

OPPOSES JAZZ AIRS ON SUNDAY RADIO

**A New Reform Organization
Threatens to Force McAlpin
to End Concerts.**

PROTEST IS BROADCAST

**And Within an Hour, Announcer
Says, 75 Listeners-In Call Up
to Endorse Program.**

Whether jazz and other secular music should be allowed on the radio on Sunday or whether the air should be restricted to sacred music on that day was the question put up to the radio audience last night by Milton M. Roemer, director of a group which broadcasts an hour of music from 6 to 7 o'clock every Sunday evening from Station WMCA, Hotel McAlpin.

Mr. Roemer read to the radio listeners a letter he had received from John Henry Maynor, who signed himself as secretary of the "Keep-the-Air-Clean-on-Sunday Society." 154 Nassau Street, protesting against "degrading" and "defaming" the air by broadcasting popular music on Sunday. The letter made it known that the society had protested to other broadcasters and also to Arthur Batchelor, Federal radio supervisor for this district, and that it intended to seek relief from the new Federal Radio Board just appointed by President Coolidge, and from the Legislature at Albany.

Organization Has 20 Members.

"The undersigned is an organization of twenty members banded together to condemn you and your type of radio entertainment on Sunday," the letter said. "We will grow and grow a hundredfold. It was you who first started to defame and to degrade the air on a Sunday. Prior to your coming on radio we could listen to sacred concerts and services sent out by the various churches. * * * Where you began others followed and today Sunday has been degraded in character."

After reading the letter, Mr. Roemer in a speech to the radio listeners said that he was ready to do what they desired with regard to the protest—that if they wished sacred music on Sundays he would take his "gang" off the air, but that if they desired its type of entertainment he would continue to give it to them. He said that after receiving the letter he had been told by Colonel James E. Dedman, commanding officer of United States Veterans' Hospital 98, Castle Point, N. Y., that 400 disabled soldiers enjoyed his radio hour every Sunday and would miss it greatly if it were discontinued.

Roemer Defends Concerts.

"There's nothing degrading, in my opinion," Mr. Roemer told the radio audience, "in giving those veterans an hour's happiness every Sunday evening. It's true that we were the first to give light, cheerful entertainment on Sundays, but now many do it. I am in favor of broadcasting church services on Sunday, but I also believe in broadcasting entertainment at hours which do not conflict with the services."

Within an hour, according to representatives of the studio, seventy-five telephone calls had been received urging the continuance of the same kind of entertainment on Sunday and protesting against any "Sunday blue laws" for radio.

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