

Diary by John Dwyer, Studio Sound, July 1973  
RTE complains about IBA Lots Road 557kHz preventing reception of RTE1 on 566kHz

# DIARY

By John Dwyer

the case of them.

Capital Radio, the London general entertainment commercial station, have made a number of new appointments: John Witney, once Chairman of the Local Radio Association, will be managing director; Ruth Leon, now deputy director of the Washington public service station, was to be programme controller but changed her mind; Tony Salisbury, of Southern TV, will be general manager; Tony Vickers of ATV will be sales director, and Gerald O'Reilly of the EVR partnership will be chief engineer.

The IBA have been making test transmissions since January on 539m on the medium wave-

34 ►

## DIARY

band. This frequency will probably be taken up by the IBA when the stations start broadcasting in the autumn. The frequency was selected by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications after informal talks with the BBC and the IBA.

The Minister, Sir John Eden, was unlikely to have allowed himself to be hampered by any knowledge of broadcasting. (According to one report it was he who, when taken round Thames TV last year, was heard to ask, 'What is ATV? Could you explain that to me?') It is much more likely that he would have taken account of more familiar, political, considerations.

That is why the frequency allocated to test and subsequent transmissions is such that it completely masks broadcasts from Radio Telefis Eireann's transmitter at Athlone, which are on 530m on the medium wave. The reason why the British government should do this is not all that hard to surmise. Because of an oversight on the part of the Irish broadcasting authorities they are not so inclined to give out the kind of P.R. man's prose about 'The British Army doing a great job in Ulster' that the BBC and the IBA are.

According to one report, RTE have already asked that the frequency be changed because there are about a quarter of a million Irish in London who are being deprived of RTE's programmes. The IBA say that the interference is only temporary, but that is by no means certain. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications say that the interference only occurs after dark, a statement for which I can find no basis whatever.

Strawberry Manchester Peter Tattersall of