

The Klan Plans to Ride Again--Detroit Center Of Hooded Fascists in \$1,000,000 Revival Drive

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Detroit, the nation's auto center and the home of one of the most militant and progressive of labor unions, the United Auto Workers. CIO, is today the experimental ground for a million-dollar revival of the Ku Klux Klan, according to "The Hour," confidential weekly bulletin published here.

Concurrently with the KKK drive, reports "The Hour," a vigilante organization calling itself the Detroit Council for Industrial peace, is conducting a drive with heavy subsidies from some of the city's biggest industrialists.

Both organizations are cooperating, "The Hour" says, in supervising and coordinating the work of numerous other pro-fascist and anti-Semitic movements growing up in the city.

KLANS PLANS REVIVAL

"At its Atlanta, Ga., convention in June," writes "The Hour," "the Klan decided to raise \$1,000,000,000 for an 'Americanization Campaign.' Michigan, once a center for KKK activity, was selected as the testing ground for the program and Detroit is now witnessing the fruits of this decision."

An intense KKK recruiting drive in the auto plants is meeting with considerable success, the report states, pointing out that numerous workers fresh from the South have been employed in recent months.

"The Kluxers have made great headway at the Ford Motor Co., the Briggs Body Co., the Dodge Motor Co., the Motor Products plant, the Packard Motor Co. and the Hudson Motor Co.," according to "The Hour."

NEW VIGILANTE PERIL

"Five hundred new members were recruited at a night meeting held less than two weeks ago. Kluxers are telling prospects that membership in the Klan will insure 'quick promotion' in the plants where they work. As an inducement for ex-Klan members to return to the fold, the reinstatement fee has been reduced from \$1 to 50 cents. In several plants, special strong-arm squads of Kluxers have been organized. The Detroit Klan headquarters at 89 E. Forest St. are humming with activity."

More "respectable" but no less deadly is the Council for Industrial

Peace, which describes its sponsors as a "small group of manufacturers, merchants and businessmen—all substantial citizens."

The Detroit Newspaper Guild has branded the organization as "the newest thing in Vigilantes," while an officer of the United Auto Workers has described the sponsors as "professional strike-breakers, open shoppers and Red-baiters."

Guiding spirit of the organization is identified by this spokesman as Pierce Wright, "who for 20 years tried to smash the Building Trades Council of Detroit. The sponsoring committee includes most of the city's outstanding labor haters."

The Council, however, is making little headway in its anti-union campaign. Recently it engaged an auditorium with a seating capacity of 20,000, distributed 60,000 free tickets for a rally, and attracted an audience of only 1,000 potential vigilantes.

CORPORATION SPONSORS

According to "The Hour," the Council has been the recipient of \$75,000 within the past month as donations from "some of the largest corporations in Michigan."

Another smaller group now coming to life is the so-called National Workers' League, organized some three years ago from the remnants of the notorious Black Legion by one Parker Sage, described as "a professional labor spy."

The League specializes in anti-Semitic activity, and is violently pro-Nazi. A recent declaration issued by the League calls for "unstinted support from all peoples professing any belief in religion for Hitler's war against the Soviet Union."

"The Fifth Columnists in Detroit," charges "The Hour," "receive ideological guidance from several prominent fascists who have established headquarters in the auto city. Chief among these are Father Charles E. Coughlin; Gerald L. K. Smith, former Silver Shirt leader; and Reverend Norris, rabble-rouser and evangelist who was once tried on charges of murdering a man by shooting him in the back. . . ."

"Under the skillful tutelage of these and other Quislings, the Storm Troop bands in Detroit are forging ahead."