

FOSTER IS BACKED BY ROMAN POWERS IN UNITED STATES

Ku Klux Klan Uncompromising Foe to Everything That Is "Red".

Western American Special. ST. JOSEPH, MICH., April 18.—Foremost in their program against present law enforcement agencies, "liquidation of the Ku Klux Klan, involving criminal conspiracy laws in prosecuting all persons connected with that organization," leads the agenda agreed upon by the Communist party of America, according to evidence brought out here in the trial of William Z. Foster and other radicals who have plotted to overthrow the government.

Foster, it is said, realized that the Communists never would get far, with the Ku Klux Klan growing by leaps and bounds, as it has been during the last five years, with no signs of stopping even now.

Backed By the Pope Foster, with his radical party, has the full and free backing of the Catholic church in America, as is evidenced by the fact that Frank P. Walsh, one of the leading Catholic laymen in America, is his chief counsel and the "Rev." J. H. Ryan, a priest, who is chairman of the educational committee of the National Catholic Welfare Council, is one of his closest advisers. It is confidently believed that Catholic money is being poured into the defense of these men, who plotted to deliver this country into the hands of the soviet government of Russia. It, however, is believed the Moscow authorities would never have had anything to say, as the Catholics were planning to wrest control from Foster, under the guise of "rescuing" the country when the proper moment came.

Klan is Foe to Reds It has produced a distinctly favorable opinion here, when it became known that the Reds were against the Ku Klux Klan and numbered it among their bitterest enemies. It is taken here that anything the Reds fight is a Pretty Good Outfit.

The Klan is classed as among the "capitalist" organizations by this ilk, which has only two classes for anything—either "capitalistic" or "workers."

Take your choice! HAVE YOU CAUGHT NIGHT PROWLERS?

MEDITATING, alone with conscience, an evening or two ago, upon a bench in Lowndale Square, "where every prospect pleases and only man is vile," the writer's thoughts were interrupted by the spectacle of two men and a boy industriously hunting something upon the grassward a few yards away. Each of the men carried a flashlight, with which he searched carefully every yard of the grass over a wide area of the park. Every few moments each man would nab and pluck at something in the grass, while the boy, carrying a pail, received the quarry. "Angels and ministers of grace, defend us," quoth the watcher, wondering whether these were a trio of escaped ones from the nut-house. He watched them with greater interest. The two men, moving about on their knees, accompanied by the handy boy with the pail, were catching 'em, rapidly, whatever it was. When they came closer the writer asked them to satisfy his curiosity, "what do you men think you are doing?" "Huh, catchin' baits," was the reply. "We've got nearly a gallon of Night-Prowlers. Finest bait in the world." Watch 'em now and you'll see something." The writer watched and, in a moment, the man—flashlight in left, right held at ready—pounced upon something which he saw in the grass, and by firm but gentle pulling he extracted from mother earth a glorified angle-worm about seven inches long—a wonderfully fat and juicy one. It was almost big as a snake. It had a well defined head but no tail. The nether end was stubby and the body was banded here and there with thick gristle or muscle. It coiled and uncoiled, squirmed and wriggled like a snake, hardened itself at a touch, as if fearing the hook, and made ready to escape at the first opportunity. "Night-Prowler," said the man, "a regular he-worm, grand-daddy of the angle-worm tribe, and Oh Boy, how the big fish love 'em!" It seems the Night-Prowlers stay in their winter holes until the warm showers come, until the trees begin to bud and the flowers bloom; then, after nightfall,

they sneak out of their holes, or extend themselves part way out, to see what's going on in our wonderful old world. It is then that the Early Birds nab them. Have you ever seen this curious happening in Lowndale Square? "Not only the fish love these Night-Prowlers," said one of the men, perhaps mendaciously, "some folks make meat pies of them, and use them to give tone to stews." It was gratifying to note that there were no keep off the grass signs to interfere with this profitable pastime and that no license was required to hunt the Night Prowlers.

KANSAS SENATOR HITS AL OF ROME ON LIQUOR ISSUE

Capper Tells Al the Papiat Constitution Must Be Supreme.

Western American Special. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18.—Senator Capper of Kansas has written a letter to Governor Al Smith of New York commenting on the resolution recently passed by the legislature of that state, petitioning Congress to pass an act modifying the Volstead law so as to permit the use of "light wines and beer."

Referring to a statement in the resolution that national prohibition "has resulted in widespread contempt for and violation of the law and illegal traffic in liquors, and in official corruption," Senator Capper contended that "prohibition statutes, enforced, instead of tending to increase crime and official corruption, afford one of the surest methods of reducing them to a minimum. Declaring the proposal to liberalize the prohibition law was "inconsistent and impracticable," the Kansas Senator asserted that those who are demanding a modification of the enforcement act will not be satisfied except with a beverage which is intoxicating in fact. Sale of such beverages, he insisted, can be legalized only by amending or rescinding the prohibition amendment.

Light wines and beer, in the Senator's judgment, would "only tend to increase the difficulties of law enforcement by perpetuating the alcoholic appetite, which is the cause of the present violations of the law." Such a modification, he declared, would prove unsatisfactory to the "wets," who would insist upon further concessions.

Enforcement of the present prohibition law is the only solution of the liquor traffic problem, Senator Capper stated, adding that nothing could be gained by compromise measures.

ATLANTA DISPUTE HEARTENS ENEMY

Squabble Over Petty Jealousies Gives Aid and Comfort to Romans.

Western American Special. WASHINGTON, D. C.—April 18.—Certain propaganda is already at work in the United States to make capital of the dispute at Atlanta between Imperial Wizard Evans and Emperor Simmons, and to use it as an entering wedge in the campaign toward the disintegration of the Klan.

The Hearst newspapers carry a story from San Antonio, Texas, purporting to be an interview from George W. Keel, "grand kiegale" for the Lone Star state, in which Mr. Keel is quoted as saying Lone Star Klansmen would secede from the Imperial body if Simmons wins, and stating it will stand squarely behind Imperial Wizard Evans.

A high official of the Texas realm who is in Washington for a few days says he does not believe any such statement was made by Mr. Keel, especially before a decision had been reached at Atlanta. He pointed out that the Klan's big aim is a unification of the white gentle Protestant thought and personnel of the country and that it would be the last in the country to start a secession movement.

It is pointed out here that the affairs of the Klan are in the hands of the members and what they say goes. If Simmons is in control and the members do not like his administration they can change it. Likewise, if the Evans regime proves unsatisfactory it likewise can be speedily removed and one more satisfactory instituted. The Klan is bigger than any man or set of men in it, and it is here to stay, regardless of petty jealousies. Yesterday, Today and Forever.

INVISIBLE LADIES INVITE REPORTERS TO BIG INITIATION

Red Rigers Serve as Escort to Newspaper Man on Tour.

WOMEN OF EAST ARE BUSY Grave Diggers "Beat It" When Klansmen Suddenly Appear in Cemetery.

Western American Special. PATERSON, N. J., April 18.—An initiatory ceremony of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire on April 9 was witnessed on Saturday night by a Call reporter.

The ceremony was held in what appeared to be a large abandoned mill where the blindfolded reporter, escorted by members of the Royal Riders of the Red Robe, was taken in a motor car.

Answering a phone call Saturday night, the reporter was asked: "How would you like to attend an initiation of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire?"

The reporter accepted the invitation. "Meet us in ten minutes at Liberty and Walnut street."

Instead of meeting a delegation from the Ladies of the Invisible Empire, as he had expected, the reporter was greeted by four masked and robed Royal Riders of the Red Robe.

The spokesman, who introduced himself as the Supreme Ragon of the R. R. R. in this state, and who wore two "R's" just over his heart, instead of the single "R" worn by the other three hooded and robed men, ushered the reporter into a waiting automobile, asked him to submit to being blindfolded for "a little while," and then gave the command to start.

The reporter sought to open a conversation, but his hosts sat silent throughout the long ride.

How They Made the Big "R" The only comment the Supreme Ragon made to the reporter was that the Royal Riders of the Red Robe had planned to take him with them when they lighted the big "R" on Garret mountain. The "R," he said, was constructed by sticking into the ground and rocks a number of red lights, such as used in political parades, all of which were lighted by means of a fuse running from one to the other. The Riders left the scene immediately after they had lighted the fuse, the Supreme Ragon further stated, and then declined to answer any of the other questions the reporter asked.

The machine eventually stopped. The Klansmen whispered to each other—and then the suspense was broken when the newspaper man was escorted into a small and apparently abandoned building, where the handkerchief was removed from his eyes for the first time. The room seemed to be an old office of some kind, devoid of all furniture, with the exception of several boxes and a broken chair.

All in Good Humor The Supreme Ragon, explaining that there would be "some time to wait," asked the reporter if there were any questions he would like to ask.

Laughter was the only answer the reporter received when he asked if he was still in Paterson. The Supreme Ragon answered in the negative when asked if the Royal Riders of the Red Robe is affiliated with the Ladies of the Invisible Empire or the Ku Klux Klan. He volunteered to explain that all three are separate organizations, which work at all times in harmony with any kindred body, and that at that particular moment the Royal Riders of the Red Robe were acting as guards for the ladies. The Supreme Ragon also explained that the Riders have been organized in Paterson for a year and that, having built a strong membership, Paterson will bear a great deal from them in the near future. The membership of the organization, he further explained, is composed of foreign-born, white, Protestant, American citizens who are organized to combat evil and to assist at all times the proper law enforcement officers.

Grand Counselor Present At this point the Grand and Deputy Grand Counselors of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire were ushered in by two Riders and introduced to the reporter. The Grand Counselor, who was a small, slender person, with her youthful figure dressed in a pretty gown of some silky material, tied at

the waist with a cord of red, white and blue, with a red cross fastened over her heart, consented to grant an interview during the few moments that remained until the ceremony started. Her head dress was a band of red, white and blue, with the letters L. O. T. I. E. in gold, and a flowing veil of silken net covering her hair. Concealing the lower portion of her face was a heavy white silk veil.

In the course of the interview, the Grand Counselor, in answer to the reporter's questions, all of which had to do with the doings of the Ladies of the Invisible Empire in Paterson, explained that Betsy Ross Council, which is the name of the local organization, has a membership in the hundreds and meets regularly, but not, however, in place of Saturday evening's initiatory ceremony, which was a special affair. Membership in the organization, which is now active in 32 states, she said, is composed of native-born and naturalized 100 per cent American women citizens.

Keep Scribe Blindfolded Another interruption—and then the reporter, again blindfolded, was led from the building, over a cobblestone walk and into another building, where the handkerchief was again removed. This time the room was larger and seemed to be an abandoned factory of some kind. Planks placed upon boxes furnished seats for the gathering of beautifully robed and veiled members of the organization present. There were four stations for officers and in the middle of the room stood an altar, upon which rested an open Bible. In the far corner of the room stood a sort of tent, over which appeared the letters "M. C." which, as the Grand Counselor explained in her interpretation of the services, stands for Mother Counselor.

The Mother Counselor opened the meeting with an order for the retirement of all who were not entitled to stay. The reporter arose, bent upon taking his departure, but was advised by the Grand Counselor that the order was not applicable to him, special permission having been granted for him to remain.

Hear Mysterious Signal Then after the password had been taken up, a shrill whistle was heard, and a moment later 12 ladies, known as a team, formed a square around the altar. Wearing what appeared to be a cape of red, white and blue, the members of the team were differently attired than were the members of the organization. The guardian of the sacred book, one of the four leading officers of the council, led in prayer after the team had gone through some motions at the altar.

There were no lights in the place, other than the lights from a huge cross, studded with red electric lights, as 42 candidates were led by the Senior and Junior Conductresses to the station of the Senior Counselor, where, after the reporter had once again been blindfolded, some secret work was taken up, after which the handkerchief was again removed.

They were then led to one-side of the room, where they were formed into a line, facing the altar, and rigidly inspected by every member of the organization present. The candidates were then led to the different stations, at each of which they received instructions as to the teachings of the order. The singing of several hymns by a women's quartet followed.

Ceremonies in Tent Meanwhile, the Mother Counselor had retired to her tent, to which the candidates were conducted. After having been received by the Mother Counselor, the candidates marched to the altar, around which the team had formed a square. The candidates knelt in prayer while a soloist most impressively sang the hymn "Be Still."

Then, following some degree work by the team, the curtains of the tent were opened and the Mother Counselor stepped forward and delivered the oath to the candidates. The flag was then raised and the entire assemblage sang "America," thereby bringing the ceremony, which was in progress for 50 minutes, to a close.

The Grand Counselor of the organization explained to the reporter that he had witnessed only the first degree or degree of Light, and that there are two others, known as the degrees of Liberty and Life, which, she said, are conferred upon the most active members.

She then advised the reporter that he would not be permitted to remain for the secret instruction, when the signs, pass-words and grips were given to the Daughters of the Unseen, whereupon he was once again turned over to the Riders, who blindfolded him and motored him back to the place where he was picked up, none the worse for his weird experience, but, nevertheless, still in doubt as to what it was all about.

Klansmen at Funeral The reporter tried to get the license number of the automobile as it drove away, but the plate was so covered

with mud, that this was next to impossible in the darkness. Another "invisible empire" happening of Saturday was the performance of the last rites of the Ku Klux Klan at the grave of Henry M. Earl in Laurel Grove cemetery in the afternoon. This was the Klansmen's first public appearance at a funeral in Paterson. Masked and attired in their full regalia, 32 members of the Erickson Klan, of Paterson, marched over the hill, in the form of a cross, just as the Rev. Irving C. Starr, pastor of Calvary M. E. church, had concluded the final prayers. They carried a large wooden cross, an American flag and a five-foot cross of carnations. Their appearance came as a complete surprise, in fact, two of the grave diggers ran away in fear. The impressive ceremony was concluded with the dropping of white carnations into the open grave by each of the Klansmen, who, upon doing so, said: "Farewell, brother Klansman."

KLAN MAY BE BLAMED. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11.—Following execution of Catholic prelate in Moscow for placing church canons above state laws, newspapers here print dispatches from Paris saying prelate was tortured before execution. Same charge preferred at Mer Rouge. Ku Klux may be accused.

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