

YOU AND THE RADIO SWITCH

THERE is still an impression in the minds of some listeners that the reason for closing down the radio stations after breakfast, and before lunchtime and teatime daily, is to save the power used by those stations. The chief reason, of course, is to save the power used by receiving sets. The actual power used by the stations themselves is only one-fortieth of the total power used by all the receivers in New Zealand.

There are 375,000 licensed radio receivers in New Zealand and the average power they consume is 60 watts each. If they were all on at once they would need 22,500 kilowatts (one kilowatt is a thousand watts), whereas all the transmitting stations in New Zealand can be operated on less than 600 kilowatts.

Therefore, when a power saving has to be made, the object is not merely to save the power used by the stations, but to get the sets turned off, and this must be done at a time when a very large number of sets are on if it is to produce the full effect. The two half-hour silence periods at present in force are peak periods. In the morning (8.15-8.45 a.m.) the industrial power-load is up, and the trams are running at rush-hour level. Domestic cooking and radiator loads are still on, too. In the evening (5.15-5.45 p.m.) the industrial power-load has probably gone down a lot, but domestic cooking and heating requirements are at their greatest, and in addition there is lighting, not only in homes, but in shops and streets. The 11 a.m. to noon period is also a peak hour, though tram transport and lighting do not contribute to it.

So if the times when your radio is no use to you are just the times when you would like to be using it, remember that that is the very reason why it has been made useless. The reduction in power consumption has to be made at a time when consumption is high, and the necessary result cannot be achieved by turning stations off at other times when neither you nor many other people are listening.

"THE MAN BORN TO BE KING"

Sir,—I saw in *The Listener* that many people do not like the plays by Dorothy Sayers called *A Man Born to be King*. So I thought I'd write and say that I like them very much. I could understand the Bible much better when everyone talked the way they do in the plays. Andrew, my brother, and Mummy and I listen to them every Sunday night. I am eight.

DIANA FUSSELL (Karori).

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performance; and wider sympathies by sharing together the good things of the mind and spirit."

Let us not lose our sense of proportion. There is, or should be, room for all forms of community activities and community services in a Civic Centre or Community Centre, whichever term you prefer, but if every building that houses a community activity or service is to be labelled "Community Centre" they will be dotted about the landscape like milk bars.—J. W. MAWSON (*Department of Internal Affairs*).



Looking Ahead—

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