

# Tax-Resisting Cleric Viewed As Crusader--or Crackpot

By HAROLD HARRISON  
Associated Press Writer

Cincinnati—(AP)—Some persons call him a "crackpot." Some call him a "publicity seeker." Others—more charitable—refer to him as an "idealist" or a "zealot." And his close followers look upon him as a beleaguered crusader for universal peace and brotherhood.

That is the Rev. Maurice McCrackin, Cincinnati's controversial Presbyterian minister whose passive resistance to income taxes for military purposes and in behalf of rights of Negroes three times have led him to jail.

The 56-year-old minister is a bland-appearing, mild-mannered man who has become somewhat of a headache, not only to law enforcement officers but his own Presbyterian church.

He is gray-haired, stands 5-foot 10½-inches tall and speaks in a well-modulated tone with some of the histrionics that usually are associated with persons who carry on such "crusades."

### A BACHELOR

He is a bachelor and lives with a sister in the parsonage of the West Cincinnati St. Barnabas Church—a combined Episcopalian and Presbyterian church with both white and Negro members.

As of now, however, he is only a member of the choir of the church. The Cincinnati Presbytery several months ago forbade McCrackin from carrying on the regular duties of a pastor and an appeal is pending. That stemmed from his violation of civil law—refusal to pay income taxes.

"I sing in the choir and I attend church meetings," McCrackin said of his present status. He also visits the sick but only as an individual.

He explained his status this week after he returned from Brownsville, Tenn., where he served out a fine for loitering in connection with an appearance in behalf of Negro sharecroppers who have been removed from their farms.

The Negroes claim they were evicted because they registered to vote in the 1960 election. Landowners claim contracts to farm the land were not renewed because of mechanization of farms and reductions in cotton crop acreage.

### REFUSED TO EAT

Many of the Negroes have been living in a "tent city." During 25 days of his stay in jail in Brownsville, Mr. McCrackin refused to eat in a passive resistance fast.

That was the third time McCrackin has been in jail.

However, a group of fellow-pastors reported Thursday their investigation indicated the Rev. Maurice McCrackin's conviction in Brownsville, Tenn., was chiefly his own fault.

In a report to the Presbytery of Cincinnati, the group's Church and Community Committee said:

"Mr. McCrackin's refusal to testify on his own behalf and his refusal to accept legal counsel left the court little choice but to find him guilty in light of the evidence which was presented by the prosecution.

"Had Mr. Crackin chosen to cooperate with authorities at any one of several points and certainly during his trial, there is reason to believe that since he did have a satisfactory explanation for his activities on



Rev. Maurice McCrackin

and sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$250.

He served his time in a correctional institution in Pennsylvania.

Later, the government sought unsuccessfully to collect back income taxes from McCrackin's share of his mother's estate which he said he had renounced.

### TAX PHILOSOPHY

It's easy to arrive at either "crackpot," "zealot" or "crusader" description from McCrackin's philosophy on income taxes.

"I believe if we would withdraw support from something we think is wrong, we couldn't have wars," he said. "If we begin to act unilaterally, we wouldn't have them. If the people would withdraw funds we would change the policy of governments.

"It has been proven that the basis of keeping peace by terrorism never works. There always will be an explosion and this time it will be an explosion of extinction."

McCrackin was asked what he felt would happen in other countries if the United States should abandon all military preparations.

"We hope there would be enough individuals that would say the same thing and that it would become part of a movement," he replied.

DECORATED ICE CREAM HOLIDAY LOAF

TALBOTT'S ICE CREAM STORES

191 MAIN ST.—341 CONKLIN AVE.  
RA 2-4432 RA 2-7418

**XMAS TREES**

FRESH—FROM GROWER

Norway Spruce 4-12 \$2.94  
White Spruce 4-8 \$2.94

Excellent Selection

Scotch Pine 4-6 \$2.94  
SOME TREES 98¢

Saturday and Sunday ONLY  
Knapp Hill Road, Chenango Forks—Watch for Signs or Call RA 2-8252

the night of his arrest, he might not have been found guilty."

### FEELS WAR A SIN

He first began to attract widespread attention in 1958 as a result of his long time refusal to pay income taxes because part of the money goes for military purposes and he believes war to be a sin.

The Internal Revenue Service finally issued a summons for him to appear to discuss his income tax problems. He refused to honor it and was haled into Federal Court.

On that and subsequent appearances in court he refused to walk and had to be carried into the courtroom.

He refused to make any plea or statement and the then U.S. District Judge John H. Druffel sent him to jail for contempt of court. He refused to eat at that time.

Subsequently, he was carried into court again and Judge Druffel entered a plea of innocent for him. Smiling blandly, the minister refused to stand in court or cooperate with court-appointed attorneys and in December, 1958, he was convicted.

Most Modern Hearing Aid Center in Upper New York

OVER

20

MODELS—INCLUDING THESE MAKES . . .

- ACOUSTICON
- QUALITONE
- AUDIOTONE
- FIDELITY
- AND OTHERS

I'VE HELPED THOUSANDS!

Aids Priced from \$49.50 • Hearing Glasses from \$149.50

Save 25% When Purchased at Our Office

**ARTHUR A. SIGEL**  
CERTIFIED HEARING AID AUDIOLOGIST  
4th FLOOR PRESS BLDG.  
BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

All Makes Serviced • RA 4-1891

Open Every Day 9 to 6, Incl. Sat.—Mon. and Thurs. Till 9 P.M.



ARTHUR A. SIGEL

## RUDDY'S LAST WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

**AURORA MODEL MOTORING KITS**

Reg. \$19.95 Now Only **\$16.95**

**ARNOLD PALMER GOLF GAME**

Reduced to **\$4.98**

HO Specially

Marked Items . . .

UP TO **50% Reduction**

Wide Selection of **HOBBIES and GAMES** At **GREAT REDUCTIONS!**

Come in and Browse Around

**RUDDY'S HOBBY CENTER**

74 COURT ST., Binghamton (Next to Drazen's)

OPEN FRIDAY TILL 9 P. M.



Our many extra services include Free Gift Wrapping, Personalized Service, the most complete line of Hobbies in the Triple Cities and an easy Lay-A-Way Plan.

# EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1962 ENDICOTT TRUST COMPANY

Will pay on all savings through our new daily interest plan

# 3 1/2% INTEREST

## WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU . . .

Your money earns 3 1/2% interest EVERY day that it is on deposit and is credited to your account quarterly.

## THERE ARE 10 EXTRA DAYS

## INTEREST EVERY MONTH . . .

because deposits made on or before the 10th of every month earn interest from the first of that month.

Now! 4 Offices to Better SERVE You!

WEST CORNERS OFFICE  
MAIN OFFICE  
ENDWELL OFFICE  
VESTAL OFFICE



## ENDICOTT TRUST COMPANY

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

43-45 Washington Ave.  
ENDICOTT  
3225 E. Main St.  
ENDWELL

148 Vestal Parkway E.  
VESTAL  
West Corners Plaza  
WEST CORNERS

