

Pittsburgh Grand Jury Probe Indicts Five Ku Klux Leaders

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PITTSBURGH, Nov. 29.—Denouncing the Ku Klux Klan as prejudicial to "national unity" and "un-American in principle" a special Grand Jury here today indicted five Klan leaders who have been attempting to reestablish the organization in Western Pennsylvania.

At the same time, the Grand Jury, specially summoned for the purpose by Judge Henry Ellenbogen, continued its investigations into the activities and purpose of the Mantle Club, whose leaders have been described by Judge Ellenbogen as "masquerading as super-patriots."

Efforts to revive the Klan in this city a month ago in the name of the Keystone Patriotic Society lead to today's indictments. Choice of the society's name was cited by the Grand Jury to show that "deceit and subterfuge were freely employed" by Klan leaders "to conceal the true nature and significance of their operations."

Declaring that the Klan was "un-American in principle and tending, through its propaganda and doctrines of hate and racial and religious prejudice, to retard the movement for national unity so vital to our country at this critical time," the Grand Jury's presentment warned that "dissension, breach of the peace and public disturbance" would follow successful organization of the Klan.

The five Klansmen indicted were Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott, a veterinarian, James Waite, a "men's doctor" who left Pittsburgh shortly after activities of the Keystone Patriotic Society became known, Walter Klinzing, also of Pittsburgh and Samuel G. Stauch and Frank Fite, both of Philadelphia.

They were indicted on charges of illegal solicitation of funds and common law conspiracy. Testimony at the grand jury probe revealed that persons present at a meeting of the Klan were told to contribute "not less than \$5 or to furnish good and sufficient reason why they would be unable to do so." They were informed by Imperial Wizard Colescott that the money was part of a million dollar fund "for the purpose of furthering the work of the Klan under the guise of patriotic and benevolent objectives."

Connection between the Klan and the America First Committee here, while not brought out at the grand jury, was seen in the fact that men present at the Klan meetings were said to have participated in an America First torchlight parade held at the same time.

The Mantle Club, also under investigation, is a national organization with chapters in many cities. The Pittsburgh chapter, said to

have 500 members, of which only 80 are "full members" entitled to wear a special regalia of gold braided overalls, was founded in 1936.

L. G. Brogan and F. P. Myers, two leaders of the Mantle Club, were jailed over the present holi-

days (Pennsylvania, is one of the states following the later Thanksgiving) when they refused to answer questions at the grand jury hearing. They were charged with contempt. Brogan, a field representative of the Mantle Club, was released on \$10,000 bail.