

RELIGION

Far-Rightist

Cleric Behind Ky's U.S. Visit

By Lester Kinsolving

Cape May, N.J.

The Rev. Carl McIntire, the far-right fundamentalist radio broadcaster and Howard Hughes of this resort town, has scored a major coup: South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky has accepted his invitation to address a "Total Victory Rally" in Washington on October 3 against the strong advice of Bui Diem, South Vietnam's ambassador in Washington.

The Rev. Dr. McIntire's importing of Ky — and the threat of counterdemonstrations — apparently motivated one official of the National Council of Churches to abandon the long-standing policy that "If we ignore - McIntire - he'll go away."

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Neigh, general secretary of the United Presbyterian Church's board of national missions, and a council vice president, held that Ky's acceptance of the McIntire invitation "clearly identifies the Saigon regime with radical right groups in the United States."

DEPOSED

"Mr. McIntire is a deposed minister of my Church," noted the Rev. Dr. Neigh. "He has raised funds ... 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 (council denominations) have been 'communist'-inspired,' a charge refuted by every investigating group which pursued these claims."

(Including the FBI, disclosed the Rev. Dr. Neigh, "which we discovered had placed two of its agents in the accounting department the United Presbyterian Church headquarters. When we contacted FBI headquarters in Washington after they were discovered, we were told: 'It's all a mistake.'")

"This totally distorted hoax perpetrated upon the American public over the years by Mr. McIntire has now reached a climax," said the Rv. Dr. Neigh.

OUSTED

The Rev. Dr. McIntire, who is pastor of the Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, N.J., may be in 'sore need of a climax, after a year of disasters.

He was voted out of the leadership of the American Council of Christian Churches — which he founded.

His radio station WXUR in Media, Pa., had its license revoked by the FCC — the first time in history that a station has been so disciplined for violation of the FCC fairness doctrine.

Last year, he announced that Senator Strom Thurmond (Rep. - S.C.) would lead 30,000 demonstrators in a "March on Trenton." Thurmond was wise enough not to show up — and neither did 28,500 of the announced number of marchers. (The Rev. Dr. McIntire was enraged. He screamed at reporters on hand, whom he described as "the leftist - liberal press" that: "They're making fun of me! But that's all right — I've got God on my side!")

CHARGES

The "March on Trenton" was scheduled to protest the 19 charges filed by New Jersey's State Department of Education against the Rev. Dr. McIntire's Shelton College, whose 180 students are housed in two of the hotels he bought here. The department charged a number of inadequacies in such areas as records, financing, library and faculty as well as failure to teach courses advertised in the catalogue.

(In the midst of this battle, Shelton had to fire its academic dean and vice president, Richard Coulter, after the press revealed that he possessed none of the five academic degrees he had listed in the catalogue. This Coulter explained was "all in error, an oversight — the catalogue was printed in a hurry.")

Another scandal erupted in 1965, regarding affidavits filed by 15 Shelton girls who were housed in the Rev. Dr. McIntire's Christian Admiral Hotel. The coeds charged the hotel manager, Clayton Bancroft, with various instances of improper sexual conduct.

RESIGNATION

This revelation motivated the resignation of Dr. Arthur Steele as Shelton's president.

"It is the only reason why I severed my relations with Shelton College," said Dr. Steele, now the president of Florida's Clearwater Christian College.

But despite denunciation from other fundamentalists such as the editor of the Capital Voice of the National Bible Association, the Rev. Dr. McIntire said, "I cannot and will not fire this man." And Bancroft still manages the hotel.

This is understandable, since Bancroft is treasurer of the Rev. Dr. McIntire's "International Christian Relief" and is reportedly the only man who knows all the details of the pastor's vast financial dealings.