

# Business Man Declares Masks and Other Bogies of 'Invisible Empire' Belong to Dark Ages; Masked Mob a Cowardly Lot

"There is no need for any invisible government in this country," said Phil A. McLaughlin, furniture dealer.

"You hear of no one being oppressed. What wrongs are there to right that the law cannot reach? Most of us don't think that we are getting all that is coming to us, but that is no reason why we should join a masked mob.

"Organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan appeal to men of criminal instincts, because such men hope to 'get what's coming to them'—as they think—by committing acts of depredations in defiance of law and under cover of masks.

"Masks are not American institutions, anyway. The average Yankee

likes to do things in the open. All the average man wants is a 50-50 deal; and a masked mob, 50 to 1 strong, doesn't give the individual a square deal.

"The 'hooded menace' is an anachronism. It belongs to other ages. The people in the Dark Ages may have been frightened by masked monsters, just as the Indians were awed by the grotesque make-up of their medicine men.

"But just as the unmasked, unpainted paleface conquered the painted savage, so will the unstanding, above-board American people put to rout any organization whose greatest weapons are secrecy and medieval

clap-trap."