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# 'Pirate Ship' Set

## McIntire to Start Broadcasts

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After two weeks of technical troubles and the exigencies of life at sea, the Rev. Carl McIntire's radio "pirate ship" is scheduled to start broadcasting today in defiance of Federal Communications Commission rules.

The ship, an old World War II minesweeper, is to head out beyond the three-mile international limit this morning from the port of Cape May, N.J., where it has been docked since last Friday when it lost its main anchor in a storm.

Harold Dennis, an aide to McIntire, said yesterday the anchor has been replaced and the ship will start broadcasting shortly after it gets back into international waters, sometime after noon today.

Technical problems with the transmitter have been rectified, he said. A special crystal has been installed and copper bands placed around the bottom of the ship to boost the transmitter's output to 10,000 watts, Dennis said.

McIntire, who was attending a church conference in Pennsylvania yesterday, will be aboard for the opening broadcast, a sermon and hymn music on tape, McIntire's aide said.

A spokesman for the FCC said the commission will await the first unlicensed broadcast to determine whether the ship is in fact violating FCC rules. The U.S. Coast Guard at Cape May is watching the situation for the FCC, the spokesman said.

McIntire first sent the old ship, renamed "The Columbus," into the Atlantic over the Labor Day weekend, vowing to broadcast controversial programs from Maine to North Carolina and as far west as Ohio.

The project, called "Radio Free Ameirca," is McIntire's response to the FCC's refusal to relicense his radio station, WMUR in Media, Pa., on grounds it violated the FCC's fairness doctrine and was deceptive in indicating the programs the station would air.

McIntire is a prominent fundamentalist preacher and radio broadcaster and an outspoken right-wing champion, his programs at one point having gone out over an estimated 800 radio stations.

He has said he intends to make a test case of his radio ship, challenging the constitutionality of FCC licensing in the area of free speech. Should the FCC or Coast Guard move forcibly against him to close down the transmitter, he has said, he will not resist. But the FCC has said it intends to make its response to McIntire in the courts.

Crews of eight men, shuttled between shore and the ship by small power boat, are to man the ship around-the-clock, McIntire has said. The vessel was bought in Florida in August for \$40,000, he has said, and fitted out with radio equipment—all from contributions raised by McIntire's church supporters.