

siderably higher, while the most severe penalty imposable could include a two year prison sentence as well as a fine. Of course it remains to be seen whether the new law will be any easier to enforce than were the previous provisions and the possibility of more frequent examination of amateur licences once more raises the question of whether a more durable and less bulky form of licence will be issued. Remember that receipts for licence renewal are, at present, only issued on request and I, for one, am rather dubious about the average policeman's willingness to accept the validity of a licence which appears to be out of date. Neither do I fancy my chances of offering a credible explanation of its validity to a sceptical desk sergeant as he turns the key of my cell. I wonder if they allow hand-holds in Wormwood Scrubs? **GAPZA**

## The official Home Office view

The Telecommunications Bill, published recently, includes provisions amending the Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1949 and 1967. Their purpose is two-fold: to rationalise and update the penalties for wireless telegraphy offences; and to introduce new powers to enable more effective enforcement of the law.

The provisions include:

- powers for the police or persons authorised by the Secretary of State (members of the Radio Interference Service) to seize apparatus for the

purpose of proceedings;

- a limited power of arrest without warrant for the police in cases involving the illegal use of radio transmitters; and
- powers for the Secretary of State to control the sale and possession of specified wireless telegraphy equipment.

The opportunity has also been taken to implement the Government's decision, taken as a result of a review of "quangos" two years ago, to abolish the Advisory Committee on Radio Interference.

## Controls on sale and possession

To reduce or prevent interference, the Secretary of State has powers at present to prohibit by order the manufacture and importation of specified equipment except with his authority. But he does not have powers — which the provisions will give him — to control the sale and possession of such apparatus. This will help control further the availability of illicit C.B. equipment; at the moment, about 1000 complaints a week concerning interference to domestic T.V. and radio caused by illegal C.B. are received by the Radio Interference Service (R.I.S.).

## Seizure and forfeiture of apparatus

The proposed powers of seizure will include a provision enabling the police or the

R.I.S. to apply to the court by way of a civil procedure for the forfeiture of apparatus illegally possessed. This would give an alternative to prosecution where it appears that nothing useful would be achieved by seeking a criminal conviction. This might be, for example, where a person accepts that he should not have had the apparatus in question and does not appear to be deliberately flouting the law.

## Penalties

The provisions in the Telecommunications Bill do not increase penalties for existing offences (other than for two which are made triable-either-way). However, one effect of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 will be to raise the maximum fine for the unlicensed use of a transmitter from £400 to £1000.

## Advisory Committee on Radio Interference

The Advisory Committee on Radio Interference was established under section 9 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949. Under the Act, the committee must be consulted about proposals to make statutory regulations on the control of radio interference. It is not a standing body, but when the Secretary of State needs to consult it, members are appointed from nominations provided by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

## NEW RADIO RALLY FOR SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Radio amateurs in London and the Home Counties are to get their own show. This major new event in the rally calendar will take place at the Bark Recreation Centre, Horsham, Sussex on Sunday, April 17.

The SOUTHERN HAM RADIO SHOW, sponsored by Ham Radio Today, in association with Corinthian Exhibitions should provide all the interest and attractions of the old Ally Pally show, greatly lamented with its passing to the NEC up in Birmingham. The organisers already report a great deal of interest in supporting this venue, largely, they claim, because the South of the country no longer has its own event.

Visitors to Horsham should find all the old favourites such as equipment dealers with the latest gear on display, new and surplus component sales, upwards of six club junk sales — running simultaneously — together with refreshments and eating facilities. The Horsham Club is to provide talk-in on S22.

For those who are a bit shakey on geography, Horsham is situated on the A24, roughly 40 miles out from the centre of London, deep in the heart of Sussex. Unlike all the other major shows, there are no parking problems; the local council has agreed to open up its multi-storey park on the Sunday at no cost to show visitors.

**NOTE TO CLUB SECRETARIES** If you would like to raise money for your club by operating a junk sale, bring and buy stall, you are very welcome to take advantage of free space being provided by HRT at this show. However, there is only a limited amount available and it will be given on a first come, first served principle. Applications should be addressed to me, Frank Ogden G4JST at our address on the contents page. Alternatively phone 01-437 1002 X251, afternoons only.

All other enquiries concerning the SOUTHERN HAM RADIO SHOW should be addressed to Corinthian Exhibitions, Nyes Hill Estate, Nyes Hill, Wineham Lane, Bolney, Haywards Heath RH17 5SD. Phone 044482-431/636.

## YAESU UNVEILS MULTIFUNCTION VHF/UHF MULTIMODE

SMC has announced details of a new multipurpose, multimode VHF transceiver which appears to offer most of the facilities normally associated with HF gear.

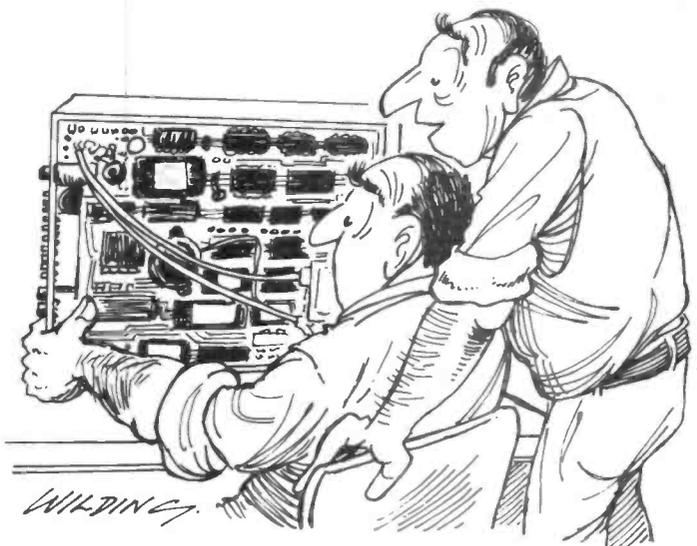
The basic equipment covers the 2m band although add-on options are available for coverage of 70 cms and six metres as well.

It features facilities such as variable IF bandwidth, 20Hz step frequency synthesis, A/B VFOs, etc. The basic transmission and reception modes are SSB, CW and FM.

The company reports that a future option may include an add-on for four metres.

The basic 2m set costs £649, a 70 cm module £208.90 and a six metre board, £157.50.

Further details from SMC on 0703-867333.



I hear that you worked a VK3 just on the RFI