

29-Mar-05

David King

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Dear Sirs,

I would like to make a suggestion that could release the vast resource of inventiveness and innovation to be found among the general public.

It is noticeable that the proliferation of sound radio stations devoted to broadcasting pop music, sport and trivial news items are mostly so alike that many broadcasting channels are wasted. Some stations do devote a few minutes a week to "Phone In" specialist programmes when experts answer questions on scientific and technical subjects, for example around 3 AM. on a Thursday on Talk Sport "Inspector Gadget" answers queries on modern electronic equipment; and there seems no end to the listeners seeking advice and discussion..

May I suggest that when the allocation of frequencies is being considered the provision of a service for listeners interested in science, engineering and technology be given serious consideration. The interaction between experts and the general public by "Phone In" programmes live on air results in innovative and inventive ideas coming to light. After all, many early philosophers and inventors started out as untrained members of the public.

One only has to study the newsagent's shelves to realise that the wide range of interests like aviation, astronomy, all branches of engineering, electronics etc. are well catered for by the printed word, but not on sound radio. A substantial section of the general public is largely being ignored, or at best treated in a casual manner. This shortcoming should be addressed, not only for the benefit of listeners but also for the advancement of science and technology which is playing an ever increasing part in our everyday lives.

Television programmes such as Horizon have a valuable part to play, but can not promote the discussion between viewers and specialists which may take place live on sound radio. The potential audience for sound is far greater as people can work while listening, as I do, but television requires full attention.

Many thanks for giving this your attention, I hope my suggestion may have some influence on the next allocation of radio channels.

Yours faithfully,

David King



Copy to:  
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for Culture Media and Sport,  
John Whittingdale OBE. MP.,  
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