

# ANONYMOUS SIX TO TRAIL REDS, BUT CAUTIOUSLY

Only 3 of the 9 Directors of  
Knights of Progress Reveal  
Their Names.

HINT OF HEAVY SECRETS

Whispering Officials of New  
Organization Say They'll  
Smash Communism.

By ALLAN KELLER,

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Lewis B. Smith, chairman of the board of directors of the Knights of Progress, put his pencil against his nose, looked warily toward the door and whispered: "I'm sorry, but in an organization like this you can't tell everything. It wouldn't do any good to tell where I live, because I may have to live anywhere."

With a low cough and another look at the door Mr. Smith sat down. Paul R. Cook, president of the Knights of Progress, said he didn't care if the "dirty Communists" did know he lived at 20 Irving Pl.

Ready for Debate.

"I'll debate with any one of them and show them," he said. "Look at this list of subjects I can debate: 'Looking through Red Glasses,' 'Pork Eating Jews,' and 'Our Fellow Fools in the Soviet.' Why I'll debate 'em in Madison Square Garden any time they say."

Mr. Smith introduced another director of the Knights of Progress, a paunchy, gray-haired man who puffed on a long cigar.

"This is George B. Hoag, director of our legal, statistical and research department," said Mr. Smith. "He helped me in our research when we found that the present administration at Washington is tied up with the Communists; yes sir, the international Communists. Why we've got a stock of material, THAT big," he flung his arms wide open.

Mr. Hoag nodded violently, loosing a cascade of cigar ashes on his vest.

Introduced in a Whisper.

The young man in the corner by the door shrank back, but Mr. Smith saw him and introduced him in a whisper so low the name was lost.

With the introductions finished, the chairman of the nine directors (six silent and three not so silent) of the Knights of Progress explained the program for which the new organization will fight. He said they will demand free education for all who cannot afford it, honest elections and a federal investigation of every department of the national government.

"You understand," said Mr. Smith, "we can't tell you about our membership, about the big business men who are backing us and many other details, but this is our national headquarters and it will soon be the center of operations against every un-American group in the country."

Will Query Candidates.

"We are going to demand of every candidate running for office in this city how he stands on this question. He will answer the right way, or he will know that the Knights of Progress everywhere will work for his defeat."

Mr. Cook handed cards to the reporters showing that he had had "thirty years experience in mining, metallurgical, geological, chemical, industrial, sanitary, civil, agricultural and human engineering." Then he said the Knights had chosen to begin their work in New York because it was the "hotbed of Communism."

"We won't question the candidates on the Communist, Socialist or American Labor parties," said Mr. Smith. "I consider them either dead, inactive or subversive. Mostly subversive, because the Communists beat me up so badly on Labor Day night in Union Sq., I had to go to Bellevue Hospital and had to write a letter to Mayor La Guardia about it."

Proffers Services.

Mr. Smith pointed to Mr. Hoag and proffered the services of the department of legal, statistical and research investigation to anyone who would call Gramercy 7-4133. The chairman of the six secret and three publicly identified directors swept his hand about the room on the second floor of 621 Broadway and said:—

"This is nothing. The Knights will grow in power. Stalin's adherents and the Marxists will soon find out."

The windows of the headquarters looked out upon a skylight. The spokesman for the Knights sat at the only desk. In one corner were a physician's examining table, a sterilizing cabinet, violet-ray lamp, tray of hypodermic needles and a shelf of assorted medicines. The reporters avoided this corner.

Watches Government.

Mr. Smith put his pencil against his long nose again and said he had conducted his own investigation of the Teapot Dome scandal and had kept up with all governmental misdeeds since then.

Then he distributed invitations to a social opening to be held by the Knights next Friday at which refreshments will be served and Mr. Cook will lecture on Russia. That was his way of terminating the interview.

Outside in the corridor the timid young man whose name had been lost in a whisper sidled up to the reporters.

"I'm the office boy," he whispered. "I just wanted to say something in there don't smell right."