

Fundamentalist Has Plan For Pirate Radio Station

McIntire, Being Forced Off Air by U.S., Says He Will Resume Broadcasting From a Ship Off Jersey Coast

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CAPE MAY, N.J. June 24 — The Rev. Carl McIntire, the controversial fundamentalist minister, said today that he planned to set up "Radio Free America," a pirate radio station on a ship anchored three miles off Cape May, and begin broadcasting to the East Coast by July 19.

The station will crusade for an end to Federal regulation of broadcasting and for restoration to broadcasters of their constitutional guarantees of free speech, religion and press, he said in an interview.

Federal jurisdiction over broadcasting does not extend to the high seas beyond the three-mile limit, he noted.

The only thing that would stop "pirate" broadcasting, he said, would be an unexpected 11th-hour reprieve for WXUR, his station in Media, Pa.

The Federal Communications Commission ordered WXUR to stop broadcasting next week for failure to adhere to the Fairness Doctrine and broadcast opposing sides of an issue. It found that the fundamentalist, right-wing views it presented have not been properly balanced with other viewpoints.

Mr. McIntire's lawyers, including Benedict P. Cottone, former general counsel of the F.C.C., are seeking legal redress to stay the death sentence for WXUR. But failing that, the outspoken preacher intends to begin broadcasting from a point at sea within view of the top-floor dining room of his Christian Admiral Hotel here.

WXUR is the only station owned by Mr. McIntire's Faith Theological Seminary of Elkins Park, Pa., but his taped broadcasts are also carried by some 500 other stations across the country.

He says he reaches 10 million listeners, who contributed \$3-million annually to support his fundamentalist ministry.

Equipment Offered

The 67-year old pastor said backers had offered him the necessary ship — possibly a tanker — transmitter generator and financial backing to start pirate radio operations.

He said the ship would be manned around the clock and the staff would travel to and from her by helicopter. He said "Radio Free America" would be less expensive to operate than WXUR and would not interfere with frequencies assigned to other stations.

An aide said the new station's signal would be more powerful than that of WXUR, and would begin the full schedule of con-

roversial WXUR programs from New York to Washington.

Mr. McIntire noted that in recent years broadcasters had opened pirate stations off the coasts of England, New Zealand and Egypt.

In New Zealand, he said, the broadcaster was a church group that wanted a license, and the "pirate" campaign to get one was successful.

He said "Radio Free America" would crusade for an end to government regulation of broadcasting in the United States to restore to broadcasters their constitutional guarantees of free speech and religion.

"We will begin 10 to 14 days after WXUR is buried," Mr. McIntire said, "we will continue until the Fairness Doctrine is buried. We will be the most controversial station in America."

Mr. McIntire's challenge is partly based on his contention that with 8,000 radio stations now on the air in the United States, diversity of ownership is sufficient to provide the public with all points of view on controversial issues, and consequently each station should be free to broadcast what it likes.

He said the only governmental function needed today in broadcasting was the assignment of frequencies to prevent two or more broadcasters from using the same channel at once.

Like newspapers, he said, radio and television should be free of Government imposition of a "Fairness Doctrine."

He noted that the Fairness Doctrine evolved as a policy of the Federal Communications Commission 40 years ago, when available radio frequencies were scarce, to assure that each station provided its listeners

with opposing points of view on controversial issues of public interest.

Now, he says, the country's total of 1,750 daily newspapers makes newspapers much scarcer than radio stations. Still, newspapers are not licensed or regulated. In the interest of free speech, he said, radio should be treated similarly.

His international council of Christian churches, whose 825 delegates and observers from 70 countries ended an 11-day meeting at his hotel here today, adopted a resolution applauding his efforts to end the Fairness Doctrine.

Two weeks ago, the annual Earl Warren Conference of lawyers and journalists in Cambridge, Mass., also proposed that radio and television stations be freed immediately of all Government control over their broadcasts, including requirements for political balance and fairness on issues.

In the current issue of the Center magazine, published by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, Calif., Paul Porter, a former F.C.C. chairman said he now agreed that the time has come to make this major change.

3-Year Fight

"Court decisions are narrowly based on a scarcity doctrine that no longer applies," he said. "We have the technological sophistication to provide all the channels anybody can use. So why not give broadcasters permanent licenses and hold them responsible in the marketplace?"

Mr. McIntire's campaign was prompted by an F.C.C. decision three years ago to deny renewal of the license of WXUR.

The deposed Presbyterian minister, pastor of the separatist Bible Presbyterian church in Collingswood, N.J., bought WXUR in 1965 as an outlet for his "20th Century Reformation Hour" program when no station in the Philadelphia area would sell him time because of its controversial nature.

In contrast to the more liberal Presbyterian denomination with which he split 40 years ago, he preaches a literal interpretation of the Bible. He lumps together and condemns the country's major Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic Church, ecumenism, "modernism," Socialism and Communism.