red Sands Tower. Mr. David Lye, managing director of Estuary Radio, said: "We have always insisted on having at least four men on the tower in case of trouble."

"Not that they could defend it against a boarding party, but their presence is a discouragement. We are keeping basically the same number there, but during the day there are more because we are removing our equipment."

The radio equipment is being put into store because "the chances of us doing anything with it in the near future are pretty well out." The security men on the tower have been changed regularly so that they all have an opportunity to look for other jobs.

Pirate station since 1964

Mr. Lye said it was "almost certain" that his company would abandon Red Sands Tower. "I can't see any useful purpose for the forts."

Red Sands Tower was last used by the Ministry of Defence in 1956, after which they were considered "abandoned at sea." Radio King, a pirate radio station, took occupation in 1964, to be succeeded by Invicta Radio and then Radio 390.

A Court of Appeal decision on July 28 went against Radio 390 in upholding that the tower was inside territorial waters.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday: "Our requirement for the towers ceased a long time ago. We are not going to keep anyone out there."

Although the four anti-aircraft towers are Crown property, no Government Department yesterday would admit responsibility for administering them.

Isle MPs hurry back to join 'pop' fight

Express Staff Reporter

ONLY seven days to go and the fight over Radio Caroline, the Isle of Man's pop pirate station, hotted up yesterday.

Next Tuesday Caroline is due to be outlawed by the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

And the Manx, who have governed themselves for over 1,000 years while still owing allegiance to Britain, are angry at becoming what they call "the victims of the imposition of a British criminal law."

It is the extension of this Act to "self governing" Isle of Man, that brought both houses of Tynwald, the Manx parliament, hurrying back from their summer recess yesterday.

DEBATE

Today the House of Keys and the Legislative Council will debate an emergency resolution in two parts:—

ONE: That the order is "incompatible with the freedom of a self governing democracy."

TWO: That the appropriate committee of the United Nations be asked to conduct "an urgent investigation into the intention of the United Kingdom administration to extinguish the right of self government vested in Tynwald."

The motion is brought by the Peel member of the House of Keys, Mr. Roy Macdonald, an ex-R.A.F. wing commander, former British Commissioner in Sierra Leone, and chairman of the Manx Broadcasting Commission.

The first part is expected to gain passage through both Houses without too much trouble, but the chances of the second part—the UNO move—are very much in the balance.

RAIDERS BOARD 'PIRATE' FORT

SOS to wife brings helicopter rescue

BOAT ARREST AFTER PLANE CHASE

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

FIVE men, armed with a sledgehammer, piping and a spanner, yesterday raided Red Sands Tower, home of Radio 390 in the Thames Estuary. They told the four employees of the pirate radio on the fort, "This is a salvage raid."

While they were gathering property from the fort Mr. Douglas Seymour, 40, a Radio 390 engineer, put out a radio call to his wife, Maureen, at their home in Whitstable, Kent. The police were told.

An RAF Air-Sea Rescue helicopter took a policeman, accompanied by a doctor, the eight miles out to the fort. The policeman was lowered on to the fort. He left again when he found no one was injured.

The raiders left after piling the equipment they had taken, which is thought to have a scrap value of about £400, into a blue-painted motor launch. [Pictures—P11.]

Mr. David Lye, managing director of Radio 390, said last night: "I chased the raiders' boat in a friend's aeroplane and spotted it one mile off Southend Pier." He told the police.

PROTECTION SOUGHT

"Commando style" raid

Mr. Lye said that he had asked for police protection for the four men out on the fort.

"We must have protection because these raiders have threatened to come back again. The equipment stolen probably has a scrap value of £400, but would cost nearer £1,000 to replace."

The raid on the pirate station, which ceased transmission 10 days ago in advance of the outlawing of pirate stations from Aug. 15, was carried out in commando style. One boarder climbed a metal ladder from sea level for 35ft then shinned up a metal upright for a further 15ft.

He scrambled on to the narrow cat walk surrounding the fort. Mr. Alan Cambridge, 23, of Welling, Kent, who was on watch, was told: "If you want trouble, you can have it."

Said Mr. Cambridge: "He released the bolts on our trap door and let his pals through from the ladder. The other men carried pieces of metal piping and a big ring spanner. We didn't have a chance."

"HAMMER THREAT"

Emergency transmitter

The boarders entered the living quarters and woke Mr. Graham Gill, 26, an announcer, who lives in Dulwich. He said: "I sat up to find a chap threatening to hit me with a damn great sledgehammer."

"You don't argue with that sort of thing—I let them get on with it."

While the men were on the fort Mr. Seymour was calling his wife on an emergency transmitter

After the police visit Mr. Lawrence Bean, 30, of Canterbury, chief engineer of Radio 390, went to the fort by launch. He checked the transmitting equipment and found it had not been damaged.

BOAT TAKEN IN TOW

Men at police station

The boat employed was the Canvey Island fishing boat, Shemali. She was met as she entered the Ray Creek, off Leigh-on-Sea, by the Port of London Authority launch, Ravensbourne, from Tilbury, which took her in tow to Hole Haven, Canvey Island.

Two of the crew of the Ravensbourne went on board and told the five men on the Shemali they were under arrest and their cargo would be confiscated.

On arrival at Hole Haven, police were waiting. Five men spent three hours at Benfleet, Essex, police station last night.

Later they were bailed under the Magistrates' Court Act, 1952, to appear at Canterbury on Saturday, if required.

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

Articles in boat

Articles found in the boat are to be inspected at Basildon police station by Customs officers.

The Shemali's owner, Mr. Frank Slater, said last night that he was asked on Friday if he would make a trip to the Red Sands forts to pick up some equipment.

Thinking it an ordinary charter, he accepted the job, and three men boarded the Shemali at 6 a.m. yesterday and they left for Red Sands.

When they reached the Radio 390 fort they found two of the Radio 390 company guards on board. They all went on to the fort where the guards made them coffee.

"MEN HAD CONTRACT"

"Conditions observed"

He said the three men explained they had a contract to clear all the forts and had only just got round to the Red Sands. The guards had told them to take all they wanted, as long as they touched nothing belonging to Radio 390.

They observed this condition, said Mr. Slater, and then went to three other forts in the Red Sands group which had no radio equipment on board. They loaded more material.

They returned to Southend and waited for the tide at the entrance to the Ray Creek, where the boat was arrested, he said.

The Red Sands fort is a complex of seven wartime anti-aircraft placements, connected by catwalks, 70ft above the sea, five miles offshore near Whitstable, Kent.

As the pirates fade out—their exciting legacy

by
Jeremy Hornsby

IN just one week's time, at 3 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon, Big L, Radio London, the penultimate pop pirate, will go off the air, banned by an Act of Parliament.

And then there will be one . . . Radio Caroline, the first to start, the last to go.

Judging from the thousands of letters at Big L's London H.Q., a lot of people are going to be very disappointed at the passing of the pirates. Even Richard Starkey, M.B.E., popped in a couple of days ago to record a farewell message.

Farewell to what?

The four-year history of the nine offshore stations has included one violent death, fights with guns and petrol bombs, SOS calls to coastguards and lifeboat stations, and a feast of fracas culminating with Sunday's little argument over scrap metal.

They have brought peak-listening sponsored religion to the air, started their own trends apparently at will, and been an integral part of the whole seedy-swinging, pop-hip-fab explosion.

But, in fairness, one must say they have also achieved a great deal.

There can be no doubt in anyone's mind, despite pompous parliamentary preachings, that they have proved a need. As a direct result, B.B.C.'s Radio One will start on September 30.

Even Mr. Robin Scott, who will head that programme, concedes: "You always need a war to make a change, and there has obviously been some acceleration in our development. They have demonstrated the need for a continuous musical programme.



SIMON DEE



TONY BLACKBURN



KEITH SKUES

AND SOME D-J NAMES THEY MADE

Too slavish

ON the other hand, I feel they were too slavish in following the American format for such programmes. And as for the listening figures they claim . . . well.

"You can do all sorts of tricks with statistics. But the B.B.C. actually interviews about 3,000 people a day to find out what they are really listening to, and the pirates have not made much of a dent in our figures. 'Housewives' Choice' still gets about 8 million.

"Certainly we have taken some disc jockeys who were with the pirates—like Tony Blackburn and Keith Skues—but we hire people because they are good at the job."

Nevertheless, it WAS on Caroline that Simon Dee's name became familiar to British listeners. It WAS on London that Pete Brady and Dave Cash actually got known.

Says Brady: "I'd tried the B.B.C. three years ago and got a flat NO. Now the B.B.C.'s attitude has changed. The fact that I am on B.B.C. now is directly due to having been on Radio London.

New faces

WHAT the pirates have achieved is to bring good radio to the ears of the public, and force the B.B.C. to change their whole image. They've brightened up radio generally, and brought forward a lot of new performers.

"Take Tom Jones. His record, 'It's Not Unusual,' had been around for some time without the proper exposure. Radio London saw it was good, played it a lot, and Tom Jones was made. Mind you, he would have made it sooner or later anyway, because he has talent."

Radio London makes the same claim. And, says Jones's manager Gordon Mills, "Tom feels that Radio London has been very loyal to him and played his records consistently. He wouldn't like to assess the value of that. But if that's the way Radio London feels, that's O.K."

It was often said that a lot of people were going to make a lot of cash out of the stations. In fact, London appears to have been the only one to make really decent profits.

It is estimated that, since it started to break even in 1966, its profits may have

reached £100,000. Over three years this is not so great . . . for a capital outlay of about £500,000. But it seems clear that it leads the field. Why?

Says its managing director, Mr. Philip Birch: "Most of the pirates had had no experience in broadcasting and advertising. I had had both in America.

"We attained an audience of 12 million in this country, and an estimated four million on the Continent. I will be very sad when we go off the air.

"We didn't take from anyone—in fact I believe Luxembourg's figures have risen slightly while we've been on. And we did pay the proper fees to the Performing Right Society. We tried to run a proper business."

Alone

SO now Caroline will press on alone, based in Amsterdam, backed by foreign and international advertising with an admixture of bogus advertisements for real English products to confuse the authorities.

But one thing everyone seems to agree—sooner or later commercial radio will be back.

What remains to be seen is whether, jolted out of its lethargy by the Captain Morgans of radio, the B.B.C. can now succeed in giving millions what they want. As the pirates did.

POP 'ADMIRAL' SAILS INTO EXILE

DISC jockey "Admiral"

Robbie Dale said an emotional farewell to thousands of his fans yesterday.

The farewell came at a "love-in" at

Sunday Mirror Reporter

Chislehurst Caves, near Bromley, Kent.

Nearly 2,000 fans crammed the caves for a last look at the 27-year-old idol of Radio Caroline.

For long-haired Robbie has chosen exile on the pop ship anchored off Essex so that he can con-

tinue to work for Radio Caroline after the Government Act banning the pirates becomes law on Tuesday.

Under the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act, it will be an offence for British subjects to supply, or work for, a pirate station.

But Robbie's send-off was not exactly a swinging affair.

The fans found the low-ceiling caves depressingly overcrowded and frighteningly loud. Few stayed very long.

Between the booming beat numbers in the caverns, Robbie and another fugitive disc jockey, 22-year-old Johnnie Walker, made speeches attacking "cruel" Harold Wilson.

Cheers

The fans were unmoved.

BUT THEY CHEERED when he asked them to be faithful to Radio Caroline, which is trying to beat the Act by moving its HQ to Amsterdam.

AND THEY JEERED when he asked them to promise never to listen to Radio One, the BBC's coming pop channel.

Then he left for more rave-in farewells in a Sussex field at Northiam.

AN ATTACK on the Act banning the pirates came yesterday from Mr. Paul Bryan, the Tory Opposition spokesman on broadcasting.

He warned: "Should Caroline dare to sail on, anyone rash enough to send a request postcard to a disc jockey will be liable to two years' imprisonment."

SECRET OF A SOLO PIRATE

TOMORROW at midnight the Marine Broadcasting Offences Bill becomes law. It will then become an offence for a Briton to advertise on a pirate radio station.

Radio Caroline will be the only pop pirate to continue broadcasting.

But who will advertise? "International firms," Ronan O'Rahilly, Caroline's boss, tells me.

"I have just come back from Manhattan. The best American advertising agencies are wild about the idea of a swinging pirate station."

I hardly share his optimism. Neither do I care for his plan to broadcast "a tape which has been made about the Prime Minister." Ronan won't say more. Possibly difficult to say anything about hot air.



Ronan O'Rahilly

Caroline ready to play on as lone pop outlaw

By ROBIN TURNER

THE pop ships become real pirates at midnight tonight—officially outlawed as the Government's Marine Offences Act comes into force.

But by then there will hardly be a Jolly Roger in sight.

Radio London, off Essex, goes silent at 3 o'clock this afternoon with an emotional, pop-star studded farewell that includes a recorded message from Beatle Ringo Starr.

Going or gone: Radio 277 and Radio 355 operating from the same ship in the south; Radio 270 off Scarborough; Radio Scotland, and Radio 390, which closed two weeks ago after losing its appeal over its situation in British waters.

Only Radio Caroline, with two ships outside territorial waters, will carry on past the midnight deadline.

It switched its offices from London to Amsterdam at the weekend. Some staff went too.

Into exile

Disc jockeys "The Admiral" Robbie Dale and Johnnie Walker will sail out today to "exile" in Holland.

The new Act makes it illegal to work for, supply or advertise with a pirate station. Caroline has been warning its listeners they could be breaking the law by sending in record requests.

THE GAP of six weeks between the demise of the pirates and the start of the B.B.C.'s new music programme was attacked yesterday by Tory Shadow Minister Mr. Paul Bryan. Radio Luxembourg will be delighted," said Mr. Bryan. "Other European commercial stations will in time spring up to cash in on the British market now denied to British nationals by their own Government."

Radio pirates go off air tonight

NORMAN HARE
Radio Staff

GOVERNMENT action will have cleared the air of radio pirates by midnight tonight—apart from the original pirate station, Radio Caroline, which intends to continue broadcasting from two ships outside territorial waters off Felixstowe and the Isle of Man.

It is just 20 months since the Postmaster-General issued an ultimatum for them to surrender. None of the 10 operating at the time took any notice. Since then stations operating within territorial waters, from wartime forts, have been prosecuted.

Now the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act, which comes into operation tomorrow, makes it illegal to supply records, labour, advertisements or any commodity to the pirate ships, which remain outside the jurisdiction of the courts.

This Act ratifies an agreement signed by representatives of most European countries at Strasbourg in January 1965.

But the Netherlands has not ratified the agreement and the men running Radio Caroline, headed by Mr. Ronan O'Rahilly, 27, an Irishman, have moved their headquarters from London to Amsterdam.

GOODWILL GESTURE

Free advertisements

They hope to finance operations with advertising from firms outside Britain and supply their ships from Holland. Radio Caroline claims to have more than 12 million listeners in Britain.

A big problem for the Government, if it intends to take action against firms advertising on Radio Caroline, will be to distinguish between ordered advertisements and free advertisements put out as a goodwill gesture for past support.

A number of religious organisations, whose air-time is paid for by Americans, will continue to broadcast their half-hour messages from Radio Caroline. They are of an evangelical nature and have aroused no protest from established churches.

A spokesman for Radio Caroline said yesterday: "Mr. O'Rahilly has been in several countries inquiring about obtaining advertising that would not be subject to the Act and he has found a most favourable reaction.

"It may be a bit sticky to begin with but he is confident there will be sufficient financial support for Radio Caroline to continue."

Two DJs quit as Caroline sails on

By BRIAN DEAN

TWO DISC JOCKEYS and a news reader will abandon Radio Caroline today—a few hours before their fellow pop pirates begin a lone stand against the law.

From midnight tonight it will be illegal for Britons to have anything to do with the pirate radio stations.

All the pirates except Radio Caroline North and South are closing before the ban takes effect, or have already done so.

Disc jockeys Tony Price and Dave Lee Travis, and news reader Dave Williams, are the only Britons left aboard Caroline North, anchored off the Isle of Man.

They will be taken off the ship today, rather than face arrest and a possible jail sentence.

Moving

Caroline South, anchored off the Essex coast, has two Britons—disc jockeys Robbie Dale and Johnnie Walker.

They will continue working after moving their homes to Holland.

Caroline hopes to keep going with international advertising, supplying its ships with food and equipment from outside Britain.

The new law extends even to fans. For example, anyone who sends a request postcard to a pirate station after midnight risks jail.

The pirate stations which plan to stop broadcasting today are Radio London, Radio 227, Radio 355, Radio Scotland and Radio 270.

OPPOSITION VIEW

"Opportunity missed"

Mr. Paul Bryan, M.P. for Howden and Opposition spokesman on broadcasting, said in a statement yesterday: "Despite their protests, millions of listeners will now be firmly told that they must listen to what the Government and the B.B.C. think is good for them, and not to what they have shown they prefer.

"The Socialists will not tolerate commercial radio but the success of the pirate stations means that people want commercial radio in addition to the B.B.C., and there is no reason why they should not have it.

"It would have been perfectly possible to set up local commercial radio stations at no great cost. A great opportunity has been missed."

Meanwhile, immigration and Customs men have been told to take the names and addresses but no other action against holders of British passports who come ashore from the pirate ships. The ships are manned by Dutch crew.

THE No 1 POP PIRATE IS ALONE ONCE AGAIN

THE party is over for the pop pirates . . . or nearly over.

At midnight tonight, after 40 months of virtually non-stop programmes, the stations will be outlawed by the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act.

Once there were ten "Jolly Roger" stations around Britain's coast.

But yesterday only four—Radio Scotland, Radio London, Caroline North and Caroline South—were operating.

Survivor

And by tomorrow both Radio London and Radio Scotland will have shut down.

Caroline, the station that started pirate radio, will be the only survivor.

Its headquarters have been transferred to Amsterdam—out of the reach of the Postmaster-General, Mr. Edward Short.

Caroline's boss, Ronan O'Rahilly, told me last night: "I am more committed to Caroline than ever.

"It's not just pop music any more. Every time I look at this Marine Broadcasting Offences Bill I am amazed that it has been let through."

And he added: "We want to bring this matter before the United Nations and before the

By

Mirror TV Reporter
JACK BELL

Commission on Human Rights at Strasbourg."

The new Act prohibits British firms from advertising on pirate radio—but Mr. O'Rahilly claims he has enough international orders to keep Caroline on the air for a year.

About six English disc jockeys are leaving Caroline.

Mr. O'Rahilly said: "They're a bit worried that they might go to jail. I don't blame them.

"But we've got others joining—from Australia, South Africa, Canada and America.

"Two English disc jockeys are also staying. They say they are prepared to go ashore and see if they are prosecuted."

'Anarchy'

The Postmaster-General attacked the pirate stations because, he said, he wanted to end anarchy in the air.

There have been complaints that the pop programmes interfered with ship-to-shore messages and broadcasting on the Continent in areas as far apart as Sweden and Yugoslavia.

Three stations—Radio 390, Radio Essex and

Radio City—closed after prosecutions under the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

Radio 355, which inherited the ship that once broadcast Britain Radio and Radio England, gave up when the Marine Broadcasting Offences Bill was passed.

There has sometimes been an element of real old-time piracy about the stations—with threats of boarding parties and

pleas for police protection.

Rough seas occasionally cut off the stations' supplies, and some of the disc jockeys gave up trying to sound cheery as mountainous waves rocked the ships.

Legacy

Now, with most of the pop pirates off the air, their legacy is handed to the BBC.

When Radio One, the new BBC pop channel, starts next month it will imitate many of their brash techniques—and some of the disc jockeys will be ex-pirates.



The Postmaster-General, Mr. Edward Short. . . His radio is now almost free of the pop pirates.

Legal broadside scatters pirates

By JOHN FAIRHALL

That battleship of an Act of Parliament, the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act, puts to sea tomorrow against the pirates. At the very threat of her heavy armament—two years in prison for anyone supplying advertising, stores, or ships—all but two of the pirate radio craft have struck their colours, or are preparing to do so tonight.

By tomorrow only two pirates will be left—Radio Caroline North off the Isle of Man, and Radio Caroline South outside territorial waters off Harwich but with a lair in Amsterdam.

The decline of the pirates—Britain has had 10 of them—was lamented yesterday by the Conservative spokesman on broadcasting, Mr Paul Bryan, as a deprivation of the masses and a thwarting of the little man of business. "Millions of listeners will be firmly told that they must listen to what the Government and the BBC think is good for them and not to what they have shown they prefer," he said.

It would have been perfectly possible to set up local commercial stations all over the country at no great cost and these could have provided the variety of choice offered by the pirates and local features as well, Mr Bryan protested.

BBC monopoly

The BBC monopoly penalised programme makers as well as listeners. Local commercial radio was one of the few fields in communications which was open to the small man. Newspapers, magazines, the cinema, the theatre, television, radio—all were in the hands of big business or state-sanctioned monopolies.

"With astonishing ineptitude," Mr Bryan said, "the Government is closing down the pirates six weeks before the new BBC programme is due to start. Radio Luxembourg will be delighted."

It is unlikely that the financial results of the pirates' operations will ever be made known, and the stories of hundreds of thousands of pounds in advertising profits will continue to circulate along with tales of Henry Morgan's caches of pieces of eight. Radio London, however, has generally been the most businesslike of the fleet, and has decided that the threat to advertising revenue means it must close. Radio Caroline's defiance may well be short-lived.

SILENCE AT SEA

It is, no doubt, with varying feelings that the public will greet the formal execution of pirate radio which is due to take place from tonight. Few among the middle-aged and the elderly may find themselves actually pining for the inconsequential prattle and what always seemed to be the strident form of "pop music" usually dispensed by the pirates. It may be thought that even the young admired these programmes as much for the atmosphere of doubtful legality by which they were surrounded as for their artistic content.

This said, the fact remains that many millions of people are now to be deprived of a perfectly innocent type of entertainment costing the taxpayer nothing. One station alone, Radio Caroline, will try to defy the ban, largely by means of bombarding British audiences with advertisements for American products, spiritual and material. Apart from this, the "pop public" will be largely starved for six weeks. Subsequently they will be partially recompensed by a new service from a B B C which has not been slow to learn the lesson about what the younger public wants.

In spite of the charges made against the pirates in respect of alleged defiances of copyright and interference with shipping, the Government knows well that they did little real harm and none that could not have been repaired by licensing and controlling their activities. Why, then, this absurd persecution? The only possible explanation is compulsive Socialist prejudice.

MONOPOLY WINS

SO it is goodbye to the pirates. Tomorrow the Act banning commercial radio stations at sea comes into operation.

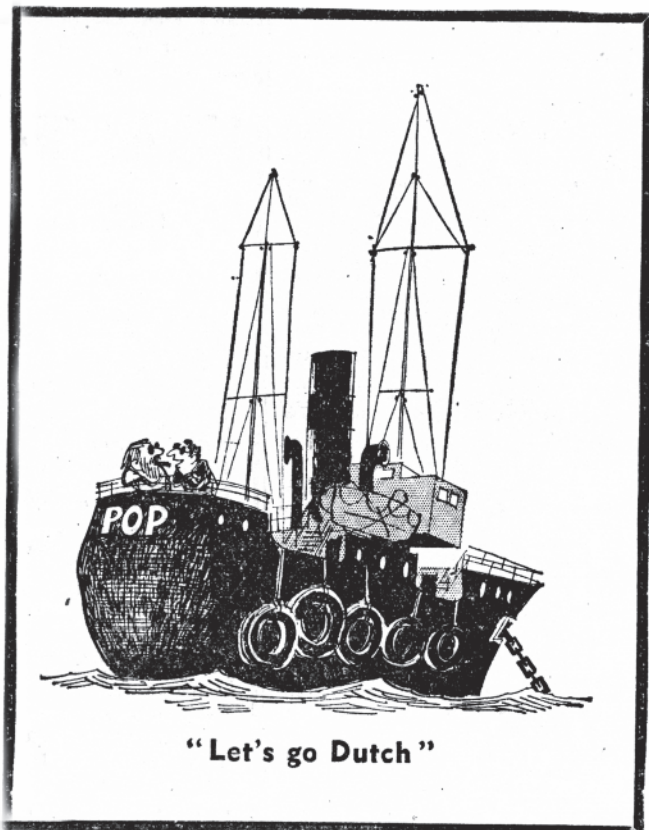
Who is the better for this repressive legislation? Certainly not the public, whose freedom of choice is eliminated.

This Government has pursued the pop pirates as though they were enemies of the State. Now, at last, Whitehall has "triumphed."

The cheerful invaders have been driven away. The listeners will get not what they want, but what the B.B.C. thinks they want.

It is a triumph all right—of monopoly over democracy.

■ Today Radio London is due to go off the air permanently. Top spot in their "Fabulous Forty," pop chart is held jointly by "Even the Bad Times are Good," by the Tremeloes, and "Heroes and Villains" by the Beach Boys. There's a moral there somewhere!



Deadline midnight for the pop pirates

CUSTOMS PLAN TO SCUPPER CAROLINE

By PETER BURDEN and SHAUN USHER

A PLAN to drive the defiant pop pirate Radio Caroline off the air is ready to go into action.

The plan, which has taken Customs men working with police and Treasury officials six months to prepare, begins when the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act banning the pop pirates becomes law at midnight.

Radio Caroline has announced that it intends to continue broadcasting — the only pirate to defy the new law.

Government investigators have completed a dossier on everyone who has had any connection with the pirate.

DJs QUIT

From midnight, all will have their dealings scrutinised to make sure they are not continuing to serve or supply Radio Caroline's two ships.

Those who are—and any Briton who works on the ships—face prosecution.

The new Bill makes it illegal for anyone to serve or supply pirate ships; provide equipment; carry out any repairs, or transport anyone to the ships.

Radio Caroline has said that the service will be continued from Amsterdam headquarters.

But if the pop pirates use records or tapes made in England, the suppliers in England will be breaking the law.

A spokesman for Radio Caroline South, which is anchored four miles off the

Essex coast, said last night: "We will go on transmitting as normal."

"Staff who are on shore leave will be going back."

Disc jockeys Robbie Dale and Johnny Walker, who are both British, are due to return to the boat.

But two disc jockeys on Radio Caroline North announced last night that they are quitting today. They are Tony Prince and Dave Lee Travis.

A station spokesman said: "They have obviously

decided it is not worth the risk of staying aboard and being prosecuted."

Their decision to leave means that Caroline North will be staffed exclusively by Australians, Canadians and Americans.

On the Isle of Man last night, shopkeepers supplying Radio Caroline North were wondering if and when they are to become criminals.

For the Isle of Man Government had still not received the Order in Council enforcing the Act on the island.

And until it does — probably within 14 days—Manx police cannot prosecute anyone supplying Radio Caroline North, which is anchored four miles outside Ramsay Bay.

A spokesman for the ship said that as soon as the law applied to the island, supplies would be ferried in from Eire.

RADIO PIRATES BURIED AT SEA



The pick of the pops . . . going overboard from Radio Scotland yesterday

ABOARD the pirate ship Radio Scotland they were busy yesterday doing what pop-haters think they should have done a long time ago—chucking most of the Top Twenty into the sea. And as far as the pop pirates are concerned this marks the begin-

ning of the end. At midnight tonight the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Bill, which outlaws pirate stations, becomes law. Radio 390 and Radio 227, have already closed down. Radio London will say goodbye to their estimated 12million listeners at 3 o'clock

this afternoon, with a farewell message from the Beatles. Radio 270, moored off Scarborough, will also finish tonight.

Only Radio Caroline are determined to carry on—by moving their offices abroad and relying on foreign advertising. Last night the crew

of Radio Scotland's pirate ship off the coast of Fife were reduced to two, who will carry on until the close down.

The last record from Radio Scotland will be 'Auld Lang Syne.' A good tune and a suitable one—even if it hasn't made the charts lately.