

Deatherage, George E., Knights of the White Camellia.
May 23, 1939, afternoon session; Volume 5, pp. 3455, ff.

3455 Clowning.

3456 Dies indicates possession of documents from Deatherage's files.

National commander of Knights of White Camellia since 1924.

3457 Organized May 1, 1867. Revived and chartered in West Virginia by Deatherage and "four or five other interested people".

(Note: Not asked for their names. Committee doesn't seem to have charter of incorporation.)

National headquarters at St. Albans, West Virginia.

Organization doesn't "engage in the dissemination of anti-racial or anti-religious information."

3458 Connections with Campbell: Met 1935-1936 when Campbell was chairman of the subversive activities committee of the Reserve Officers. Contact continued until about two years ago. Deatherage and Campbell traveled together on some trips around the country.

3458- Letter from Deatherage to Campbell dated 12/11/38. Parts quoted; not made an
3459 exhibit, nor does Whitley say he is reading it in full. "Common cause".....
"against Jewish communism."
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(Note: No questions.)

Deatherage spent two weeks with Moseley in Atlanta.

3459- Mr. Whitley (Continuing); "I also found that Kelly had been in
3460 constant contact with him." Will you identify Kelly for us?

Mr. Deatherage. That is Lt. John E. Kelly, who used to be a Reserve Officer--I don't know whether he now holds a commission, who was active in the Charleston area, he was relieved of his duties in charge of subversive activities. I don't know what happened to him.

Deatherage helped Campbell financially.

3462 Deatherage, Moseley, Coughlin connection:

Mr. Whitley (reading): "In any case, this thing is coming to a head fast. The general is speaking before the New York Board of Trade on the 14th. I sent you a copy of the speech with which I helped him." You helped the general prepare that speech?

Mr. Deatherage. I did.

Mr. Whitley (continuing): "On the 15th he will speak with Coughlin in New York--at which time I expect all hell to break loose. Coughlin, as you know, has gone after the juice, both over the radio and in his paper." What is that reference to "Juice"?

Mr. Deatherage. It means Jews, a rather facetious term.

Mr. Whitley (continuing): "They will start on the general as soon as he speaks with him--for he too is going after them." You mean the general is going after the Jews also--that he is going to be anti-Semitic?

Mr. Deatherage. I don't understand that term "anti-Semitic". Then they play with the word "anti-Semitic" until Healey says that what Deatherage means is anti-Jewish, which he agrees to. Then:

Mr. Deatherage. My definition of Jewry, international Jewry, and whichever who is honest in this world refers to, is not all of the rank and file of Jews as a race, but a minority clique at the top of Jewry, in which are identified the international bankers, the very same thing which has torn Europe upside down. Now, the small Jew, as we see it, is the most oppressed individual, because he is subject to a hierarchy from which he can't get from under, and so to say that when you go against Jews, the enemy, are communistic Jews, wherever you may find them.

Mr. Whitley. You, I believe, have repeatedly and consistently over a period of years, Mr. Deatherage, attacked communism?

Mr. Deatherage. Yes, sir.

3463 Then Deatherage is asked why he hasn't attacked fascism and nazism and he can't imagine anyone taking them seriously in this country unless it comes to a choice between them and communism. He says fascism "is a colloquial term that is used any way to smear any one who is anticommunistic."

(Note: No questions asked on this or on Jew-Communist stuff.)

Says in five years he had seen no nazi propoganda which "advocated national socialism for America or for the changing or destruction of this form of government." All he has seen is anti-communist propoganda.

3464 Mr. Whitley. And anti-racial propoganda that some of those countries might be interested in?

Mr. Deatherage. That is an argument as to what you call anti-racial. We might have a difference of opinion.

Mr. Whitley. That is quite possible.

Mr. Deatherage. I say, I am 47 years old, I went 40 years of my life working for people, minding my own business, and having no hatred for anybody until this thing came up, and until then I never knew that there was such a thing.

Mr. Whitley. You do have hatred at the present time, though, is that it?

Mr. Deatherage. I have hatred for the Jewish leadership and finance that is directing this movement, as they have directed it in every country in Europe. I lived in Russia, you see, I was in Russia, I was in the Asiatic coast in 1919, 1920, and 1921, and I saw this aftermath happen, and I lived in London at the time Mr. Hitler was getting his start, which was just about the time of the Munich putsch in 1932.

So I saw all of this thing happen before, and when I saw it happening to my own people, then is when I started.

Then Whitley, ~~says~~ who is questioning, reads from the letter. The letter says General Moseley is leaving the following day and while in New York "he will see about the financing".

3465 Deatherage says, "You have Mr. Campbell's files.

Gives address and phone number, presumably in Atlanta--1007 West Peachtree Street, Hemock (sic) 9796.

3466 Says Mike Ahern "pasted G-2 man" who had "fallen out" with Mrs. Curtis of the "Women Investors of New York".

(Note: No effort to connect Ahern with any other organization although I believe he worked with or for James True. Check "Handout" to see if he collaborated on it.)

Pelley brought in through mention of expected meeting in letter but no questions are asked about him or the Silver Shirts; however, Dies asks his first question in the examination of Deatherage. After Deatherage says Pelley is "too skittish" and a couple of leading questions by Whitley:

Mr. Whitley. He would want to be the head of it if you set up a national organization?

Mr. Deatherage. I think probably.

The Chairman. That is one trouble you had about getting together, they couldn't decide which one ought to head it, is that it?

Mr. Deatherage. No; I don't think so. I think the main trouble was that there was no one appeared on the scene who was big enough to inspire confidence. You know us fellows that have been in this work have been more or less like the little boy with the long stick, poking the hornets' nest, we poke it and ~~run~~, and cause a lot of trouble.

(Note: Compare with report.)

3467 Asked for "associations or contacts with Mr. Pelley in the past", Deatherage replies, "casually in liaison. He was working in Maine for the same objectives

we are working for"; also says Pelley has "a lot of genius."

(Note: Instead of "Maine", possibly "the Main".)

Deatherage and Pelley stayed out of each other's territory.

Coughlin:

Asked if he has any "relations or associations or contacts with Father Coughlin", Deatherage says he has written him without getting replied. Says Coughlin has 21,000,000 Catholics and:

Mr. Deatherage. Now, the way I sized it up is this: If Father Coughlin can get only one-quarter of 21,000,000 Catholics together, he doesn't need anybody else; he don't need George Deatherage or anybody else, because he will take all of you boys and run you off in a hurry, and he don't need to bother with me; see?

Mr. Whitley. Mr. Deatherage, insofar as the subject matter of speeches and material, et cetera, would you say you have been sympathetic with Father Coughlin, as well as Mr. Pelley, I mean even though there was no actual working arrangement or relationship, did you exchange material or publications?

Mr. Deatherage. I have exchanged material with Pelley, never with Father Coughlin.

3468 Deatherage says, "I do stand fivesquare on the Catholic social-action program, social justice."

Winrod:

Deatherage has corresponded with Winrod and has distributed his material. Never met.

Says Winrod "has a field which is the Protestant Christianity fundamentals."

3469 Deatherage has his own "mimeographing and stenciling and photoprinting establishment" and that Winrod has his own printing plant.

Deatherage distributes chiefly what he gets from other sources.

Christian(s):

(Note: Full name not given, nor name of organization, nor correct last name "Christians".)

No recent contact.

Harry B. Rand, Haverhill, Mass.:

(Note: Name of organization not given until later when Deatherage supplies it--Anglo-Saxon Federation--and it is in no way connected to Ford, which it could be.)

Deatherage says he gets "Destiny", Rand's publication. Says Federation has 4,000,000 members in the United States.

Says Rand's "solution" is "for the Jews to return to Christian principles".

3470 True:

Has known True for five years. They have conferred on matters of policy "a thousand times".

Edmondson:

Knows him.

Mr. Whitley. Do you receive his literature, or exchange literature with him?

Mr. Deatherage. I don't have literature; I am on the publishing end of it; I have got members inside the Communist Party all over the United States, and inside of these so-called liberal organizations, stooges in the Communist Party, and when I pick up information which I figure is valuable and factual, I will then turn it over to him.

(Note; Name of organization, if any, not given.)

Donald Shea:

National Gentile League.

Met Shea in Washington after hearings began.

3471 Kuhn:

Mr. Whitley. What have been your contacts, or associations, direct or indirect, with Mr. Fritz Kuhn, the head of the German-American Bund?

Mr. Deatherage. I have had no contact with Mr. Kuhn, except I take his paper.

Mr. Whitley. Do you read German?

Mr. Deatherage. No, I don't; I take it to find out what is going on, and I met Mr. Kuhn in New York one time in the Harvard Club--a very opportune and likely place for that sort of thing--and I talked to him probably a half hour, just on generalities.

Mr. Whitley. Was there any discussion there of your organization or its objectives?

Mr. Deatherage. No; I didn't discuss it with him at all. We didn't have time to do that. Besides, the bund is not the kind of organization that will cooperate with anybody.

Mr. Whitley. You mean there is no possibility of getting them into a Nation-wide organization, or federation?

Mr. Deatherage. I think there is, if you can get an American organization started they will follow it.

Mr. Whitley. You think if you set up a Nation-wide organization that had the right leader, a competent leader, one who could inspire confidence, like General Moseley, that maybe a lot of these organizations that we have referred to here might be willing to join in that movement, including possibly---

Mr. Deatherage (interposing). Oh, yes; you could get 500 of them overnight if you wanted to.

Various groups do not divide up the territory, he says.

(Note: No further questions asked about any of the above organizations in addition to what is here indicated.)

3472- Says his and Pelley's organizations are largest.

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When asked how many chapters he has, Deatherage refuses to answer and says if that is contempt "and I have to go to jail, I am quite content." He persistently refuses and not a member of the committee threatens to institute contempt proceedings or even to ask Deatherage a question.

Mr. Whitley. Is your own organization a membership organization?

Mr. Deatherage. It is.

Mr. Whitley. Do you have chapters located in various parts of the Country?

Mr. Deatherage. Yes, sir.

Mr. Whitley. How many chapters do you have, Mr. Deatherage?

Mr. Deatherage. When I took my oath of office as commander of this organization there is one thing I promised on the value of my life never to reveal, and that is the number of members we had, the number of posts, and the members, and I am sorry I can't answer, and if that is in contempt of court and I have to go to jail, I am quite content.

Mr. Whitley. I am not asking you to identify any members, but as to the number of chapters or the number of members I don't see where that would hurt anyone.

Mr. Deatherage. It may not, but that is my oath and I am going to stay with it.

Mr. Whitley. Was that a voluntary oath?

Mr. Deatherage. That is a compulsory oath.

Mr. Whitley. That you never reveal any of that information?

Mr. Deatherage. That is right, and that oath is the same as a Klansman's oath.

Mr. Whitley. Does each member of your organization have to take a similar oath?

Mr. Deatherage. He does.

Mr. Whitley. And it is 100 percent a secret, sub rosa organization as far as the membership is concerned?

Mr. Deatherage. That is right.

Mr. Whitley. You, as its national commander, are the only one who is publicly identified with the organization; is that correct?

Mr. Deatherage. Well, it would be rather difficult to answer that. The Jews have been watching this thing so much that they have got certain fellows identified. But as far as the fellow who comes out and sticks his neck out in the open, that is me.

Mr. Whitley. You are the national commander publicly identified as in that position, and with reference to your association with your organization?

Mr. Deatherage. Official goat; yes, sir.

Mr. Whitley. You mentioned your organization and Mr. Pelley's as being the two largest--you wouldn't, for the information of the committee, you couldn't possibly even indicate approximately what your membership is, I am not asking you to give the exact figures if that is against the rules?

Mr. Deatherage. It is against my oath; I am sorry I can't answer.

Mr. Whitley. Would you say it is Nation-wide?

Mr. Deatherage. Well, with the exception of the New England States, which are so blinking stubborn, we can't do anything with them.

Mr. Whitley. Otherwise in all sections of the country you have your local chapters?

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Mr. Deatherage. That is right.

Then Whitley reads from a letter from Owensboro, Ky., to Deatherage at 1007 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, dated 12/13/38, presumably from Campbell who returns praises of Moseley, says his wife divorced him two years ago and that

the British Secret Service was "smearing" people so that he then "dropped all contacts with the crowd with which we have been working in the past."

3474 Letter says Deatherage was reported to Campbell as an agent of Fritz Kuhn, which Deatherage denies that he is.

Deatherage says that at his meeting with Kuhn, they discussed the "international communism" and when asked if Kuhn was sympathetic, says:

"Well, I think probably the mere fact that he met me and discussed it shows that he was more or less sympathetic with every anti-Communist move. You have a liaison, you see, international liaison, anti-Communist, which is exactly similar to the international liaison in the League of Nations--associations, and you have affiliates all through the United States who are connected with the International League of Nations at Geneva. Of course, we have the same thing."

There is no directing head, he says. Has been in contact with the "international officers" in this liaison in Italy, of the C.U.R., named Colsechi.

3474- Has also been in contact with one in Germany, the Erfurt--not named, but pre-
3475 sumably World Service.

Mr. Whitley. That is the headquarters for the German Minister of Propaganda, that is from that headquarters that they send out material and maintain contacts?

Mr. Deatherage. It is an international anti-Communist association which holds a yearly congress with delegates from every state.

Mr. Whitley. Do you receive any literature?

Mr. Deatherage. Yes, sir.

Mr. Whitley. Now, your organization and Pelley's organization, and these other organizations you have described all are loosely affiliated with these international movements; is that right?

Mr. Deatherage. I wouldn't say affiliated, because there is no such thing.

The Chairman. I don't mean in any precise terms but I mean there is a contact, a liaison, between them?

Mr. Deatherage. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. You exchange literature with them?

Mr. Deatherage. Yes, sir.

The Chairman. You sent them some of your literature?

Mr. Deatherage. Let me give you a concrete example:

You have got a fellow who committed suicide yesterday, Ernst Toller. He is a Communist member of the Reichstag. He was over living with Louis B. Mayer, in Hollywood, and setting up the policy for left-wing movies. Toller was the man that signed the execution order for the women and children in Munich, and he also headed up the Third Internationale.

The Chairman. You don't know; this is just reports and rumors?

Mr. Deatherage. I have photostats of the order, with his own handwriting in which he signed them, and photographs of his own house, and I have all the details and documentary evidence.

Mr. Voorhis. What does he have to do with your movement?

Mr. Deatherage. He has this to do. Naturally, we are antagonistic to what we call Communist or left-wing movies that come out of Hollywood. We are naturally interested in a man who was directing them, directing their policy. Here was an alien that came over to the United States, he escaped from a concentration camp in Germany, and takes up a very active part in left-wing operations.

The Chairman. Now, wait a minute. That is not responsive to any questions. We are getting--

Mr. Deatherage (interposing). I am citing an example of my liaison.

The Chairman. We are not interested in that.

Mr. Voorhis. I think we should let him finish.

Mr. Healey. If he wants to demonstrate how his liaison works out, I think we should hear it.

The Chairman. The Catholics, for instance, have got a program of social decency, and they censor, as everybody knows, the attendance at movies. Now, in the same way they have started a program through all the Catholic churches to, more or less, if I can use the word, censor--I don't know that that is the word--but to discourage Communist movies or things which encourage communism.

3475 When asked by Voorhis what this has to do with suicide, Deatherage says that, in his opinion, it is the first of a wave of suicides similar to those that followed the Sudetenland occupation and "one more defacing of the Catholic churches in New York will mean 750,000 Irishmen going on a rampage".

(Note: No questions are asked. The international liaison connected with Germany and Italy is not followed, either by further questions or subsequent action, although Deatherage volunteered the information that he had such connections; nor is there any follow-up of the additional information that he volunteered that "we are antagonistic to what we call Communist or left-wing movies coming out of Hollywood" although obviously active opposition to any such movies would at least be based upon information received from foreign sources. These two things, it would seem, are most germane; yet it should be noted that Dies, at the bottom of p. 3475, says, "We are not interested in that," referring to the movie stuff.)

(For other attacks on movies and the movie magnates, see testimony of Henry D. Allen.)

3476 Dies says, "Let's finish this letter in an orderly way."

In the letter a paragraph which is here read says that "postulate Jewry is responsible for communism" and hence for Naziism and fascism and no questions are asked.

Then the letter recommends the setting up of a "military court in charge of the United States Federal Government and each State government", what Deather-

age describes as a "military action", to "clean house".

3477 Deatherage says that while he doesn't entirely agree such a course "would obviate the necessity or the possibility of what has happened in Spain, because we have an exactly similar situation." Whitley asks if Deatherage thinks "that to the extent of making it a temporary proposition, that it might be a good solution?" and Deatherage replies that, "in spite of what 10,000 Dies committees can do, you are going to have civil disorder." This, he says, is not a fascist plan.

(Note: Deatherage has his own plan--see testimony of Henry D. Allen--about which he is not questioned.)

3478 In the letter Campbell says that Deatherage had G-2 experience, but he is not asked about it.

Deatherage first saw Campbell's reports when showed a sheaf of them by General Moseley.

3479 Says that if he could get proof of Campbell's stuff, he would have had "enough dynamite there that I can go to Washington, and we will tear every brick down up around Connecticut Avenue, but I want to know."

Mr. Whitley. Your idea was to turn those reports into the official channels, whether it could be used officially?

Mr. Deatherage. Well, no.

Mr. Whitley. I mean if they were true and you could prove they were true?

Mr. Deatherage. The reason we never turn anything over to official channels is because, as Mr. Dies, himself, put in the press---

The Chairman. Wait a moment---

Mr. Deatherage (continuing). No agency--well, pardon me; I say that there was no agency in the United States, Mrs. Perkins or the Department

of Justice, who would cooperate, and why should they cooperate with me? That is the reason that all people who have information keep away from that.

The Chairman. Well, it is nearly 5 o'clock.

Mr. Whitley. ~~Well~~ I would like to finish this letter.

The Chairman. Go ahead.

Whitley continues with letter which refers to Ahern and Spencer. Deatherage is not asked to identify Spencer.

3480 Campbell asked Deatherage if "Hull's" wife is part or full-blooded Semite; about Landon's and William Allen White's Semitic connections.

Deatherage says he thinks he gave Campbell this information, but he isn't asked what information he gave. Then Dies adjourns the hearing.

(Note: During this brief testimony, there are at least three references to the identity of communism and Judaism and at least six other slurs on Jews.)