



Martin O. Weddington Papers.

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**The United Supreme Council**  
**Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry**  
**Prince Hall Affiliation**  
**Northern Jurisdiction, U. S. A. Inc.**

OFFICE OF  
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**BALUSTRADES**

Deputies & Overseers Conference

May 28, 1994

Cleveland, Ohio

Sovereign Grand Commander, SAMUEL G. BROGDON, JR., 33°

S.G.I.G. Robert N. Davis, 33°, Secretary General, H.E.

S.G.I.C. Martin O. Weddington, 33°, Conference Secretary

Hunter Invocation by Ill. Samuel Hunter, Jr.

Norris The reception of the Supreme Council Officers.

C. Johnson Officers, Deputies, and visitors from the Southern Jurisdiction, it is a pleasure to have you here with us as always. We are pleased and privileged to have you join us.

The Sovereign Grand Commander wishes to say to you, thank you for coming this far to join us, please enjoy our session.

Welcome, welcome, welcome. Please be escorted to your respective stations. Thank you.

... of the Imperial Council. It is a pleasure, Dr. Arthur Shack, to welcome you to this meeting of the Deputies and Overseers of the United Spring Council, Northern Jurisdiction, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry. And with the authority of the Sovereign Grand Commander, Samuel Brogdon, Jr., I extend to you and to your entourage official greetings and welcome. It's a pleasure to have you here and it's a pleasure to welcome you both into this meeting of the Deputies. Thank you so much for gracing us at this time. And good morning, would you join us here and be escorted to the East.

Norris Sovereign Grand Commander Brogdon, Northern Jurisdiction; Sovereign Grand Commander, S.J. Bennett, of the Southern Jurisdiction; and friends here assembled. It is my extreme pleasure to introduce as well as present to others the titular head of the Masonic family of the Buckeye state, Ohio, the Honorable Steven Reece, Sr.

C. Johnson

Good morning, sir. Honorable Grand Master Steven L. Reece, Sr., Most Worshipful Grand Master, the state of Ohio, we are very pleased that you've seen fit to grace us this morning with your presence. And on behalf of our Sovereign Grand Commander and the officers and cabinet, and all the members here assembled of our United Spring Council's Deputy and Overseer Conference, we welcome you here to our annual meeting, and we thank you so much for coming out and being with us. We look forward to having a good and productive session here in your orient, your state, and at this time, on behalf of the Sovereign Grand, we would like to welcome you to the east.

C. Johnson

Brethren, at this time we'll have the roll call of officers--I'm sorry, not officers, roll call by S.G.I.G. Weddington, conference secretary.

Weddington

As I call your name, would you give me your room number? That's for in case of emergency or something that we know where you are located.

R. Watts, Alaska — 928; Asia, H.C. Norris — 938; Bahamas, B.L. Sands — 607; Canada, R.G. Lewis — 854; Colorado, S. Hunter, Jr. — 1239; Connecticut, L.E. Fitch — 978; Delaware, H.C. Norris — 938; Europe, R. Brown; the Far East, Billy Hall — 802; Illinois, C.J. Stewart — 1462; Indiana, R.E. Thomas — 810; Iowa, H. Robert

Wilson — 1052; Kansas, A.J. Georgia — 704; Massachusetts, L.I. Amis — 1130; Michigan, W.A. Jones — 712; Weddington is in 718; Nebraska, Hollingsworth — 808; New Jersey, H.M. Douglas — 580; New York, R.J. Walker — 622; Ohio, O.W. Sumlin — 1082; Oregon, W.J. Odom, Jr. — 1136; Pennsylvania, S.J. Lett — 1228; Rhode Island, W.L. Baptista — 652; Trinidad-Tobago, C.T. Brown — 1019; Washington, J.W. Davis — 640; Wisconsin, W.R. Stark; Europe, A. Morgan — 972; Deputy-at-Large, C. Johnson — 1258.

Did I miss anybody? Thank you.

C. Johnson      Thank you very much conference secretary.

Brethren, at this I might ask the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Oliver W. Sumlin, the deputy of the great state of Ohio, to come forward and give us an official welcome.

Sumlin      To our Illustrious Deputy-at-Large, Cleveland Johnson; to our Sovereign Grand Commander, Samuel Brogdon, Jr.; to our Sovereign Grand Commander, S.J. Bennett; to our Most Worshipful Grand Master, Steven Lee, Sr.; to our Imperial Potentate, Dr. Arthur T. Shack; to our Supreme Council, officers from the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions, Illustrious Deputies and Overseers, good morning.

It is a pleasure for me and an honor as the host deputy to welcome you to the great state of Ohio. We are especially pleased to welcome our beloved Sovereign Grand Commander to the orient he calls home.

We are always happy to have our dynamic and resourceful Grand Master Steven Reece, Sr., in our presence.

I think you should be aware that at the Grand Master's conference meeting in Texas a few weeks ago adopted our Grand Master's community outreach program and that a white paper he presented was made a part of the resolution to be sent to all

Grand Lodges. He was also elected Chairman of the Midwest Grand Master's Conference.

We are all very proud of our Grand Master.

We have been planning for your arrival for sometime, and we are now in the process of initiating our plans. We are unique here in Ohio in that any one of the five consistories could have hosted the United Supreme Council. But we felt that the Sovereign Grand Commander's consistory should have that honor.

Brogdon

Thank you.

Sumlin

In addition, the first consistory in the orient of Ohio was patented here in Cleveland in 1906 and is known as Bezeliel #15. This consistory has the distinction of having had in its membership two Sovereign Grand Commanders of this United Supreme Council, as well as Illustrious serves, who have served this council with dignity and honor.

We hope that you enjoy the hospitality that has been planned and when you have returned to your respective homes, your memories of your visit here will ensure an early return to the warmth and friendship you have experienced here in the Buckeye State.

Again, welcome to Ohio.

[applause]

C. Johnson

Having been officially welcome to the conference by the host deputy, in his quiet and unassuming way, we know that being the deputy for the Sovereign Grand Commander can only be a challenge met by one with great skills. Illustrious Sumlin, thank you so much for the warm welcome.

At this time, it is indeed my pleasure and privilege to bring to greet you again officially the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the state of Ohio, Illustrious Brother and Most Worshipful Grand Master, Steven L. Reece, Sr.

Reece

Thank you very much. Please be seated.

To my dear brother, Brother Cleveland who certainly has his name on everything here and too, our Sovereign Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction, a past Grand Master of Ohio, and one that has been a real supporter and leader and a vision light in Masonry; and to the Sovereign Grand Commander, Southern Jurisdiction, Brother Bennett, who has been a Grand Master of a fantastic jurisdiction and has given great leadership in his jurisdiction and now in the Southern Jurisdiction; to the Imperial Potentate, Dr. Arthur T. Shack of Imperial Council and one that is leading us to higher heights and greater vision; and to the Deputies and Overseers, I would like to say good morning.



Group

Good morning.

Reece

First, I would like to thank God for giving us this opportunity to assemble and to allow all of us to journey here safely and kept the devil from making it. The devil thought he had a victory when he had Jesus Christ crucified on the cross, and had him crucified so everybody could see him, and then made sure that they put him in a tomb and had a huge rock put over that tomb, and when they got through, the devil told all of his friends that he wanted this victory because he had no idea there was an angel going to come from heaven and showed up at his tomb, and that big old rock that they had the devil and all his people sitting around, they moved that rock and Jesus Christ came out to save everybody. Light, you cannot turn the light out.

So we strongly believe that our belief in Jesus Christ as almighty God is so very important to wherever we're going to go. God is performing miracles each and every day.

I'd like to say that we are so proud of Samuel Brogdon. Samuel Brogdon exemplifies what a Mason is about. He has been one that has not refused to walk among the smallest of the brothers; he walked, talked to all of us to give good counsel; and you would think that a Sovereign Grand Commander, as busy as he's been, would not have time to work with Grand Lodge, and he is on the phone and we talk all the time, and has been active in the

activities of the Grand Lodge. And as a past Grand Master, he set a legacy that was down and did things that made sense, and when you have a Sovereign Grand Commander like that, you begin to say, well, that's not just the Sovereign Grand Commander, but that's one of us. You can put your arms around him and walk with him and talk to him. Can we give him a nice round of applause?

[applause]

I would like to make this comment, that we're really living in hard times for African American organizations. We have been caught in what I call a sickness; we have turned on each other, against each other; we've begun to sue each other, I haven't figured that out, sue one another; and we've spent all our time trying to get each other and forget about what we should be doing in the community. There's so many things that are happening in our communities that we ought to be involved in. We cannot isolate ourselves in our community because the membership for our organization is in our community. And the blue house and some symbolic Masonry cannot argue with the consistories because the consistory needs the blue house, and we need you. And it's the same for the blue house as for the consistory. And so the conclusion plays in the hands of what they promoted in slavery to turn against each other, fight each other, and do not accomplish anything.

So in Ohio, we have started a cancer program, just as the white Shriners have the burn institute, we're talking about educating brothers around cancer. We have a cancer mobile that goes around in the community and the brothers are out informing what is the diet, how do you go and be tested, because so many of our brothers have prostate cancer, our women breast cancer. Cancer's taking our community out. But we have been silent collectively on that issue.

Another issue that we're concerned about is adopting a school. We feel we cannot walk away from these schools. Children are in those schools; we should be with them, counseling them, going to games, helping those young brothers and sisters because that is our future. WE cannot walk away from the schools. We have a school adoption program in Ohio.

And then we looked at our banks. Our banks can not take our money any longer and give us just a balance sheet back. We have established a program in Ohio for our members; we have a credit card, every Prince Hall Mason has a credit card, and for every time you take out a credit card x-amount of money goes to our scholarship foundation.

In addition to that, every loan that the bank gives out, every member that is a member of Prince Hall family gets a discount. A brother closed on a house just 3 weeks ago; pulled out his

package that they had put together at the grand lodge, handed it to the bank and got a \$7,000 discount on the closing of his house.

Now the issue is that if we can do these kinds of things if we just put our minds together. If we have the will and work together and not spend all of our resources on foolishness.

So, we've tried to be aggressive. We have a unity day; Sovereign Grand Commander was at the unity day; brought the whole Masonic family together to say, number one, that we're going in the same direction, put away the foolishness, we're going to do something in the community and we're going to be Christians as we do it. And that has made a difference and we feel that this supreme council, under the leadership of Samuel Brogdon, Jr. is on the course that is in the best interests of what we are.

I'd like to announce, I've raised the question at the Grand Master's Council, and I've said at the Grand Master's Council, we are tired of the foolishness; and I said to Howard Woods, who is our (unintelligible), we cannot come to the conference just to have this big meeting where we sit around and argue at each other and the Sovereign Grand Commanders and Imperial Potentates were coming for a program and an agenda that makes sense. Number one, why weren't we invited to the National Black Leadership Conference? They said (splutter) all the Black leaders of America are meeting on June the 12th, and they're

going to discuss the future of the Black community. And we as Prince Hall Masons have a legacy longer than anything except the Black church and we ought to be at the table carving it out. Passed the resolution, made some telephone calls, and I'm proud to announce that I got a special telegram yesterday, Woods, as convenor of the Grand Master's Conference, is going to be at the table with Jesse Jackson. Going to be at the table with Ben Chavis. Going to be at the table with all the rest of them.

[applause]

Now, our Sovereign Grand Commander should be invited to these meetings. This is a powerful person, influencing lives, and he's not invited to a meeting that we sit around and talk about the future of America? So I told Woods and I just saw a telegram, he sent it, Sovereign Grand Brogdon, Sovereign Grand Southern Jurisdiction, Imperial Potentate ought to be at this meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. I'm being relevant in the context of our time. I hear Prince Hall and my ears sing.

I challenge the community, I challenge the system in my time, 1775, Grand Master, what are you doing in 1994? The challenge to community and a system in your time. And that is the challenge that we have, and I hope each one of us we're here, we want you to have great hospitality, we want you to have a great time, if you have any problem you can contact me and we will

solve it immediately. We are going to do all we can for our Sovereign Grand Commander, he's got to leave us sometime and rest, but if he's not available, the Grand Master will do whatever Sovereign would want done. But we will be here working together. We did not come here as adversaries, there is no law suits, and there is no suspension; the consistories are functioning, the Golden Circle is functioning and we don't have a problem in Ohio because we're on the top of what time it is, and there's other issues that we ought to be wrestling with instead of spending all of our time fighting with each other.

I want to say good morning and thank you for allowing me this opportunity. And Deputies, as you sit around here, I want you to think about the future. Think about this, that there's a major problem that needs solving that you're involved in. It's great for the young brothers and sisters to see that.

As a young man that walked by and said, "Wow, look what we did." Not, "Look who we sued." That's important.

And I want to thank Oliver W. Sumlin, that's my Deputy also. We have one of the most beautiful working relationships that you can imagine. There is nothing that I send out that he doesn't get a copy of. We talk and ask for his input because we're on the same team going in the same direction, and with the same brothers who belong to the same organization. So why

create a line? Some jurisdictions, Grand Masters and Deputies are fighting, they can't speak to one another. And brothers, let me say this (unintelligible), I respect the Sovereign Grand Commander, he has the right to make his appointments. I don't have to jump in and see every appointment. I trust the Sovereign Grand Commander and when I make my appointments he can jump in.

So, the question is that we can work together because if I've got a problem I can call the Sovereign Grand Commander. If he's got a problem, he can call me. And the two of us together can resolve anything by communicating with each other.

And that's all it takes. So I want to thank you and I hope you have a good time. And see us around and I'm the Grand Master and you can walk up and talk to. You don't need an appointment to see me. And we want to have a great time and do all we can in solving whatever your need, you let me know. If I'm not available, my people can run it, they'll do whatever's necessary. And wives, sister Brogdon served this jurisdiction with class and dignity. She was a fantastic Grand Worthy Matron. She has been by his side, supportive, and not only gives him advice, but she's passed advice on to us. And just to be able to carry on the responsibility of the Supreme Council, take care of his wife, and then try to take care of himself is really a burden

at times, but God says all things are possible, if you believe in me. And that's what we do.

Thank you very much.

[applause]

End side A

Begin side B

C. Johnson     ... fortunate indeed we all are as Prince Hall Masons that we have coming along now Grand Masters the likes of Steven L. Reece, Sr. Thank you again, Grand Master, for those remarks--not remarks, for that challenge, for the admonition, for the words of inspiration this morning. For setting the tone for our thoughts that we can weave into our deliberations this entire session. Words of relevance. Thank you again.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure also to introduce another giant in the fraternity. Another member of the family in this great fraternity. The head of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and Imperial Arthur T. Shack. May I call him forward now to bring you greetings from the Imperial Council, Dr. Shack.

Shack            Thank you, you may be seated.



I believe that the protocol has been established; however, Most Worshipful Sovereign Commander for the Grand Master Southern Jurisdiction.

Again, we meet to do the business of the Supreme Council, do the business of the total organization. All of us long to help find ways to contribute as best we can. And that has to be acceptable to those of us who are recipients of that gift.

Our purpose has been, and shall be, to continue to serve the family, and our service to the Supreme Council over the years has been rewarded: friendship and support, which we now receive.

The delegation has arrived; however, we will have a chance to talk with you, hopefully, later during the next few days. As we stand here and we have stood over the years, Sovereign Grand Commander, our purpose is to serve you. If we can be of any service, all you have to do is call. We're as close as your telephone.

Thank you for inviting us this morning. And we will see you again on a later date.

[applause]

C. Johnson

Before we begin the other part of our agenda, which you are all waiting for, let me now bring to you --the Grand Master just

mentioned that as you walk about this city, you will see me everywhere. In this city named after me, it is not possible to go anywhere, do anything, without seeing Cleveland. Well, I do believe it is my distinct pleasure now to introduce a gentleman who comes from my home state, Alabama. Of course, I think there might be a timing differential, but it is my distinct pleasure and privilege, on behalf of our Sovereign Grand Commander and the officers and members of our entire Northern Jurisdiction to introduce and bring to the podium for his comments and greeting to you today, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction, the honorable S.J. Bennett, Sovereign Grand Commander.

Bennett

Thank you very much. We express our thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to greet your on this occasion. I believe you will agree that we have heard some eloquent speeches and the explanations of many of the needs that we need to address as a people.

In this situation, it is my pleasure and opportunity to say to those people who have brought these messages to us, Amen.

[Amen]

[applause]

C. Johnson            Thank you, and good morning to you all. Brethren, before proceeding, I'd like to take care of just one little piece of business that should not fall by the wayside. You have, according to the data I received, at least, back in March somewhere, about the 28th, received a copy of our last Deputies meeting.

At this time, I'm sure you have all read it, could we enter a motion to approve the minutes as read as it stands? Did you want to make a motion?

B.L.Sands            I move the minutes be approved. Dated May 28th be accepted.

Johnson            Yes.

Sumlin               Second

Johnson            Seconded. Sumlin for Amis. Thank you very much. Any question on the motion? None? All in favor, the usual sign. Any opposed, similar sign? Being none, the motion carried, the minutes of May 28, 1993 is approved.

Brethren, there is no need for a good deal to do, but I wish to call to your attention that I mentioned to you a previous Deputy's conference. How fortunate we are.

I said to you then that Sovereign Grand Commander's job is an awesome one from my point of view. And to be privileged to be served by one so dedicated as to devote not just his time and

personal resources, but to give so deeply and consistently as to even endanger his own health by that, is a gift to us; first of all, not many are capable of doing it effectively, but efficiently as well. We are indeed in his debt. He continues to serve at breakneck pace; certainly, and I am sure, against the better judgment of all of his closest to him, including his physicians. But we are happy to see that today he looks a lot heartier. We are happy to see him here today to continue to give that wisdom and to give of that love that he shares for all of us.

Please welcome our Sovereign Grand Commander, Samuel Brogdon, Jr.

Brogdon Thank you, you may be seated. If you don't mind, I am going to be seated. I think most of you know that I recently was hospitalized; I'm still under my doctor's care. One of my doctors told me, don't let those so-and-so's kill you.

Weddington That's what my wife's been saying. (laughter)

Brogdon Brethren, it is indeed a pleasure for me to be present this morning. I want to thank our Sovereign Grand Bennett, thank Dr. Shack, and also my good friend, Steven L. Reece, Sr. for being in attendance.

When we met in Cincinnati in 1985, Steve was my coordinator for the session. We have known each other through the years;

usually once or twice a week I talk to the Grand Master; I keep him informed on certain things that are happening in the Supreme Council with his fellow Grand Masters, so he is well aware of what is going on, and he has helped immensely.

Our session will be short this morning. It's grading time; everybody receives a grade. Some grades are good, others are not. And I'm here to give you a few of the grades that you have earned during the year. I have a few remarks and then we will get into it.

The Deputy's report is due when?

Group

April first.

I received one about 2 weeks ago. Did you hear me? The Deputy's report is due the first of April. On the first of May, I send all of the reports that I have in my possession to the chairman of the committee, Samuel C. Hunter, Jr., and he circulates the reports among his committee. Is that right, Sam?

Hunter

Right.

Brogdon

Now, if you expect to remain a Deputy, you conform to and abide by, or you say goodbye. I'm serious, it's going to be that simple. April 1.

Now, I apologize for the lateness of the Deputy's minutes for our January session; the count sent those minutes and then I was hospitalized and he called me after I was released from the hospital and I finally approved them. So, that is the Sovereign Grand Commander's apology to you for the lateness of the report.

Now, quarterly returns are due when?

Group January, March, April, June, August, and September.

Brogdon I can't hear you.

Group June, September, etc., several dates

Brogdon Okay, then why do I have to call the secretary in Philadelphia, and they tell me, "Mr. Brogdon, this consistory hasn't reported, this consistory hasn't reported." And I have to call you Deputies. Here again, if you don't want the job, let me know. I have many, many individuals out there that would love to be Deputies or overseer of their orient.

Now, some of these secretaries think they are slick. You see, they will send you their report and they will not send the report to Philadelphia. And then I call you and the first thing you tell me is, "Sovereign, I got a copy of it." Well, you know, this has to go.

Now, you Deputy's know that you're supposed to receive those reports. If you don't receive the report, what should you do?

Group

Contact the secretary.

Brogdon

But you don't call. It goes on my telephone bill. I shouldn't have to do these things. But as long as I'm Sovereign Grand Commander and you don't do your job, I'm going to get on you, and if you want to get on the secretary and commander, that's your business. You are the one that I appointed and you are the one who is responsible to me, and you're either going to do your job or I'm going to get somebody else. It's going to be that simple.

Now, do we all understand this?

Now, Golden Circle reports, we have 68 assemblies, 10 haven't reported. Now, do you deputy's know that? (unintelligible) 51; Grand Bahamas, 89; L.I. Duncan, 74; Marion, 84; (unintelligible), 80; Long Island, 20; Pentecost, 86; (unintelligible), 61; and we have our two in Wisconsin. I'm not hearing anything. Did you deputy's know that they hadn't reported? Well, they're supposed to send you a copy of their report. I didn't hear you.

Speaker

Mine sent it in.

Brogdon

But they didn't send it in to us.

Speaker (unintelligible)

Brogdon No. See, I get all my information from Davis. You have some work to do (unintelligible).

Speaker (unintelligible)

Brogdon Okay. What about you, Brother Lett?

Speaker (unintelligible)

Brogdon See, we are not operating an Amos and Andy organization. This is a first class organization. I have a slogan, if you don't produce you go where?

Weddington Caboose.

Brogdon It's simple. Okay, I have several consistories that did not report on time. Now, they made up a report, on the 11th of May; here's a report the 24th of May. Consistories not reporting their forth quarter, and you Deputies, I want you to see the chairman of reporting returns committee (unintelligible). Grand Bahamas, 83; Georgetown, 87; and Bimini, we're down to three now.

Brogdon Yes?

Sands (unintelligible)

Brogdon You showed me the returns and the check, but it did not reach the cathedral.



Sands Well, there must be something in the post, but I sent you a check dated the 18th of April.

Brogdon Illustrious Lashley, had you received that before you left Philadelphia?

Lashley No, sir.

Brogdon It doesn't make any difference what they said (unintelligible), they had not reach the Cathedral when they left Thursday. That's what I'm getting at.

Sands (unintelligible)

Brogdon No, we need to check with the secretary over there. How did she send it, just regular mail?

Sands She sent it by (unintelligible).

Brogdon See, now, we gave you a break and let you pay once a year because of money problems, and now you won't send your reports in on time.

Sands (unintelligible)

Brogdon Okay, I'm going to tell you this. The Deputy of Indiana, we had the same problem with one of your consistories, didn't we?

Thomas Right.

Brogdon            They sent him a copy of the returns and a month later they hadn't sent it in. These secretaries, they slick. Apparently, they didn't have the money. But your consistory had (unintelligible).

Thomas            (unintelligible)

Brogdon            Okay. Now, I issued a reinstatement dispensation last year. The first two years it worked good. Now, what I want you Deputies to do when you go back home, I want you to call a meeting of your consistory secretary or commander-in-chief, and I want you to get on this membership. Now, we had a loss of 8 members this year. You say, well, that isn't many.

Demolay consistory had an increase of approximately 100 members, they reinstated 46; DeHugo consistory reinstated 2, so they had a loss of 1; King David reinstated 14, they had a loss of 26 members; St. Cyprian reinstated 3, they lost 14; Corinthian reinstated 20, they lost 20; Wolverine, they're having a problem up there and I'm not going to say what the problem was, the previous Deputy during the reign of the previous Sovereign Grand Commander would not let anyone be suspended, so therefore for 3-4 years they were the leading consistory, but they were going broke paying taxes, now they had to suspend 117 members, but they only reinstated 10 so we have to do something about that; New Haven reinstated 2, they lost 14; there was no loss in Nimrod or either Douglass consistory; Mt.

Sinai, they reinstated 1 — I can understand how you reinstate 1 or 2 members, somebody isn't doing anything, they lost 18; North Star reinstated 3 and lost 16; Bezaleel, that's my consistory, reinstated 16 and lost 21; Kaw Valley reinstated 2 and lost 10; Holy Sepulchre reinstated 6 and lost 4; Western Star no reinstatements, they lost 9; Orient, no reinstatements, they lost 15; King Solomon in Cincinnati, reinstated 15, no losses; (unintelligible) Easton reinstated 4 but they lost 19; Mt. Calvary reinstated 1, lost 29; Willamette reinstated 1, lost 6; St. Matthews reinstated 2, lost 1; Constantine reinstated 7, lost 24; Miami reinstated 16, no losses; J.D. Kelley; Western, no reinstatements no losses; Bison, no reinstatements, lost 6; Mountain and Plains 20 reinstatements, they lost 1; Malta no reinstatements; Sardonias 5 reinstatements; Peninsular had 3 reinstatements, but they lost 63 — where is that located?

Speaker Jackson, Michigan

Brogdon Okay, we've got to get on that. Okay, that explains that. Utica no reinstatements; W.F. Powell 9 reinstatements; Ophir 7 reinstatements; Menelik 5 reinstatements; S.W. Gordon no reinstatements; Hiram 1 reinstatement, 5 lost; St. John's no reinstatements, they lost 2; Mountain, no reinstatements, lost 2; Marion 3 reinstatements, lost 14; Long Island no reinstatements; Magic City no reinstatements; Cairee 6 reinstatements but they lost 8; C.E. Gordon 6 reinstatements and they lost 6; Ft. Wayne 1

reinstatement, no losses; Prince Hall, 7 reinstatements and they lost 20; A.D. Clark, no reinstatements, lost 5; Seacan no reinstatements, they lost 5; Ione, 3 reinstatements; Saginaw Valley, 2; Northern Lights, 1 reinstatements; Bahamas, they had 10 reinstatements (unintelligible)?

Sands

Thank you, very much.

Brogdon

Beaver, 5 reinstatements; Cascadian, 5 but they lost 2; Wabash, no reinstatements; Inland, no reinstatements, lost 5; Hartford, 1 reinstatement; Tri City, 1; Grand Bahamas, no reinstatements; Keystone, 1 reinstatement; Martin Luther King, 2; Georgetown, none; Whitney Young, none; Springfield, none; Albany, 1; North Shore, 1; Val(unintelligible), none; G.O. Carrington, none; (unintelligible), 1 reinstatement; Robert (unintelligible), 3; Mt. Royal, none; Pentecost, 16; Spain military, 3; Gustavus Sol (unintelligible), 1; Top of the World, none, but they lost 9; Trinidad, no reinstatements; Capital City, none; Nathan W. Thatcher, 2; Bimini, no reinstatements; Earl W. Barrow, none; Jerome Lidstad, none; John J. Storey, 2; Homer E. Gaines, none; Eureka, none; and J.C. Logan.

The Deputies, now we go home I'm requesting you to have a meeting with your consistory secretaries and commanders-in-chief to work out a program on this reinstatement.

We keep losing members eventually we will have no organization, and it will be our fault, because you Deputies are not doing your job.

Another thing, when I write a Deputy, I expect that Deputy to respond, not his grand secretary. These grand secretaries will write you whenever they get ready. So, if you can't write me a letter, telephone the answer to me. Don't have your grand secretary send me a letter, please don't.

Now, I would like your tentative dates by June the 15th of your forthcoming Councils of Deliberation.

This is on the good side, benevolent fund, 1992, we received \$34,850; 1993 to '94, \$61,836; 1994 to date, I called Tuesday, \$70,194. So we increased that approximately \$9,000. Now, we're asking you Deputies to continue to make the contribution. Some of you can afford to give \$50, some \$100, but don't go lower than \$25 because your members, some of them are giving that much. And encourage this at your Councils of Deliberations.

Now, we're giving you a \$1,000 scholarship, the least you can do is have your councils give us something back to help this scholarship.

Brogdon

... The policy is still in effect and we've got \$1,000 less than we did last year. So we are making progress there.

Now, registration, hotel and Supreme Council. At our Deputy's meeting in January, the convention director informed you that all active members will be listed on the hotel printout, but you had to send your registration fee in before March 31st. Some of you sent your registration fee for the hotel and also for the Supreme Council within the last 2-3 weeks. So what we are going to do at our January meeting, you will fill out your hotel registration card with your fee and you will fill out your registration card for the Supreme Council. And do you all understand that?

Davis                      You want two separate checks?

Brogdon                    Okay. Two separate checks.

Davis                      One for the hotel and one for our registration?

Brogdon                    So when you come to the Deputy's conference in January come prepared to register. I mean, do we understand this? We have 900 and I think it was 20 or 30 rooms that we're utilizing at this session. We have 375 at this hotel, 100 and I think possibly 10 at the Carleton Ritz, 300 at the Marriott, I believe it's 50 at the Radisson, and about 90 rooms at the Holiday Inn. But some of you waited until the last minute to send your money in. You're supposed to be leaders and you can't lead anybody being late. So when you come to the Deputy's meeting in January, whatever

the hotel registration is, bring your check or either your--we will possibly accept your credit card.

But anyway, bring your money to register.

Now, for our guests, when we send a notice to the Sovereign Grand Commander and he notifies you, our Secretary General sends you your registration information for the hotel. We take care of your delegation, we take care of your registration for the session. Now, we don't want you waiting until the last minute sending in your hotel reservations because we have individuals that want these rooms; in fact, we're using a new system this year. In the past, you could just call the hotel and get a room. This year, everything went through the convention director. In January, when we went to the hotel, I think 80 of our rooms had been occupied. He told the hotel, you send these people a letter and tell them to come through the convention director. We know everyone that occupied a room. Before, they were just having a good time.

About 3 weeks ago, we went to the hotels with a printout plus a one night's deposit, and this is what they don't have. They said they were all elated over what he had done. But here, again, for our guests, remember your Sovereign notifies you that you are in the delegation and our secretary general sends you your hotel reservations, please send it in immediately. Any questions?

As of Friday, we had 1,037 pre-registered for this session; 533 extra banquet tickets, for a total of 1,570; this, again, is one of our larger conventions.

We are still having problems with the Grand Master of Wisconsin; he was led by one of the Grand Masters of your jurisdiction in the Blue Grass State; he claims that he told the late Sovereign Grand Commander Clayborn that he could get 500 women in the Golden Circle if he lowered the entrance fee. Dr. Clayborn said he got less than 50. Now, what they are doing in their grand lodge last year, they adopted a resolution that any lady that is adopted by a frater from the Grand Lodge can go in any house regardless of the regulations for entrance. And I would not accept this. We have our rules and until you tell me to change it, we are going by our rules.

He attended the Grand Master of Wisconsin, the honorable Junior Young, attended the council of deliberations session last year and during his visit, the Golden Circle question came about. They told him he was right and this, that, and the other thing. And according to our rules, no one is supposed to go into the Golden Circle meeting unless they had the approval of the deputy. But he sent his Deputy Grand Master back in to find out what the women were talking about, and I guess he got an ear full. Anyway, Grand Master Young told the fraters at the Council of Deliberation that if this matter wasn't settled in 5 days



that he was going to withdraw fraternal relationship with the Scottish Rite.

The first thing he did, he wrote the Deputy and he informed the Deputy that as of the 1st of September or October, that the ladies of the Golden Circle could no longer meet in the Prince Hall temple until this matter was resolved. He sent me a copy of the letter, and my response was, thank you for the information.

I informed the Deputy to find another meeting place, which he did.

Since this didn't bring us to our knees, he sent another letter out that stated that each Masonic body in the orient of Wisconsin there was a Master Mason that headed that body. If this Master Mason could not conform to and abide by with the constitution of the orient or the Grand Lodge in Wisconsin, that this group could no longer meet in Wisconsin. He sent me a copy of that letter. And I thanked him for his communication.

What he was doing was looking for a confrontation. Since then, he attended the Midwest conference which was held in Dayton, Ohio. And Grand Masters in the conference wrote up a resolution that they take it to the Grand Master's conference. And when we got to the Grand Master's conference, the honorable Grand Master from Kentucky brought the matter up that I would not meet with him and I would not answer

telephone calls. I was unable to attend the Midwest conference because of illness, and I had my Grand Minister of State meet with the Grand Master of Wisconsin and Kentucky; the Grand Minister of State sent me a copy, also sent Junior who was the Grand Master of Wisconsin a copy of the proceedings from that day. My Grand Master also saw to it that I kept him informed.

I wrote the Grand Master of Wisconsin and asked him what was his policy or what would be his policy for restoring fraternal relationship with the Scottish Rite. And he wrote me back and stated that we would have to take these ladies in. And I wrote back and told him that was unacceptable. And I asked him did he have another policy or solution to the matter. And he wrote his Deputy and told him that he would no longer correspond with me, that he would only correspond with him.

So that is where the matter is now and I understand that at the Grand Master's conference there was a resolution passed to the effect that the two Sovereign Grand Commanders should get together to try to resolve this little rift.

There is no rift. I am going by my constitution and no organization will tell us how to admit our females. It's that simple. So, unless the Supreme Council tells me to change it, I will not.

He wrote a letter to Grand Master Reece informing him that any frater from Wisconsin that attended this session could only attend as a master Mason, and he could only attend the morning worship service and the banquet.

Ordinarily, you don't write a Grand Master and tell him what your members--or anybody's members can do in his jurisdiction.

Further, I might as well tell you this, that he wanted my Grand Master to go on record at the Supreme Council session and to not have a banquet in my honor. Knowing my Grand Master, he told him that Brother Brogdon is a Past Grand Master of Ohio. He works with me, he has worked with the Grand Lodge, and what would my brothers say if I brought up something like this?

This was brother Young's only program, following brother Montgomery, the adoption. Those of you that have adoption, that's your business, I have nothing to do with that. But we will adopt nobody in the Scottish Rite because there comes a point where you bring the girlfriend in, the second girlfriend in, and your wife at the same time, and we're not going to have that. Old-timers who would turn over in their graves to find out what we are doing today, they would say, am I in the right house?

We have a brother in Ohio, Brother Roy Thomas, that he always would say he was initiated and he stayed away 40 years. After 40 years he went back to the lodge and they said, Roy, why did you stay away so long? He said, it took me 40 years to learn to subdue my passion. (laughter)

Illustrious Hunter, would you give us the information about the forthcoming Deputies Conference?

Hunter (unintelligible) the time and the date will be the same as it's always been, the second Saturday of January.

Brogdon What are the dates?

Hunter The dates are January 14-15, the second Saturday January. The location is in Colorado Springs, so everybody knows, it's not Denver. The Denver airport may not be ready by then. Seriously, though, some of you will have to come through Denver to get to the Springs. We'll be in Colorado Springs at the Antler Doubletree Hotel. The rooms are \$79 and we'll have all that out to you. Will it come from the Secretary General?

Brogdon It will come from you through the Secretary General.

Hunter We'll have all of that out to you in ample time. Any questions on it? Colorado Springs is not hard to get to. You come through Chicago, St. Louis, or Dallas. We have direct flights from Chicago, non-stop. That's about the only major city. Back east,

you can come on United, it's a short hop, 23 minutes from Denver. Lots of airlines. US Air does not come to Denver. Call your travel agent and ask for a joint fare rather than change airlines. But we're served by Continental, United, Delta, American, the four major airlines. You'll really enjoy it. The weather should be very nice, cool in January. We get snow and sunshine, sometimes on the same day. It won't be like New Jersey.

Speaker                      What's the main airport? Name of the airport?

Hunter                        Colorado Springs Municipal Airport. You can't miss it.

Brogdon                      The reason we changed from Denver is the price of the rooms. The rooms in Denver were going to be like \$99.

Hunter                        And it's the weekend of the stock show and the stock show always takes up everything in Denver. Country Western night, there is something Friday night.

Hunter                        We will get the notice out.

Brogdon                      It will be out

Brogdon                      We'll see that it gets out. You get it to me, Sam.

Hunter                        Before (unintelligible)

Brogdon                      That's too early.

Hunter All right. It will be out. Any questions?

Brogdon My doctor told me to pace myself and don't overdo it. So if you see me leave a meeting, you'll know what's going on. I have a very competent staff and I'm not afraid of any of them trying to run over me. I don't think they're looking to be Sovereign Grand at this time. (laughter) One of them walks behind me and he'll say, I walk behind him to make sure he stays in good health.

Lewis Canadian money. We in Canada are having difficulty with our money. I almost didn't get here. I found it necessary to spend 40 cents on the dollar flying in from Canada. It is difficult to send \$500.

A. Oldham The Sovereign Grand Commander has asked me to pass out to 24 of you, including the Southern Jurisdiction, I selected some of you, a questionnaire. And this is his questionnaire not mine. But when you return home, I'm going to write you a letter with all the instructions that you're supposed to send it in. I'm not interested in you putting a name on the questionnaire, because I know everybody's handwriting and your postmark. We're not interested in your names, but 24 of you have received the questionnaire that the Sovereign asked me to make up. And I have his support because it's his questionnaire and not mine.

Then I will compile it and everybody, if the Sovereign desires, will get a copy of the results of the questionnaire.

I would also like to remind the Sovereign that this session is being timed, and he rambled a little bit a few minutes ago you had forgotten that. So I'm timing the session and I want to remind him that when we talked 6 months ago I don't forget my assignment. So if you see me writing and looking at him strange, he knows that he's being clocked and timed.

Brogdon

What I asked him to do is to critique this session. We come to these meetings and there's a lot of things that should be done and should not be done; some thing that get done, and it's my feelings that we have arrived at the point now where we needed our sessions critiqued. So if there's improvements to be made we can make those improvements without any problem. Thank you.

Johnson

Thank you very much Sovereign Grand Commander. The Illustrious Acting Recorder, Illustrious Darnell, has asked me to announce that the balustrades from the January meeting have been distributed. That we did not have sufficient copies to distribute at this particular time. But the balance will be available at the first executive session, so those who did not receive a copy they will be available at that time, he's running off additional copies.

Does anyone present have an urgent need, given the understanding that we are being timed, does anyone else have an urgent need to bring anything before this meeting before we bring it to a close? Is there anything that needs to be said for the good and welfare? There being nothing, I'm going to ask Illustrious Raymond G. Lewis of the orient of Canada to come forward to give us the benediction. And while he is doing so, I would say on behalf of the Sovereign Grand Commander and all those who have participated in this meeting, thank you Deputies and Overseers, and all of our guests for your rapt attention. Thank you for your participation. WE look forward to seeing you at the next Deputy's conference. At this time, please give your attention to Illustrious Lewis.

Lewis


Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank you for having been with us this morning in this our Deputy's meeting. We ask that you put your arms around us and keep us as close as we've been in the past that we carry on your work in this our Supreme Council. In this I say, Amen.

Group

Amen.

May 28, 1994

ATTEST

  
Martin O. Weddington  
Secretary, Deputy's Conference