

Right-Wing Cleric May Face Eviction

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BY DONALD JANSON AUG 23 1974

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CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug. 18—The Rev. Carl McIntire's multimillion-dollar Gateway to the Stars enterprises next to the Kennedy Space Center here may be headed for a crash landing.

Much of the business community in the area, which hailed his arrival in 1971, now would like to see the 67-year-old fundamentalist minister from New Jersey move out.

Shuford Mills, Inc., a North Carolina textile and land development company that sold him 300 acres of land, a Hilton motel and several industrial and apartment buildings three and a half years ago, is threatening to evict him for failure to pay.

But Mr. McIntire, whose ultraconservative political views are heard from coast-to-coast on his radio programs, said in an interview that he would not budge.

He sees sinister forces at work. Efforts to dislodge him, he said, appear to be a Government plot to remove his "presence" so he will not embarrass anyone when Russian space experts arrive next year to participate in the joint United States Soviet space docking mission.

Three Main Bases

The one-time Presbyterian minister's principal bases of operation are his Bible Presbyterian Church in Collingswood, N. J., his Faith Theological Seminary in Elkins Park, Pa., and his resort, retirement and Bible study complex in Cape May, N. J.

He came to Cape Canaveral, he said in a telephone interview from Cape May recently, because "I had a beautiful deal: I didn't have to put up any money to speak of, they were to put up condominiums, and I would put my people in them to pay off the purchase price."

City fathers hoped that the expected influx of people who would move here to be near Mr. McIntire and the religious meetings and anti-Communist seminars he planned in the Hilton convention center would be a boon to local business. They expected the throng to swell the tax base of an area depressed by cutbacks in space launchings and the shift of much of the space program to Houston.

But no condominiums have been built. Harley F Shuford, president of Shuford Mills, said in a telephone interview from Hickory, N. C., that his brother Alex had approved the 1971 lease-purchase contract with Mr. McIntire. But Mr. Shuford said he decided, after his brother died, to get out of the Florida land development business and concentrate on the field of his company's greatest expertise, textiles. He said Mr. McIntire was in default of his contract and the Cape property was now for sale to anyone who comes up with the money.

Mr. McIntire said Shuford

Mills would not permit him to build condominiums till he paid for the land. He said that this violated the contract.

And now, he has reported to his radio audience and readers of his weekly newspaper, The Christian Beacon, that Mr. Shuford will not take his money.

"We have been ordered to get out," he said.

He went to Hickory in June with \$530,000 he had raised in gifts and loans from supporters and sought to buy part of the property.

Mr. Shuford rejected a McIntire offer to buy the motel and its convention center, plus a two-story office building across the street, for \$510,000 and assumption of \$2.3-million in mortgages on the motel. He also turned down \$510,000 for the office building alone.

Mr. McIntire has housed tiny Shelton College in the office building since 1971, the year the New Jersey Board of Higher Education stripped the school of its accreditation when it was situated behind Mr. McIntire's Christian Admiral Hotel in Cape May.

If he is forced to move the fundamentalist school again, the preacher said, friends in Cape Canaveral have offered him quarters.

Court Action Possible

But he vowed that he would go to court on allegations of breach of contract rather than leave voluntarily. "I'm still in possession," he said. "I won't give them the keys."

In The Beacon, he saw more than a contract dispute.

"It has been decided to bring the Russians into the Cape Canaveral area for cooperation with the United States in its space program," he wrote.

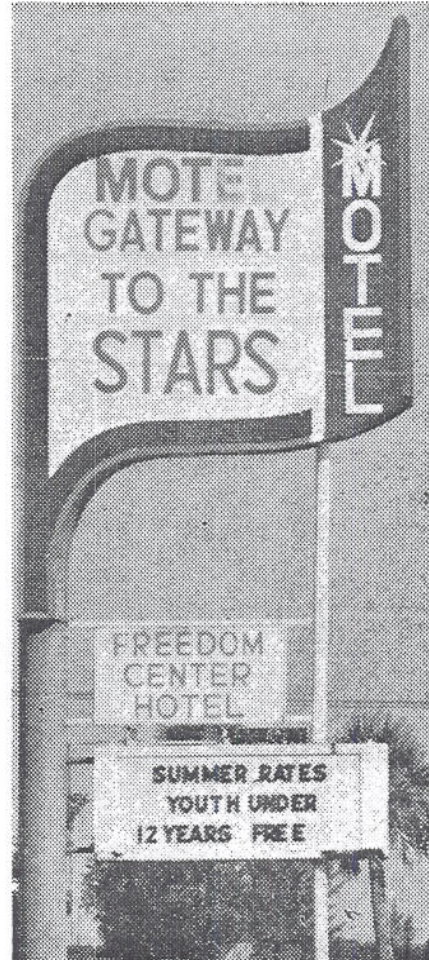
"With our presence there and a strong Christian testimony and our witness against Communism, it certainly can be understood why the Government would not want us in such close range.

"But if Dr. McIntire is to be driven out of Cape Canaveral for high-level reasons such as these, it is going to be necessary literally to drive him out of the United States."

He denounced the Nixon Administration repeatedly for its policy of détente with the Soviet Union, for settling the Vietnam war short of all-out military victory, and for lifting his license to operate radio station WXUR in Media, Pa.

The Federal Communications Commission found that Mr. McIntire had violated the "fairness doctrine," which requires a station to provide response time to persons attacked on the air. He retaliated briefly by broadcasting to his mid-Atlantic audience from a ship off the New Jersey coast.

Mr. Shuford says he told



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The Rev. Carl McIntire and properties at Cape Canaveral, Fla., from which he has been threatened with eviction

Mr. McIntire that there was considerable opposition to his "presence" in Cape Canaveral, but he made it plain that stemmed largely from the minister's inability to manage property and pay his bills.

He said Mr. McIntire had made no payment on the \$14-million property package since an initial down payment of \$54,000 in 1971.

Because the McIntire credit rating is so poor, he said, he is not eligible to assume mortgages on the motel.

Nor will Shuford Mills sell him the Shelton College building separately, Mr. Shuford said, because with a school across the street no future buyer of the motel could get a liquor license.

The Hilton had a liquor license and was regarded as the "swingingest" place in town before Mr. McIntire got it. He closed the bar and removed all the hotel ashtrays.

His outlook on sin also is reflected in Shelton's student handbook, which prohibits smoking, drinking, dancing, movies, beads, miniskirts, bikinis, swimming on Sunday and dating after 6 P.M. without a chaperone.

Instead of attracting busi-

ness to Cape Canaveral, the dry motel and its dry convention center are nearly empty now except when Mr. McIntire sends bus loads of followers from New Jersey for conferences.

A Darkened Lobby

The 200-room Hilton, renamed the Freedom Center Hotel, had no cars in its lot today. There was nobody at the pool. One dining room was closed. The other, at the lunch hour, had three waitresses but no customers. The manager, working alone in a darkened lobby filled with religious tracts but void of people, said he did not know how many guests were registered.

"McIntire had a good chance to do something for this city and has fallen flat on his face," said Mayor Frank McClay. "I had great hopes when he came that he would bring in people who would provide income and support for the city, but he has proved to be of very little value here."

T. C. Anderson, president of the Cape Kennedy Area Chamber of Commerce, said the McIntire management of the motel had deprived the

community of its largest convention facility by requiring teetotaling.

"The business community would like to have somebody acquire it and operate it like Hilton did," he said.

Mayor Lee Caron of Cocoa Beach, adjacent to Cape Canaveral, said it was "very depressing to have a complex that size and so little activity."

He said the six year old motel, newest and fanciest in the area, was now badly miledewed from neglect and disuse.

26-Story Temple

"People here are very much disillusioned with McIntire," he said.

When Mr. McIntire arrived, he announced plans to build a 20-acre copy, at a height equivalent to 26 stories, of Solomon's Temple of Jerusalem. He saw it as a major tourist attraction. Town fathers beamed. The temple has not been started.

"He can't even pay his water bill," said Mr. Shuford.

Mr. Shuford said he had buyers who wanted segments of the property. But he said he might give the would-be buyer from New Jersey

another six months to come up with \$4-million dollars for the motel complex and college property or \$14-million for the whole package.

Mr. McIntire said he could raise \$14-million if given enough time. He said he proved it by raising \$510,000 in six days of appeals to his followers when Mr. Shuford imposed a deadline in June.

Among those who doubt it are nine members of the Shelton faculty, nearly half the staff, who quit in disgust this summer after years of irregular salary payments.

Four are suing for back pay. Margaret E. Stucki, an art teacher, said Chancellor McIntire had fallen \$10,000 behind in salary payments to her and her husband, Prof. Fred K. Scheibe, and they had to take out high-interest bank loans to buy food and pay bills.

She said they were "aghast" to learn this year that the school had been deducting money for Social Security but had to be forced by an Internal Revenue Service inquiry to forward the money to the Government.