U.S. Press Asks Black To Resign

Senators Who Would Have Reversed Vote On Issue Listed

WASHINGTON — A number of [illegible] Senators have [illegible] would not have [illegible] to confirm but to reject Hugo [illegible] Supreme Court if they had had [illegible] that he was a member [illegible] Klan.

[illegible] are Senators [illegible] Radcliffe of Maryland, [illegible] Van Nuys of Indiana, [illegible] Brown of Michigan, A. [illegible] of New Jersey, Wil[illegible] of California, Ben[illegible] Clark of Missouri, [illegible] of New York and [illegible] L. Herring of Iowa.

[illegible] by President Roose[illegible] of an impartial [illegible] to investigate the charges of [illegible] by Senator Burton K. [illegible] of Montana, who withheld [illegible] Black's nomina[illegible] the Senate [illegible]

Ku Klux Klan [illegible]

Line of Press

[illegible] the Post-Gazette's [illegible] Black. The New York [illegible]

[illegible]

Bridegrooms Pay If Friends Throw Rice at Weddings

LONDON — Bridegrooms have to deposit $2 before they take their brides to the altar at St. Augustine's, Leeds.

It is an idea of the pastor, the Rev. Patrick Leonard, who has been bothered by the traditional confetti and rice.

If the church and the grounds are tidy after the well-wishers have departed the bridegroom gets his money back.

Otherwise it goes to the cleaners.

[illegible] then the President should insist that he step down."

The Washington Post speaks of "the elevation of a Klan intimate to the Supreme Court" as "humiliating and degrading" and as a "shameful episode in American history."

The San Francisco Chronicle says: "If Justice Black has any answer to these charges he should make it immediately and for once he should make it frankly, telling the whole truth. If not, he should relieve the President from embarrassment, the court from disgrace, the nation from calamity and himself from the scorn of men by resigning his office."

The Des Moines Register says if it is really established that Justice Black "had or has relations with the Klan" then "Hugo Black ought never to take his seat on the Supreme Court of the United States." The Detroit Free Press declares that "the Ku Klux Klan is not [illegible] member of the Supreme Court can belong and still perform faithfully his duties on the bench."

[illegible]

"Unless Justice Black denies the allegation, which is at present [illegible] President Roosevelt with a duty he [illegible] the Detroit News says.

Declaring that "it was perfectly [illegible] that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan, a racial and religious organization of utter bigotry and intolerance," the New York Journal-American asserts "there was no excuse of public benefit in his appointment by the President or his ratification by the Senate."

Expressing the feeling that "it is unthinkable that a man who had [illegible] in that organization [illegible] on the bench of the United States Supreme Court," the St. [illegible] is apparently assumed by many that nothing can be done about it — but surely this isn't true. The President can and in all conscience should, demand his immediate resignation."

[illegible]

Stating that "the allegations certainly call for complete and convincing explanations," the Buffalo Courier-Express declares that "to put it mildly, it is unpleasant to feel that the same sort of violent intolerance characteristic of the Klan may now find expression from the high court of the United States." The Cleveland Plain Dealer says "it is difficult to believe otherwise than that Justice Black has lost any chance he may have had before of making himself a confidence-inspiring judicial figure."

"It is plain to the public," says the Los Angeles Times, "that a supporter of this night-riding, terroristic organization has no place on the nation's highest tribunal."

The Catholic Press On Black and Klan

(Here are the editorial views of a cross-section of the Catholic Press on the revelation that Justice Hugo L. Black of the United States Supreme Court is life member of the Ku Klux Klan.)

Justice Black Should Resign

On August 21, almost a month ago, THE TABLET printed an editorial condemning the seemingly scandalous appointment of the then Senator Black to the United States Supreme Court and the shameless manner in which the nomination was railroaded through the Senate. The editorial closed as follows:

Whatever the future holds with respect to Senator Black and the possibilities of his future judicial attitude, there is a certain grim satisfaction in the knowledge that political cleverness and political expediency have a habit of proving a boomerang. Being in the security of his present political strategy, President Roosevelt may well consider that his campaign against the independence of the Supreme Court may yet unloose forces that will return to plague him. Chickens have a habit of coming home to roost!

Besides THE TABLET there were not six papers in the country which would expose or condemn the placing on the august tribunal which protects our liberties of a reputed Klansman, the foe of the liberties of Catholics, Protestants and Jews. As a matter of fact, the "liberal" press saluted the appointment because "Senator Black has a progressive record; he was going to liberalize the Court;" he was going "to shew up the five old men." Now, however, the "liberal" press has changed its tune. The fact that the then Senator was not fit by training, ability or experience for the Bench did not matter while he was to "liberalize" the Court. But since the new Justice has been lied up with organized hoodlums of the Klan stripe, and refuses to utter a denial, even the "liberal" press amidst confusion beats a retreat.

The appointment and confirmation is so surrounded with seeming treachery that it is unnecessary to dwell further on what is one of the saddest pictures in American history. Justice Black should resign and at once. He apparently was selected and elevated by a subterfuge which hoaxed the dignity of the transaction as shocking as his affiliations.

He should resign for the sake of President Roosevelt and the Senate which, trustfully, blocked all investigation, notwithstanding the evidence of the then Senator's affiliation with the Klan was, if not known, at least widely suspected. An applicant for a Letter Carrier's job would be investigated more thoroughly than was Justice Black.

He should resign for the sake of the high esteem in which most Americans hold the Supreme Court and the Constitution which it interprets.

He should resign for the sake of himself, for his usefulness in the Court which he was to "reform" will be nil. He will be visualized always in a white instead of a black gown, and his presence will be feared as a force for nullifying the rights of freedom instead of preserving them.

And he should resign for the sake of the American people who are dedicated to liberty, equality and justice—all of which are contrary to what the Klan upholds. The appointment, as thousands said when it was first announced, was a disgrace; the hasty confirmation without investigation was infamous; the acceptance of the seat was brazen and the keeping of it is a challenge to every lover of liberty.

—*THE BROOKLYN TABLET*

The Smirch of the Klan

After Senator Hugo L. Black, of Alabama, had been appointed by President Roosevelt Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court and the nomination had been confirmed by the Senate it was remarked in these columns that by no means had a highly controversial case been disposed of. In the light of happenings of the past week it is worth while recalling what we wrote on that occasion:

"It was brought out in the Senate discussion of his appointment that Mr. Black, when he was first a candidate for the Senate from Alabama, accepted, and even courted, Ku Klux Klan support. The point has been made that anyone whose mental processes were in harmony with Kluxer policy could not be a desirable adjunct to the Supreme Court, for he could not be fair to those the odorous society of morons discriminated against—Catholics, Jews, Negroes and foreign born.

"It has been said in Mr. Black's behalf that as a United States Senator he espoused many causes totally at variance with Klan philosophy. That may all be true and creditable to the new Associate Justice's record. But the smirch of the Klan will be upon him unless he completely dissociates himself from the principles that made the order a disgrace to American life. It would seem that the fair and square American people are entitled to a statement from Mr. Black himself on this point."

Justice Black never uttered a word, and now when an enterprising newspaper service reveals to the world from Ku Klux Klan archives, that our new Associate Justice of the Supreme Court was a full-fledged Kluxer he is put in a highly embarrassing position. There is evidence that he gave many of his Senatorial colleagues who voted to approve his nomination assurance that he never was a member of the white-sheeted body. That was downright deception—a smart trick, it is usually called. But when the deceiver is found out, as is usually the case, the confusion is all the greater. In this instance many Senators and others have not hesitated to remark that this lack of honesty marks Justice Black as unfit to sit in our highest tribunal.

It is said in his behalf that in joining the Klan he was only doing what almost every politician in the South was doing. There was no hope for public office otherwise. Maybe so. But now is the time to be straightforward and tell the truth by confessing such an action and disclaiming affiliation today either in thought or action with such an un-American outfit. Justice Black had his chance to make such a manly confession, but he missed it. Had he confided in the American people they would have respected him as a sincere man, ready and eager to make amends for a folly of the past. But he preferred to keep silent and let his brother Senators assume he was an upright American. Not many of them do not hesitate to say that had they known what the newspaper stories reveal they would have voted against his confirmation. Some of them go so far as to hint that President Roosevelt, in view of the smirch brought upon the Supreme Court by the naming of such an individual, ought to feel it his duty to ask Justice Black to resign. Perhaps that is as good a solution as any.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS
New York.

One Enough

Judge Hugo Black was, and is, a Klanster all right. Five of the ten Catholic Senators, nevertheless, voted to make him a member of the Supreme Bench. Not one of the ten Catholic Senators voted against him. Ten in all five for him, and five on the fence. Something worth knowing, but nothing to get excited about.

The Supreme Bench is almost universally ceded a supreme place in our Administration. We all want to look upon it as the guardian of our liberties and our rights. Klannish jurists are not quite ready to admit that the United States Catholics are entitled to liberty and to rights. We should be grateful to be let live. Taney and White were not only allowed to live, but each of them was, for a time, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Their characters and achievements were something for the Kluxer judge to explain away. Catholics as they were they were possibly as much entitled to the citizenship of the United States and its advantages as is the new Justice of the Supreme Court.

So far as we know, Judge Black is the only Kluxer that was ever chosen a member of the Supreme Court. So long as the Kluxers remain in minority in that honorable body, we Catholics may count on the preservation of our legal status. Moreover, it is quite possible that association with his fellow members in the Ku Klux Klan was and is his weakest title to the confidence and reverence of the citizens of the United States of America. A "Kluxer"! One of them is enough for the Supreme Bench none of them for President of the United States!

THE CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT
Hartford, Conn

"Brilliant" Quotations

The revelations which have been published concerning Mr Justice Black's Klan membership have drawn forth some "brilliant" comments from defenders of the appointment.

Take the genius-like Attorney-General of the United States who denounced the men who were courageous enough to stand by the Constitution of the United States. Instead of arguments in defense of President Roosevelt's program, the Attorney-General of the United States defamed all those who took issue with the President. Here is what Attorney General Cummings has to say of the revelations.

"The suitability of Mr Black to sit on the Supreme Court is beyond question. His record of public service and his election on two occasions to be a member of the Senate answer the question, as to his qualification."

What a master of logic, how brilliantly legal and non-partisan and thoroughly American is the Attorney-General of the United States! According to his "logic" former Senator Tom Heflin, the avowed anti-Catholic crusader, is worthy of an appointment to the Supreme Court. By the same token, Senator Oscar W Underwood, who refused to run for re-election as Senator from Alabama because he would not countenance the Klan because he denounced the Klan as un-American, was not fit to be a member of the Supreme Court. No wonder Senator Carter Glass said that "what this country needs most is a new Attorney-General of the United States."

Here are some brilliant comments on the part of those who see no reason for a furore over the recent revelations concerning Senator Black:

Senator Melvin M. Logan of Kentucky ardent supporter of President Roosevelt's Supreme Court program.

"The whole story is that the attack on Justice Black is purely political and probably without foundation. The charge is being made for the purpose of attracting New York votes. While I am quite sure Justice Black is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan, what would we do if he were? I have never heard of any justice being required to resign because of affiliation with any organization he may have chanced to join."

Dr Hiram W Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in referring to statements made by Senators David I Walsh and Royal Copeland in condemnation of Mr. Justice Black's Klan affiliations

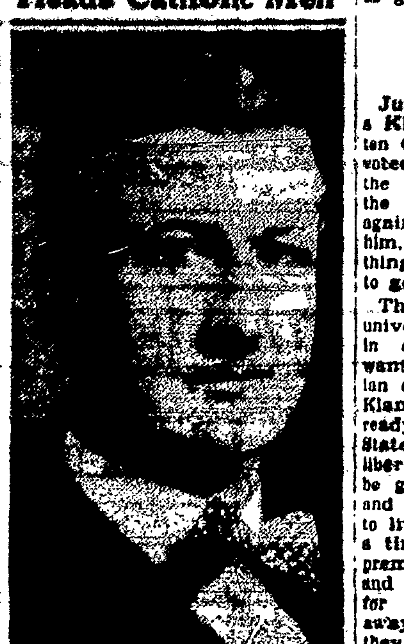
"Their attitude is a case of cold-blooded bigotry in an effort to bring up a long-dead controversial subject and make it a hot political issue."

We are to judge from the Imperial Wizard's statement that the Ku Klux Klan was not in politics, hated bigotry and was the champion of Catholics, Jews, Negroes and all other Americans.

THE CATHOLIC REVIEW
Baltimore, Md

(Continued on Page 6)

Heads Catholic Men



Louis Kenedy, of New York City, who was elected president of the National Council of Catholic Men at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors just held at Rome City, Ind. He succeeds Dr. Thomas E. Purcell, of St. Louis, president since 1932.

Black Pledged Support to Klan, Says Writer

(Continued from Page 1)

on the march, preaching its creed of racial hatred and religious bigotry but this time with a brand new slogan.

"A Klansman sits on the Supreme Court of the United States. Join the Klan."

Hugo L. Black's membership in the Ku Klux Klan is no secret in his home state of Alabama. The leaders of the New Deal were wise men when they steam-rollered the Klansman's confirmation as United States Supreme Court Justice through the Senate in less than a week.

From White to Black

The New Deal had to move fast. It had to gag the handful of protesting Senators who wanted time to look up the Klan record of the first New Deal Supreme Court justice. For what nearly everyone in Alabama already knew, everyone in the United States would know — that when Hugo Lafayette Black took his seat on the Nation's highest tribunal, he wouldn't have to bother to buy himself a black robe. He could save time and money by dyeing his old Klansman's robe.

United States Senator Hugo Lafayette Black was a creation of the Ku Klux Klan. Hugo L. Black's sole contribution to the creation that the Klan built up was a brain and an intelligence much above the average. Everything else the Klan furnished. The Klan took him, a little known but competent Birmingham damage suit lawyer, a former police court judge, a former county prosecuter, and with loving and meticulous care, fashioned him into a United States Senator.

Obstacles Used as Stepping Stones to Greater Glory

It was 1923 before Attorney Hugo L. Black decided that the time had come for him to join the Klan. The hooded order was sweeping the nation, and especially the South, like a crusade. It had triumphantly surmounted every obstacle that its enemies had placed in its path. More, it had used those obstacles as stepping stones to greater glory. A United States Senatorial investigation in 1921 had turned the Klan inside out, revealing its secrets to the world. And every day that the committee sat and denounced the Klan, the Invisible Empire "naturalized" more thousands, eager to don robe and hood and swear bloodoath of brotherhood

So, on an evening in September, 1923, in the Klavern of Robert E. Lee Klan No. 1, Birmingham, Alabama, Hugo Lafayette Black stood before the white-robed brethren of the Klan, his left hand over his heart, his right hand raised to heaven. Crossed swords lay on the Bible on the altar.

Solemnly Hugo Black intoned the long oath of allegiance to the Klan, swearing never to divulge, not even under threat of death the secrets of the Invisible Empire. And at last:

"I swear that I will most zealously and valiantly shield and preserve by any and all justifiable means and methods . . white Supremacy . . .

"All to which I have sworn to by this oath, I will seal with my blood, be thou my witness Almighty God, Amen."

Klansman Hugo Lafayette Black proved an ideal member of the hooded brotherhood. He sought no office or preference in the Klan, was willing to serve where he could. In those early days of his membership many of the Klans in the Birmingham district got to know the shrewd young lawyer who appeared before them from time to time to lecture.

But political history was in the making in Alabama. Senator Oscar W. Underwood, the old warhorse of Southern Democracy, had broken with the Klan and the Klan had sworn to sweep him out of public life.

They take their politics seriously in Alabama and as early as the spring of 1925 candidates for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator at the primaries in midsummer of 1926 were bobbing up here and there.

Klan and Next Senator

Probably there was but one man in the entire state of Alabama who in 1925 would have considered seriously the possibility of Klansman-Attorney Hugo L. Black of Birmingham becoming United States Senator from Alabama in 1926. That one man was Hugo L. Black himself.

Klansman Black saw unerringly in 1925 what Alabama political leaders were not to discern until 1926; that the Ku Klux Klan of Alabama was going to name the next United States Senator from Alabama.

More than a year before the 1926 primaries, in July, 1925, Klansman Hugo Black laid his dream of a seat in the United States Senate before the rulers of the Invisible Empire in Alabama. He assured them that he did not need or want the Klan to finance his campaign. All he wanted was a pledge of Klan support throughout the length and breadth of the state. He sold his dream to the Grand Dragon and his Great Titans.

And right then and there, July 19, 1925, in the state offices of the Ku Klux Klan, for the Realm of Alabama in room 505 First National Bank Building in Birmingham, Klansman Hugo L. Black became United States Senator Hugo L. Black, not to take office, however, until 1927 after the formalities of the Democratic primaries and the general election had been disposed of.

Klansman Hugo L. Black's campaign for United States Senator began before he left Klan headquarters. His first campaign gesture surprisingly enough was to resign as a member of the Klan.

Grade A Political Strategy

That was Grade A political strategy. The Klan had its enemies, that was inevitable and natural. From the beginning the Jewish and Catholic elements among the population had opposed the Klan in self defense. Negro opposition could be discounted. Negroes don't vote in Alabama. Not many of them, in any event. But sentiment against the Klan had developed in other quarters, notably among the women's clubs of the state.

There was no use intensifying that opposition by dressing a Klan candidate up in robe and hood and mask and sending him out to get votes.

So on a sheet of stationery of the Grand Dragon of the Realm of Alabama, Hugo L. Black wrote out his resignation from the Klan in long hand.

"Mr. J. W. Hamilton, K'graph," wrote the futre associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. And even so erudite and learned a Klansman as Hugo L. Black demonstrated that not even he was wholly familiar with the wierd nomenclature of the Klan, for the secretary of a Klan is not a "Kligraph" as future Justice Black wrote it, but a "Kligrapp"

"Dear Sir and Klansman," he continued. "Beg to tender you herewith my resignation as a member of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, effective from this date on—

"Yours I T S. U B.,
"HUGO L. BLACK"

And that cabalistic "Yours I. T S. U. B." was no mere idle gesture of a departing brother. The brother wasn't actually departing.

"Yours In The Sacred Unfailing Bond" is the translation of those hastily scrawled capitals with which Hugo L. Black closed his letter of "resignation" and the future was to prove that the bond was unfailing even if not exactly sacred.

Resignation Never Accepted

That resignation was to lie unnoted and neglected in the files of the Klan. Kligrapp J. W. Hamilton was never to see it—unless he happens to read this chronicle. It never was accepted or even acted upon.

But Candidate for the United States Senate Hugo L. Black, by virtue of that three-line scribble in a dusty desk drawer in the offices of the Alabama Klan was able to square his conscience whenever it might prove politically expedient to deny membership in the order

Resignation or no, in any event, that brief farewell was to become but a worthless scrap of paper on the night of September 2, 1926, when in the great hall of the Invisible Empire in South Twentieth Street in Birmingham, before an audience composed of the Dragons and the Titans and the Cyclops of the entire state of Alabama, under the beaming smile of Imperial Wizard of the Invisible Realm Hiram Wesley Evans, Hugo Lafayette Black, victor in a bitter fight for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator from Alabama (which in that state is equivalent to election) was to be proffered and accept the golden Grand Passport of the Alabama Klan emblematic of his life membership in the hooded legion.

(The second in this series of articles will appear next week.)

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