

The Great Game of Politics

Revival of Klan Attributed Largely To Southern 'Drive' by Labor

Recently the Ku Klux Klan, which evil and ugly organization apparently had shriveled up and passed away, announced a "rebirth," with fiery crosses on Georgia mountain tops and elaborate plans for expansion on a large scale.

It was quite an impressive demonstration and brought back memories of the 1920s when the Klan was potent in local politics in many States and, as able Commentator Thomas L. Stokes points out, became a dread factor in national politics, having been thrown "a splitting venomous snake" into the 1924 Democratic convention "to fight the nomination of Alfred E. Smith who happened to be a Catholic."



Frank R. Kent.

Prospects of the Klan's revival have caused vigorous comment in all parts of the country, ranging from the mild to the violently denunciatory. By far the most vehement and furious attacks have come from the extreme left-wing spokesmen in Washington and the extreme radical press of New York.

Though the language of these professional liberals (including some of acknowledged Communist affiliation) has been unrestrained, it is possible—far once fully to agree with them. Mostly their lurid phrases are justified. Mostly their charges, this time, are not exaggerated at all.

Black a Leading Liberal.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to refrain from mentioning two somewhat interesting facts, one of which has been almost forgotten and the other of which is not fully appreciated, but both of which seem to put these raging "liberals" in an inconsistent and rather ridiculous position.

The first fact is that one of the great "liberal" heroes of the day, the man looked up to by all of our most "advanced thinkers," the leading exponent of "Roosevelt idealism" on the Supreme Court, himself was once a member of the Ku Klux Klan. This is none other than Justice Hugo Black, recognized leader of the "liberal" faction of the court.

The other and not fully appreciated fact is that the agency which, among and inspiring this "rebirth" of the Klan in the South is the CIO and its political instrument, the PAC, with which all "true liberals" are in sympathetic accord if not enrolled members and financial supporters. Unquestionably, it is true that the CIO with its PAC campaign to organize the South as it has "never been organized before" is contributing help to the Ku Klux revival, without which it could hardly make progress, which is, in fact, essential to its existence.

Natural Incentive.

Of course, this help is unwitting, involuntary and unplanned. Of course, this contribution is the last thing the CIO and its PAC has calculated on or desires. Of course, it will be vehemently denied. However, if there is a more effective way to stir up the horrid racial and religious prejudices on which the Klan leaders so completely depend, and at exploiting which they are so extraordinarily adept, than by a campaign led and directed by Sidney Hillman, and largely aimed at organizing the Negroes of the South for political purposes, it is hard to think what it is.

When this PAC "drive" comes at a time when feeling in the South has already been stirred by the widely advertised Communist campaign (particularly in Florida) to have Negroes register as Democrats in order to put "your friends" in Congress, the situation seems ideal for the Klan wizards. The fact is that thoughtful men in both parties deplore this extravagantly ball-hooped and publicized "drive" in the South. To those who hate religious bigotry and are anxious for better relations between the whites and the Negroes, both the "drive" itself, the personnel of its leaders, their blatant and bellicose methods seem extremely unfortunate.

Fuel Added to Flames.

The AFL, which also has a "drive" on in the South, was forced into action by the CIO initiative, and is certainly not hurting the Klan movement by its raucous charges, however well based, of CIO communism.

The ridiculous and inconsistent position in which the above facts put the "true liberals" who are tearing their hair about the revival of the Klan, is unimportant. Your average "true liberal" never knows

McLemore

Gls Signing Up For Ol' Rocking Chair

By Henry McLemore

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—"Signing up for the ol' rocking chair." "We're proud of you, General... Mud... Leyte."



Henry McLemore.

These were a few of the scribbled notes I came across to day when I was cleaning out my desk, a beautiful roll-top affair which I was lucky enough to pick up at an auction years ago for less than half again what it was worth.

"Signing up for the ol' rocking chair." Now what was I thinking about when I wrote that down? Let's see. Oh, yes, I remember. It was to remind me of a story told to me by Perrin Shoemaker, a coach at the University of Chattanooga. Perrin, home only a few months after fighting through Europe with the 36th Division, had just returned from a football talent search when I saw him.

"I had had my eyes on a certain high school tackle before I went in the Army," Coach Shoemaker said, "and as soon as I started coaching again, I made a beeline for the little mountain town in which he lives. The tackle, as big as an oak tree and just as tough, had also gone in the Army. When I got to his little town I went to the general store and asked where I could find him. The proprietor said I'd find him up at the schoolhouse, signing up for the ol' rocking chair. 'Doing what?' I asked. The mountaineer said, 'Dang it, I said he was up at the schoolhouse signing up for the ol' rocking chair. There's a passel of boys up there with him, too, doing the same thing.'"

Line Around Schoolhouse.

So, Perrin said, he made his way to the schoolhouse and found his big football player standing in a sizable line that wound into the schoolhouse. Perrin spoke to him and asked him what he was doing. "We're all signing up for the ol' rocking chair," the ex-GI said. "That's what us folks around here call it when you put your name down for that 20 bucks a week the Sam pays soldiers without jobs. Get it, and a'r back and rock. If you haven't signed up you must be crazy."

The next note, about the general, the mud, and Leyte, kindled a spark in my mind right away. It has to do with Gen. MacArthur, and I'll always remember it when I hear his critics say he is a man with no feeling for the GI. It happened in Tacloban, Leyte, not long after that Philippine town had been secured and Gen. MacArthur had established his headquarters in a big house near the center of town. The mud was 3 feet deep and the rain was falling in sheets.

Two GIs, much the worse for the stuff the natives were peddling as wine, were staggering past the general's house. Dirty, unshaven, half out of uniform, they passed his gate just as he came out, stars, gold braid and all. They managed to recognize him, and came to a wobbly attention. They threw two of the worst salutes in military history and one of them said, "General, we're proud of you."

"Proud of You Men, Too." Five-star MacArthur returned the salutes with a magnificent one, right out of the manual, looked the GIs in the eyes, and said, "And I'm proud of you men, too," and passed on.

"What wine goes with turnip greens? Georgia."

That note goes back half a dozen years or more. I was driving through a forsaken reach of Georgia and came to a wide place in the road and saw a hay and grain store, a post office and a grocery store. And over the hay and grain store was a brand-new, big, shiny sign that read: "Finest Wines and Liqueurs."

I wondered then, and I wonder now, what is the best wine to serve with turnip greens and sow belly and at what temperature it should be served.

(Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

Man to Man

Appointment of Allen to RFC Board Called Worst Choice Made by Truman

The President recently recommended that Congress add five years to the life of RFC. This makes imperative the closest scrutiny of the past operations of this biggest corporation in the country. But it also gives a golden opportunity to do something about Mr. George E. Allen, whom I regard as the worst appointment so far made by President Truman.

I would like to think that the Senate, which ought to be more careful than it is when nominations are presented to it, may have an urge to amend the RFC Act by requiring that no member of the board undergo the strain of attempting at the same time to serve both the Government and Victor Emanuel, Wall Street executive.



Harold L. Ickes.

Senator Murdock recently told the Senate that RFC officials were permitted to hold corporate directorships so long as they did not participate in matters before the board which were of interest to those companies, and he added: "There has not been one director of the RFC, including Mr. Jesse Jones, or including any of the Republican members, who has not maintained every directorship that he had before taking office." But is this really working for the Government?

Time to Forbid Practice.

It is difficult to see why any man would want to place himself in a position where any of his public actions as a member of the RFC Board might be suspect because of his business connections. If the directors of the RFC do not recognize the principle of renouncing private business connections, then it is questionable practice to forbid this. This problem is particularly pressing now since George E. Allen, the modern version of Falstaff, has been

Senate" President Truman appointed this man to a most important post. Thus the Senate shares an unenviable honor with the President.

At the same time, the ease with which this White House jester laughed and joked his way first through the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, and then through the Senate, reflected upon the disposition of that body to take seriously its powers to confirm presidential nominations. There would have been no objection if the Senate had created an official White House Jester and voted for Mr. Allen a salary commensurate with his ability to amuse.

It may be that the Senate was willing to slap Mr. Allen's back because it thought that the RFC would soon expire by limitation of law. But it will be no laughing matter for these half-fellow-well-met Senators to extend the life of this act and with it the tenure of Mr. Allen. They should atone for their prank in confirming him by requiring that no director of the RFC simultaneously hold a directorship in any privately owned corporation.

Chevy Chase PTA to Meet

The annual meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association of the Chevy Chase Elementary School will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the school.

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