

Help clean airwaves, CBers urged

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

It's up to CB radio operators to police the operators who misuse their CB radios, according to Glen Worsnop, of the department of communications.

"They guy behind the mike produces his own problems on the (citizens) band," Mr. Worsnop said. He and Everett Young attended a meeting of a group of CB operators at Sheridan College in Brampton Thursday evening to discuss ways of cleaning up the airwaves.

Several members of the Georgetown Emergency Communications Service were present.

Most of the CBers present advocated the licensing of CB operators as one method of controlling abuse of the airwaves. At the present, CB operators must have a licence for their equipment, but they themselves do not have to be certified.

Mr. Worsnop said that licensing operators is being considered, but the number of operators involved would mean "horrendous" administrative problems.

"The 'bucketmouth' isn't

going to get a certificate if it isn't mandatory," Mr. Worsnop said in response to a suggestion that the certificates be optional.

"I firmly believe that we might get some of the garbage off the air if the operator has to be licensed," one Brampton member said. Mr. Worsnop replied that he has seen a draft certificate and a draft proficiency test for CB operators.

"The idea is being considered," he said.

One of the problems members of the audience brought up is the use of illegal equipment to boost the power of the signal being produced by the radio. According to Mr. Worsnop it is legal to purchase the equipment. The breaking of the regulations lies in using the equipment.

"If I walked into a home and found a linear (amplifier — the use of which is against regulation) hooked up to a set, and the set isn't on, I haven't the authority to seize the set," Mr. Worsnop said. "In going before the court, use has to be proven."

When Mr. Worsnop was asked why stores are allowed to sell equipment which

regulations forbid CB operators to use, he replied that there is "no mechanism in Canadian law allowing the department of communications to dictate to people in business who sell, what they can or can't sell. It puts the onus on the retailer, and the retailer won't accept it."

It is difficult to convict CB operators who are charged with abusing the airwaves. Up until a year ago, Mr. Worsnop said, the department was losing more than it was putting in as far as convictions were concerned.

"The fact that somebody hears your XM numbers is not evidence, because you can deny it," he said. "We'd have to stake you out with a directional monitor and so on."

CB operators can help prosecute those who abuse the airwaves by getting names and addresses, the times of the offences and, if possible, tape recordings. The operators also have to be willing to appear in court to testify.

"In the prosecution of a false distress signal case, recently, all the evidence was provided by General Radio Service

(CB) operators," Mr. Worsnop said.

He said it is very difficult for the department of communications to spend much time monitoring CB radio, because it makes up a relatively small portion of the airwaves under the control of the department. There is a list

of CB operators who are being watched, however.

The department is considering purchasing a new device to track down mobile units. It is a directional finder which can track down the unit broadcasting or causing interference. The basic unit costs \$14,000.

One possible step the department is considering is revoking or suspending the licences of operators misusing their equipment.

"It's easier to get an unlicensed operator than to prosecute for illegal use," Mr. Worsnop said.

Bill Cumpsty, chairman of the Brampton and district lab. or council full employment committee says, "The Canadian people are getting angry" about unemployment.

Since the inception of the committee in June, more than 1,600 people have been helped through unemployment insurance, manpower and welfare red tape. The committee now averages about 42 calls per day.

He agrees that radical talk is surfacing within the ranks of the unemployed, but he sees an alternative in a "crash program" to provide jobs.

Ontario may face unrest over unemployed young

One of three hopefuls in the Ontario New Democratic Party leadership race says Ontario will be lucky to escape social unrest this winter.

Speaking to NDP supporters in Halton-Burlington riding Wednesday, Michael Breugh, MPP for Oshawa, said he's "never heard such radical talk before" among unemployed young people.

He said later he bases his observations on discussions with union leaders and the Ontario Federation of Labor which recently held full employment meetings in various Ontario centres.

Sudbury will likely be one

area where unrest will erupt as a result of the recently announced 2,800 person layoff at International Nickel Company he said.

"By and large, their (neo employees) seniority is four to five years," he said. "They would be young people with families and financial responsibilities they would be unable to fulfill."

Earlier he told a meeting attended by a sparse crowd of about 30 that he wants "government to become sensitive to the need of the people and listen to them." But, he added, "when they (people) riot they (government) do not listen

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