

Klux Salesmen Use Forged Oath of Vicious Obligations

KLEAGLE ADVISES USE OF FALSE K. OF C. OATH



DATED AT Chattanooga, Tenn. May 28, 1921.
SEND REPLY TO [Redacted]

I have your two letters of 23rd and 24th. Am very glad that you took care of the bird from Phoenixville and hope that he soon gets C. F. I have turned over to Rays the roster of the K. C. bunch but I do not think that it is at all a good idea to send these to the Imperial Palace. The Imperial Palace does not get out copies of the K. C. oath but I find it of value among a certain few.

I find papers like the Protestant that I suggested your subscribing for to be the most valuable dope that I can use for it brings home in a concrete form to them the things we have to guard against.

I sent you this morning several copies of the Searchlight and will see that you get them each week in the future.

I cannot find any of the old news letters but you will have a copy each week as they come out and I have found them very valuable to me in my work.

Hoping that you will use every effort to make this the biggest week yet as you are not looking for very much next week I am,

Sincerely yours, [Signature]
King Kleagle, Tennessee.

IN THE NAME OF OUR FATHERS FOR OUR COUNTRY, OUR POWER AND EACH OTHER

tion of the United States. I pledge myself as a Catholic citizen and Knight of Columbus to enlighten myself fully upon my duties as a citizen and to conscientiously perform such duties entirely in the interest of my country and regardless of all personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot, and to promote reverence and respect for law and order. I promise to practice my religion openly and consistently, but without ostentation, and to so conduct myself in public affairs, and in the exercise of public virtue as to reflect nothing but credit upon our Holy Church, to the end that she may flourish and our country prosper to the greater honor and glory of God."

Masonic Inquiry Made

In Los Angeles, Cal., in 1914, the entire work, ceremonies and pledges of the Knights of Columbus were submitted to a Masonic committee of two thirty-second and two thirty-third degree Masons, all past or part grand masters of Masonry in California who issued a statement certifying that they had examined a complete copy of all the work, pledges and ceremonies and found that the order, while secret, was not oath-bound, and that its ceremonies were comprised in four degrees "intended to teach and inculcate principles that lie at the foundation of every great religion and every great state."

Having thus nailed this instance of the deliberate use in the Ku Klux sales scheme of a bogus document to play on religious bigotry, The Star tomorrow will cite other cases of anti-Catholic propaganda circulated generally in Ku Klux circles as what State Sales Manager McArthur called "the most valuable dope" to bring home "in a concrete form" the thing that "we have to guard against."

Better Results

are obtained if you get your sign at McClintock's 17 N. Scott. Phone 348. We are original.—Adv.

ALBERT STEINFELD & CO.



The exquisite in Evening Dresses

EVENING DRESSES AND DINNER DRESSES OF REAL MAGNIFICENCE—PERFECT IN ARTISTRY AND GRACE OF LINE—ARE PROFUSELY DISPLAYED AT STEINFELD'S.

THEY BAFFLE DESCRIPTION—ONLY ONE'S EYE CAN CONVEY TO CONSCIOUSNESS THE REGAL BEAUTY OF THE DANCING AND DINNER GOWNS.

To See the Taffeta Dresses

in the charming, delicate blues, rose, orchid, American beauty and jade, with their puffings and cords and scallops, their bouffant skirts and dainty French buds—is to be simply furious to have them all—and really price is no barrier, for these taffeta evening dresses are only \$35.00 to \$59.50.

Perfect Dreams Are the Diaphanous,

the fleecy, cloud-like evening dresses of white and petunia chiffon. The petunia frock is embellished with metal lace, the skirt shows the small hoop effect. This is \$49.50.

The White Chiffon Frock

is like the one illustrated and so favorably mentioned in this month's Vogue. It is trimmed with ermine tails, the overdrape is of white chiffon in the form of the petals of flowers and tipped with ermine tails. A Rhinestone girdle of beautiful brilliancy lends a radiant finish to this enchanting frock at \$65.00.

A Stately Dinner Gown

is fashioned of superb black lace and black georgette. It is a magnificent gown—rich, elegant, refined. The sleeves are in the charming cape effect. Price, \$79.50.

ALBERT STEINFELD & CO.

Catholics Represented as Renouncing Allegiance to All Kings or States, Swearing Loyalty Only to Pope, and Pledging Selves to "Hang, Burn, Boil, Flay and Bury Alive" All Heretics, "When Opportunity Presents."

STAMP BOGUS TEXT AS OFFICIAL, ASSERTING IT IS COPIED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Klansmen Fail to Explain Copy Was Printed There as Exhibit of Fraudulent Material Used Against a Candidate and Found to Be False in Two Inquiries

ARTICLE IX

Sales managers for the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., furnish to the salesmen under their direction a complete line of "samples" with which to increase the sale of memberships in the order through appeals to racial and religious antagonisms. Furthering the aims of the organization, which are the perpetuation of race prejudice and religious persecution and the banding together, for revenue only of the cruel, the cowardly, the ignorant and the vengeful, these sales managers by their conduct of their campaigns for memberships, live the lie direct to the pronouncement of the Imperial Wizard that the organization "wages war on no individual or organization in any political or religious controversy and concedes the right of every man to think, vote and worship God as he pleases." An organized effort is made by sales managers to speed up the sales of memberships by supplying their subordinates with "ammunition" which will stir up the basest passions of the men who are solicited to don masks in order to espouse the cause of the Klan.

Forged Document Used to Stir Antagonism Against Catholics

The Star today proposes first to prove that this forgery has been used as sales "literature" of Ku Kluxism, Inc., with the knowledge and approval of at least one responsible executive officer of the sales crew; second, to discuss briefly but fully the nature of the attack; and then, third, to prove that the document is a forgery.

The King Kleagle, or state sales manager of Ku Kluxism in Tennessee, is one J. M. McArthur, formerly an insurance solicitor of Atlanta. On May 25, 1921, on the official letter head of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., Department of Propagation, McArthur wrote to one of his Kleagles, or salesmen, then at work in Tennessee.

In the last two lines on the first page of this letter—just above the printed slogan "In the name of our fathers—for our country, our homes and each other," and in the first paragraph on the second page—King Kleagle McArthur made the following statement:

"The Imperial Palace does not give out copies of the K. C. oath, but I find it of value among a certain few. I find papers like the Protestant that I suggested your subscribing for, to be the most valuable dope that I can use, for it brings home in a concrete form to them the things that we have to guard against."

Circulate Bogus Oath
During last May the Southern Baptist association held its annual convention, with an attendance of 10,000, in Chattanooga, Tenn., and newspaper accounts of its sessions show that much attention was given to the discussion of "the Roman Catholic menace." Taking advantage of the favorable atmosphere thus created, Klan organizers in Chattanooga and various other points in the state had copies of the bogus Knights of Columbus oath printed, anonymously and with no identifying marks to betray the printer or the Ku Klux backing, and put them into circulation as ammunition in their drive for members at \$10 a head.

One of the copies of this sales literature, portions of which are exhibited, is a cheap little folder of four pages, carrying the title in black face capital letters:

"KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OATH, FOURTH DEGREE."
Coming now to the nature of the attack thus launched against a considerable body of American citizens, certain portions of the document

organized effort is made by sales managers to speed up the sales of memberships by supplying their subordinates with "ammunition" which will stir up the basest passions of the men who are solicited to don masks in order to espouse the cause of the Klan.

In the "Hymn of Hate" thus being chanted all over the United States today by Ku Kluxism's paid apostles, one of the standby stanzas is directed against the 13,000,000 American communicants of the Roman Catholic church. This attack on the adherents of an ancient creed reaches its culmination in the use of a document which purports to be the oath taken on "the blessed Trinity and blessed sacrament" by every American Catholic who is admitted to membership in the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus.

ence to a Protestant, especially a Mason, and will leave my party so to do that if two Catholics are on the ticket I will satisfy myself which is the better supporter of Mother Church, and vote accordingly.

Employment Pledge Charged

"I will not deal with or employ a Protestant if in my power to deal with or employ a Catholic. I will place Catholic girls in Protestant families that a weekly report may be made of the inner movements of the heretics."

The actual oath, as printed in the document, runs:

"All of which I do swear by the blessed Trinity and blessed sacrament which I am now to receive to perform and on part to keep this my oath. In testimony hereof, take this most holy and blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist and witness the same further with my name written with the point of this dagger dipped in my own blood and seal in the face of this holy sacrament."

And then, for the obvious purpose of giving the alleged oath apparent verification as an official document printed and approved by the authority of the United States government, two parenthetical statements are added, as follows:

"(Excerpts from 'Contested' election case of Eugene C. Bonnell against Thos. S. Butler,' as appears in the Congressional Record—House, Feb. 15, 1913, at pages 3,215, &c., and ordered printed therein by unanimous consent.) Attached thereto and printed (on page 3,216) as a part of said report as above."

"(For further information relative to the proceedings referred to and

the exhibits and documents accompanying the same, reference is made to the Congressional Record from which the foregoing portion is copied verbatim from 'House Bill 1523.')

Explained by Maurice F. Egan
In "The Knights of Columbus in Peace and War," of which Maurice Francis Egan—who was for eleven years, under three presidents, American minister to Denmark, and who declined the Vienna ambassadorship tendered him by both Presidents Taft and Wilson—is co-author with John B. Kennedy, appears the following statement:

"Within the past six years the fourth degree has been the target of attacks by bigots where professional alienism has been proved beyond question through legal action promptly taken by officers of the order. It seems almost fantastic to record... the circulation of a bogus oath... The 'oath' made its appearance about 1912. It was filed by Mr. Eugene C. Bonnell of Pennsylvania in his charge against Thomas S. Butler before the committee of elections No. 1. In congress, when Mr. Bonnell stated that it had been used against him as a fourth degree Knight of Columbus in an election contest, Mr. Butler, in his defense, stated that he had refrained from condemning the 'oath' until election day, although he did not believe it to be genuine, because he feared to give it notoriety."

"Far from being disconcerted by the airing of this defalcable document in congress, those profiting by its circulation seized upon its mention in the Congressional Record to give it an air of authority by pointing on future copies the annotation 'Copied from the Congressional Record, &c.' not pausing, however, to explain the circumstances under which it was allowed to appear in that official journal."

Genuine Oath in Evidence

On July 29, 1914, Messrs. Egan and Kennedy go on to point out, in Waterville, Minn., A. M. Morrison and Garfield E. Morrison, editors and publishers of the Mankato Morning Journal, were brought to trial for charging E. M. Lawless, editor of the Waterville Sentinel, with having taken the "oath." At this trial the real pledge taken by fourth degree Knights on initiation was inserted as a state exhibit. It read:

"I swear to support the Constitu-

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