

**HEADLINES: "Pacifist Clergyman Convicted, Blasted In Income Tax Case."**

An Associated Press dispatch indicated that Judge John H. Druffel of the Federal Court at Cincinnati, Ohio, made an attack upon the Rev. Maurice F. McCrackin following the latter's conviction for refusal to answer an Internal Revenue Service summons to discuss his refusal to pay federal income taxes. The Judge is reported to have told the minister, "Your pious attitude is more or less of a false face." Then, after accusing the Rev. Mr. McCrackin of being a "pacifist agitator" and of associating "with those of overwhelming Soviet sympathies," the judge added: "I don't know of any more pious traitor than that."

The Rev. Mr. McCrackin, a Presbyterian, remained serene and silent throughout his trial, refusing to stand in court, plead to the indictment, defend himself, or help his court-appointed attorneys. While awaiting the verdict, the dispatch reports, "he read calmly from a book by Albert Schweitzer."

**THEY TOOK THE BODY** On September the 5th, Mr. McCrackin wrote the Internal Revenue Officer:  
 "The Department of Internal Revenue exercises a power of coercion which threatens the liberty of the individual, violates conscience and jeopardizes the life of our free institutions...My conscience tells me that I can neither pay my taxes nor cooperate with you in your effort to collect them... Mankind is now threatened with extinction. Two powerful military nations, Russia and the United States, though affirming they believe in and want peace, are daily leading us closer to the brink of war. Some way this death march must be stopped... It is my feeling that tyranny has already begun to show its head when a citizen is pressed to give financial support to what he contends is the most outrageous sin of our age and the probable destroyer of much if not all of our civilization."

Mr. McCrackin had refused to answer a summons to appear before the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on September the 10th. Two days later he was arrested. Because he refused to cooperate with the purpose of the arresting officers, he was carried to their car and later into the Federal Building in Cincinnati. On that occasion, he stated:

"It is my hatred for war that makes it impossible for me to obey the summons of September 10 or to appear for the hearing today. It may be that the authorities will again take possession of my body, but it is my earnest purpose, God being my helper, that no one, no circumstance, no place shall be allowed to take possession of my spirit and of my conscience."

**IRBM'S** At a recent meeting of Methodist students at Syracuse University, Dean Harlan M. Cleveland of the Maxwell School commented about Intermediate Range Ballistics Missiles now being supplied several NATO countries as "defensive" weapons. These missiles use liquid fuel and take ten hours to prepare for firing. As defensive weapons they are totally useless because an aggressor would destroy those bases first.

**OUTER SPACE** James Avery Joyce reports that one of the most significant recent proposals was that made by Russia last March - that the United Nations take responsibility for the exploration of Outer Space. Russia's amended proposal received tremendous support in the UN. The United States proposed that the proposal be studied for a year. This fall the American proposal prevailed.

**FALLOUT AND SOIL** Radioactive contamination is being "harvested" on experimental areas at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., Research Center. USDA engineers and soil scientists are trying to find effective fallout from agricultural land in case such removal becomes necessary in the future. Accidental contamination, and fallout from enemy atomic or hydrogen bombs, are potential dangers.

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Test plots are being sprayed with low concentrates of short-lived radioactive materials. Rays emitted by these isotopes are detectable yet far less lasting than the rays of strontium-90 - an important isotope in the fall out from atomic and hydrogen bombs - which are capable of contaminating farmlands for years.

Tests to determine to what extent certain crop and land uses act as shields against soil contamination by fallout and as aids to effective removal of contamination have shown none of the methods completely prevented radioactivity from reaching the soil.

Raking and removing heavy and medium mulch layers - the method that proved best - cleaned up nearly all the radioactivity from the test plots. Cutting and removing sod proved effective. Mowing and collecting growing crops were less effective.

Experiments now in progress are designed to test the decontaminating ability of emulsified asphalt and other soil treatments on bare surface affected by simulated fallout.

--Cortland County Farm and Home News, Dec., 1958.

ON THE OTHER HAND Norman Thomas, discussing the Geneva nuclear weapons talks in his October Newsletter, wrote: "Meanwhile, did you note the irony? Before the magnificent scientific achievement of the launching of Pioneer, our scientists 'bathed it with ultra-violet rays' lest by any chance it should hit the moon (rather than circling round it or being lost in space) and so possibly contaminate any faint beginnings of life on our frozen satellite. But our rulers have no equivalent concern to prevent the sure contamination by fallout of those who live upon this earth..."

FROM BAD TO WORSE The New Republic (Dec. 8) calls our attention to the fact that the United States is committed to send another \$115 million in military hardware to Pakistan. Previously we have sent \$200 million's worth. The rise of General Ayub Kahn and his reliance on the U.S. arsenal means that our government is now entangled with any of his repressive measures inside Pakistan and is an inadvertent sponsor of his menacing attitude toward India. "But how do we disengage?"

SCIENTIFIC & MILITARY PRESTIGE According to the Associated Press, the launching of the 4 ton moon on December 19th by the Air Force has boosted America's scientific and military prestige, "a key element in the cold war."

PATH TO GREATNESS "Mr. Healy (Leeds, East, Lab.) The Government were much preoccupied with the pursuit of national greatness. National greatness would not be achieved by multiplying its power to destroy. It could be achieved at one stroke in breaking the present deadlock and leading humanity to peace."

- Debate on Berlin, House of Commons, Dec. 4

TOP HANDS CHANGE In September, Business Week published the following list of The Big Munitions Makers taken from the Pentagon's list of 100 largest contractors:

Present Rank	1957 Orders	Previous Rank (Jan. '55 - June '56)	Post-Korea Rank (July '50 - June '53)
1. General Dynamics	\$1, 100.0 Million	2	**
2. General Electric	916.4	4	3
3. United Aircraft	699.3	3	5
4. Boeing Airplane	637.9	5	2
5. American Telephone	471.0	6	13
6. North American Aviation	456.1	1	9
7. Hughes Aircraft	369.2	11	25
8. Chance Vought Aircraft	341.0	17	**
9. Martin Co.	322.1	13	23
10. General Motors	308.7	14	1
11. Lockheed Aircraft	277.4	8	7
12. Northrop Aircraft	263.5	27	16
13. International Business Machine	255.4	16	44
14. Sperry Rand	246.0	19	**
15. Bendix Aviation	223.5	15	*
16. Republic Aviation	212.0	20	10
17. Douglas Aircraft	203.2	9	4
18. Grumman Aircraft	194.7	*	*

\*Not among top 100

\*\*differently organized

In the scramble for the billions of "defense" dollars, some newcomers gain ground and old familiar faces slip away or just hold their own. The main reason: "Few successfully company managements have anticipated the trend in military ordering." The best way to get ahead: via rockets and electronics. Example: General Motors which was in 14th place has moved to the 10 spot. It has offset the drop in orders

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**PLANNING  
AHEAD**

A suspicious package arrived at the defense department in London. Perplexed experts opened it with great care. Inside was a harmless boulder with a small note attached. It read: "This is my contribution to rearmament after the Third World War."

Merrill, M. Y.

R. E. D. I

Mr. and Mrs. William Durand

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