

Dr. MacRae Interviewed by James Neher 8-16-79

Concerning the causes that led me to leave Faith and start here. There is a great deal of detail that enters in and many things that reach back quite a ways. Perhaps just very briefly let's refer to the fact that in 1956 I felt that the things these people were rather quietly criticizing Dr. McIntire for were less than things that (interruption . . . )

Then there were things they were talking loudly about on which I thought they were wrong, but which I did not think were major things but I got into controversy about those things. Then when they all decided to leave and there was nobody left except Eppard and myself really, I had a vision of a couple of men (I won't name) who were fine earnest fellows, who I don't think would have made very good teachers and I had the feeling it would be up to me to work along with them and do the best we could.

During the summer some of our graduates who were around I used to meet with and discuss things, and discussed possibilities at length. Mr. Taylor was working around the grounds. He had one more year of seminary to go. He was tremendously interested in what we were going to do. He never wanted to miss one of those meetings. I don't think he said a great deal in the meetings as I recall but he was tremendously interested in being at them.

Neher: To which meetings are you referring?

Just informal meetings in which I met with 4 or 5 recent graduates or undergraduates who were around, discussing what we were going to do for the next year. We named over all the possibilities of people who might teach or who had just graduated or who had been out a few years, etc. We talked over various possibilities. The folks who had resigned--they were quite a sizeable number-- Dr. McIntire said he was going to pay their salary up to Aug. 1, and I said we had begun everybody's salary Sept. 1 and it was only fair they should be paid till Sept. 1.

He said, No, they should only be paid to Aug. 1, so I said well, I'll pay them myself. In the end he said he would do it. So they were paid up to Sept. 1. But we weren't. When we left we were only paid up to Aug. 1. He said, We will start -- after this we will go from June 1 to June 1, so we won't have this problem any more. That was his idea. But it wasn't carried through. But his idea as he advanced it was rather impractical because he said as soon as a man comes here to work we will put him on the payroll, during the summer -- anytime after June 1. But if you get a man in August it means he only gets 9 months ~~fix~~ salary. Which I felt was quite unfair.

As we looked them over we got quite a number-- the next year we had the largest faculty we've ever had. We got quite a number of very good people. I should mention Mr. Smitley.