(Photographically reproduced from the New York Times, October 12, 1972)

N.B.C. HEAD SCORES F.C.C.'S DOCTRINE

Goodman Urges Elimination of Fairness Rule on News

By ALBIN KREBS

Julian Goodman, president of the National Broadcasting Company, called yesterday for the outright elimination of the Federal Communications Commission's "Fairness Doctrine"—the presentation of contradictory views on controversial issues—as a Government standard for the coverage of news on television and radio.

In the name of that doctrine, he said, in recent years "the wall that should always stand between Government and journalism has been breached [and] as a result we have regulated broadcast news, Government-controlled broadcast information."

The N.B.C. executive said that since the F.C.C., at the urging of T. Clay Whitehead, director of the Office of Telecommunications Policy at the White House, is considering "deregulation" of radio, the Fairness Doctrine could be removed there first and thus make way for its removal from TV.

Mr. Goodman and executives at the other two major networks have long expressed uneasiness over, if not the Fairness Doctrine itself, the way in which it is sometimes applied to inhibit the news judgments of broadcast journalists.

Responsible Standard

But addressing the Great Issues Forum at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles yesterday, Mr. Goodman was the first network executive to urge elimination of the doctrine.

Mr. Goodman said that it was proper that the Fairness Doctrine should prescribe that broadcasters present significant contrasting views on controversial issues, and that was a responsible standard followed by journalists in broadcasting as well as the print media.

Although the Fairness Doctrine started from a modest base, Mr. Goodman said that base has been extended over the years by the way the doctrine has been applied. Six years ago the commission received about 300 Fairness Doctrine complaints, but in 1971 there were more than 1,500.

If the Government continues to inhibit what broadcast journalists may report, he added, the publishers of projected facsimile newspapers, delivered into the home by technology akin to television, should be worried about Government control. After all, he said, facsimile newspapers will reach readers over the air waves, printed out in their homes through a device that is part of the TV set.

The lifting or softening of the Fairness Doctrine seems within the realm of possibility, at least so far as radio is concerned. The commission had been considering "deregulation" of radio for more than a year.

The impetus for radio "deregulation" did not come primarily from advocates of scrapping the Fairness Doctrine, however. The main reason radio may have to be deregulated, one commissioner has said privately, is that radio has grown so much that it is "unregulatable." The agency is said to be choked with paperwork in its efforts to keep track of the programing and commercial activities of radio licensees, which now number almost 8,000.

Mr. Whitehead, President Nixon's telecommunications adviser, has taken the position that "commercial radio should be recognized as a medium completely different from television" and that "we should ultimately treat radio as we now treat magazines."

Letters. . .

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my government and all the many events that have taken place throughout our country and many other countries also. I pray WXUR will stay on the air.

Bridgeton, N. J. — We have used radio many years but in these very, very important days we find WXUR the only station that gives any satisfaction in our lives. It is a wonderful station and without it the radio would be silent in this house and car, too. There is so much rot and slop to hear on the radio and see on TV that to us the value of WXUR goes up, up, and we hope we can keep it until Jesus comes, and that is my prayer.

Philadelphia, Pa. — I do hope Station WXUR will stay on the air. I do get so much spiritual guidance from those programs, from all of them. Will be praying for them to continue.

Media, Pa. — I would just like to tell you that me and our club of 16-22 years olders listen all the time, and we're not jiving you either. Good job.

CBS Official Asks Full Radio Freedom

Dr. Carl McIntire is constantly charging that the Federal Communications Commission has devised a formula for the removing of the Gospel from the radio and that the FCC has become a tool of the National Council of Churches.

The vice-chairman of the board of CBS, Mr. Frank Stanton, now suggests that the FCC select a few stations and experiment in giving them freedom such as the press enjoys. The *New York Times,* November 3, 1972, carried a front-page story, "FCC is Reducing the Government Role in Broadcasting," but the changes reported were mostly minor and technical. Mr. Dean Burch, chairman of the FCC, indicated that the Commission's action could come as a great disappointment to those who were expecing "abrogation of the Fairness Doctrine." The *New York Times* quoted the Rev. Everett C. Parker, director of the office of communications of the United Church of Christ, and spokesman of the National Council of Churches, has said that his group will fight any impairment of the Fairness Doctrine. In the providence of God he is exposed as determined to keep the weapon which he and his associates have used against WXUR and Station KAYE of Puyallup, Wash. ●

Media, Pa. — I am a new listener. I'm seventeen and love it. I thank the Lord for your terrific radio show [Witness for God, on WXUR]. I've lived in Media all my life, and I have never heard such a terrific program. Here is a small token of my appreciation.

Scriptures that refer to the changing of the mind of the judge:

Daniel 4:35: "And he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"

Proverbs 21:1: "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it withersoever he will."

(Reproduced from the Washington, D.C., Evening Star, September 27, 1972)

McIntire Gets Judicial Blast On Station Bid

By BARRY KALB
Star-News Staff Writer

The U.S. Court of Appeals, in an opinion unusual in its length and the severity of its denunciations, has upheld the denial of a broadcasting license to an organization associated with the Rev. Carl McIntire.

The organization, Brandywine-Main Line Radio, Inc., was variously accused of "valueless verbiage," of acting with "more brazen bravado than brains" and of "abusing those who dared differ with its viewpoints."

McIntire himself was accused by Judge Edward A. Tamm in the 92-page ruling of making "incantations" which amount to "childish prattle."

McIntire, an extreme right-winger, is best known in Washington for leading a number of demonstrations here calling for an undiluted military victory in Vietnam.

'Group of Recalcitrants'

Judge J. Skelly Wright wrote a short concurring opinion, and Chief Judge David L. Bazelon noted that he intends to file a concurrence at a later date.

Brandywine was purchased by the Faith Theological Seminary, of which McIntire was chairman of the board of directors, in 1964.

Brandywine operated WXUR radio in Media, Pa., but in 1964 suffered financial difficulties and decided to sell its assets. Station WVCH, located in neighboring Chester, had simultaneously decided to cancel McIntire's 20th Century Reformation Hour, and McIntire, looking for a new outlet, suggested the purchase of Brandywine.

Sternly Warned

There was much opposition to the acquistion, but the commission eventually granted the license, taking note of the opposition and sternly warning McIntire's group of its responsibilities to allow all sides of an issue to be aired.

McIntire's group promised it would provide balanced programming, and went so far as to provide a list of programs it planned to air.

But between the granting of the license in April 1965, and the time for renewal application in August 1966, the FCC and the court agreed, the station refused to allow any opposition to its views to be aired, and put on programs differing substantially from those it had promised to schedule.

At renewal time, the owners were again challenged, and an FCC hearing examiner again granted the license. But the commission reversed the examiner's decision, and McIntire's group appealed.

(*Photographically reproduced from the Santa Ana, Calif.,* Register, *October* 24 1972)

FCC Vs. Free Speech

Carl McIntire is a radio evangelist with a brand of preaching that doesn't tarry in the upper atmosphere of theological doctrine, but gets down to the here and now. He tells what the Bible says about how individuals and their government ought to act. That gets into such subjects as patriotism, laws, and alleged subversion practiced by wearers of the cloth.

His message is popular with some, unpopular with others. Nobody complains that it is dull. At one point in his colorful career, through Faith Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, McIntire acquired use of a radio station, WXUR, through which he aired his viewpoint along with that of opponents. These broadcasts were not popular with the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches.

That body complained to the Federal Communications Commission which appointed an examiner to investigate WXUR practices. The examiner gathered evidence for 14 months. The examiner's ultimate conclusion was that WXUR had "performed what would normally be considered a wholesome service."

To stop WXUR broadcasts, the examiner said, "could only have the consequence of admonishing broadcasters everywhere that they would act at their peril in allowing robust discussion."

Putting WXUR off the air, the FCC's man said, "could very conceivably result in silencing all controversial discussion on American radio and television. Or, as an alternative, it could mean that discussion would henceforth be a diluted parlor chat in which such restraint was exercised that the outcome would be insufferably dull and totally unenlightening."

That might have been the end of the case, but it wasn't. Contrary to the examiner's estimate of the evidence, the Federal Communications Commission voted to kill the station. FCC chairman Dean Burch led the execution party. He is president Nixon's "conservative" appointee to the commission.

Currently, McIntire and WXUR are appealing through the courts, but have lost the first round at the district level. Since the appellate courts tend to be more directly under the observation of the executive branch than are the district courts, the prospect ahead is not bright. Fortunately, the McIntire-WXUR case is sufficiently documented and publicized that even liberals will be able to recognize the danger in the heavy hand of political government. After all, the victim could have been one of their own.

Letters. . .

Salem, N. J. — I want to tell you that WXUR is the only station I ever hear. I have six radios — some are very old, but all work, and two are FM stereo sets. I love hymns and the Word of God and WXUR is the only station you hear it on. The other stations are rotten. I have listened to Dr. McIntire for years. I like him very much. He is for God and that is what we should have in America. I hope you will give him back the license. He has done no wrong. There should be more men like him.

WXUR: 1962 — ?

1962 — WXUR was first licensed.
1964, October 16 —Faith Seminary applied to FCC for transfer of license.
1965, March — FCC approved license.
1965, April 29 — Faith Seminary took control of WXUR.
1967, October 2 — Hearings began.
1968, June 26 — Hearings ended.
1968, December 13 — Examiner's decision rendered in favor of WXUR.
1970, July 2 — FCC reverses their Examiner's decision.
1972, September 25 — U. S. Circuit Court decision in Washington orders station off the air.