

CHURCH OFFICIAL SCORES M'INTIRE

National Council Aide Says
Cleric Sows Dissension
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By GEORGE DUGAN
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PHOENIX, Ariz., Sept. 13 — One of the nation's leading churchmen charged here today that the Rev. Carl McIntire, Fundamentalist radio preacher who is a deposed Presbyterian minister, had been damaging national unity and "sowing dissension" within Protestantism for 35 years.

The charges were leveled by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth G. Neigh, a vice president of the National Council of Churches and general secretary of the Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church.

Only once before has a church leader of Dr. Neigh's stature denounced Mr. McIntire in a public statement. That was in the early nineteen-fifties



Rev. Dr. Kenneth G. Neigh

when the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, now general secretary of the World Council of Churches, voiced similar charges.

Dr. Neigh said that the "mainstream" churches had preferred to ignore Mr. McIntire's frequent allegations over the years that many of their leaders were "dupes" of Communism.

Ky Visit a Factor

The National Council executive said, however, that he had chosen to break that silence because Mr. McIntire had invited Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam to

attend a "total victory rally" in Washington on Oct. 3.

This action, Dr. Neigh said, "clearly identifies the Saigon regime with radical right-wing groups in the United States."

And it has also, he said, "created a quandary for the Administration." The State Department, he added, is "very uneasy" about General Ky's visit.

"The time has come," Dr. Neigh said in a news conference, "for clarifying relationships and challenging those who, like McIntire, have a ministry of dissension when the church and the world desperately need reconciliation and unity."

The Presbyterian leader said he was making his charge with the support and knowledge of National Council executives as well as other denominational officials.

The news conference was held in the Westward Ho Hotel on the last day of a two-day meeting of the National Council's policy-making general board.

Mr. McIntire was deposed after he objected to "modernist" missionaries being sent to the foreign field. He set up his own board of missions and withdrew financial support from the national church.

The radio preacher is president of the International Council of Churches, an organization that is opposed to the World Council of Churches.

'Credentials Were Withdrawn'

"Mr. McIntire is a deposed minister of my church," Dr. Neigh said. "His ministerial credentials were withdrawn 35 years ago for sowing dissension with the church. He has acquired notoriety since then by waging extremely expensive divisive campaigns against the United Presbyterian Church, the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and other church groups.

"He has raised funds to underwrite these campaigns from well-meaning, sincerely concerned church people by falsehoods and by maligning the integrity of the churches and their leaders.

"His theme for 35 years has been that these legally constituted, official church organizations have been 'Communist-inspired,' a charge refuted by every investigating group which pursued these claims."

Dr. Neigh noted that one of Mr. McIntire's principal criticisms of the National Council has been what he regards as overinvolvement in politics and social action.

"Now he can join us social activists," Dr. Neigh declared.