

SENATOR WALSH DEMANDS DESTRUCTION OF "INVISIBLE EMPIRE"

"Intolerance of Klan Threatens Most Precious American Liberties" Says Bay State Senator Citing Atrocities and Crimes

What is the government going to do about the Ku Klux Klan?

The Senate, the House and the press have been busy during the past few days with rumors and statements about contemplated action.

Senator David I. Walsh, Democrat, of Massachusetts, has denounced the Klan from the floor of the Senate.

Here Senator Walsh tells why he did this, some of the atrocities that he believes the Klan has committed, and the evidence on which he bases his beliefs.

By George Somstock

Washington, D. C., Dec. 2.

War on the Ku Klux Klan—that is what Senator David I. Walsh demands from the United States government.

If the Ku Klux Klan has committed the murders, lynchings, assaults—and worse—that are attributed to the order, then Senator Walsh wants the government, by direct presidential proclamation, to eradicate the entire "Invisible Empire."

Is there danger that the hoof beats of the ghostly-clad midnight rider may resound through the still streets of New England's cities and towns? Are members of the Klan, through sinister methods, gathering under the very dome of the Capitol of this nation?

Then Senator Walsh demands, from the floor of the Senate itself, that the whole truth about the purposes, actions, beliefs and plans of the Ku Klux Klan be made public at



An actual photograph showing the ghostly-clad knights of the Invisible Empire in the very act of initiating another member into the Ku Klux Klan. A resolution has been presented in the House of Representatives to ascertain whether or not these mysterious initiations have been held under the very dome of the Capitol in Washington.

once—and full justice done.

"The Ku Klux Klan!" he said. "There is no use in disguising longer that this outlawry exists and is a nation-wide menace.

"It showed its heinous and venomous character in many parts of the country at the recent elections. It is threatening control of the political machinery of our parties."

Senator Walsh was seated at his desk in the Senate office building in Washington when as a representative of the Boston Sunday Post I saw him.

It was late in the afternoon. Street lights were shining on slippery pave-

ments, and the Senate, after a day of desultory filibustering, had recessed.

The long corridors of the building were deserted, except for a few belated clerks hurrying home; Senators' offices on either side showed tightly closed doors.

"You'll find Senator Walsh of Massachusetts in his office. He comes early and stays late. Most of the Senators don't do either," a gray-haired old attendant said.

Senator Walsh leaned across the desk and sorted a mass of papers before him.

"I am unalterably opposed to all organizations which inculcate hatred and religious intolerance, and I purport to use all my influence and ability to stamp the Ku Klux Klan—this un-American spirit—out of existence.

thinly populated community, and it cost but two lives and the cruel beating of two others."

Senator Walsh rose to his feet and was recognized as Senator Ransdell concluded.

In plain words he condemned the activities of the Ku Klux Klan and said in part:

"I have a letter from the Governor of Louisiana addressed to an ex-service man in which he asks this ex-service man to write to Senators and Congressmen urging the department of justice to assist in bringing to justice those involved in a murder assumed to have been committed through the influence of the Ku Klux Klan.

"It is evident from the letter of Governor Parker that he has sought the assistance of the department of justice to bring at least some of the murderers to the bar of justice."

That letter, originally read before the Senate by Senator Walsh a few days ago, was on his table now. He selected it from the mass and handed it across the table.

"Here is another letter," Senator Walsh continued earnestly. "Certain passages from which I quoted in my appeal to the Attorney-General for a Presidential proclamation against the Ku Klux Klan, and other sections of which have never before been published.

"It is from a man whose integrity and reliability cannot be disputed."

The letter read:

Hatred and Intolerance

"From the evidence presented to me from all sides, and from persons whose reliability cannot be doubted, it is my opinion that the Ku Klux Klan, if unchecked, will create a wave of hatred and intolerance that will destroy our most precious and sacred American heritage."

Senator Walsh was asked if he would give to the people of New England some of the evidence in his possession of the Ku Klux Klan's alleged atrocities and activities.

"Yes," he said emphatically. "I will. Then, in his grave courteous way, he began placing on the desk before me letter after letter, until the stack assumed sizeable proportion.

Placing his hand on these letters he said, "I have here communications that fairly bristle with specific incidents of atrocities and crimes committed by the Ku Klux Klan in various parts of the United States.

"It was on this evidence that I asked, from the floor of the Senate, for an official investigation of the Ku Klux Klan; the serious condition painted in these documents caused me to appeal to the attorney-general of the United States for immediate governmental action."

Only a few days ago, it might be said, Senator Walsh made his first public denunciation of the Ku Klux Klan.

Only Two Deaths

Senator Ransdell, Democrat of Louisiana, speaking before the Senate, had assailed press reports which stated that the Ku Klux Klan had reduced the State of Louisiana to the "vassalage of the invisible empire." He referred to the now famous Mer Rouge, Louisiana, crime which resulted in the death of two men—one of whom was Elmore Watt Daniel, an ex-service man—and popularly attributed to the Ku Klux Klan, by saying in part, "This deplorable affair was an isolated one in a

The Invisible Empire

I do not think it would be an exaggeration to say that Texas has had, within the last 18 months, 800 tar and feather parties and whipping bees, not to mention a number of homicides, assaults and other offenses directed against the persons; threatening letters by the score have been given to the victims of this huge criminal conspiracy, ordering them in many instances to leave their home and seek other places of abode.

Helpless women have been tarred and feathered and old men in their dotage have not been spared their vengeance. Young girls in their teens and not hardly in womanhood have been the victims of these letters, and in many instances they have been forced to leave their homes on account of the slander and ignominy heaped on them. All this in free America.

So far as I know, not one of these criminals has been brought to justice. At Waco, Texas, the home of the Governor of Texas, police officials arrested three masked and hooded men, with their victims covered with tar and feathers before them. The grand jury of McLennan County voted "No Bill."

In Dallas, Texas, a clan stronghold, it is reported that at least 50 men have been whipped at one place out on the Trinity River bottom. One man was taken from his home and away from his little motherless girls and beaten. One of his little helpless, innocent children, a girl, was knocked down and injured while trying to defend her father from the assault.

The recent State convention of the Democratic party of Texas at San Antonio was not Democratic, but Klanocratic. This convention, styling itself as the spokesman of the Democracy of this State, even refused to reaffirm the belief in the right of trial by jury, the freedom of religious worship, and laughed at a resolution reaffirming Democracy's belief in the Bill of



Showing two high officials of the Ku Klux Klan, dressed in their full regalia of office, clasping hands under the K. K. cross, in the isolation of the Southern woods. Costumes similar to these, according to the reports given below, are worn by members of the bands who are murdering and lynching in many sections of the country.

Rights to the State and federal constitution . . .

When we examine the record of Mr. Mayfield (elected Senator from Texas on the endorsement of the Ku Klux Klan) it is enough to make any self-respecting American citizen ashamed. . .

Every thinking man, and especially every Senator, should read and ponder his speech made before a gathering of Klansmen in the city of Dallas, Tex., just after his trial, in which he held up to ridicule the courts of the State and made reference to something the Ku Klux Klan was alleged to have said to the judge who presided at his trial.

The sentiments uttered in this speech alone show that he is utterly out of sympathy with our established government, and should, on these grounds, if no others existed, be excluded from his seat in the United States Senate.

To Attack the Klan

Senator Walsh leaned back in his chair. It was quite dark outside now. Several members of his office force received final instructions for the day and hurried away.

"These letters were sent to me voluntarily," Senator Walsh went on. "In the first place they began coming to me through my association with some ex-service men. At first I was amazed at some of the statements, then angered.

"I have never made an exhaustive study of the Ku Klux Klan. But it is evident to all thinking people that where there is so much complaint from law-abiding citizens that some fair method should be taken to investigate conditions. That is what I have requested."

"Asked if there had been any concerted action on the part of the Senate to investigate the Ku Klux Klan's activities, recently he smiled a trifle wearily.

"No," he admitted. "There is little talk about the Klan or the danger which it really represents."

"I have a friend who lives in Oklahoma. At times he comes East, and usually on these visits he stops off to see me. Always he is affable and smiling, but when I saw him very recently he had changed. He said that he was worried.

"Do you know," he confided to me, "I am carrying a revolver in my pocket at this very minute. For the first time in my life I am forced to walk the streets of my home town armed—and armed against my fellow citizens. There are 1500 citizens that are walking the streets of my home today armed and in daily fear of their very lives on account of the Ku Klux Klan."

"This is only one statement of many. Is it not terrible that an organization that announces publicly that it despises Catholics, Jews, Negroes, and people of alien birth, is able, in these days of reputed civilization, to terrorize whole cities and States. Look at this letter."

Protestant Against Catholic

It read:

The Ku Klux Klan arrays Protestants against Catholics, Gentile against Jew, the native born against the foreign born. It attempts to control the political life of the nation through dividing the country along religious and racial lines, and it has sown, wherever it has gained power, the seed of discord, disorder and strife.

The Ku Klux Klan tries in secret men who are not faced by their accusers, who are not members of the Klan and who

know nothing of the accusations. It convicts these innocent victims without process of law, and then, in masked mobs, under cover of night, carries out its outrageous mandates.

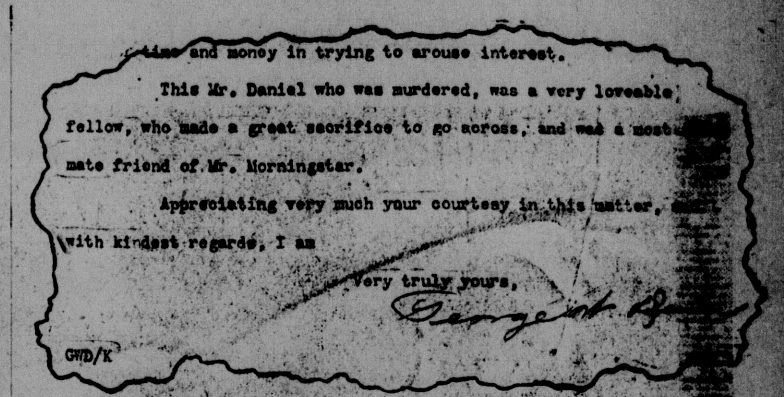
If the Ku Klux Klan should prevail in this country, and its aim is to control every State of the Union, constitutional government will disappear, and there will be in the United States the Law of the Mob. It is organized to control every department of our government, even the presidency itself.

It is the most pernicious and dangerous influence that has ever come into the life of America, and to its destruction as a power of evil we can ask the assistance of all Americans, regardless of political or religious or other affiliations.

I am greatly interested in saving my State from the disgrace of having a nominee of the Ku Klux Klan represent Texas in the United States government.

The Appeal to Daughtery

Shortly after having made public, from the floor of the Senate, the letter from Governor Parker of Louisiana and after having denounced the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, Senator Walsh addressed a letter to Attorney-



Fac-simile of portion of a letter, written by an ex-service man, his comrade said to have been murdered by the Ku Klux Klan.

General Daughtery:

After citing many cases of outlawry, alleged to have been committed by the invisible empire, Senator Walsh said: "I sincerely hope that you or some governmental agency under your direction will make a thorough investigation of the outlawry that is daily depicted in the press of the country.

"If it is exaggerated or unfounded some public authority should proclaim the fact; if it exists, then this menace to constitutional government should be vigorously attacked through judicial channels.

"When groups organize to destroy our courts, revoke trial by jury, deny the right to citizens to worship God as they see fit, and support a policy of accusing and punishing men and women without trial other than a secret meeting in some lone pasture or highway, they are championing the very form of tyranny to which our government is opposed, undermining everything we hold dear in our national life, and infecting the body politic with poison. . .

"May I suggest that you give consideration to the recommendation that the President of the United States issue a proclamation against such organizations."

Senator Walsh Sees a Political Issue Ahead

Senator Walsh was asked for his opinion, the activities of the Ku Klux Klan might force a rift in the Democratic party.

For a little while he sat silent. "I believe that the Ku Klux Klan will eventually be the issue in the platforms of the two parties," he said. "The seriousness of the situation throughout the country compels me to this belief.

"If the question was confined squarely by either party in all likelihood there would be a tremendous flow of votes to that party by citizens who are apprehensive of the growth of the Klan, regardless of their political affiliation.

"For instance there are thousands of Democrats, throughout the South, who do not believe in the Ku Klux Klan. Likewise there are thousands of Republicans in the North who are vigorous in their opposition to the Klan."

"These voters might turn to the Democratic party, if necessary, to defeat a menace that they deem so acute."

"It is, of course, hard to tell the exact influence which the Ku Klux Klan has amassed with the Democratic party in the South. The danger to the party lies in the two becoming synonymous in the popular mind.

"There is the Texas case. Here we have a Senator elected on the Democratic ticket who was the avowed candidate of the Ku Klux Klan as well."

Twelve Masked Men

Shortly after Senator Walsh addressed this communication to the Attorney-General, and only a few days subsequent to his first appearance in the Ku Klux Klan controversy on the Senate floor, a joint resolution was introduced into the House of Representatives.

This resolution is number 338 of the 67th Congress, 3rd session, and bears the date of Nov. 24th, 1922 and says in part:

Whereas a statement has been published that officials of the Ku Klux Klan, from their headquarters at Atlanta, Ga., had stated that on Nov. 14, 1922, 12 members of Klan No. 1 of the District of Columbia entered the United States Capitol at a few minutes before midnight.

These men with masks and robes then proceeded to a room beneath the Status of Liberty, in the rotunda, and that there an American citizen, holding a high public position became a naturalized citizen

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