

should work with the industry in establishing an overall code and should make it compulsory. He maintained the repetition of the same-type, low-grade programming can lower the moral and religious character of children.

SMEAR ALLEGED Minister versus WHB; FCC hears complaint

Testifying in the FCC radio-tv hearing last week, Dr. Stanley I. Stuber of the Council of Churches of Greater Kansas City, charged that WHB in that city is conducting a "smear campaign" against "a Protestant clergyman recently elected chairman of the Interfaith Committee for Civic Action."

During his testimony he did not name the clergyman but later identified the person smeared as himself. He charged that he has been called "criminal, anti-Catholic, subversive and un-American" on WHB's late *Night Beat* program. The program puts on the air the voices and comments of listeners who telephone the station.

"This type of programming lends itself to many kinds of abuses," Dr. Stuber charged. "It provides an open forum which is altogether too open for the public good." The program's m.c. (not named by Dr. Stuber but later identified by WHB as Lee Vogel) "... appears to encourage personal accusations," he said. "There is apparently no attempt whatsoever to check on the facts or to control the accusations."

WHB is giving the public "the distinct impression . . . that this Protestant clergyman is, without question, a communist," the Baptist minister charged.

"Where else would such a defamation of character be allowed?" he asked. "Certainly not in the press; nor in magazines or books, or even from the pulpit."

Dr. Stuber said his interfaith committee has charged that members of the city council are not operating according to the law and that it is "working on" the local government. This action, he said, brought on the statements aired by WHB.

WHB has refused to accept any responsibility for the program, Dr. Stuber said, in answer to his complaints. He said he has been offered time on *Night Beat* but has not accepted because of the type of program, the way it is handled, and the unfair treatment given those who oppose the m.c.

A spokesman for WHB, owned by Todd Storz, refused to comment on the charges last week. He said any comment would have to come from George W. Armstrong, executive vice president and general manager, and that he did not know where Mr. Armstrong was.

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