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3 Ku Klux Klan Members Fired From Police Force

Three Chicago policemen were dismissed from the force Friday as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The three are Donald R. Heath, 30, of the Fillmore District, and William Plogger, 44, and Ernest R. Semet, 22, both of the Shakespeare District.

A five-man police board found them guilty of charges of misconduct including disobedience of police department regulations. All pleaded not guilty.

The three were exposed as

Klan members two months ago, when Policeman James Tobin infiltrated the Klan to gather evidence. All were said to be top officers in the secret society.

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3 KLANSMEN ARE FIRED FROM POLICE FORCE

Three members of the Chicago police department were fired yesterday for being members of the Ku Klux Klan, Franklin Kreml, president of the police board, announced.

They are Patrolman Donald Heath, 30, of 2055 N. Lawndale av.; William Plogger, 43, of 2340 N. Lawndale av., and Ernest R. Semet, 32, of 3323 N. Oriole av.

Heath had been assigned to the Fillmore district and Plogger and Semet to the Shakespeare district.

Superintendent Explains

Police Supt. James B. Conlisk said that membership in the klan was contrary to the policies of the police department.

Heath, head of the klan in Illinois and a surrounding six-state area, was identified as head of a six-man klan cell in the police department. A raid by police on his home on Dec. 28 uncovered a cache of guns, hand grenades, and 209,000 rounds of ammunition, along with klan flags and literature.

Plogger, who had been on the force since 1954, was identified as vice president of the klan in Illinois.

3 Others Resign

Three other members of the force who were identified as klan members by Conlisk subsequently resigned.

They are Patrolmen Richard Stanton, 33, of 3350 62d pl., and Jon T. Johansson, 26, of 329 N. Latrobe av., both assigned to the Fillmore district, and Dennis Aloia, 25, of 4210 Concord av., Austin district.