

# FCC Denies Licenses To Two Pa. Stations

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The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously yesterday to take away the licenses of radio stations WXUR and WXUR-FM, Media, Pa.

The stations' licensee, said the FCC in a 6 to 0 decision, "simply ignored its plain duty to the public." The stations are charged with violations of the FCC's 21-year-old "Fairness Doctrine," which requires that broadcasters give time for "opposing viewpoints on controversial issues."

Commissioner Robert E. Lee, who supervised the decision, called it a "landmark case" and said he expects it to be settled before the Supreme Court. Benedict P. Cottone, attorney for the stations, said the station owners are prepared to go "all the way to the Supreme Court."

The stations are licensed to Brandywine-Main Line Radio Inc., which is owned by Faith Theological Seminary. The board chairman of the seminary is the Rev. Carl Mc-

Intyre, a fundamentalist preacher whose programs are carried on hundreds of radio stations across the United States.

Lee said this is the first time that the FCC has refused to renew a station's license because of Fairness Doctrine violations. He added that when the FCC approved purchase of the stations in 1965 by the seminary, the commission had voiced its concern over possible violations of the Fairness Doctrine.

After the seminary began operating the stations the FCC received complaints from "a number of civic and religious groups" in the Philadelphia area about the station's programs featuring conservative spokesman.

The FCC also decided that

WXUR's management "had failed to establish any regular procedure for previewing, monitoring or reviewing its broadcasts and thus did not regularly know what views were being presented on controversial issues of public importance."

The licensee had argued that the stations met fairness obligations through telephone call-in and interview programs. The FCC said this reliance was "misplaced because these programs were either not directed at obtaining opposing views or were so conducted as to discourage the presentation of views not shared by their moderators."

In refusing to renew the licenses the FCC reversed a recommendation by hearing examiner H. Gifford Irion.