

Mistaken Identity?

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McIntire Defends Aide Accused in Plot

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Dr. Carl McIntire believes New Orleans Dist. Attorney Jim Garrison's charge that a McIntire aide conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy may be based on "mistaken identity."

The president of the International Council of Christian Churches also says he plans to fly to New Orleans Wednesday to see if he can speak with Garrison about the matter.

Meantime, at a press conference yesterday at Bible Presbyterian Church, Collingswood, the tall, dapper minister made it clear he believes the accusation Garrison has leveled at Edgar Eugene Bradley, a West Coast representative for McIntire, is "irresponsible, unsupported and wild."

The minister also indicated he feels the charge against his aide reflects on him. McIntire noted that "Garrison, for some weeks has been talking about a 'right wing conspiracy' and this attempt to involve us in the assassination plot leads me to call immediately for a full investigation of Mr. Garrison's conduct and particularly his sources of information."

Two Bradleys

McIntire said the investigation should be made by "responsible officials of the government of Louisiana."

McIntire explained that Edgar Eugene Bradley uses the name Eugene Bradley and is called Gene. "There are apparently two Gene Bradleys around," the minister said. And, he added,

there also is a "Leslie Bradley."

The Collingswood clergyman explained that during a telephone conversation shortly before yesterday's press conference his West Coast aide had said an FBI agent had contacted him "about four years ago" in an attempt to locate "a man named Eugene Bradley."

McIntire said the aide had supplied the agent with information about himself. McIntire said he could not say whether the FBI's inquiry was made

before or after the Kennedy assassination, nor could he say what it was about.

\$500 a Month

He did say he considered his \$500-a-month aide "a fine Christian gentleman" who is "one of more than 1,000 people who are associated with radio committees around the United States, gathering funds for the support of the 20th Century Reformation Hour broadcast."

McIntire said the aide, who is "in the middle 40's," sold his Los Angeles hauling firm in 1962 "so he could give himself fully to the battle to preserve the Christian faith and our freedom to live for Jesus Christ."

McIntire indicated that this occurred after he had met Bradley, who "was connected with one of our churches," at a meeting the Collingswood clergyman had conducted in California.

McIntire said he knows Bradley "fairly well." He said the aide "has reported regularly to our office."

New Orleans Only Once

McIntire also said Bradley "has been in New Orleans only once, passing through in his car, this year 1967." The minister said, too, that on the day President Kennedy was slain Bradley was in El Paso, Tex., "on our assignment, looking at some property given to our broadcast."

The minister also asserted that "the attempt to get at our ministry and to involve our name with nothing more specific than Garrison has revealed, is typical of the forces that use smear by association."

"I am a part of a world-wide movement as president of the International Council of Christian Churches with 122 Protestant denominations which is seeking to resist the godless forces of Communism and their conspiratorial activity directed from Moscow in their use of religion."

McIntire also noted that "from the moment of the assassination it has been the theme of the Communist world that the so-called 'right-wing' killed the President . . ." And he declared that "the Communists are accenting that same theme" throughout the world today.

Accepts Commission Findings

He contended that Garrison's actions are "playing into the



DR. CARL MCINTIRE

CHRISTIAN BEACON

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hands of the Communists' propaganda." He said he accepted the conclusion of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin of President Kennedy. But, added McIntire, in view of Oswald's "direct contacts with Moscow" he (McIntire) has felt there was more Communist direction involved than has been admitted.

McIntire also noted that Bradley "on his own" had campaigned for California Gov. Ronald Reagan in the last election. He also said Bradley had attended the Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches in Amsterdam in 1962. And, he added, Bradley has been collecting funds for five radio stations.

McIntire currently is involved in a hassle over whether the license of another station — in Media, Pa.—should be renewed.

The minister commented on his radio programs in connection with the Garrison allegation.

"Every record, letter, radio tape, sermon that I have preached is available for full investigation that all may see there is no basis for any such abuse or accusation" (as the Garrison charge), McIntire declared.

McIntire recalled, too, his stand on President Kennedy's work with the National Council of Churches in various programs. McIntire recounted how when President Kennedy had been scheduled to address the National Council's Assembly in Philadelphia in December 1963, he (McIntire) had taken "direct issue with the way in which the National Council of Churches was making use of him [Kennedy] and he of it."

"We organized an opposition meeting sponsored by the Amer-

ican Council of Christian Churches and International Council of Christian Churches that was to have been held at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Dec. 3, to protest this development in our religious life."

Nationwide Revulsion

But, said McIntire, when President Kennedy was assassinated "we joined in the nationwide revulsion and in a statement released Nov. 25, 1963, I said:

"In the midst of the nation's sorrow at the assassination of the President, it seems incredible and preposterous that leaders in the land will try to blame what they call the 'right wing' . . . The indisputable facts are that a Marxist, a Communist, shot the President . . ."

"Immediately the line changed and the Warren Report singled out a Communist as the assassin."

Reverting to the Garrison charge, the Collingswood clergyman appealed to the American people "to recognize that this type of abuse which we are now suffering is typical of what is being done all across the land to discredit the anti-Communists."

The minister noted that "everything we believe and preach is against such methods of violence" (as assassination).

And, he added, the "attempt to involve us in the assassination plot" represents "a grave injustice . . . to everything that we represent in the Christian world."

"I have had no connection or conversation with anybody about these matters, and such a thought is horrible to a man who fears God. Our entire staff and all of our churches recoil at such an implication. I have been a leader in the fight against civil disobedience."

Garrison, said McIntire, has done "a grave injustice to our cause." The minister said the "preposterous accusation" could have "a disastrous effect on us in the modern world where we are opposing the ecumenical movement."

McIntire indicated he has considered legal action against Garrison. But, he said, "unfortunately" the Supreme Court had taken a stand on statements concerning public figures that would make such action "vain."