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KANSAS SEES BIGOTRY BEATEN

Defeat of Winrod Laid to the Publicity Given His Supposed Nazi Leanings

By W. G. CLUGSTON

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 5.—Out of a total Republican vote of about a quarter of a million in last Tuesday's primaries, Dr. Gerald B. Winrod, free-lance Wichita minister who had been termed the "Kansas Nazi," received only a little more than 50,000 and finished a poor third in the race for nomination for United States Senator.

Both newspaper and political observers here see important local and national significance in the poor showing made by Dr. Winrod. They assert that it not only demonstrates that the people of Kansas are too wedded to tolerance and the ideals of democracy to follow a leader accused of being a purveyor of so many intolerances, but also that it demonstrates that the people of the Middle West are not willing to vote for any one suspected of having a leaning toward Fascism and Nazism.

Dr. Winrod's decisive defeat is generally attributed to the thorough way in which the electorate was informed of his past record and associations. Much influence was exercised by John D. M. Hamilton, Kansas National Committeeman and chairman of the Republican National Committee, who denounced Dr. Winrod's record as intolerant and appealed to the Kansas Republican voters to repudiate him.

Powerful Groups Joined

But, joining with Mr. Hamilton in appeals to save Kansas from being known as a stronghold of intolerance, were many other powerful influences. Leading newspapers generally exposed the Winrod record.

William Allen White took the field to fight him. The Kansas City Journal-Post was the first newspaper to call upon the people to repudiate him; but the Kansas City Star, the Wichita Beacon, the

Topeka State Journal and other papers all joined in the campaign against the Wichita minister and to tell the people his nomination would injure the State and the Republican party.

W. D. Jochems of Wichita, a former justice of the State Supreme Court and a high ranking Knight of Columbus, used the radio to appeal for a Winrod repudiation. Nine ministers representing the largest Protestant denominations in the State published a pamphlet which contained photographic copies of utterances in the Winrod publications on nazism and fascism. The pamphlet was designed to show that he was intolerant toward Catholics, Jews, Negroes, and the Federal Council of Churches, and that he was unsympathetic toward organized labor.

Ministers in Fight

These nine ministers were: the Rev. J. C. Cleveland, First Congregational Church of Kansas City; Dr. Harold Case, First Methodist Church of Topeka; Dean John Warren Day of Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka; Lester M. Ellis, secretary of the Wichita Y. M. C. A.; the Rev. E. W. Freeman of Trinity Methodist Church, Wichita; the Rev. O. R. Powell of the Baptist Church, Garden City; the Rev. Ben Harry Smith of the Episcopal Church of Atchison; the Rev. Gerald Weary of First Unitarian Church, Wichita; the Rev. A. P. Wikgren of Ottawa University, Ottawa. The Rev. M. L. Birkhead of Kansas City, Missouri Unitarian minister and a former Kansas citizen, also supplied what were termed records of Dr. Winrod's sponsored utterances.

In all of Kansas's peculiar political performances there is no evidence to be found of majority support for the kind of intolerances charged to Dr. Winrod, and those who knew the Kansas temperament

best never had much fear that he would ever be elected to represent this State in the Senate. But many were afraid that in a four-candidate race his attacks on the New Deal and on "that man in the White House," as he termed President Roosevelt, might gather to him a minority group sufficient to give him the Republican nomination.

Old Klan Centers

Detailed study of the primary returns shows that the only counties Dr. Winrod carried—only six out of the State's 105—were centers of Ku Klux Klan activities when the Klan made an unsuccessful effort to gain dominance in this State.

Kansans generally seem to feel that the decisive Winrod defeat proclaims to the world that there is no place in Kansas public life for preachers of intolerance or purveyors of hatred toward minorities. As William Allen White said, Kansas willingly tolerates Dr. Winrod's holding and expressing any views and beliefs which appeal to him, but his views and beliefs are not the views and beliefs of Kansas, as the primary election returns demonstrated.