20TH CENTURY REFORMATION HOUR
Collingswood, N. J.

July 6, 1964

Dear friends:

Thank God! The Post Office Department in Washington reversed its ruling concerning the Christian Beacon. We are now back on second class mailing services, Drew Pearson and the rest of them to the contrary. It pays to put up a fight. Things can be changed in Washington. We are going ahead with our special subscription drive during the month of July—3 for $5; 7 for $10. Now let us celebrate by many, many hundreds of new subscriptions.

I am sure you have heard my broadcast on the Democratic National Committee. Remember, they attacked us. We had in no way discussed this committee or its activities until they sent their covering letter to 1300 radio stations carrying what they called in the enclosed article the "hate clubs" of the "radical right." Nine radio broadcasters were singled out for this accusation of "hate." Obviously this is the opening gun in a strategy and a line which the Democratic National Committee is going to promote throughout the coming election.

It is time right now to stop it, to repudiate this whole approach—accusation, accusation, accusation! We do not intend to take it and I am sure that our stand will encourage and strengthen many radio stations. Some stations have announced to their people that the letter from the Committee will in no way affect thier continuing of our broadcast. Some stations, we are sure, are really troubled. I have offered to send all of this material to you if you want it. It will be valuable for the weeks to come. We are "fanatics"! The very language found in the Communist Worker and other Communist publications is here employed against those of us who are seeking to call America back to her foundation principles of individual liberty and to faith in the living and true God, the God of our fathers. The move of the Democratic National Committee can have the effect of intimidating stations so that they will not carry the so-called "hate club" broadcasts, or they will drop them. Consequently, your personal stand in these matters is going to be of the utmost importance, not only now but in the weeks that are just ahead of us.

The Committee in sending out this letter really commits itself. It is a terrible, terrible thing that they have done. But since they have done it we must arise to the occasion and defend our liberty, our good name, and keep our broadcasts going. All of these men attacked need our prayers and our help. The Nation article refers to the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Communications Commission, and the line that it promotes is exactly what the Reuther brothers recommended in the now famous Reuther Memorandum, December 19, 1961, submitted to the Attorney General, Bobby Kennedy.

Paralleling this, the U. S. News and World Report, July 6, 1964, carries a five-page personal interview with the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. E. William Henry. The chairman spells out so clearly where the Commission is going. To say that this is serious is to put it mildly indeed.

Here is a direct quotation: "Q. You seem to favor more regulation of broadcasting by the Federal Communications Commission. Is that so? A. I don't believe in more regulation just for the sake of regulation. I do believe in broadcasters and others whom we regulate abiding by the rules. I believe also in imaginative interpretation and reappraisal, if necessary, of those rules. Further, I do not think that simply enforcing our rules strictly amounts to a 'power grab' as some critics claim. It is our job. We are here to try to create, in so far as possible, circumstances under which the better forces come to the front and, in general, to protect the public. Q. What do you mean by having 'the better forces come to the front'? A. Forces of sound competition, for example, as opposed to conditions under which monopolistic or unsound tendencies can develop." But what are the "unsound tendencies"? According to the Democratic National Committee these "hate clubs of the air" would obviously be "unsound tendencies." They do not want any more of them developing. But here is your benevolent government now going to create government control. Here is the benevolent government creating circumstances, deciding what are the "better forces." The FCC includes legislative, judicial and executive powers all in one bureau. It makes the rules; it interprets the rules; it enforces the rules. Where have we heard this kind of talk before in modern history?