

779 J  
7/14/37

## NEW GROUP FORMED TO FIGHT RADICALS

*N. H. Smith*  
Knights of Progress Designed  
to Promote 'Americanism,'  
Resist 'Subversive Plans'

*Smith*  
TO CANVASS CITY POLITICS

Organization to Ask Candidates  
to Give Views—Membership  
to Convene Friday

Formation of a nation-wide "non-partisan" organization known as the Knights of Progress, which is dedicated to Americanism and which will combat "any subversive activities, schemes or plans aimed at the sanctity and security of these United States of America," was announced yesterday afternoon by Lewis B. Smith, self-styled "chairman of the board of national directors."

Mr. Smith, who declined for the present to give any information concerning membership, other than to state it includes "many of the leading citizens of the city and country," made the announcement of the organization at a press conference held at national headquarters, 621 Broadway.

In the next few days members of the organization—again Mr. Smith refused to divulge names—will personally call on "all candidates of the Republican, Democratic and City Fusion parties to determine just where they stand in regard to Americanism," he said. The organ-

ization will not bother interviewing candidates of the Socialist or Communist parties because "they are already firmly behind the un-American principles of Marx and Lenin," he added.

In addition to Mr. Smith, who declined to give his city address when asked by reporters, only two other officers of the organization were announced yesterday. They were Paul R. Cook of 20 Irving Place, a consulting engineer, as president; and George E. Hoag of 521 West 144th Street, a national director and "chairman of the research and investigation division of the legal department." Other officers and an estimate of the total membership, according to Mr. Smith, will be announced at a membership meeting to be held on Friday evening at Manhattan Lyceum, 66 East Fourth Street.

Mr. Smith made public a twelve-point program of the organization which, among other things, called for "a sweeping Federal Congressional investigation into all departments, divisions or agencies of the government entrusted or empowered to expend the moneys appropriated or secured by taxation for emergency purposes and national welfare to expose and challenge the increasing dishonesty and subversive activities in government administration."

The program also advocated the maintenance of "lawful" free speech and political and religious freedom, a sweeping program of slum clearance, a more humane social approach for the rehabilitation of the people of the nation, a broadening of the educational structure by providing "unlimited free tuition" for all citizens unable to defray the cost, and the universal adoption in educational institutions of a "loyalty oath to the government."

Assailing the Communists in particular, Mr. Smith asserted that his organization would "definitely show a direct tie-up between the Communist party and the present New Deal Administration." The first shot in the campaign will be fired at Friday's meeting, he promised.