

Little Klan Influence Seen Here; No Early Investigation Expected

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

There is no indication that the Ku Klux Klan has influence or numerical strength in the New York area.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities has reported that the United Klans, largest of the Klan groups, recently set up some organizational headquarters in the Northeast, but that it had made scant headway there.

The Northern states that the Klan has been trying to infiltrate are Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, Delaware and New York. Daniel Burros, who died of gunshot wounds yesterday, was appointed Grand Dragon for New York State by Robert M. Shelton Jr., Imperial Wizard of the United Klans. Burros was disclosed Saturday to have been of Jewish origin.

Welfare Worker Suspended

The House committee, which has been holding public hearings in Washington on Klan activities, has thus far examined only the organization's doings in the South.

"It will be some time before we reach New York or other areas of little activity," Representative Edwin E. Willis, Democrat of Louisiana, the committee chairman, said on the telephone last night.

Last week the Welfare Department here suspended a case worker, Frank W. Rotella Fr., after it was informed that he was the Klan's Grand Dragon for New Jersey. Rotella, a Roman Catholic, is to have

a departmental hearing on the charge.

The House committee has already established that the revitalized hooded order has been growing again in the South and that it has between 10,000 and 20,000 known members. It is said to have 381 klaverns, or local units, between eastern Texas and the Virginia tidelands, 260 of them belonging to the United Klans.

In the nineteen-twenties the Klan's membership nationally was estimated at three million, many of them in the North and Middle West.

Crosses were burned at night in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York and the Klan held meetings openly and carried on propaganda against Negroes, Catholics and Jews. It also inveighed against bootleggers and adulterers.

On Long Island the Klan was strong enough to make its influence felt in Congressional and local elections. About 6,000 persons marched in a Klan parade in Freeport in 1924, and 3,000 attended a Klan gathering in 1926 at the Mineola Fair Grounds. About 8,000 watched crosses burn in Wantagh in 1929.

The Klan was especially strong in New Jersey, where it had local units in every county. A good part of that state is located below the Mason-Dixon line.

It was not until 1930 that the Klan disappeared as a political force in the New York and New Jersey area.