Gordon Hall

20th Century Reformation Hour
Collingswood, New Jersey

Dear Radio Listener: October 1, 1967

While our boys are dying in Vietnam, we have squared off here in the United States for the greatest battle in which we have ever been engaged for free speech and the free exercise of religion. The radio programs, which you now hear, are censored. The entire radio world has been shaken; it is stunned.

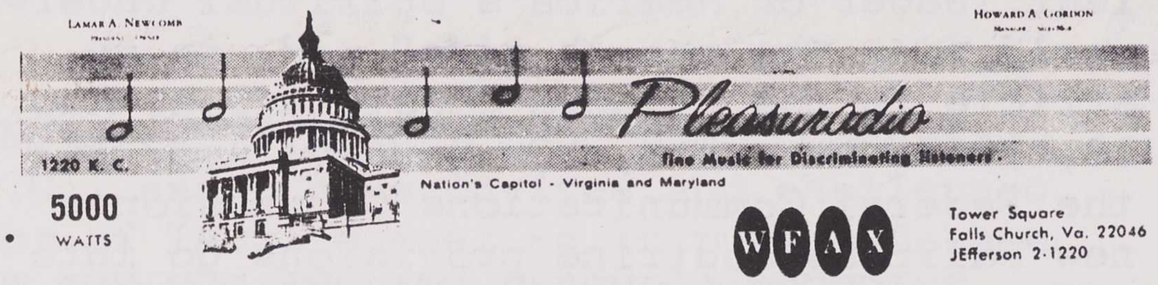
On August 14 the Federal Communications Commission sent out its new directive announcing a $10,000 fine that now hangs over the head of every radio station. If a personal attack is made on an individual or group on any program and that person is not notified within seven days and given free time to make a reply, the fine follows! The FCC has not defined what it means by a personal attack other than to say the attack is upon an individual's integrity, character, or morals. So general is the area of possible fine that even the mention of a name brings the possibility of a complaint to the FCC and an uncertain future for the radio station.

Radio Station KNLV, Ord, Nebraska, read an announcement on the radio to the public that it could not take any chance; a $10,000 fine would bankrupt it. And it is, therefore, being forced, under the conditions stipulated by the FCC, to discontinue immediately the 20th Century Reformation Hour. We are off! The local committee paid in full for the program!

I have asked everybody to be in prayer at 10:30 each night, asking God to deliver us. I am taking the initiative and the offensive and, by the help of God, we intend to win this battle.

The so-called Fairness Doctrine was resurrected under the Kennedy administration and has been further enlarged by the Johnson administration. There are first the personal attack provisions, and second, the controversial questions of public importance. The first has a $10,000 fine over every station. The second involves the question, also, of the station's license renewal. But what is a controversial question of public importance? The FCC determines this in the final analysis and it has ruled that there are no controversial questions of public importance in the area of religion. So this protects the National Council of Churches, and it is not necessary for stations to make a reasonable effort, as it is called, to offer balanced programming.

The announced design of the "Doctrine" is to provide for the airing of different views, but the realistic effect is censorship and suppression. It is aimed first at the political conservatives, and second at the religious fundamentalists; and, since I come in my program under the second section, our program is listed by the Institute for American Democracy (IAD) as No. 1. The Institute for American Democracy was organized, according to Broadcasting magazine, by leaders of the



September 11, 1967

Dr. Carl McIntire
Bible Presbyterian Church
Haddon Ave. & Cuthbert Blvd.
Collingswood, New Jersey - 08108

Dear Dr. McIntire:

The F.C.C. is moving in closer on its "Fairness Doctrine", with further requirements on "personal attack". The definition of personal attack is so broad and indefinite that the term can mean only whatever the F.C.C. declares, after the fact. I cannot foresee why or what statements of yours might be called "personal attack". I want to keep your program on the air under the "Freedom of Speech" clause of the U.S. Constitution, but I must live with the F.C.C. which has the power of prosecutor, judge and jury in by-passing my reading of the Constitution. When the F.C.C. penalizes me with a fine, it must be paid. Accordingly, I propose the following procedure:

(1) You will advise WFAX of the names and addresses of every person or organization you criticize. This could be done with a card enclosed with each tape.

(2) WFAX will mail a form letter (copy enclosed).

(3) If reply is received, WFAX will mail back a comprehensive form, using as a guide the style of Government Bureau forms used. Your suggestions on this Form are requested.

(4) If air time by the complaining party is merited, then he will have a broadcast.

Due to the seriousness of the situation, your prompt action in this direction will be appreciated.

Cordially,

Lamar A. Newcomb
President-Owner

Encl.
LAN/db