Canon Chase, Episcopalian, Defends Klan

Tells Hearers at Christ Church K. of C. and B'nai B'rith or Kehilla Called Organization Into Being

Calls Enemies a Menace

Declares Bootleggers, Gamblers and Corrupt Politicians Loudest in Protest

A vigorous defense of the Ku-Klux Klan was made last night in Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, by Canon William Sheafe Chase, its rector. While Dr. John Roach Straton was promising his congregation at Calvary Baptist Church a sermon directed against "White Ku-Kluxism" for next Sunday, and Jewish rabbis all over the city were attacking the klan as a menace to liberty and a betrayer of true Americanism, Canon Chase came warmly to its support, declaring that its violent enemies were more of a menace to public welfare than the klan itself.

Canon Chase read from his pulpit before his sermon a statement which he said had been sent to him by a qualified officer of the klan in reply to his request for information regarding the methods and objectives of the organization.

Attacks Hylan's Stand

"Mayor Hylan," Canon Chase's statement read, "says it is a vicious and destructive secret society, a menace to our city, state and nation. A committee of Congress which spent several days hearing the evidence of detectives engaged by a great metropolitan newspaper and examining the heads and leaders of the order decided differently. Some newspapers say the Klan is guilty of race hatred, religious bigotry and lawlessness, that it usurps the powers of police and the courts and resorts to lynching and terrorizing, though ostensibly it is done to punish crime and protect public morals. If this is true no follower of Jesus, who taught that we should love our neighbors as ourself, should be a member of or defend the organization.

"But this pulpit desires to know and guide its hearers correctly into the whole truth. From an officer of the order qualified to speak in its behalf I asked for a statement concerning the organization of the Klan. I received the following statement:

Built on Constitution

"The Ku-Klux Klan is built upon the Constitution of the United States. It is a fraternal, patriotic order devoted to maintaining the primitive ideals of the Republic. Every member joining it takes an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, to be loyal to the flag and obey the laws of the state in which he lives. This order does not countenance or encourage lawlessness in any form. It stands for law enforcement through the duly appointed and elected officials of the state. It will expel from its membership any member who is guilty of violating laws. The outrages credited to this organization by the newspapers are committed by persons who have no connection with it except, of course, in rare instances, wherein the organization, like the Church, is unfortunate enough to have admitted into its membership persons who are unworthy."

"This organization has been accused of being a Protestant organization, but it has no connection with any Protestant Church," Conan Chase continued. "The Federal Council of Churches, through its administrative committee, has recently announced that the recent rise of organizations, whose members are masked, oath bound and unknown and whose activities have the effect of arousing religious prejudices and racial antipathy, is fraught with grave consequences to the Church and to society at large. No such movement has the right to speak in the name of Protestantism."

Must Not Judge

"The Federal Council of Churches must not be accused of passing judgment upon whether or not the Klan is guilty of the principal charges brought against it. It would not be guilty of pronouncing any judgment without a careful investigation as to the facts. In resisting the attacks of hostile forces the Klan ought not to be accused of arousing religious prejudices and racial antipathy. It is the instigator of the attacks who is responsible for the ill feeling. The way of peace is not by allowing the bully or sneak to have his way without resistance.

"It is a movement which has arisen from the conviction that various secret oath-bound organizations recognized by the Roman Catholic and Jewish churches are organized to exercise an invisible control over our legislators and police, judicial and administrative officials. These organizations which are raising the outcry against the Klan have by their secret political activities for selfish race and religious purposes called the Klan into existence.

"The chief differences between it and those organizations, the Knights of Columbus and the 'Nai B'rith or Kehilla, is that member of the klan have appeared publicly in masked regalia and that it has publicly announced its protest against the growing lawlessness which is being incited by persons who reject the primitive ideas of our Republic.

A Protestant Country

"This country is decidedly a Protestant country. The Year Book of the Federal Council of Churches gives the total church population of the United States as 95,584,107, of which 17,885,646 are Roman Catholic and 79,099,489 Protestant, and says: 'These approximate ratios to total population are 18 Roman Catholics, 75 Protestants, 8 other faiths and 10 of no faith.'

"This is the freest land in the world. Its citizens are the most tolerant of all nations, even to the point of being stupid when its enemies are plotting to destroy it. But it is no virtue to be stupid, indifferent, to be unable or afraid to oppose the enemies of our government.

"The Klan's use of masks may be defended as a psychological method of alarming criminals and the enemies of our Republic, but it is open to the serious objection that its enemies wearing masks and regalia of the Klan can act in such a way as to lead the public to think that they are members of the Klan, and thus to bring disrepute on the Klan.

"Even though I may not approve of all the methods of the klan," Canon Chase said, "I am glad to find a strong band of men who are organized to resist the corruption of politics and the lawlessness of our times. A society, like a man, may be loved for the enemies it has. The bootleggers, the professional gamblers, the producers of vile songs and plays, the Sabbath breakers and corrupt political leaders are attacking it and using every effort to destroy it. Personally, I think that the violent enemies of the klan are more of a menace to the public welfare than the klan itself."

Woman Sought in Death Of Automobile Salesman

Chicago Police Believe She May Be Able to Tell of Garage Murder

CHICAGO, Nov. 26.—A search for what the police termed "the woman in the case" to-day occupied authorities investigating the death of Joseph Lanus, wealthy automobile salesman found shot to death in his garage Friday night.

While police continued to search for persons with whom Lanus was said to have quarreled over business deals and to trace other clues they admitted that chief interest centered in finding a woman believed to have knowledge of the slaying.

Lanus's secretary was ordered to produce his saleswoman list, including the names of about 500 women who Lanus is said to have paid commissions for tips on prospective automobile purchasers. A search was also being made for a will which Lanus is believed to have made. To-morrow two safety deposit boxes which he had rented will be opened.

Haywood to Organize City For Ku-Klux

(Continued from page one)

Klan was being discussed. Dr. Haywood said that the matter had been considered, but no definite steps yet taken. One of the irrepressibles suggested that there would be difficulty in telling the klanswomen from the klansmen, once both sexes were robed in the traditional white nightgown and perforated hood of the night-riders.

"Well," said the Klokard, "perhaps—only perhaps, mind you—the ladies might wear pajamas."

Upon the general policies of the Ku-Klux Klan, so harshly arraigned from so many different sources, Dr. Haywood's mind is made up, and his position firmly established. He believes, sincerely, beyond question, that the klan stands for all that is good and noble in American tradition. Therefore, he is equally firmly convinced that all tales of happenings which would indicate that upon occasion klan members had acted in a cowardly, unfair or reprehensible manner, are necessarily untrue. All suggestions of wrongdoing by the Ku-Klux Klan, that organization's New York representative meets with the simple statement. "That is not so."

States Klan Platform

Under the cross-examination of the reportorial inquisitors, the klokard revealed without equivocation the klan's attitude on a number of national issues. His hearers learned, among other things:

That the Klan is in favor of the Eighteenth Amendment; also the Volstead act.

That the Klan is in close sympathy with the Anti-Saloon League and its manifold activities.

That the Klan is "violently opposed" to the practice of birth control.

That the Klan is opposed also to feminism, holding that the highest duty of women is to bear sons and daughters for the glory of the nation.

That the Klan is opposed to divorce.

That the Klan is firmly opposed to lynching, but also that the Klan is against the Dyer anti-lynching bill, "because we do not believe that it provides the remedy for the situation."

That the Klan does not threaten. "There never has been," said Dr. Haywood, "a letter written by a member of the Klan which made a threat against anybody."

Dr. Haywood said that the Klan "is not anti-Catholic or anti-Jew or anti-negro. It is merely a white American, Gentile Protestant organization.

"Its membership," he continued, "is drawn largely from the memberships of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches." In some districts, he explained, there was a greater preponderance of members of one sect; in others another sect might predominate.

Contains Few Episcopalians

It was an organization for plain, everyday, common American citizens, he insisted, and his passing comment was that there were probably fewer Episcopalians in the Klan than members of any other Protestant denomination, "becauses Baptists and Methodists are, as a rule, more closely related to the common people than Episcopalians."

He added also that the Congregational Church's historic tradition of abolition probably accounted for the lack of Congregationalists in the klan's membership. "They confuse us with the klan of the Reconstruction period," he explained. He knew, he added, two Presbyterian ministers in Pennsylvania who were lecturers for the klan.

When asked about the statement of Colonel Ransom Gillett, counsel for the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, to the effect that there was an alliance between the Anti-Salon League and the Ku-Klux Klan, he said that he thought "there might be a good deal of truth in that." The leaders of the organization generally, he said, were supporters of the Eighteenth Amendment, because they believed that even a bad law should be enforced until such time as it can be replaced by a good one. This, he said, did not mean that the klansmen regarded either the Eighteenth Amendment or the Volstead act as bad laws.

"The consensus of opinion," he remarked, "is undoubtedly in favor of prohibition, because we believe in the suppression of the liquor traffic.

Oppose Birth Control

"We are violently opposed to birth control," he continued. "Every other race in the world is growing in numbers, while birth control represents a tendency on the part of the white race to diminish its natural increase. In this we are heartily in support of the Roman Catholic Church. We are with the Roman Catholics, too, in their views of marriage and divorce, and we cannot deny that the Catholic presentation of the doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ has done much to create and uphold the spirit of chivalry throughout the world. We object only to the Catholic Church, as such, taking an active part in politics. For that matter, I believe that a vast number of Roman Catholic priests are against the Church's political activities."

On the subject of feminism Dr. Haywood said there might be differences of opinion, but he was quite sure that klansmen in the South were practically solid against it. "The highest mission of women is to bring forth sons and daughters for the American nation," he said. "If woman has a higher mission I've not been able to find it. Woman's efficiency in business is no argument. It rarely demonstrates her extreme fitness for the great business of motherhood."

It was suggested that the Klan's insistence on strict secrecy in regard to the identity of its members had harmed its reputation, and his attention was called to the proposal to introduce a bill to the New York Legislature making it compulsory for all secret societies to file full rosters of membership with the Secretary of State.

Defends Secrecy of Order

"We would oppose such a bill while it was before the Legislature," Dr. Haywood said, "but if it became law we would comply with its provisions. Strict secrecy is traditional with the Ku-Klux Klan, and that rule is not a valid ground for opposition. The opposition to the klan really comes from those racial and religious groups who are denied membership; the secrecy argument is nothing but a blind. Yet surely we have as much right to deny membership in our society to Roman Catholics as the Knights of Columbus have to deny membership in theirs to Protestants."

Threatening letters signed "K. K. K." were fakes and had no Klan authority behind them, he said, adding that the Klan threatened no one. "Such threats are against the fundamental laws of this organization," he insisted. "No member of the Klan has ever written a threatening letter to anybody."

He added that the Klan was opposed to lynching, although its consensus of opinion was opposed to the Dyer anti-lynching bill "because it will not cure the evil. We would always stand firm between any negro and any lynching party. Eventually the Klan will itself stop all lynching all over the country."

Dr. Straton to Discuss Klan

Dr. Haywood's name did not appear yesterday on the daily program of services at the Calvary Baptist Church. Dr. John Roach Straton came in from Paterson to preach the church's seventy-fifth anniversary sermon. He made only a passing reference to the connection of the klan propaganda with Calvary Church, blaming a newspaper, which he did not name, for "an unwarranted and outrageous assault without any foundation whatever." He promised an extensive address for next Sunday on "What I Think of White Ku-Klux Klanism, Green Knights of Columbusism, Yellow Journalism and Blackguardism Generally." Dr. Straton went back to Paterson last night to conclude his series of evangelistic meetings.

Colonel Henry D. Lindsley, of 23 West Forty-third Street, made public last night a letter which he has addressed to Judge Aaron J. Levy, Grand Master of the B'rith Abraham. In this letter Colonel Lindsley, who was at one time head of the American Legion and who lives in Texas, recites certain experiences with the Klan in the recent political campaign and charges that Jewish citizens in Texas permitted themselves to be coerced by threats of business boycott into supporting the Klan's candidate.

Izzy and Moe Brave Grizzly In His Den and Find Him 'Full'

"It's a Bear!" Quoth the Dry Man, and Promptly Attacked It; Stuffed Animal Was Rich Cache; Then They Went to Harlem and "Got 19 Goats"

A stuffed Rocky Mountain grizzly bear was braved in his lair yesterday by Izzy Einstein and Moe Smith, well-known prohibition agents, who found the bear hide to be stuffed with bottles of hooch. The bear was one of twenty places raided by these agents yesterday.

"It's a bear," said Izzy, "and we found it at 73 Eighth Avenue, which is near Twelfth Street, as you should know. The bear camouflaged the booze, which was the supply of John A. Farley for his customers, and we left for Farley a summons. Farley had used camouflage also, you understand, in calling his place a club. It was the Half-Past Nine Club, but we got there about noon and found it still working.

"We were carrying out our policy of Sunday raiding on a intensive scale, and in Mae's automobile, or one that we use now and then, we went from Twelfth Street out into Harlem, where the goats used to range, and got nineteen goats of bootleggers before we got back.'

500 Barrels Synthetic Gin

"The whole colored population of Harlem seemed to be in Henry Pomeranz's place at 507 Lenox Avenue when we arrived, and they made strenuous objection to our seizing 500 barrels of synthetic gin, which should bring a nice price on the market, but it shouldn't get there.

"Sam Spilka was another whose place we 'crashed.' He runs a candy and cigar stand, 115 West Twenty-ninth Street, near a lot of garment factories. We had news that he was supplying Jewish garment workers with stuff during the noon hours. On account that I look somewhat like a Jew even without my disguise, you understand, I was able to buy some from Spilka, by selling which he made the mistake of his life, because we seized everything he had. Then I bowed politely so as not to may any enemy out of Spilka and handed to him a summons.

Doesn't Appreciate Summons

"We made a big seizure from Thomas Halloran, trading him a summons for it, in his place at 1501 Lexington avenue. He was not pleased, but I shouldn't be surprised but that he answers the summons anyway. It's that way with a lot of the boys we approach in the course of our duties. They show no appreciation of a summons whatever.

"This fellow Halloran, he says, 'What are yet slippin' me this ticket for?' so I asked Moe to explain it to him that in the last analysis Mr. Volstead was to blame and he should not be holding it against us. The rest of the places were just like ordinary. It was a busy day, though, the busiest since Moe and me was pinched down in Providence. Moe is strong like a horse. He could carry a ball and chain all right, but think of me lock-stepping around like that. I am never looking for trouble. I aim it to be that there is no politer man in the Government service than myself, Izzy Einstein, and Moe has the same ideas."

Dr. Schulman Denounces Invisible Terrorizers

Calls Them Disloyal in Attempt to Identify State and Particular Church

Constant watchfulness is needed here to save American democracy from degenerating into a powerful tyranny of the majorities against minorities, in the opinion of Dr. Samuel Schulman, rabbi of Temple Beth El. Dr. Schulman preached a Thanksgiving sermon yesterday, taking for his text the question, "Has democracy justified itself?" and answering it in the affirmative in the belief that it has justified itself as a form of government, but declaring that the word has proven harmful when turned into an idol and worshipped as such.

The enactment of the prohibition amendment and the rise of self-constituted avengers were pointed out as indications of particular dangers to democracy in this country. The attempted enforcement of prohibition has resulted in the moral debauchery of the people and the amendment itself is an unmitigated evil, Dr. Schulman said. Without referring to the Klan by name Dr. Schulman pointed out the dangers of attempting to tie up the government with any particular church and denounced the move as a "dastardly conspiracy to undermine American democracy on the part of its propagandists, who make themselves an invisible terrorizing power and seek to wreak their fury upon those who, in their eyes, are unfit to be dwellers in the land."

Higher Sovereign Than People

"To a sovereign people," he said, "it is good to say that there is a higher sovereign than itself. A free democracy must always be on its guard lest, insidiously, there be built up the greatest conceivable tyranny over minds, the union of the Church with the State. That such insidious furces are at work in our country is evident. There are those who, while loudly boasting of their American nativity and suspecting the capacity for patriotism of those who differ from them in racial origin or religious creed, are themselves disloyal to the sacred American heritage in so far as they would seek to identify our government with the point of view of any particular church.

"And as they dare not do it openly they take refuge in a dastardly conspiracy to undermine our American democracy by making themselves an invisible terrorizing power and by seeking in defiance of law and order to wreak their fury upon those who in their eyes are unfit to be dwellers in the land.

"True Americanism will assert itself and sweep it away even as similar movements in our history have been discredited with derision and scorn.

"For the present it is the greatest menace to free institutions, immeasurably greater than the pretended danger from poor immigrants, many of whom are better Americans in spirit than some they find here when they arrive.

"This sinister phenomenon is only a belated appearance of an old tendency to unite the state with a particular church. There is no more certain protection for liberty than separation of church and state and no greater tyranny than their union."

Jewish Congress Protests

The Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise yesterday declared the Ku-Klux Klan to be only a phase of a world-wide anti-Semitic movement, in an address at a meeting at 425 Lafayette Street to organize a New York division of an American Jewish congress, to become in time a world congress of Jews.

Rathenau was assassinated in Germany, he said, not because of his politics, but because he was a Jew. The Jews in this country were not prepared to meet attacks, said Mr. Wise, and should organize as was was suggested in the call for the meeting. Four hundred and seventy-one delegates, representing 158 organizations, were at the meeting.

Following Rabbi Wise's address the following resolution was adopted:

"The New York Conference of the American Jewish Congress, in session assembled November 26, 1922, expresses its abhorrence of the policies and acts of the Ku-Klux Klan. It believes that K. K. K. to be a menace to the unity and integrity of American life and declares its purpose to cooperate with all groups prepared to oppose the Ku-Klux Klan as hostile to American ideals and subversive of the spirit of the American democracy. As Americans we are unalterably opposed to the Ku-Klux Klan and every similar movement which undertakes to divide the American people into hostile groups and factions. The Ku-Klux Klan is against America—we are for America and against the Ku-Klux Klan."

Resolutions advocating the rebuilding of Palestine and dealing with the manner of election of officers of the proposed new American Jewish Congress were also adopted.

$40,000 Blaze Sweeps Springfield, Mass., Depot

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Nov. 26.—Fire which swept through the north side of Union Station early to-night tied up traffic on all railroads entering this city and caused damage estimated at about $40,000. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

Police officers, firemen and station and postal employees battled in dense clouds of smoke for nearly an hour in order to remove all mail matter which was stored in one end of the building. All of the pouches and registered mail matter was removed, officials said. Police were rushed from headquarters to guard the pouches.

The fire was one of the most stubborn in several years. Two alarms were sounded, and additional apparatus was summoned later.

Passengers on trains were forced to leave the cars in the yards and make their way through darkness to the streets. Express matter was carried from the station by employees and was not damaged, it was said.

The fire is believed to have originated in the basement of the building.

Films Held Chief Cause Of Child Delinquency

Probationist Says Three of Every Four in Court Are Influenced by Movies

Bernard J. Fagan, chief probation officer of the children's court of New York City, speaking at the Carroll Club last evening to the members of the Cosmopolitan Club of Columbia University, stated that the lure of the motion picture was now the chief cause of delinquency among children.

"The downfall of three of every four children who are brought to the Children's Court has been directly caused by the movies," said Mr. Fagan. "The pictures themselves are not entirely to blame. It is the conditions under which they are exhibited. Criminal attacks on young girls have occurred in the darkened galleries of the cheap downtown moving picture palaces. To the darkness and proximity afforded by the obscure movie house is added the sexual excitement which the films arouse."

Mr. Fagan said that the theaters which are without matrons of any sort and employ men ushers of bad character, who sponsor and contribute to vicious practices, are the greatest menace to children in the city to-day.

"The 'movies,'" stated Mr. Fagan, "have robbed childhood of its childhood. They have become the biggest thing in the lives of the children. They have made the children wise beyond their years by giving them premature knowledge of evil. The constant viewing of marital infidelity on the screen has taken away their finer conceptions of life. The usual sequence is that the child goes to a 'movie' at night and neglects his school home work, is afraid to go to school next day, plays truant, then steals to go to the 'movies' again, and eventually lands in court."

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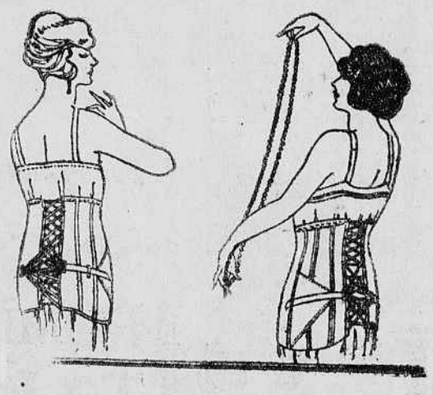

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