

EPost 5-11-75
**'FORTUNATELY FOR AMERICA'
KKK EXPOSED BY PRESS**

To The Editor, Sir:

As a member of the usually silent majority, I want to thank Neil Sandler and the Post for the illuminating story on Ku Klux Klan activities in the area. I have not read about anything so absurd since what's - his - name attempted to fly a motorcycle across the Grand Canyon.

What is it that persuades some grown men and women to jump out of comfortable and warm beds to dash off in their nightgowns to a KKK rally in a wet field on a chilly April evening? The only explanation that makes sense is that they have become convinced that there is some kind of bogeyman hiding under their beds! When I was a child I fancied similar goblins myself but by the time I had reached the age of twelve I learned to turn on the light and peek. I have slept much better ever since.

Prospective members of the Ku Klux Klan are apparently not so bold. Instead, they seem to be encouraged to come to the rallies where the Grand Dragons sell them souvenirs and tell them who is hiding under the bed.

According to the Grand Dragon of Ohio who, along with everyone else, is going to run for President of the United States in 1976, the ones hiding under the beds of those who attended the recent rally near Gamber, Maryland, are Socialists, Blacks, Jews and Communists. How all of those people could get under the few beds in and around Gamber, Maryland, boggles the imagination.

Worst of all, Gamber simply does not appear to me to be the right place for

anyone to go if they are serious about taking over the United States. Washington and Fort Knox I might believe. I am suspicious enough, in fact, to want to watch for something sneaky to happen in Peoria, Illinois. But Gamber, Maryland?

This business is so confusing that one is almost tempted to believe that the real enemy is not under the bed at all but under those silly nightgowns.

My suspicion along this line has been heightened by examination of the clinical study conducted a few years ago by Theodore W. Adorno and his associates into authoritarian personalities. They discovered that people who join right-wing extremist organizations have authoritarian personalities and are not conservatives at all, but "pseudo-conservatives."

According to Adorno, the pseudo-conservative shows "conventionality and authoritative submissiveness" in his conscious thinking and "violence, anarchic impulses, and chaotic destructiveness in the unconscious sphere . . ." "In short, the pseudo-conservative is a person who, "in the name of upholding traditional American values and institutions and defending them against more or less fictitious dangers, consciously or unconsciously aims at their destruction." Such people have little in common with the temperate and compromising spirit of true conservatism. Arnold S. Rice's study, "The Ku Klux Klan in American Politics" (Public Affairs Press, 1962) underscores the degree to which this diagnosis applies to the mentality and

operations of the Klan.

Fortunately for America, the moral bankruptcy of the Ku Klux Klan has been exposed time and again by an alert press and courageous politicians who refused to pander to ignorance, prejudice and bigotry. Moreover, the American people have tended to resist the siren song of those on both the left and right who provided easy answers to complex social problems.

And finally, every social crisis, including our present one, seems to send us back to refurbish those magnificent and enduring principles that gave birth to this nation. None of these are more vital than those words in the Declaration of Independence which declare that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

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