

40

C

## MINISTER REJECTS M'INTYRE DEMAND

Campbell Says Riverside  
Won't Pay Fundamentalist

By GEORGE DUGAN

The fundamentalist "Christian Manifesto" affixed to the front door of Riverside Church on Sept. 14 was sharply criticized yesterday by the minister of the church, the Rev. Dr. Ernest T. Campbell, as a document without substance, resting on a "marshy foundation of innuendos and self-pity."

The manifesto had been read from the steps of the church and later attached to the door by the Rev. Dr. Carl McIntire, Biblical fundamentalist and right-wing radio preacher. He demanded \$3-billion in "reparations" from the mainstream Protestant denominations affiliated with the National Council of Churches and an "immediate contribution" of \$5-million from Riverside Church.

The demands would constitute, he said, monetary compensation for "Bible-believing" Christians who have "suffered persecution and affliction at the hands of apostates, modernists and unbelievers."

Follows 'Black Manifesto'

Last May 4 a "Black Manifesto" was read from the steps of Riverside Church by James Forman, a militant leader of the Black Economic Development Conference. It demanded "reparations" from the nation's churches and synagogues as compensation for past injustices to Negroes.

Dr. McIntire is president of the International Council of Christian Churches, which has for years vigorously opposed what it describes as the "modernist tendencies" of most of the major Protestant communions and their "leftist, social activist leanings."

Dr. Campbell, the minister of the huge Gothic edifice at Riverside Drive and 122d

Street, was on a "working vacation" and did not preach yesterday, but he issued his remarks as a public statement.

In his statement, he said that an impartial jury "would need but little time to find that there is solid substance to the grievances behind the Black Manifesto while the Christian Manifesto rests on a marshy foundation of innuendos and self-pity."

'Opens Old Scar Tissue'

In an apparent inference to the battles between fundamentalists and modernists more than two generations ago, the Riverside minister said the Christian Manifesto "opens old scar tissue."

"It assumes the right to determine the nature and scope of Christian belief," Dr. Campbell said. "It arbitrarily establishes one interpretation of the insights of the Protestant Reformation as the sole norm of constancy, without so much as hinting that the same Holy Spirit who spoke in the 16th century may be presumed alive and talkative today.

"Rather than condemn — as the Christian Manifesto does — institutions and individuals who have sought to relate the Christian faith to man's ongoing life in the world, we should be thankful that they have given us a larger Christ whose Lordship is not restricted to the individual heart, or even the church, but extends to all the earth.

"The Christian Manifesto seeks compensation for losses sustained in the battle for the minds and hearts of men. What fundamentalism could not hold by the force of what it proclaimed, it now desires to recover, as damages, in the form of dollars.

"Dr. McIntire has a right,

of course, to hold to 16th- and 19th-century formulations of theology, but he has no claim on the rest of us when his ranks suffer attrition as history moves on."

In conclusion, Dr. Campbell said that "no money will pass from the Riverside Church to Dr. McIntire or the organization he represents."

B.  
A.  
Th  
ty  
ba  
in  
se  
in  
a.