

## The fed. gov't strikes:

How many hours of listening pleasure have you had, truckin' around in your decrepit auto, or sitting alone at home, with your radio tuned in to Saturday night's rock show? Would mornings be the same if you didn't have the Eye Opener program to lift you out of your morning-after grog? If action is not taken soon by all and sundry, we stand to lose what has been called the best radio station in North America.

The Canadian Radio and Television Commission (C.R.T.C.) has been issued a directive from the Secretary of State, Mr. Pelletier, to the effect that the provinces and their agents and educational institutions will not be eligible for licensing under the Broadcasting Act after March 31, 1972. This means that unless some arrangement can be made that is in keeping with C.R.T.C. regulations, no longer will we have the boon of radio without jingles, promos or bubblegum.

### What It's All About

Last week, playing out my last role as Intrepid Reporter, I wandered up to the offices of CKUA to speak to whomever I could about the aims, ambitions, and accomplishments of the station. I spoke with Mr. Hagerman, who has managed the station for some twenty-two years. Plucking my tongue out of my cheek, I asked him what he thought was the station's raison d'être. His reply was immediate:

"To provide the broadcasting that is uneconomic for commercial broadcasters to provide." Hagerman feels that the thing that makes his station the unique (and superior) thing that it is, is the phenomenon of not having to cater to an audience in economic terms, but rather in terms of what is wanted and needed by a widest possible range of audience. I think this is an excellent phenomenon. We, the people, through comunal effort, in the

form of taxes, benefits as a whole from intelligent government spending, i.e. CKUA.

At any rate, it is true that CKUA does provide a wide scope of listening that commercial stations cannot risk airing, for if audience size decreases, so does sponsorship. With such programs as the MEETA University of the Air follow-up talk show, and the Correspondence School by Telephone, which takes place in CKUA studios, the audience of CKUA "changes all the time", as Mr. Hagerman put it.

After our talk, the manager took me upstairs and unleashed me upon Bill Coull's studio, as Bill was running his afternoon show. He's very easy to interview, because he says very little, but it's all quotable and to the point when he does speak.

"Why are you working for CKUA, when you could probably work anywhere?"

"Because I like it." (Pause of three minutes as he bustles around, collecting records, announcing, etc.) "There is no attempt here to hinder creative effort." (Another five-minute pause.) "You learn a lot here."

Later, I spoke to the Production Manager, Mr. Kilpatrick, who is responsible for everything that is aired by the station. He stated that: "...We cater to all areas of music except bubblegum and country." CKUA also does a lot of out-of-studio recording, conversations with guest speakers at U of A, recitals in the city, and general things of interest.

Kilpatrick also pointed out the many programs on CKUA which originate in countries on other continents. Apparently programs from the United States have become very unpopular in recent years. Rock was adopted as a form by CKUA some three years ago, and has been flourishing there ever since, nursed lovingly by such dedicated persons as Holger Peterson.

### The Situation

Now that we have exposed

# CKUA IN TROUBLE



Bob Chelmick in the broadcast booth for his morning show, a truly dedicated man

the many virtues of the station, let me turn your attention again to the Headline. As of March 31 of next year, CKUA's licence to broadcast expires and becomes null and void! There is NO provision in the present C.R.T.C. regulations to renew that licence. If CKUA is to remain on the air, which is no doubt a consummation devoutly to be wished by all, there are alternatives: A corporate structure could quite conceivably be set up inside the administrative powers of the government of Alberta, AGT, and the station itself, with the Board of Directors responsible to the government, and thus indirectly to the people.

Anxious I was to speak to a representatives of both the provincial and the Federal governments, and being so, began my quest:

Last Thursday, 2:00 p.m. phone the Secretary of State's office in the city, am informed that the person I probably desire to speak to is not in the city, will be back Monday. Maybe.

Call AGT, first referred to Hagerman.

"No thank you, I spoke to Mr. Hagerman."

"How about the Secretary of State?"

Squint again through the array of government listings. Find a number....dial....someone picks up the receiver....there is a ten-second silence...."Is this the office of the--"

"No"....disheartened, I return to bed.

Heartened by a weekend, I begin fresh on Monday. Phone the government swithh board, get a number, dial....."Good Afternoon, CKUA"... phone Secretary of State's office again..."No, I'm afraid he isn't back yet."

Okay, I'll try the province. (Their listings take up 7½ pages of the book)...Phone the office of the Hon. Len Werry, Minister of Telephones..."Mr. Werry isn't in

the office, perhaps next Tuesday...."

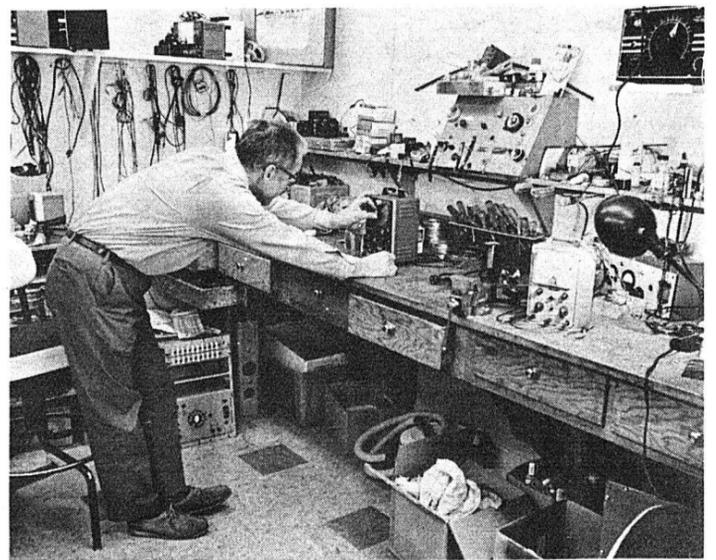
Phone Don Getty, Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs...."Mr. Getty is not now in the office"...."Well could you tell me when I could speak with him?"...."Mr. Getty is very involved in conferences these days." Right.

### What can we do?

A mere handful of

"Fantastic!" It seems that the people who have come to their petition booth have been very concerned and very enthusiastic in their support, but that they were unaware of CKUA's dilemma. So far, they have received support from many centres in Alberta.

The petition will be sent to Peter Lougheed's brand new government, in hopes that it will be taken seriously by the new administration. However, when



Mr. Pinko: CKUA's electronic wizard and Mr. Fixit

consciencious citizens have banded together to gather in vast quantities, and to draw up a petition to be sent to the provincial government.

It asks that immediate action be taken to prevent the impending disaster of barren listening. These three fine people are Penny Swanson, Rick Swanson, and Sheila Nolan. I talked to Penny and Sheila Wednesday about the progress of the petition, which is in a booth in the rotunda of the Central Academic Building. Their progress report was unanimous:

Sheila phoned Don Getty's office recently, she received only a vague reply to the effect that "information was being gathered".

There is always time to write a letter to your M.L.A. or to the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs. For more information or to volunteer your services, contact Sheila Nolan, c/o Microbiology Dept., U. of A.

CKUA is one of the most valuable things that is relatively free in this province. Don't let it fade away, please.

-the Villiage Idiot

