

# Bible-banger McIntire preaches hate at Southland rally to defend Bradley

PAUL EBERLE

"The Devil ... Communism ... enemies of The Cross ..." these are the forces behind Jim Garrison and his indictment of Eugene Bradley, according to Dr. Carl McIntire, who addressed a "Gene Bradley Defense Fund Rally" Saturday night at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

Bradley also addressed the audience briefly after McIntire finished. During the course of the evening a photographer taking pictures for the Free Press was attacked and beaten as he was trying to leave the auditorium.

Dr. McIntire's "20th Century Reformation Hour" is broadcast over approximately 600 radio stations across the United States. Bradley, who was recently indicted by Garrison for conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, is employed by McIntire and the "Reformation Hour."

As we entered the auditorium

the organist was playing softly. Religious music, but with a militant beat. The audience was less than capacity: about a thousand people. They were mostly over fifty, a study in gray, composed of withered old ladies and oafish old men, sparse remnants of a generation now nearly extinct.

There were also a few younger couples in their thirties and forties, dressed in drab Sunday clothes. And interspersed among the others, you could see them, every tenth or twelfth seat: the zealots. Faces with stark eyes that bulged with outrage and latent violence.

A young music director from some Baptist church came to the lectern and announced the hymn to be sung: "Onward Christian Soldiers, marching as to War..." On hearing this, an ancient lady in the front row shrieked, presumably with pleasure. The young man sang in a stentorian baritone, waving his arms with the zeal of one about to storm the enemy's barricades. All around us, little old women sang in that thin obsequious whine that is peculiar to little old church ladies.

"... with the Cross of Jesus, going on before ..."

Then, after several hymns and a prayer, the master of ceremonies, Dr. Bob Wells, Baptist minister from Anaheim, spoke. He had been seated behind the speak-

er's podium, an obese man whose angry, belligerent face seemed fixed in an expression of perpetual loathing and scorn.

He stated the purpose of the rally: "... to help our good friend charged with this despicable charge ... we've worked together and we've had good fellowship together, and so when I heard about this, I knew instinctively that this man was not guilty ..." He spoke of this "... attack from forces that are evil ..." and of the need for a Gene Bradley defense fund.

Then, after a lengthy introduction, Dr. McIntire addressed the audience.

He starts out softly, but he is a bible-banging, shouting, evangelical preacher in the old tradition. He is a consummate performer who uses the full range of voice and gesticulation to arouse his listeners.

He tells them "God is our defense." Nasal voices call out sullenly, "Yeah!" "Amen!" He tells them the attack on Gene Bradley is part of a concerted attack on his (McIntire's) broadcasts. He said that Bradley was working for the "20th Century Reformation Hour" on Nov. 22, 1963, and described Bradley's itinerary on that day. He smiled mischievously and chortled as he boasted that he had proof that Bradley had been



in the presence of "Christian people" all day on that day.

He also stated, as proof of Bradley's good character, that the City of Burbank had refused to accept his resignation from the auxiliary police force.

One cannot but admire such an accomplished performer; one moment his voice drops to a near-whisper, then, suddenly, mounts to a rasping, ear-splitting crescendo, as he roars, "We are the forces that believe in The Bible!" (Pronounced Bahble.) Suddenly, he turns to one side, shaking his fist at an invisible adversary, as he shouts and rails; then again, he is simpering, chortling, whispering, with the mischievous, confidential, puckish smile.

The audience laughed obediently as he softly ridiculed the charge that Bradley was involved in the assassination plot. With intensely sarcastic tone, he ridiculed Garrison's allegation that Oswald was not a Communist, but a right-winger working for the CIA.

"It is the same accusation," he shouted, "that came out of Moscow ... that the whole Communist world has been feeding him and feeding him and feeding him!"

McIntire mapped out the history of his evangelical career like some perverse epic poem:

"We saw the situation in this country and we saw the great networks giving free time to the National Council of Churches. And during the First World War and the Second World War, we had the Fosdicks and the Sackmans preaching to us, and they were nothing more than Socialists! And pacifists! That's the diet we get! Oh, it's sad!

"And then the dear Lord gave us the idea that maybe you could get on the little independent radio stations and go to talkin'. That was a door where this thing could be opened. God gave that idea to us! I went to a radio station there in Philadelphia ... I said, 'Sir, will you sell me some time? I want thirty minutes in the early morning. Can you get it for me?' He says, 'What're ya gonna do with it?' And I said, 'I'm a gonna talk.' And he said, 'What're ya gonna talk about?' and I says 'Everything that comes along.' He says, 'Ya can't. Nobody will listen for more than five minutes of talk.' and I said, 'Well you sell me the time and I'll see what I can do.'"

"Well, he sold me the time, and we called it "Twentieth Century Reformation Hour," and we began

to get up and read quotations and name names! And that was something new to radio, and, beloved, God blessed it! God blessed it! And we got into Washington, and we got up to ... Remember the day we got up to 200 radio stations? And the way this thing has moved across the country, and we have gotten into the hearts and the homes of God's people all over this nation. And they're still backing us.

"And then we got into the Communist menace of our day, the one great evil that seeks to destroy this republic, COMMUNISM! (Now, he whispers.) It ought to be the church of Jesus Christ! (Applause, amens.)

"Then you remember in 1961, the Reuther brothers, Walter and his brother filed a memorandum with Bobby Kennedy. It's the Reuther memorandum, that laid the pattern, beloved. And the Reuther brothers said you could do it through the IRS! Go after these men on the income tax level and that affects their finances. And, second, go after these men through the Federal Communications Commission.

"Our broadcast has been the victim of both approaches. They did it on IRS. They examined us upstairs, downstairs, everything we had! They got my personal bank account and made us explain every single deposit. And thank God every single deposit was capable of being explained. And IRS, after that most searching examination, they went after Amen Charlie, they went after my son and my daughters, they went after everything that was related to me. They did it! And I'm here to tell you! And Bobby Kennedy thought they were goin' to dig up something on Dr. McIntire. But, thank God they didn't find anything against us, and we still have our tax exemption today, because I have the Bible.

"Then, beloved, we found the FCC. And what was it? Prejudice! Prejudice! In the FCC. And lawyers serving stations being told, 'You'll get your application (for license) processed more quickly if you'll just not carry McIntire's program.'

"And then came the great moment when the station in Chester, Pennsylvania, WBCH, put me off the air! That was my first station! And the lawyers for that station told the owner it would be for his good and for the betterment of his situation to discontinue Dr. McIntire's program. And he did. And when that happened, there

wasn't a single real station in the Philadelphia area that would take the 20th Century Reformation Hour on at all!

"One day a gentleman came to me and said, 'Dr. McIntire, radio station WXUR over in Reading is for sale.' I says, 'It is?' He says, 'Yes, it's for sale.' I says, 'Don't tell anybody.'

"And that man—his name is Mr. Norris—and I sat down and we got busy and tried to see if we couldn't find some businessmen in the Philadelphia area who would buy that station, with a view to putting such programs as Dr. McIntire's on the air, so the public could at least hear some viewpoints that were being suppressed in our area. We couldn't get enough. The station was for sale for \$400,000.

When that was not successful, the idea came that perhaps Faith Theological Seminary could buy the radio station's stock. And I'm pleased to tell you that the board of the seminary has property there, mortgage-free and all being paid off with the gifts of God's people. Magnificent property. A bank took the mortgage of \$400,000 and the stock was purchased.

"Then the FCC had to approve of the transfer of the license. And the words went to Washington that Faith Seminary was purchasing the station. And out from under cover came all the forces that were working against us. We knew who they were. The Council of Churches, the NAACP, the ADL, the AFL-CIO, the liberal Roman Catholic, the liberal protestant, the liberal Jew, the liberal Negro, the liberal Laborer.

"Those groups have been working hand-in-glove on this country for years. And they came out from under cover and went down to Washington and said, 'Don't transfer, don't approve that transfer of licenses, because if you do, the station will be in the control of Dr. McIntire.'

"But the FCC, beloved, had no basis for turning it down, so they granted it with the understanding that the station would keep the fairness doctrine. Well, that's the requirement now that they're making of every station. And so the station agreed it would keep the fairness doctrine.

"When the license came up for renewal, a year and a half ago, here they came! The same group. 'Don't renew the license!' And the anti-defamation league was alleging that the station and Dr. McIntire's broadcast was anti-se-



that day noon-of the assassination. And he also made the statement that I had never been investigated by the Warren Commission. This man makes statements that you can't believe!

FP: I think he said that you hadn't testified before the commission, not that you hadn't been investigated ...

HALL: Well, yeah—I never was called before the Commission, but I was still investigated by the Warren Commission.

FP: And so you think that it's a case of mistaken identity probably based on this picture?

HALL: I don't know! I'm completely at a loss on the thing!

(Continued on Page 10)



Loran Eugene Hall in Free Press office.  
Free Press Photo by John Palmer!

mitic, and anti-Negro and anti-Catholic. That's what they throw in.

We requested a hearing. They granted that hearing, and in addition to the questions which they had raised, the FCC itself raised the question whether it was in the public interest for the radio station to carry these sectarian religious programs, and to raise funds from the public for their support! Now that has never been raised before by the FCC and it was a direct thrust at our program, and at these great collections that we have been taking by means of radio.

"Beloved, that hearing came and was in session for nine weeks. You should see it. Here's a man sits up there representin' the commission, paid by the FCC. And over here's a bevy of lawyers paid by the FCC. Over here right by them are the lawyers repre-

senting the Catholic Church.

"And over here was our lawyer—we started out with two, but they were too expensive so we ended up with one. But he's the former chief counsel of the FCC. (Laughter)

"And there's never been a hearing like it in the history of the FCC. And they searched every record—they put everybody connected with the station on the stand, tryin' to find some basis that they could claim the station hadn't been payin' the stocks or hadn't given people who had been attacked personally an opportunity to reply.

"They had fished and fished and fished. Well, ladies and gentlemen, they called me! Imagine their lawyer calling me to be their witness, so they can get somethin' out a' me that will help them so they can take the license away! I can tell ya now they called the wrong fella. Those poor FCC lawyers don't know enough about religion to ask the right questions." (Laughter)

McIntire ended his speech with the warning that "... I plan to go across this country and we gonna stop this communist menace!"

Then he opened the floor for questions from the audience.

One man asked, "Are you going to sue Garrison?"

McIntire twinkled, secretively and said, "I'm not gonna answer that question."

A very very old man asked why people couldn't do more for Jesus, and talked interminably about all he had done for the "20th Century Reformation Hour." On and on he talked.

The obese Baptist Minister from Anaheim, seated behind McIntire, growled, "Hey McIntire, shut him up. We don't need him tonight."

Then a young man stood and asked, "What would be the harm in letting Bradley go to Louisiana and answer the questions of the grand jury?"

"A great deal of harm!" McIntire bristled. "This is where Mr. Bradley lives. To take him 'way down there would cost money! It is in the interest of justice that

our good governor refuse to extradite him."

"But," the young man asked, "if you have the proof you say you have, and if Bradley is innocent, as you say he is, then wouldn't it be better to have him go down and answer the questions and clear it up once and for all?"

"No," McIntire snapped. "That's what the Communists are advocating."

Another man asked, "Wouldn't it be kinda funny for Earl Warren to frame a Communist, with his own left wing record?"

"Good question," McIntire replied. "The evidence was so conclusive that Oswald did it, that they had to say he was there but they separated him from the other Communists in the conspiracy and let them go."

Then, Eugene Bradley spoke briefly. He is a thin, angular, pink-faced man with nordic features. Straight blond hair combed straight back. Sleepy-eyed and

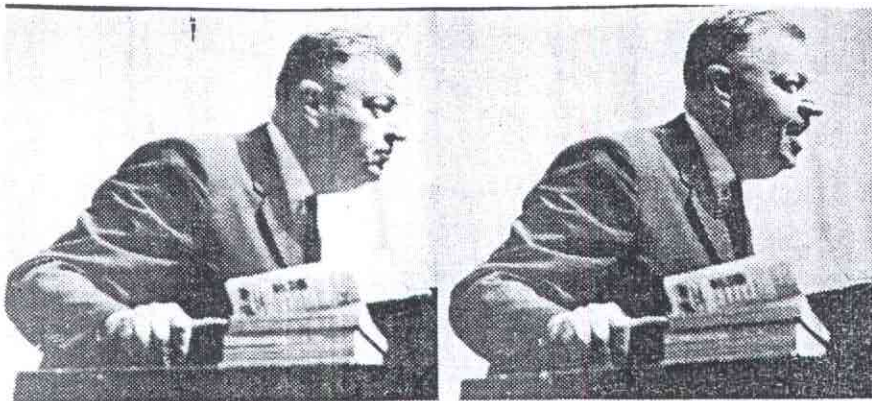




**Dr. Carl McIntire:**



**'It is in the interest of justice that our good**



**Photo by Yoram Kahana**

**governor refuse to extradite Bradley'**

tions.

"It was a shock. It didn't scare me. I knew I had nothing to hide. I knew that God would take care of me."

He told of the lie detector test he had taken, and said that "... the government should begin investigating those who supplied them with information on me—not me. Mr. Garrison should be investigated," he said.

"Remember," he concluded, "you might be next."

Then, McIntire began taking his "offering" for the defense fund. At this point I decided to leave. However I wondered how to get out with my conspicuous tape recorder and writing pad and long hair without being hassled. I was in the very front row of the auditorium.

The bad vibrations in this place had become really oppressive and I decided to just get up and leave. As I walked down the aisle, McIntire began to make snarling, caustic remarks about the young fellow with the tape recorder. Several men sitting on the aisle stuck out legs to trip me as I walked but none rose to attack me. In a moment I was outside in the fresh air.

The thing I remember most in these people's faces is the sullen, latent violence, ready to uncoil itself at any moment.

And we might as well face it; this is America—or at least a substantial portion of it. The values of the right wing are values that a great many American peo-

ple accept and support. The right wing is very much alive; and we don't know very much about it.

And what McIntire has to say about the FCC is not entirely without substance. Unfortunately, the FCC has often been more in the business of censorship than in the business of providing information. Why shouldn't the extreme right, the extreme left be heard? Why shouldn't all voices be heard and seen—not just the respectable middle. When a man like McIntire is seen and heard by the general public, he is more often than not his own worst enemy, because he is such a transparently fanatical windbag.

But when the FCC applies subtle pressure to get him off the air, he becomes a martyr to thousands of people. Isn't he more dangerous when he is not allowed to speak?

The nice, well-fed, well-dressed bureaucrats of the liberal Democratic establishment, in their mad rush for status and social climbing, have not understood the Right Wing—have failed to understand its nature, and its strength. These people of the extreme right are the custodians of a tradition that runs deep in the American grain—a tradition of violence, irrational fundamentalist religion and scapegoatism.

They exist. They are real. They are dangerous. They are capable of making a telling assault against freedom. They proved it on November 22, 1963.

soft-spoken, he looks like a seedy basketball coach.

"I want all of you to think how you would feel," he said, "if there was a knock on your door and you were told that you had conspired to assassinate the President." He said it was time to "... wake up those sleepyheads who are complacent about freedom in this country."

He told how his son had answered the first telephone call from the New York Times, and had thought it was a crank call. Then, the reporters from many publica-