

TERROR REIGN SEEN IF KLAN IS ALLOWED TO EXIST

"Unless the Ku Klux Klan is destroyed it will in turn destroy the Christian religion and our form of government and substitute therefor a reign of terror and intimidation under which no free man can live," Walter L. Morris declared Monday night at a mass meeting of the Citizens League of Liberty, held in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

"Personally I do not believe in the Mosaic law, I question the infallibility of the Pope, but were I forced to make a choice I would infinitely prefer to be governed by Jews and Catholics than by the membership of the Ku Klux Klan, operating under mask and disguise."

Tom Simmons, chairman of the meeting, announced that every candidate for office in Tarrant County and in the State would be asked as to his affiliations with the Klan. "Those who refuse to give a direct answer that they are not members of the Klan and are opposed to its operation will be opposed by this organization," he said.

"This is not a political organization. We shall not espouse the candidacy of any man, but we shall vigorously oppose the candidacy of every Klansman and every Klan sympathizer."

Says Law Violated.

W. C. Witcher asserted that the test of a 100 per cent American is not his religious affiliation, his religious creed, or his nationality. "The test is whether or not he subscribes to and will uphold the Constitution of the United States and of the several States, and the bill of rights.

"I charge that every meeting of the Klan where violence is plotted is held in violation of the law prohibiting unlawful assemblies," he said. "I charge that when the Klan seeks to persecute men because of their religious beliefs it is violating the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees freedom to every citizen.

"The Spanish Inquisition was started by inflamed minds which sought to force a certain religious creed upon all. All revolutions have started from this cause. If the Ku Klux Klan is allowed to continue it will start such a revolution in this country within five years.

"If the Klan is a religious organization it will destroy the Christian religion, unless it is destroyed itself. If it is a political organization, it will destroy this government, unless it destroys itself. If it is sponsored by any fraternal order, that order is certain to fall unless the Klan is disbanded."

Walter Morris, discussing an alleged campaign utterance by Robert L. Henry in which Henry said he would not be ashamed to march his eternity "carrying the fiery cross in one hand and the American flag in the other," said, "I agree with Mr. Henry, with one difference. I would be willing to march into eternity with the cross and the flag, but I would do it unmasked."

Flood Stops Colquitt.

A telegram was read from former Governor O. R. Colquitt, expressing regret that he was unable to attend. He got as far as Arlington, where a washout stopped him. His telegram said:

"Have been trying for three hours to reach Fort Worth, but washout and high water make it impossible for me to arrive there tonight. Present my best wishes to the mass meeting. Hope it will be a great success and result in much good for our country."

Judge F. O. McKinsey of Weatherford was also prevented from attending by high water.

Discussing the meeting Tuesday, Tom Simmons, chairman, said:

"Our initial meeting was highly gratifying and the large number of people present at the Chamber of Commerce last night under such weather conditions show just how the people of Fort Worth regard the Klan. It was sorely disappointing that neither Governor Colquitt nor Judge McKinsey could be present. Governor Colquitt started from Dallas at 6 p. m. and got as far as Village Creek, where all interurban traffic was tied up on account of a washout on the line.

"We want to thank the good people who were present last night and assure them the fight will be continued on the same high plane it has been pitched. There will be another meeting in the near future and the public will be given an opportunity to see the real inside of the Klan operation, their oath, their ritual, and their initiation. We will keep headquarters open in room 623, Westbrook Hotel, and invite everybody that believes in government by law to call at headquarters and join the league."