

T.V.I.
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
WHO'S KIDDING WHO??? or WHERE DO WE STAND???

Once one has a LITTLE experience with something one usually begins to think that is an expert. An expert is "A MAN 50 MILES FROM HOME WITH A BRIEF CASE." I don't figure be an expert on T.V.I. Without belabouring the first personal pronoun too much the writer would like to talk about some problems connected with T.V.I.

When my interest in Ham Radio revived about a year and a half ago, I examined my licence to check the frequencies on which we were permitted to operate; sure enough Canadian hams could still operate A3 on 50 to 54 m.c. Since I had an old 50 m.c. transmitter that had been on the air 10 years previously this looked to be about the fastest method of getting back on the air. I didn't have to read very far, or for very long before I became aware of a problem called T.V.I., apparently stations operating on 50m.c. WERE THE WORST OFFENDERS. But DIANS ALSO DEVELOPED FROM 20, 15 AND 10 METER OPERATION. I once again looked at my licence, here it was A3 PERMITTED ON 50 TO 54 m.c. I concluded that since the Department of Transport issued a licence to hams to operate on these frequencies, they must recognize some of the problems that went with the operation. I also assumed that if I ran into any problems I would encounter friendly, constructive and helpful advice from the Department of Transport, THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE. However I was quick to learn that the CANADIAN RADIO ACT DOES NOT PERMIT a ham to put anything on the air, ON ANY FREQUENCY that is going to "CLOBBER" EVERYBODY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. With a little help and a lot of reading and-----a lot of rebuilding-----the problem has been reduced to a liveable situation. I say liveable because I don't think we will ever clean-up the problem 100%-----the point is after cleaning up your transmitter and not interfering with 95% of the sets in the neighbourhood, what do you do with the odd reasonable character that screams two octaves above high "C" that you still clobber his DC radio, Hi-Fi set and the audio of his favourite T.V. channels.

It is my personal belief that you DO NOT SOLVE ANYTHING BY RUNNING AWAY FROM IT. The first time there is a complaint you meet it Head-On, go and see the people if necessary. Once you may find that you are sincere in trying to help eliminate the problem and once you actually investigate the trouble you USUALLY, (not always) find that the interference is not a major problem. For the purpose of these meanderings I am assuming-----that you will assume-----that I am aware-----HAM TRANSMITTERS RADIATE HARMONICS THAT FALL INTO MOST T.V. CHANNELS. In general nothing can be done at the receiver end-----until the problem has been CLEANED UP AT THE TRANSMITTER FIRST-----this really isn't too too tough IF YOU CAN READ. After about 1 1/2 years of hard work debugging and T.V.I'ing my transmitter here are some of the things I have encountered.

People do not know very much about their T.V. receivers.

When it comes to T.V.I., 95% of the people are AT FIRST often unreasonable and illogical.

They don't know or don't care what frequency you are operating on, all they know is that you are interfering with their reception.

90% of the people don't even know what a fine tuning control is. (Adjusting the fine tuning control will often move the interfering signal out of the I.F. pass band.)

A good many of the T.V. set owners do not understand and don't care about what a fringe area is.

People do not recognize the difference between a strong and a weak signal and how it affects receiving a signal in a fringe area.

Many people expect to receive signals in a fringe area on an antenna without a rotor often with the antenna atleast 90 degrees off the station they hope to receive.

In too many instances T.V. servicemen are more critical of the ham than their own LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE T.V.I. PROBLEM.

There are too many jack-knifers or screwdriver mechanics operating in the disguise of T.V. servicemen. (These people are a discredit to the legitimate servicemen who charge a reasonable fee and do a good job.)

Several people have told me that their radio serviceman (after lifting a nice fat fee and still not fixing the trouble) has blamed "that damned amateur down the street".

Well "that damned amateur down the street" has got his back up and makes a point of asking people who services their T.V. set and unless it's an honest and competent serviceman suggest (à la Pierre Burton Toronto Star, December, 1959) that they are being "taken" and suggest they find themselves a competent and honest serviceman who knows something about a T.V. set and interference problems.

I know of one actual case where there was television interference, a test was conducted by the ham along with the D.O.T. and the D.O.T. proved to this set owner that THIS "HAM WAS NOT INTERFERING WITH HIS T.V. SET. Yet, in discussing the case with another ham???? the other ham was stupid enough to tell this set owner that the offending ham could very easily pull the wool over the D.O.T.'s eyes and operate on another frequency when he was supposed to be operating on the one that was causing the interference. Chuckle if you wish, I would suggest that this ham spend \$1.75 and pick-up that book by Phil Rand, "T.V.I. It's Causes and Cures", he would not only enlighten himself but would be in the position that HE COULD DO AN INTELLIGENT JOB FOR FELLOW AMATEURS AND OTHER CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY.

I have heard the odd groan and moan from some of the appliance and T.V. dealers about telephone calls due to hams interfering with T.V. reception. They get lots of calls about this by the way!!! I would like to speak to this for a moment. I know of a specific case where a neighbour was prepared to purchase a new T.V. set, a condition of the purchase was that the set be installed for trial and that there be no interference from an offending amateur station. I informed this neighbour about the Drake High Pass Filter and suggested that he have the dealer install one on his set while it was on trial and try the set when I was on the air. To my knowledge three separate well-known makes of T.V. sets have been tried out in this chaps home. Not one of the three dealers involved was interested enough either in making a sale or helping solve the problem, to spend \$5.00 for a filter. THE INTERFERENCE WAS WORSE ON THE NEW SETS THAN ON THE OLD ONE. Needless to say this chap did not buy one of thos three sets and the dealers missed a \$300.00 or higher sale. I even offered the use of my Drake High Pass Filter to conduct a test. It was not even worth one dealers time to come and get this filter, install it on this chaps set and conduct a test with me to see if it would solve the problem. With that kind of apathy on the part of the dealers I find it hard to feel sorry for a dealer with T.V.I. problems on sets he sells.

Basically I feel this problem goes back to the manufacturer's level. Hams have had to face the problem of the AC DC receivers. We received support from the D.O.T. that the fault was not ours, however WE STILL GOT INTO THE AC DC SETS and our public relations suffered. We were either not strong enough, did not have the leadership, or took the attitude "well I'll stay off the air rather than cause interference." Surely as a group we can muster up enough strength and support to lay this problem before Manufacturers, where it belongs. They may even surprise us with some positive action. It's amazing how co-operative some people will be -- if they are asked in the proper way. Some of the "sets" that are being put on the market to-day by some of the manufacturers are just inviting trouble. These things are wide open to every kind of interference from "halitosis" to "electric shavers," and the point is, if no one complains, they are getting away with it. The Ontario Radio Amateurs Federation has been quietly doing some work in an effort to solve this problem. I might also mention another organization known as the Ontario Radio Operators Association, with all due respects to those who have spent a great deal of time and some money on this project. This organization is more concerned with the obtaining

of Ham automobile licence plates than anything else. My personal thought is that we need to get the more pressing problems solved first and let's not make any mistake, these hard headed, cost conscious, manufacturers are not going to add another \$2.00 or \$3.00 cost to a T.V. set unless they are forced to.

HIGH PASS FILTERS ON T.V. SETS MANUFACTURED IN THE U.S.A. as of January 1, 1958 ARE A MUST. Also the U.S.A. MANUFACTURERS will supply HIGH PASS FILTERS FREE to any person receiving interference from hams. The U.S.A., F.C.C. had a part in making this mandatory otherwise the T.V. manufacturers would have gone merrily along their way grinding out these interference susceptible monsters that would inevitably have given a lot of amateurs "a very bad time." What happens in the U.S.A. does not necessarily have to apply in Canada. Apparently we Canadian hams are quite happy to sit back and "Let George do it".

What can be done????-----for a start we would like to see T.V. servicemen carry (if they don't already) these Drake High Pass Filters with them and sell them where necessary.

2. If we could be sure that the servicemen would read them I would say that our Club would do well to supply each serviceman with one of Phil Rand's book "T.V.I. - It's Causes and Cures."
3. Our club should seek out more information about the functions of the Ontario Amateur Federation and support to the fullest extent it's efforts to do something about the interference problem.

Think what would have happened had we lost 75 meters at the recent Geneva Conference. Apart from the fact a lot of hams would have been "out of business" because they had been on "75" for so long that they wouldn't know how to tune a transmitter on any other FREQUENCY! There would probably be a large movement to the higher frequencies and THEN THE FUN WOULD BEGIN. It is pretty well established that there are some T.V. SETS that ARE SO WIDE OPEN AT THE FRONT END (and the back with the new vertical chassis) regardless of what the amateur does to his equipment and REGARDLESS OF HOW FRIENDLY THE D.O.T. IS, THERE IS GOING TO BE INTER/FERENCE AND THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THAT INDIVIDUAL AND THE HAM FRATERNITY IN GENERAL SUFFERS.

It seems the answer here, is the same as in the U.S.A. This problem will have to be dealt with at the manufacturer's level. In the U.S.A. action was taken at the manufacturer's level and Ham's don't take the abuse they used to.

Amateur radio is only one of the area's of the Canadian D.O.T. jurisdiction. It is HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT THE D.O.T. WOULD EVER PETITION THE R.M.A. ON BEHALF OF THE AMATEURS. Unless something is done about a petition to the R.M.A. for some action on their part in Canada comparable to that required of the manufacturers in the U.S.A., then it is conceivable that IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE SO MANY OF THESE INTERFERENCES SUSCEPTABLE T.V. SETS on the market that "hams" will be forced off the air in spite of a friendly and sympathetic approach by the D.O.T. Somehow we have to live with out neighbour and our children must have friends in the neighbourhood. We can't "Let George" do it"--look what happened to George, he went bankrupt.

Gazing into the crystal ball I think I can see a possible solution to the T.V.I. problem. The Ontario Amateur Radio Federation could immediately sponsor a campaign to have every Canadian Ham build a 6 meter transmitter; at the appointed T.V.I. hour, as many as possible these Canadian Hams would get on the air and operate from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. The effect would be tremendous, the only programmes people would receive would be Ham Q.S.O.'s calls to the D.O.T. would block the switchboards, all the R.I.'s would be hospitalized with nervous breakdowns; Citizen's Action Committees would appear everywhere in Canada demanding something be done; "John" would be forced to announce a General Election.

Ham operations would sponsor a candidate in each riding; since the hams would control

Canadian T.V. reception-----via T.V.I. It would be a simple matter to saturate the country with propaganda for the Ham candidates, recognizing the ADVANTAGE available only to hams all the other candidates hurriedly would start to PRACTICE CW SO THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN A HAM LICENCE AND GET ON T.V. CW being what it is and considering the time element they would not be too successful and "Ham" candidates would be swept into office. The Government would be formed and the first step would be revision of the antiquated Canadian Radio Act; the next step would be to make it compulsory for T.V. manufacturers to turnout only T.V.I. proof receivers. Since previous government's had explored most of the SOMETHING FOR NOTHING FIELDS, old age pensions, Baby Bonus etc. Hams had to promise interference free T.V. reception as their campaign slogan. ("Ham" government supporters were given free new T.V.I. proof receivers; at first opposition supporters received only \$4.98 High Pass Filters, but to solve the problem they were later included in the Give Away programme and the old sets were destroyed.)

The crystal ball becomes a little blurred at this point, however I can see very faintly a new General Election over increased income taxes as a result of the "Ham" Government Give Away Programme. Since all the Canadians would now be interference free the Hams, would have lost their propaganda medium and would go down to defeat.

Since there would be no more T.V.I. we could return to ham operating----which we liked better than passing out patronage to begin with.

To get this started make 10 copies of the above and forward to 10 ham friends asking them to make 10 copies etc. etc. etc. ----- But! be careful-----"John" might here about it!!!