

20TH CENTURY REFORMATION HOUR
Collingswood, N. J.

My dear Radio Friend:

May 22, 1967

Our broadcast is in trouble, serious trouble, the worst trouble that it has ever been in. This is because of the Federal Communications Commission. The Commission, it appears now, is tightening up and making even more specific its direction and control over our local radio stations.

A Memorandum, 46526, has just been released by the FCC, in which the broadcasts of Carl McIntire are specifically discussed. It begins: "Complaints have been received that the 'fairness doctrine' requires ministers and others to submit scripts of their sermons and talks to the stations or to this Commission in advance for review and approval prior to broadcast and that this constitutes a restraint on the free exercise of religion contrary to the First Amendment to the Constitution."

Then, in specific reference to me, we are told that several of these complaints "stated that programs such as those featuring Dr. Carl McIntire and/or Dean Manion were cancelled because the scripts of the programs were not submitted to the stations in advance of the broadcast."

The fact is that Radio Station WCAM, Camden, New Jersey, cancelled the broadcast of my sermon from the pulpit of the Collingswood Church because I would not submit in advance my sermon for the station to censor. Furthermore, I do not write out my sermons and my radio broadcasts; I speak freely and extemporaneously under the blessing of God and, I pray, with the power of the Holy Spirit.

I said that if a preacher could not preach freely from his pulpit on the radio as the Spirit of God guided him, without writing out his speech in advance and submitting it to a censor of a secular radio station, we had reached the end of the road. I could not possibly preach or conduct our 20th Century Reformation Hour broadcast if I had to write out every script in advance and submit it to all of our radio stations in advance before I delivered it on the air. Not

MAY 8, 1967 from the Lima, Ohio, News

FCC Applies 'Silencer'

Not everyone has heard of Carl McIntire.

Not everyone who has heard of him remembers who he is.

Not everyone who remembers who he is sympathizes with what he says.

Not everyone who sympathizes with what he says agrees with the way he says it.

But whether you know him, remember him, agree with him or not, few would attempt to deprive him of the opportunity to speak out. Most Americans readily assent to the words often attributed to Voltaire, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Now let us put that famous doctrine to the test and see how many back away.

Carl McIntire is director of the 20th Century Reformation Hour Broadcast, editor-in-chief of the Christian Beacon, founder and chief spokesman for the American Council of Christian Churches, and pastor of a considerable congregation in Collingswood, N. J.

He is a salty-tongued denouncer of the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the Communist Party. He is a forthright critic of Billy Graham, most Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church. In short, he is a very controversial person.

The question is: Shall he be silenced?

The main outlets for McIntire's opinions are radio. At times the 20th Century Reformation Hour network has numbered as high as 500 stations. The key station in this combine is WXUR - AM in Pennsylvania.

During his long career as a radio orator, McIntire has frequently criticized the Federal Communications Commission. Smarting under the McIntire lash, the FCC retaliated in two ways. First FCC attorneys have passed the word along that radio stations would find it to their advantage with FCC if they would not carry the 20th Century Reformation Hour. Second, the FCC ordered a hearing into McIntire's use of station WXUR for the raising of funds.

McIntire is resourceful.

When liberal interests boycotted advertisers of a radio station, he appealed on the air for contributions and met the obligations of the station.

In the case of the inquiry into WXUR, McIntire demanded that the FCC permit the American Council of Christian Churches to become a party to the case.

The FCC refused although it permitted groups complaining against WXUR to enter the case on the other side.

At that point, McIntire called a protest rally and demonstration to be held in Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C. May 8 (today) at 8 p.m. in order to explain his side of the case.

As far as the Lima News is concerned, we support this man's right to speak. That entitlement is not different from any other man's right to speak. The effort of the Federal Communications Commission to use its power of regulation in an effort to diminish his voice, therefore, is an attack upon the person of every man. The FCC in this case is the enemy of the people.