

UNMASKING THE KKK

by John L. Spivak

ON FEB. 28, 1942, a mob gathered outside the Sojourner Truth housing project at Nevada and Fenelon Avenues in North Detroit. Negro defense workers were scheduled to move that day into the project set aside for them, but the mob had other plans. They had come with knives, clubs, rifles, and shotguns, prepared to use violence to assert "white supremacy" and prevent the Negroes from occupying their new homes. Fighting broke out, shots were fired, knives and clubs were wielded. The inadequate police force on the scene did a curious thing: it arrested over 200 Negroes and only four of the mob.

Behind this display of lawless terrorism was the secret band whose sinister shadow has been flung more than once across our democracy: the Ku Klux Klan. As a result of protests by the AFL, CIO, and other public-spirited organizations, Attorney General Biddle ordered the federal grand jury in Detroit to start an immediate investigation of the anti-Negro riot. But there is much more in the Klan's recent history that calls for federal action. That the KKK rides again is bad enough, but far worse is the fact that it has established its chief base of operations in the hub of America's war industry, Detroit. And Klansmen are not merely poisoning the air with their un-American propaganda, but are working inside the factories and within the United Automobile Workers-CIO. They are working along the same lines, if not actually collaborating with, Charles E. Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith, whose pro-Nazi activities and mysterious financial jugglery I told about in my article last week. My investigation of the KKK during my recent trip to Detroit convinces me that it is a greater menace today than ever before in its history. When it is remembered that at the Buffalo

"Where do you get your money?" John L. Spivak asked the Imperial Wizard, James A. Colescott. Exposing the hooded men in America's key war industries.

convention of the UAW last July 100 of the delegates were Klansmen, and that the Klan is active in such key war plants as Ford, Chevrolet, and Packard, the seriousness of the situation will be appreciated.

Suppose you come with me to the narrow, darkened alley behind the building at 89 Forest Ave., Detroit. It's a few minutes after eight o'clock on a Tuesday evening and a shiny 1942 car turns into the parking lot behind this house, the car lights are quickly switched off, and four shadowy figures get out. They walk swiftly to the small porch of the darkened house. In the faint light from the distant street you see one of the men ring a door bell and almost immediately a small rectangle of yellow light, like a prohibition speakeasy peephole, appears in the door. Each man steps forward so the light falls on his face. When they have all been identified, the door opens soundlessly revealing a man holding a large, snarling dog on a leash. The men enter the small hallway. The peephole light is switched off and the two and a half story frame house is in darkness again.

For more than an hour shiny new cars drive into this parking lot, men emerge, go through the same procedure, and enter the house. So far as passersby on West Forest can see, the house is uninhabited. There is a faint light over the front door and a large sign "Forest Social Club," but a close examination of the house reveals that all first floor windows are covered with newspapers pasted over opaque glass and all second floor windows, made of the same glass, have shades

drawn over them as an added precaution.

On this night men working in Detroit armament plants are trained to read blueprints in this house. It is known that plants manufacturing war material are extremely careful about blueprints. They are not allowed out of the factory, but an expert at reading them can remember and, if necessary, duplicate them from memory long after the prints are safely locked up.

The telephone directory has listed a Forest Social Club at that address for years. But few, if any, of the neighbors living on the same block know that for the past two years the "social club" has been the state headquarters of a very mysteriously financed Ku Klux Klan which became extraordinarily busy as soon as Detroit began to loom as one of the country's most important centers for war materials. Nearly everything connected with the Klan's revival here and in other war production centers is veiled in secrecy. But ownership of this state headquarters casts a revealing light.

Until last year one John S. Hosmer, who lived with his mother at 8778 Mason Place, was a clerk in the sheriff's office in Detroit. He got \$40.96 a week and for a single man managed to spend most of it. After working in the sheriff's office four years he quit and went to work in an auto plant as a "factory worker."

There was another "factory worker" living at 2562 Stair named Travis Nations. Nations is married, and after years of work has apparently never managed to save enough

money to buy his own home, for he and his wife pay rent for the place they live in. Though neither of these two "factory workers" own their own homes, they managed to get enough money, just when the UAW-CIO was extending its drive to organize the auto industry, to buy the building which is now the Klan headquarters. The building was bought in March 1940. I might state here that the Klan itself did not have money enough to buy the building, for its total assets for the year when the building was bought, were \$146.50—or, so the Klan officials swore under oath.

On the title transfer, Hosmer's address is given as 6052 Kenilworth Dr. Tax assessments are made in John S. Hosmer's name, but sent to Nations' home. I don't know why this procedure is followed unless Nations' end of the partnership is meeting the bills.

When Hosmer worked in the sheriff's office, his constant luncheon companion was one Charles J. Spare, also known as "Nightgown Charlie," who lived at 885 Gladstone Ave., Detroit. Spare worked as an investigator for the county prosecutor's office up to a couple of years ago. Spare is the Grand Dragon of the Klan, which means he is the highest ranking officer in Michigan.

I wanted to ask these "average citizens" where they got the money to buy the Klan headquarters. I phoned Spare the day after the shadowy figures had congregated in the darkened house on West Forest. It was eleven o'clock in the morning, but the voice, which said it was Charlie Spare, sounded sleepy.

"I'm doing a story on the Klan," I said, "and I'm told you're the Grand Dragon and could help me out."

"I don't know a thing about the Klan." The voice became wide awake and sharp. "Somebody's giving you a wrong steer."

"Are you the Charles Spare who lives at 885 Gladstone and whose wife's name is Pearl?" I asked, to be sure I hadn't made a mistake.

"I'm Charles Spare and I live at that address and my wife's name is Pearl and I still don't know anything about the Klan. Get it?"

"I think so. But just one more question—"

"I mean to tell you that I know nothing about the Klan, Mister. Don't you understand?"

I hung up and called the Klan headquarters and asked the girl who answered for Charlie Spare.

"He isn't here," she said.

"When will he be in?"

"Between four-thirty and five. He's got a conference at that time."

"Then let me talk to Hosmer."

"He isn't here, either. He left a few minutes ago."

"Will he be there this evening?"

"I'm sure he won't. He'll be working."

"Maybe I can get him there on the phone."

"I don't think so," she laughed.

Then suddenly she demanded, "Say, who is this?"

"Just a friend of theirs."

"I can't give you any information," she said abruptly and hung up.

I thought there was a possibility that Hosmer went home to change clothes before going to work and I called him there an hour later.

"Say, I can't talk to you at all," he said plaintively. "The fellow you want to talk to is Charlie Spare. You talked to him this morning, didn't you?"

"Yes, but he said he didn't know a thing about the Klan."

"Well, he's the state head and you'll have to talk to him. You know," he added getting confidential, "we're not especially keen on publicity. We're just going along nicely and I don't think publicity would help us any."

THE KU KLUX KLAN is the pioneer fascist organization in this country. Started in Georgia in 1915, it antedated Mussolini's fascists and Hitler's storm troops. It was not till after World War I that the Klan began to grow, fomenting hatred of Catholics, Jews, Negroes, and the foreign-born and often using terrorism to supplement its political activities. Soon the Klan spread into the North and Midwest and became a political power, claiming several million members. So great was its influence that the KKK was the dominant issue at the Democratic national convention in 1924. After that it declined rapidly until the depression years when its promoters once more saw a chance of making hay—and money—among middle class people and backward workers who were caught in the economic landslide. To its previous list of hates the Klan added labor and began devoting its chief efforts, Nazi style, to crusading against "Communism." Out of the KKK also grew the Black Legion and other fascist groups.

The original organizer of the Klan was Col. William Joseph Simmons of Georgia. He was an old-fashioned southern bourbon who was unable to make the Klan a going concern. In 1920 two high-pressure salesmen, Edward Y. Clarke and Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, were brought in and business at once began to boom. And under the cloak of Americanism the Klan blazed a trail of violence and murder, of racial and religious hatred that stamped it as of the same mold as the Brown Shirts and Black Shirts of Germany and Italy.

On Sept. 29, 1937, Dr. Hiram W. Evans, who had succeeded Simmons as head of the Klan, and several trusted advisers arrived in Chicago and went to the Bismarck Hotel in the Loop. To the same hotel also came Fritz Kuhn, national fuehrer of the German-American Bund, with a number of his aides. This was the year in which Hitler was putting the finishing touches on his plans for world conquest, and Nazi agents in this country were looking for an American front for the Bund. The secret conference between Evans and Kuhn was arranged at the latter's request to discuss the merger of their organizations. Nothing came of these efforts, though the Klan and Bund remained on friendly terms and worked along parallel lines. On Aug. 18, 1940, the two cooperated in a joint

public meeting at Camp Nordland in New Jersey. During the past few years there have been numerous other instances of close collaboration.

Meanwhile Evans had been developing other interests for which he and his friend, ex-Gov. E. D. Rivers of Georgia, were recently indicted in Atlanta. Evans sold the Klan to James A. Colescott for a price said to have been \$220,000. Colescott was then "elected" Imperial Wizard.

With America becoming more and more deeply involved in the war against the Axis, the KKK leadership realized the opportunities presented by strategic industrial areas. By the end of 1940 and the beginning of 1941 the Klan had made considerable progress in industrial regions in New England and on the north Atlantic coast. The Klan also became intensively active in Michigan, Ohio, and northern Indiana, the heart of the nation's war production area. Klan organizers also appeared in California, Oregon, and Washington—again in vital war areas. That the organizers were sent into these industrial regions might be of no special significance were it not for the fact that equally large industrial cities turning out consumers' goods like shoes and pants, were ignored.

In May 1941 a meeting of the Imperial Klonselium of the Klan was held in Atlanta, Ga., at which it was decided to raise \$1,000,000 for an "Americanization program." The Klan leaders showed the kind of "Americanism" they had in mind when they started a campaign against the United Service Organizations, falsely charging that the USO was "run by Catholics and Jews." On the West Coast the Klan launched a similar campaign against the movie industry which dovetailed with the efforts of pro-Nazi elements to halt the production of anti-Nazi pictures. Klansmen also found much in common with the America First Committee and began to assume leading positions in strategic America First chapters. In San Francisco, for instance, an old Kluxer named Dr. Hugh R. Parkinson of 450 Sutter St., became chairman of the downtown chapter. In a letter which Parkinson wrote he recommended the Nazi propaganda sheet, *World Service*, published in Erfurt, Germany, William Dudley Pelley's pro-Nazi magazine, *Liberation*, and the anti-Semitic propaganda of Robert Edward Edmondson of New York as deserving of "all possible support, both moral and financial."

In starting its campaign in the Detroit area the Klan harped on the "Red menace" theme. Five thousand dollars worth of pamphlets were sent by the KKK national headquarters. Broadcasts over Station WJLB were started, with the arrangements handled by J. Hamilton Gibson, 1010 David Stott Building, who also arranged the Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith broadcasts. Gibson had been with Aircasters, Inc., but after my expose in *New Masses* in 1939 of Coughlin's strange financial setups, Aircasters, Inc., folded and Gibson went into business for himself.

(Continued on page 7)

THE FIERY CROSS

Official Publication of the Knights of
The Ku Klux Klan, Incorporated

P. O. BOX 1204 ATLANTA, GA.
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IMPERIAL WIZARD

IMPERIAL KLOKAN CHIEF, EDITOR

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 A YEAR

SPECIAL PRICE ON BUNDLES
\$2.00 PER 100

ADDRESS:

BOX 1204 ATLANTA, GA.

Big, blond, straight-shootin' Mr. Dies spoke in the Klan's Imperial City on invitation of Atlanta Elks Lodge No. 78. More than a hundred patriotic, fraternal and civic organizations joined with the Elks in sponsoring the occasion, including the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Conspicuous among the honor guests with the speaker on the platform was Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott. A dozen other national leaders of the Klan also sat on the stage. One of the latter, scanning the vast audience which heard the speaker, declared that fully half of the persons present were Klansmen and Klanswomen. Only a violent thunderstorm which began 20

sponsibility.

"How faithfully he followed the doctrine which the Klan has been laying down for the past twenty years," commented Imperial Wizard Colescott in an interview after the celebration. "One needs but to look back through the files of the Klan's publications to find repeated ten thousand times the same warnings which Mr. Dies sounded. His program, which unquestionably is the program of all real Americans today, so closely parallels the program of the Klan that there is no distinguishable difference between them."

Congressman Dies devoted the greater part of his address to a summary of Fifth Column work in the United States and a warning of the menace offered by Trojan horses. He referred to the work of his Congressional com-

and home in our land.

mittee, which The Fiery Cross has repeatedly indorsed and commended, as fearless, impartial and non-partizan in its investigation which has laid bare the dangers threatening this country from within.

The fifth column is better or-

INVESTIGATE DIES

NEW MASSES presents documentary evidence of the close connections between Martin Dies and the Ku Klux Klan. The above is a photostatic copy of part of an article that appeared in the November 1940 issue of *The Fiery Cross*, official Klan publication. It is a report of a meeting in Atlanta, Ga., of which the Klan was one of the sponsoring organizations. The chief speaker was Dies. He shared the platform with Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott and other Klan leaders.

The same issue of *The Fiery Cross* devoted its leading editorial to the Dies committee. The editorial stated: "This is just another instance of the good work being done by Representative Dies and his fellow patriots, who have had the support of the Ku Klux Klan from the day the committee was created by Congress." Next to this editorial was a three-column article attacking the Catholic Church.

The evidence we present helps clear up the "curious relationship" between Dies and the Klan which Representative Eliot

of Massachusetts cited in a recent letter to Representative Cochran of Missouri, chairman of the House Committee on Accounts. Opposing further funds for the Dies committee, Representative Eliot charged that the "investigation" of the Klan which Dies announced on January 26, was actually part of a deal for the purpose of whitewashing this fascist organization. Now it is clear Dies has had close relations with the Klan.

The Ku Klux Klan stands for anti-Catholicism, anti-Semitism, anti-democracy, anti-Americanism. It is part of Hitler's fifth column. According to the national fuchrer of this terrorist gang, the program of Dies "so closely parallels the program of the Klan that there is no distinguishable difference between them." Coughlin, Smith, and Pelley have paid similar tribute to Hitler's favorite congressman. It is time for Congress and the Department of Justice to act.

INVESTIGATE MARTIN DIES!

The Editors.

(Continued from page 5)

On May 18, 1941, at a meeting in Danish Brotherhood Temple, Twelfth and West Forest Ave., Detroit, Imperial Wizard Colecott announced the reorganization of the Klan on military lines and presented a program of action for disrupting and seizing control of the UAW. Under the new setup the basic unit was the squad, consisting of the Klansmen in a single department of a factory. Commanding them was a corporal, and from him the officers ranged upward to general, who was in charge of the work in all the plants. The Klan membership, under the guise of "patriotism," was turned into an espionage organization. Each member was given the job of investigating those with whom he worked, finding out their politics, nationality, religion, thoughts on every subject under the sun. Colecott told the meeting that this was to be done not only in Michigan, but throughout the nation. All the information was to be filed on a card, of which two duplicates were to be made. At the same time Klan groups were instructed to work within the locals of the UAW, utilizing every issue, real or imaginary, to create dissension and maneuver Klansmen into positions of leadership. The precipitation of unnecessary strikes and stoppages, thereby interfering with production, was also part of the tactics.

Simultaneous with setting the Klan up as a military organization, the Black Legion was revived amid the utmost secrecy, with a special corps of toughs referred to as the "strong arm squad." The most accurate estimate I could get of the greater Detroit membership of the Klan and the Black Legion is some 20,000, with the Black Legion having about 3,000. Twenty thousand men is not a great number, but working under discipline and worming their way into key positions, they can do a great deal of damage, particularly when every factory is straining to push the production of the arms that America and its allies need to defeat the Axis.

I THOUGHT I might be able to get some of the answers about the burst of mysterious Klan activity by asking Hosmer and Nations where they got the money to buy the Klan headquarters, and Spare about some of his contacts. But Spare denied knowing anything about the Klan and Hosmer referred everything to Nightgown Charlie. I decided to go to the headquarters and see if I couldn't find Spare there.

I had never seen anyone go into the Klan headquarters by the front entrance and I wondered how a wandering visitor would be received if he rang the front door bell. The porch leading to the front door is set off by a wooden rail painted the same faded yellow as the house. There was no answer when I rang the bell and after a minute or so I rang again. Suddenly a long, solemn face, pale and ghost-like, rose over the rail. It looked like something out of a Boris Karloff horror picture. Two unnaturally bright eyes caught and held me with the fixed stare of the Ancient



AT THE BUND-KLAN NUPTIALS: *The Place: Camp Nordland, Bund hangout. The Time: August 18, 1940. Several hundred Klansmen and 700 Bundsters held a joint meeting where Augustus Klapprott, camp director, greeted Arthur H. Bell, of Bloomfield, N. J., Grand Dragon of the Jersey KKK.*

Mariner. I noticed a faint stain of tobacco juice in a corner of its mouth. Then it spoke and there was no inflection in the voice. It was just a sepulchral sound which came out of a tobacco-browned cavity.

"What do you want?" it demanded.

"I want to see Charlie Spare or Hosmer," I said and started for the rear entrance which good Kluxers use.

When we got to the back porch it held out a white, bloodless hand.

"Your credentials," it said.

"I haven't any. I talked to them on the phone."

"Wait here." It opened the door with a key. The enormous dog which seemed always to lie in the entrance way leaped up, growling.

"It's all right," the creature said. The dog whimpered and became quiet. The door was closed carefully and I heard a lock snap.

Within two or three minutes an excited big fellow in his shirt sleeves bounced out, grabbed my hand in a hearty shake, poked me in the ribs jovially and demanded:

"Say, do you know the quickest way to get your—" and he made an unprintable comment. "It's messing around with us, Mister. Now, who are you? What's your name? Where are you from? What hotel are you stopping at? When did you check in? What room are you in?"

I answered all of his questions patiently.

"That's fine," he said and suddenly put an enormous arm around my shoulders in a bear hug. "You didn't lie to me. I knew all about you when you checked in, what room you had—everything about you. We were going to call you, but we were waiting to hear from Jim Colecott. He's coming in. I expect him any hour now. He's flying in. He's the man for you to see and I'll arrange it. He'll answer all your questions. You go back to your room and wait there. I'll call you in two hours."

He finished breathlessly and gave me another poke in the ribs.

"That's fine," I said, pumping his hand

appreciatively. "Colecott's just the man I'd like to see."

The big fellow paused before he unlocked the guarded door.

"This is an awfully small town," he warned in parting. "And if anything should go wrong, if you lie—well—"

Exactly two hours later the phone rang in my hotel room.

"This is Mr. Colecott, of Atlanta, Ga.," said a southern voice slightly tinged with an Indiana sharpness. "Could you come over to Room 1184 at the Hotel Fort Shelby this evenin' at eight, suh?"

Colecott had a suite and the adjoining rooms were apparently filled with some of his Klansmen, for as I approached I could hear loud voices calling: "Freshen this up a bit, will ya?" As soon as I knocked on the Imperial Wizard's door the voices became quiet.

Colecott is a heftily built former Terre Haute, Ind., veterinary. Bald, with closely cropped gray hair and a belly no Klansman need be ashamed of, the Imperial Wizard courteously ushered me to a chair, took another himself, unbuttoned his vest, lit a cigarette, and leaned back contentedly, an affable smile on his round face.

From past experience with men who run rackets I learned that if you let them understand that you know it's a racket you're spared the pious moral approach they have for their public utterances, so when he enthusiastically began to tell me about his "Americanization program" and that their membership was "around 6,000,000" I interrupted casually:

"Aw, nuts! Nobody gives a damn about figures when they're not supported by membership lists."

The chubby Wizard was a little startled. He took a quick puff at his cigarette and dropped his well-filled hands which had been resting comfortably on his paunch.

"No story in that," I said. "It's been said a million times. What I'm interested in now is why all this secrecy about your outfit here?"

"It's a secret organization," he explained.

"I know. But who's head of it here? I've been trying to get in touch—"

"We couldn't tell you that. We take an oath never to reveal the names of members or officials," he assured me solemnly. "Only a very few of the Grand Dragons throughout the country are known publicly and then we permit them to become known only for very special reasons."

"Who's Charlie Spare?"

The Imperial Wizard looked blankly at me. "All right. Who's John Hosmer?"

Colescott's blank look didn't vary by a flicker. "I don't think you understood me," he said gently, offering me a cigarette with leisurely grace. "We take an oath never to reveal the names of members or officials."

"Are those two I named Klan officials?"

"I can't give out any such information." His tone was gently reproving. "These gentlemen you mentioned—ah, Spare and—Goslin, was it?"

"Spare and Hosmer."

"Oh, yes. Spare and Hosmer. You can see the names are unfamiliar—"

"Nuts!" I interrupted again. "Look." I handed him a photostatic copy of the Klan's annual report filed with the Corporation & Securities Commission in Lansing.

"This is your signature on it. It also says Spare and Hosmer are officials. Now these are public records, so what the hell's all the secrecy about?"

Colescott shook with laughter.

"May I order you a drink, suh?" he asked hospitably. "Ha, ha; yes, suh! I always tell the boys that when a reporter asks a question, answer him. He'll find out somehow and then embarrass you. Yes, suh, I always tell the boys that."

He reached for the photostatic copy, examined the signatures, his body still shaking with silent laughter.

"That's very funny. Very funny."

"I'm glad you feel that way about it. Now, maybe you can tell me how many members you put on in the Detroit area since you started your drive?"

"Oh," he said, weighing his words judiciously, "I should say, without having the exact figures in front of me, about 160,000 in the entire state. Yes, suh, when a reporter asks a question, you might just as well answer him. He'll find out somehow. Ha, ha!"

"What's the initiation fee and how much do you get out of it and how much does the state Klan get?"

"It varies in different places, but it averages around six dollars per person. There's an initiation fee of ten dollars here of which \$7.50 remains in the local treasury."

"That's the state treasury?"

"That's right. Some of it remains with the local Klans, but they are part of the state."

"That's what I'm interested in. Now, according to your figure of new members, the Klan took in about \$1,200,000—excluding dues. That's a lot of money and that's why I can't understand why, in the financial report you signed under oath, and turned over to

NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS

ALL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT WITH THE MICHIGAN CORPORATION AND SECURITIES COMMISSION

(Name of Corporation) KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

DETROIT MICHIGAN

(Street and No.) 89 WEST FOREST STREET

City and State DETROIT MICHIGAN

HOWARD M. WARNER, Commissioner, Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission, Lansing, Michigan.

Sir:—In accordance with Section eighty-one of Act No. 327, Public Acts of 1931, as amended, the above named corporation by the undersigned officers thereof, submits the following report of its condition on the 31st day of December, 1940, or close of its Fiscal Year.

1. The location of its registered office in this State is 89 WEST FOREST STREET

2. (a) Date of incorporation MARCH 14, 1925

(b) Term of corporate existence Perpetual

(c) If foreign corporation, date when admitted to do business in Michigan

(d) The act under which incorporated or reincorporated Act No. 327, P.A. Mich. 1931

3. The following are the officers and directors of the corporation at date of balance sheet given in this report:

NAMES OF OFFICERS.

RESIDENCE ADDRESSES.

JAMES A. COLESCOTT

President.

ATLANTA GEORGIA

CHARLES SPARE

Vice-President.

89 West Forest St. Detroit Mich.

CHARLES WICHAMON

Secretary.

JOHN S. HOSMER

Treasurer.

13. (STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1940, OR CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
(a) Real Estate	\$ NONE	(a) Capital stock outstanding (less stock in treasury)	\$ NONE
(b) Goods, chattels, merchandise, and other tangible property	\$ NONE	(b) Liability on real estate mortgage	\$ NONE
(c) Cash on hand (including deposits in banks)	\$ 146.50	(c) Liability on chattel mortgage	\$ NONE
(d) Patent rights, copy rights, trademarks and formulas	\$ NONE	(d) Liability on all other secured indebtedness	\$ NONE
(e) Good-will	\$ NONE	(e) Liability on all unsecured indebtedness	\$ NONE
(f) Value of credits owing to the corporation	\$ NONE	(f) Other liabilities	\$ NONE
(g) All other property (specify kind)	\$ NONE	(g)	\$ NONE
(h)	\$ NONE	(h)	\$ NONE
(i)	\$ NONE	(i) Surplus	\$ 146.50
14. "TOTAL"	\$ 146.50	"TOTAL"	\$ 146.50

We, the undersigned officers of the corporation, each a duly sworn and disinterested person, depose and say that this report has been examined and is to the best of his knowledge and belief a true, correct and complete statement of the condition of the corporation.

KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

(CORPORATE SEAL)
(if any)

State of Michigan

County of Wayne

I, John S. Hosmer

Treasurer

(Signature of President)

(Signature of Secretary)

(Signature of Treasurer)

do solemnly swear that I am the

of the above named corporation, and that the matters

In its 1940 financial statement to the Michigan Corporation & Securities Commission, the State KKK under oath stated that its total assets were \$146.50. Where did the Klan get the money with which to buy its headquarters building which cost many times more than it presumably had in the way of assets?

the Corporation & Securities Commission, you state that the state Klan has assets of less than \$200."

The Imperial Wizard shifted uncomfortably in his chair.

"I don't know," he said. "I guess we report how much the state has, but most of the money is probably in the hands of local Klans and so is not reported."

"I understand you to say that local Klans are part of the state Klan."

"Yes. That's right. They are chartered by the state Klan."

"Then why isn't their financial statement part of the state's activities?"

"I really don't know," he said.

"But you signed it."

"Oh, I sign a lot of papers."

"Your state headquarters are at 89 West Forest?"

He nodded warily.

"How much rent do you pay?"

"We own the building," he said.

"Who owns the building?"

"The Klan."

"Is ownership recorded in the Klan's name?"

"I don't know. Maybe they formed a corporation and it's in their hands. That's the way we do it sometimes. We never interfere in the local financial affairs of state Klans."

"When did you buy the building?"

"About a year ago." Then he added as an afterthought. "It was bought before my election in June."

"I wonder why you added as a sort of afterthought that it was bought before your election in June? Is there any special significance to the time you acquired the building?"

"Oh, no. You were asking when it was bought and I thought I might just as well tell you that it was before my election as Imperial Wizard."

"You didn't add that because you wanted to leave the impression that it was bought before the second world war broke out in the fall of 1939?"

He looked steadily at me and said slowly: "I don't see the relationship."

"Actually the building was bought in March 1940—a half year after you became Imperial Wizard and after the second world war broke out, wasn't it?"

"I don't see the point."

"Perhaps you will. Did the state Klan buy it as a Klan?"

"The state Klan supplied the money for the building."

"If that's the case, the Klan owns property. Why wasn't that property reported in the sworn financial statement you signed as is required by law?"

A worried expression appeared on his round face. "I don't know."

"As a matter of fact, the building was bought by John Hosmer and Travis Nations, wasn't it?"

Colecott looked at me and said quietly: "Yes, it was."

"And neither of them have money."

"It was Klan money," he insisted.

"Then why wasn't it reported?"

"I don't know. Maybe it wasn't Klan money."

"Then whose money was it?"

"I don't know."

"You know so little about these men and yet you let them own Klan property?"

"I don't see what you're driving at," said Colecott.

"What would happen if the Klan succeeded

in getting a strong foothold in the UAW-CIO? Wouldn't it produce a struggle between the Klan elements and the non-Klan members in the union?"

"We would try to avoid any fights."

"But they could break out? And such internal union struggles could easily produce wildcat strikes, couldn't they?"

Colecott smiled slowly.

"I see what you're driving at," he said, eying me steadily.

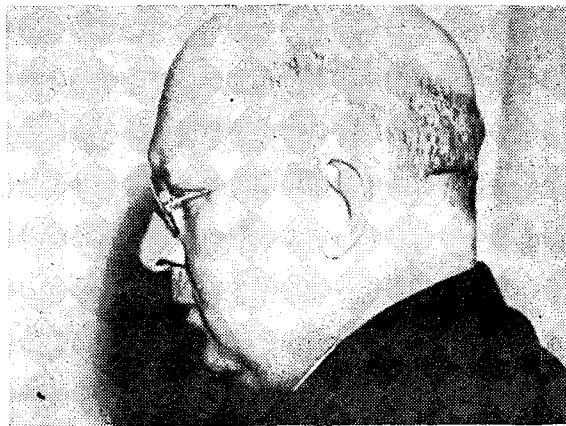
"I thought you would. And wildcat strikes interfere with production. That's why I'm curious to know why you started your drive after the second world war broke out and this area began to turn out war products, and who is supplying money for the purchase of the headquarters, for instance?"

"We wouldn't create strikes," he insisted.

"We just want to see to it that the unions are run by Americans."

"Perhaps you can tell me why Governor Maybank of South Carolina said he wouldn't permit the Klan to meet in his state because the Klan was financed by Berlin?"

"That's just a sour statement from a former Klansman trying to clean his skirts,"



"Imperial Wizard" Colecott, head of the KKK

he said with a touch of heat. "We never received any money from the German government or any other foreign government."

"Directly or indirectly?"

"Directly or indirectly."

"What—"

"Say," he interrupted, leaning forward, "the FBI wrote me a letter and asked if I shouldn't register under the Voorhis act as an agent of a foreign government and I wrote back saying that we are an American organization and that I was surprised that they would even think we had anything to do with a foreign government."

"One of the established Nazi propaganda activities is the spread of anti-Semitism. Why did you reprint anti-Semitic articles which first appeared some twenty years ago?"

"We wanted to Americanize the Jews."

"Why did you want to Americanize the Jews particularly?"

"Well—you must try to understand."

"I'm trying."

"As soon as we got into the war we stopped disseminating the reprints," he said.

"We're not selling them any more," he repeated. "Say, look here, if the government wants to ask me questions, I wrote and told them that I'll open all my books to them."

"That's a matter for the government. I don't know why they haven't taken up your offer."

The phone in the room began to ring incessantly. Colecott answered it.

"I'll be ready in a minute or two," he said. "Appointment," he explained apologetically and ushered me to the door.

NO, I don't know why the government hasn't gone after the Ku Klux Klan. Now that it has arrested William Dudley Pelley and a few other pro-Axis propagandists, maybe it will. We are at war with the deadliest enemy that mankind has known. To pull our punches means defeat. My investigation in Detroit convinces me that if Charles E. Coughlin, Gerald L. K. Smith, and the Ku Klux Klan didn't exist, Hitler would have to invent them. What Vice-President Wallace recently said about Martin Dies is true of these fascist admirers of his: Coughlin, Smith, and the Klan are "a greater danger to our national safety than thousands of Axis soldiers within our borders." It is time for the federal authorities to act.

JOHN L. SPIVAK.

A letter from George F. Addes, secretary-treasurer of the United Automobile Workers, warning against the disruptive activities of the Klan in a number of the union's locals, especially in the Packard plant. The letter first appeared in the union's newspaper.

UNITED AUTOMOBILE - AIRCRAFT - AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
of AMERICA (UAW-CIO)



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 221 WEST GRAND BOULEVARD • DETROIT, MICHIGAN
R. J. THOMAS
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
GEO. F. ADDES
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

January Fifth
1 9 4 2

Mr. Curt Murdock, President
Packard Local 190, UAW-CIO
6111 Mt. Elliott Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brother Murdock:

According to information we have received the K.K.K. in Packard is preparing to launch a disruptive campaign in the union. This is probably in line with recent threats of the Grand Dragon Colecott to "clean out the union".

The International is on record as utterly opposed to all such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, which we have reason to believe is playing a subversive role in the defense industry. There is evidence that Nazi agents are now working through such undercover groups as the K.K.K. They have no place in the CIO.

We must urge that you and your fellow local officers take every precaution to guard against disruption from these sources. As you probably are aware, the K.K.K. is growing steadily more active in a number of locals and definitely is a menace that must be fought.

From sources which we know to be reliable, we have learned that leadership of the K.K.K. in Packard is in the hands of Frank Buehrle.

We further find that Harvey Hansen, Homer Martin's chief goon, is now a general in the K.K.K. and has taken up residence in the vicinity of the Packard Plant. Probably to direct organization at close range.

Hoping that this information will be of use to your local in keeping it free of these disruptive influences, I remain, with warm personal wishes,

Fraternally yours,
Geo. F. Addes

Geo. F. Addes
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TREASURER

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WESTERN FRONT NOW, HITLER'S NIGHTMARE

600 divisions fight on the Eastern Front in history's greatest battleline. About 200 divisions fight in the rest of the world. How a western front can destroy Hitler in 1942.

AMBASSADOR LITVINOV said a few days ago that "the task (of completely and finally destroying Hitler) is clear to the layman as well as to the professional strategist." With this I completely agree. Although I do not consider myself as belonging to either one of the categories the Ambassador named, the task seems clear to me, too.

To begin with, let us busy ourselves with certain very obvious and very general considerations. Armed forces are generally divided into *armies*, *fleets*, and *air forces*. The experience of the last months seems to have shown that fleets do not stand up so well against air forces. Furthermore (and quite outside the old *battleship vs. plane* controversy) fleets cannot solve any major strategic (or even tactical) problems without the support of air power. In the scale of military activity air forces rank ahead of fleets. The admirals will have to excuse me, but this seems to have been proved in every sea in the world, except those which air power did not reach. On the other hand, the experience of Madrid, London, Moscow, Chungking, of China, England, and the Soviet Union in general, seems to prove that air power in itself does not solve major strategic (or even tactical) problems. Here such air enthusiasts as Major Alexander de Seversky will have to excuse me.

It seems to be an incontrovertible fact that people, generally speaking, live, work, fight, and die on land. Only a small fraction of men go down to the sea in ships and up into the sky in planes. Despite mechanization in all its varied aspects, it is still human beings who fight, not machines. Therefore, military decisions, *real*, *fundamental* decisions, decisions that *decide* great issues—are attained on land, and only on land. But that is not all. They are not attained in forlorn, little-populated regions of the earth's surface by imported troops, carried for thousands of miles in ships, trucks, or planes. They are attained right where masses of people live. Such decisions are not to be attained in the Siberian *tundra*, in the badlands of North Dakota, in the Matto Grosso or even in Australia, or in Central Africa.

Confined within four oceans lies the continent of Eurasia

which contains about 1,500,000,000 people of a total of 2,000,000,000—the world's population. It is quite clear, therefore, that the great decision must be reached on that continent.

The grand strategy of the Axis is to cut off this great block of people from the remaining quarter of humanity. Look at the map again and you will see that nothing short of German-Japanese rendezvous in Ceylon, Karachi, or Basra, say, will do the trick. A noose must be slung from the Bering Strait, through the Strait of Torres, or better still, through Bass Strait, through the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, through Suez, the Strait of Gibraltar, through the Channel, through the North Sea and around North Cape to the very docks of Archangel in the White Sea. The icy turmoil of the Arctic Ocean will complete the noose in the North.

Outside this noose lie three continents and Great Britain. Of the continents America can play the role of depot and munitions factory. At this stage it is no *place d'armes* as far as actual fighting goes. American men and American arms have to go elsewhere to fight the enemy. Where? The three available places are all outside the noose and all have the disadvantage of being separated by more or less large bodies of water from the land block where the enemy is concentrated. Australia's water jump is measured in thousands of miles, Africa's in hundreds, England's in scores of miles. Whenever the question of a second front is raised, voices are heard moaning about the dearth of shipping. True, ships are scarce. In view of that, it is the shortest water jump that has to be chosen for an offensive. In other words, the offensive must be made to jump off from England which for almost two years has been playing the role of a great immobilized aircraft-carrier, which in addition to planes is crammed with from three to four million troops. So we were told by Mr. Churchill and we have no reason to doubt his word.

This great "aircraft carrier" must be made to play the role of a great springboard for the new offensive for another reason: it is the nearest place to the *main forces* of the *main enemy*. Whatever thunderbolt the United Nations can possibly muster should (if there is the slightest possibility of doing so) be directed at *Berlin*.

LET us now count noses. True, we cannot lay claim to any exact knowledge of "post and stations" in this global war. But when some 10,000,000 men are fighting, a mistake of even a few hundred thousand does not matter so very much.

There are today four fronts (1, 2, 3, 4 on the map) where men fight the only decisive kind of fight—on land. I exclude such highly heroic, but miniature scale fighting as Yugoslavia, Mindanao, New Guinea, etc., taking into consideration fronts where, say, an Army Corps or more is involved.

Front 1. Here the bulk of the armed land forces of the two opposing camps are fighting it out. Let us say, approximately, 300 German and satellite divisions against 300 divisions of the Red Army, with 25,000 planes and 20,000 tanks engaged.

Front 2. In Libya probably ten Axis divisions are fighting (at present only desultory) an equal or lesser number of Allied divisions. Let us add that Front 2 is a sort of left flank outpost of Front 1 (counting from the Allied side, i.e. facing west).

Front 3. In Burma probably ten Japanese divisions are fighting a somewhat lesser number of United Nations divisions.

Front 4. In China, a front which has seen only sporadic and localized fighting during the last several weeks, a good guess would be that 100 regular Chinese divisions are opposing something like forty Japanese divisions.