

OCTOBER 1, 1948

Partly United Nations

IT will never be possible to isolate all the crazy motives behind the murder of Count Bernadotte; and never necessary. Everybody knows now that the murder was deliberate, organised, and if not exactly permitted, not made impossible or even very difficult. The murderers themselves may in fact be the least unworthy participants in the whole disgraceful incident. If it is impossible to forgive them it is possible to respect their boldness, competence, and fanatical singleness of purpose. But it is not easy to respect the fumbling guardians of law and order—in Palestine or outside. It has always been known that the terrorists were there, that assassination was their weapon, and that they would use it as often as a good opportunity presented itself. If to expect their own people to exterminate them was too much, it should have been safe to assume that the United Nations would take no risks with them, and make taking risks with the United Nations something that even lunatics would hesitate to do. But the United Nations have played into their hands inside Palestine and outside. They have argued when they should have acted, fought one another in committees when they should have sustained their own authority in the field. They have not been united nations, or nearly united nations. At the most they have been partly united, and it is not clear even now that they are going to act with unity and firmness. It may be true, as Mrs. Roosevelt said the other day, that they are united, not to make peace, but to keep it; but that is not a very good cover for their conduct in Palestine. It is permissible to argue in Berlin or Tokio that the United Nations come in when the Allied Nations walk out; but if the same argument is used in Jerusalem, or about Jerusalem, the prestige of United Nations will suffer a blow from which recovery will be difficult.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE JUBILEE.

Sir,—In May, 1949, Victoria University College is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. To mark the occasion a special number of the annual College magazine *Spike* is being prepared. I should like through your columns to invite contributions of original work from former students of the College, whether verse, short stories, or literary criticism. Some of your readers may also have photographs, record material, or remembered experiences about themselves or others, which would help to document the earlier years. Any contributions or suggestions should be sent to R. W. Burchfield, Department of English, Victoria University College, Wellington, W.I.

Entries will be received up to March 1, 1949.

R. W. BURCHFIELD (Wellington).

DANCE MUSIC.

Sir,—While agreeing with W.I.C. that 2YC does give quite an amount of time to popular music I most strongly disagree that all one can get is "Swing, Swing, and more Swing." This seems to be the popular misconception of many listeners, who think that any popular tune of to-day must be swing. In actual fact there are only about four hours of pure swing played from Wellington stations each week.

It is obvious that W.I.C. has also not studied the jazz record market in New Zealand or he would have known the following facts. Of discs by such orchestras as Stan Kenton, Earl Spencer, Boyd Raeburn, George Auld, Ray McKinley—none released. Ted Heath and Dizzy Gillespie, whom W.I.C. mentioned—two released. Gene Krupa, Les Brown, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Woody Herman—a few older numbers released in or before 1946.

DISC (Wellington).

Sir,—Your correspondent W.I.C., of Wellington, suggests that lovers of swing music should purchase a radio-gramophone and play records by King Cole and Dizzy Gillespie to their hearts' content. This would be an excellent idea were it not that, out of the hundreds of records made by these artists, only three are released locally. Some of the greatest names in jazz at the moment are Stan Kenton, Boyd Raeburn, Buddy Rich and Ray McKinley, but not a single record by any of these artists is available in New Zealand. There are hundreds of recording companies in America producing superb jazz discs but they will never be released in this country. The only way in which swing fans can hear these records is by courtesy of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service.

D. S. HORLOCK (Kaiwarra).

Sir,—May I point out to W.I.C., of Wellington, that the music to which he refers, i.e., "modern dance music," and the programmes he names, are definitely not swing sessions. Rather than attempt to define this term correctly I suggest he listen to 2YA's excellent Friday night session *Rhythm on Record* as a fine example of a swing session in the correct usage of the term.

W.I.C. is one of the many who think that the terms "swing," "jazz" are synonymous with the term "dance music." They are not, and much annoyance is caused amongst swing fans by this idea. Also he is wrong in supposing that it is possible to purchase a wide

and varied collection of swing records in New Zealand. Many swing fans do in fact possess a record library varying in number from 10 to 1000 discs, but nevertheless wish to hear the latest overseas recordings, and these may only be heard in the much maligned swing sessions.

However, the majority of swing fans (using the term correctly) will agree with W.I.C. in applauding 2YC's reduction in the time given to popular dance music. Perhaps it will seem strange to W.I.C. but in my experience the most avid listener to the swing sessions is frequently also the person who listens with equal enjoyment to presentations of classical music.

J. E. McGECHIE (Auckland).
(Abridged.—Ed.)

LOCAL TALENT.

Sir,—May I through your pages express my appreciation of the programme of songs by Bach presented from 3YA recently by Helen Hodgins. Hearing local artists, young or old, with such a high standard of performance, makes me hope that through the radio much more probably unsuspected talent in our midst may be brought to light. Let us have more of the best of our own vocalists and instrumentalists. We have our Lilburn, Horsley, and Farrell. I am sure there are many more who may yet through the microphone reveal the true worth of the best New Zealand can produce in the great art of music.

May I also mention how much I enjoy the consistently good Sunday afternoon programmes given from the YA stations.

JOHN BEST (Timaru).

NEW FREQUENCIES.

Sir,—The recent re-shuffle of frequencies must have left the faces of the authorities very red indeed. Certainly, so far as the Nelson area is concerned, the result is scarcely what we expected. Admittedly, the local station has improved. It is further afield that trouble begins—2YC, formerly fairly reliable, is now inaudible four nights out of five, while 4YZ has disappeared completely, except in the early morning. Station 1YA, formerly the most powerful station in Nelson, is now weaker than 2YA, while the Commercials, never dependable, are now almost a complete "write-off." On the other hand, 2YD has improved, and is better than 2ZB ever was on the same frequency. Need I say that I find the changes exasperating? Just to add to the fun, 1YD turned up on 1290 kcs. the other night. Can you tell me why?

BANANA BENDER (Nelson).

(We referred this letter to the Engineering Division of the NZBS and received the following explanation: "The change in frequencies is a preliminary step in the plan for improved coverage throughout the country. This plan provides for the increase in power of many of the stations and it was essential for several reasons that these frequency changes should be made first. The higher power equipment is being installed at many stations now and this equipment will be in operation at an early date, as the installations are completed."—Ed.)

MAORI ON THE AIR.

Sir,—Isn't "Pakeha Maori's" outburst rather illogical and unreasonable? After all the Maori was monarch of all he surveyed only after he had killed off or driven out the original owners. The treatment he has received from the British has been very different from his treatment of the Moriori. As far as I can gather the only helping hand the

Moriori got from the Maori was into the haangi, and there is very little trace left in this country of Moriori culture, while the Maori race is thriving and multiplying.

Correct Maori pronunciation can be learned only after long and close association with Maoris, and even then, pronunciation and names vary according to district. East Coast Maori differs from Taranaki Maori. Different vocal muscles are exercised in Maori and English, and just as some sounds are difficult for our announcers, so do Maoris find difficulty with such names as John, William, Victoria, and Hannah (Hone, Wirimu, Wikitoria and Hunna). "Pakeha Maori" should bear with our announcers if they fall short of his more practised standard—and where is his toleration? TENA KOE (Wellington).

DEPRESSING PLAYS.

Sir,—I think most people will agree wholeheartedly with A. Minehin's protest. I would add a further protest about the swearing and blasphemy so often interspersed. Surely we needn't descend to these levels by way of entertainment. These plays can only have a harmful effect, particularly on adolescents. A. Minehin mentions a "jolly" play. Here is another: *Worm's Eye View*, humorous and clever, a delightful thing which even the most morbid-minded would enjoy.

"WHOLESOME" (Christchurch).

THE TIME.

Sir,—It's amazing! It's terrific! Thousands of workers spent £30 to £40 on a radio and pay 25/- a year license, "for no other purpose than to know the time." So *The Listener* staff and all programme organisers might well fold up their tents. All we need is a time teller.

Mr. Stevenson doesn't say what happens to these thousands of train, tram, bus and ferry catchers when the announcer gives out the wrong time—as he often does! Neither does he explain how it is that thousands of workers in these enlightened days are so ignorant that they cannot read the face of a clock. I managed to get to work on time in the days before radio announcers told me that "It's seven-forty-three—seven-forty-three." By the time I have worked out that this means seventeen minutes to eight in my language the bus has gone.

POLICEMAN (Taranaki).

Sir,—Has it ever occurred to G. C. Stevenson of Castor Bay to buy a good reliable watch?

"I WONDER" (Marton).

BOXING BROADCASTS.

Sir,—I wish we could have all world-championship boxing bouts recorded and played the evening after they have been fought instead of the heavy-weight class only. Although they are the glamour-boys of boxing, the heavy-weights cannot be compared with the faster, lighter men from the light-weight class up. If 2YA can broadcast slow-moving cricket matches all night, and other National stations wrestling matches, surely a world-title fight lasting about 20 or 30 minutes could be broadcast when they take place every two or three months.

ZALE FAN (Huntly).

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

H.B. (Hamilton): No more space at present for problems of mental survival.
W.F. (Epsom): Passed to Programme Supervisor.