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Detroit Civil Rights Group Is Threatened

Letter Written on Army and Navy Club Stationery Assailed

DETROIT, Mich., July 12.—The following threatening letter, written on the letterhead of the Army and Navy Club of this city, was sent to the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights, which has been active in pressing for a thorough-going exposure of the Black Legion. The letter follows:

"Whereas,
"Some seditious persons have seen fit to call a meeting to protest against the patriotic acts of the so-called Black Legion,

"Be it known that a State of Civil War exists in this city, county and state, which will continue to exist till the alien and subversive elements are EXTERMINATED or until the last patriot is dead.

"P. S. The B. L. is only the little finger of the fist raised against you."

Several national organizations, among them the American League Against War and Fascism, have asked the Federal Government to step in and investigate the Black Legion. Among these is the International Labor Defense, which has sent an 18 page memorandum to all presidential candidates, listing those statutes, any one of which may be the basis for such an investigation, and instances of violations.

The I. L. D. also points out that local officials are in many cases involved with the Black Legion or associated bodies and therefore incompetent to prosecute the investigation.

The federal charges on the basis of which the United States Department of Justice can act are the prohibition of night-riding in the civil rights law, kidnaping persons in interstate and foreign commerce, threatening communications in interstate commerce, moving in interstate or foreign commerce to avoid prosecution for a felony or giving testimony, interference with Federal Relief Administration and fraudulently obtaining Federal aid given to rifle clubs.