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ROUGH THOUGHTS.

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RADIO - The Theatre of the mind.

The BBC Green Book.

"The BBC exists to make programmes - Commercial Television exists to make profits.

"It is with narrow minded people as it is with narrow necked bottles -
- the less they have in them, the more noise they make in pouring it out."
(+ APHS Pages 2 & 3)

'GIVE THE PUBLIC WHAT THEY WANT' - (Rubbish) - See Aps P3.

(The Public didn't know they wanted the Goon Show, Hancock, TW3, Till
Death, Python, Black Adder, Ben Elton, GBH etc. until they happened.Ratings - then and now. (Till Death = 24½ million opposite Coronation St. and
before Panorama - Kenneth Adam party)

REITH - "He who prides himself.....etc"

THE POWER OF BROADCASTING - even in days of yore - e.g. wartime.
Govt's use of BBC for morale & info.

(DITTO) European Service, Bush Ho.

I DON'T TELL MY TECHNICIANS ABOUT.....Colour temps, Db, volts/amps.
MBAs shouldn't tell producers and directors about production & direction.(Delegation downwards + refer upwards has worked superbly. Today it is total
domination at the top and orders downwards.....and it shows....badly.
(c/f CBS experience)

(C/F postwar BBC - "...must be able to innovate and produce own shows".

USE OF SEX & VIOLENCE = C/F former BBC Golden Ages....No sex!....No violence.
...Huge audiences....The repeats today still turn up in the Top Twenty.
....Why?.....(DISCUSS)

TOM SLOANE - Dandy - Sex before Marriage.

THE VICAR - "Surely this programme should have been...."

HUGH GREENE - "Offend...."

"All the High-Tech engineering in the world won't make a poor comedy funny
- but it can help soft porn make a FORTUNE."Unto thine own self be true - otherwise, eventually, GOD will have your
balls off!"

FRANK MUIR - Kew Gardens - Honeymoon night.

Are the tastes of the Nation leading the TV companies to lower their standards - or - are the misguided advertisers demanding lower standards because they misread the intelligence of the public whom they target for their products.

1985 - BBC sitcom cost £45/50K... LWT sitcom £150K...In USA £½ million.

BBC TV v USA TV. - "Till Death..." v "All in the Family". (In USA - "Best Comedy Series - ever")

TOM SLOANE - 'Over our Corporate dead body.....'
(C/F GOON SHOW)

SHAW - "He is a man of great common sense....."
(PLUS APHS)

MESSAGE FOR ALL FUTURE STUDENTS - "If you believe in it, and it is for real - not emotional, political, sectional bullshit.....STICK YOUR NECK OUT.

(John Sullivan Story)

(USE LECTURE MASTER 1985 - Page 8)...."You can't computerize Comedy'.

REITH - "I choose to think that ...delegation to every producer...."
(Val Geilguid/Louis McNeice/Stephen Potter/Gordon Crier/Max Kester/DMW.

DMW. Radio - "Fill me 13 half hours"...TV (Waldman - emergency) "You've got 7 half hours to fill. Radio Times goes to press next Wednesday".

BUT THEN "Alternative Comedy" arrives on ITV/Ch.4..."Shit, menstruation etc"

ALTERNATIVE - to what? If anything the Goon Show was the first to be really alternative - then Beyond the Fringe, Python et al.

DEVELOP - Goons to Cambridge/to satire/to anti satire - to anti-anti satire.
(C/F "History" treatment)

WORLD WAR TWO = THE BRITISH REVOLUTION. (Lecture - October '87)

When Labour is in v when Tories are in.....

COMEDY TODAY - Glenda Jackson.
Peter Ustinov.
Angela Lansbury, Una Stubbs, Miriam Karlin.

COMEDY AS AN ART-FORM - Marie Tempest.
Professor (Lord) Ernest Gombrich.
Laurence (Lord) Olivier.

ACADEME & PSEUDO-INTELLECTUAL SNOBBERRY - (Aphs P3)

You can teach Business Management, brain surgery, engineering, accountancy, acting & directing technique - BUT - you can't teach comedy. (Hancock)

You can't regiment comedy. The gift is an act of God - you can't fake it. Well, you can try....vide today's efforts. All you can do is to create an atmosphere - a corporate 'greenhouse' in which talent can flourish.

There is no faculty of Humour or Entertainment in any British University. There is in America (Enlarge detail)

USA was doing sitcoms in 1925/26 (Amos 'n Andy) BBC copied in 1939.

READ RADIO TIMES - Peacetime 1939 as example.

TODAY - APHS - Sophisters etc/Wodehouse/Jack Benny (The trouble with Showbiz)

"Any idiot can produce a load of beautiful,pretentious self-indulgent bullshit on a big budget. It takes talent to entertain the entire Nation on sixpence."
(Eric Maschwitz)

Modern comedy....What can you say? (c/f Glenda & Ustinov)

Every subject under the sun is reported on the hour - every hour.

The reports are then analysed every night.

The analysises are then debated.....

The debates are then reptred on - and it starts all over again.....

By the time the creators of comedy get on the air the subject is as dead as mutton - thepublic are sick and tired of it.

I HATE:-	Whales.	Inner cities.
	Feminists.	Rain Forests.
	Aids.	Michael Palin.
	Tories.	Capitalist greed.
	Socialists.	Marxist poverty.
	London Zoo.	Muriel Gray.
	All game shows.	Sue Lawley

They should all be limited to one broadcast per month.

THE BBC - is - or should be - a barometer of public opinion.

It is not the guardian of public morals. Nor does it exist to patronise its licence payers from some imaginary 'great height'.

Ideally it should be the Nation speaking to itself.

TILL DEATH - CENSORSHIP - God & Jesus - Hitler/blasphemy - Sloane/Heenan.

EARLY DAYS - MUSIC HALL was "Voix-de-Ville" (hence 'Vaudeville')

Describe development to Variety, to radio, to TV, to postwar & today.

NOEL COWARD. (The Master - the epitome of talent and discipline + wit)

WARTIME - For the first time broadcasting demonstrates its power.

USA - High Energy all round c/f the Brits. (Bob Hope/Sammy Davis etc)

UK - Low energy - spoilt from yesteryear? - or just naturally workshy?

THE FAMOUS BRITISH SENSE OF HUMOUR.

Is it true? Or is the British phlegm another sign of a low energy breed?
(c/f Caesar's Civil Wars)

HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR - GETTYSBURG etc.

THE "GO-ON SHOW" - Michael Standing/Spike Milligan (a self publicist 1943?)
(Spike - 'I need a strong producer') - etc...

THE BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY AND COMEDY.

Marty - "On the fingers of one hand....."

Barry Humphries - "Spunk....."

FRY - "Either mad or both...." (plus production notes)

TIM - "Artificial bonhomie....."

FRANK MUIR LUNCHTIME.....