

# *The Open Forum*

## There Ought To Be A Law Condemnation For Swinging "When The Saints Go Marching On"

Editor, Journal and Guide: Recently, I read a very interesting editorial on the subject of swinging of church hymns, written by one who took the affirmative view. A few weeks ago I went to see a movie, and on that particular night there was an amateur program. When one of the performers came out on the stage and started jazzing the favorite old spiritual, "When the Saints Go Marching In." I wanted to rise from my seat and shout to him, "Stop."

From that night on, it seems that everywhere I turn that piece is swinging over a radio or nickel machine. It appears to me that since musicians are swinging every other type of music, they could leave the religious songs alone. If church music, is continued to be played, we'll eventually be having jam sessions in church instead of our customary services.

Personally, I feel that the same punishment should be given to Mr. Armstrong as was given to Mr.

Calloway when he jazzed the "Star Spangled Banner" over the air; his radio programs were discontinued for a certain number of years. If this American National Anthem is a sacred patriotic song, I should think "When the Saints Go Marching In" is a sacred religious song with just as much meaning and sentiment as any other song. I think that religious songs jazzed should be forbidden by law under a heavy penalty if violated.

It is about time that we as church members stand up for our rights and demand respect. The church is supposed to stand for something higher and finer than worldly orders and organizations. The church cannot expect to maintain this status if it is going to sit idly by and silently encourage the misuse of religious music which is assumed to typify so much.

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