FCC

20TH CENTURY REFORMATION HOUR
Collingswood, N. J.

April 25, 1964

My dear friend:

I told you in my last letter that we were facing the most serious situation as a result of the action of the Federal Communications Commission. Here I am reproducing in full this article from Concern, April 1, 1964. This official Methodist publication sees exactly what we see. But it favors what the FCC's action will do to "Protestant evangelists." The attack, too, is recognized as being concentrated upon me and our broadcast.

We have seen the muzzling of the military, managed news, and here a situation has been created by the FCC which will bring about suppression of free speech on the radio. It is not "censorship"; it is just plain suppression.

Please notice the nature of this article. Fear is being placed in the hearts of the radio stations, such fear that they will not carry or permit such discussions as are here denounced. But here are the references: "action against Dr. McIntire," "The Commission has reached the end of its patience with Dr. McIntire." We simply have to face this government intervention!

"False accusers," the Bible says, 2 Tim.3:3, is one of the signs of the last days. I am accused of "incessant attacks on the loyalty and integrity of all whom Dr. McIntire opposes." I have not questioned anybody's integrity. Notice the words that are used: virulent, hysterical, poisoned, demagogic, venomous. There is one thing that this article is advocating; it is suppression of our type of broadcasting in the United States of America. No attempt has been made to answer any of our documentation or our facts. It is just wrong to talk about the activities of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake or to discuss the position of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is wrong to discuss what the Methodist Church is seeking to do in its program, especially when its Sunday school publication publishes an article on "The Myth of National Sovereignty" by the Secretary General of the United Nations and we read it and discuss it on our broadcast. The approach here is one of personal attack, personal villification, with no effort whatsoever to meet the substance of our position or activity, and the Federal Communications Commission has found a way whereby this can be eliminated from the airwaves simply by intimidating and putting fear into the hearts of the radio station owners about the renewal of their broadcast licenses.

Every radio preacher in this country who preaches the Gospel will be affected. The FCC has no authority under the legislation which created it to create a situation such as this. I come to you with this critical situation and strenuous appeal.

(1) Please show this to everyone you possibly can. (2) Please form a local committee in your area which will defend the interests of our broadcast and support the radio station. (3) Please undergird this broadcast with your financial contributions so that we can keep our stations and not be forced to drop any of them because of lack of payment. With this terrific attack, no matter what happens it is going to be interpreted against us so we must stand firm, consolidate the gains which we now have and not be afraid of the FCC or anybody else. God is able to deliver us! The FCC must be investigated by Congress.

I am making a full, detailed reply to this document which will be published in our paper, the Christian Beacon, and which I am distributing on the broadcast. If you would like to have it all, please let me know. We were right. The U.S.I.A. and the embassies overseas moved to see what could be done to eliminate our broadcast. We do not want an Iron Curtain around America. The one issue at stake in this whole field is that of liberty. The Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion and the freedom of speech and it is this which we must defend and maintain here. And the freedom to use the airwaves as we are now doing will help us rectify some of the denials of freedom which we have been aware of when it comes to managed news, muzzling the military, and the like.

Please, my friend, come to my help in this hour of this tremendous attack. I need friends to support every station.

Sincerely yours,

Carl McIntire

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