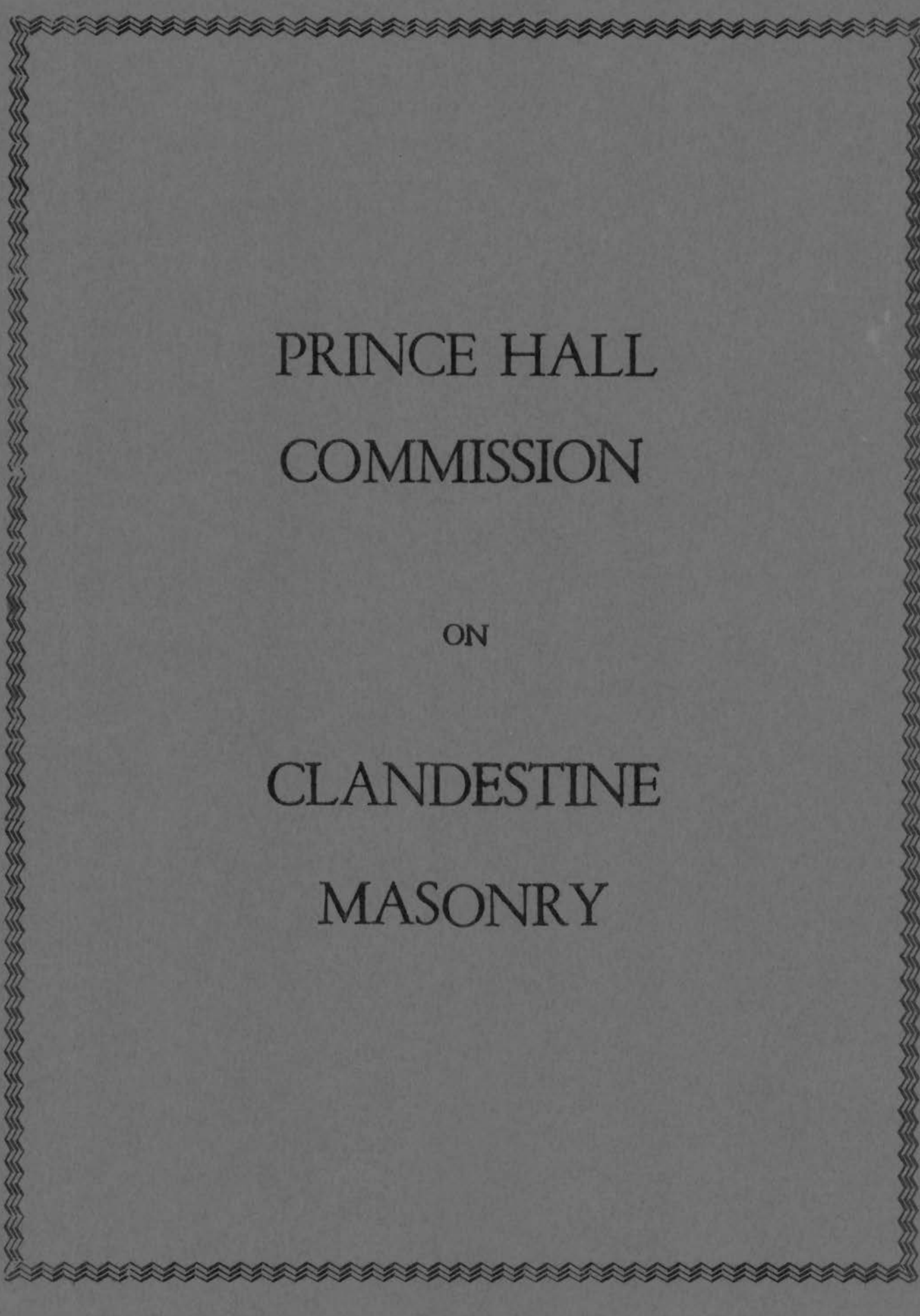




Martin O. Weddington Papers.

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PRINCE HALL
COMMISSION

ON

CLANDESTINE
MASONRY

REPORT OF THE

PRINCE HALL COMMISSION ON CLANDESTINE MASONRY

TO THE

IMPERIAL COUNCIL

OF

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARABIC ORDER
NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE OF
NORTH and SOUTH AMERICA
and its Jurisdictions, Inc.

Held at

CINCINNATI, OHIO

August 20-25, 1961

REPORT OF THE PRINCE HALL COMMISSION ON CLANDESTINE MASONRY

INTRODUCTION

The Prince Hall Commission on Clandestine Masonry was organized and began operating in 1957, and is jointly sponsored by the Imperial Council of the Shrine, the Supreme Councils for the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions and the Conference of Grand Masters of Prince Hall Masons of America. Today, four years after its inception, the Commission points with pardonable pride to the progress that has been made.

The major problem facing Prince Hall Masonry today, -- the one that presents the greatest challenge to those who would desire that Prince Hall Masonry should take its rightful place as the only legitimate masonry for men of color, -- is that posed by the spurious groups who oppose us and who seek to overthrow our influence.

In the years of its existence, the Commission has worked closely with the sponsoring bodies whenever and wherever called upon to fight the evil spread by these pretenders to legitimate Masonry.

Keeping Prince Hall Masons Informed

Recognizing the fact that education is one of the greatest factors toward helping Prince Hall Masonry to hold its rightful place on the Masonic horizon, every effort has been expended to keep those concerned informed.

The Prince Hall Mason must be completely indoctrinated with information as to his legitimacy, his greatness, his influence, and of the illegitimacy of those who oppose us. The legitimacy of the Prince Hall Mason must be told and retold until it becomes the natural assumption.

The Prince Hall Mason must not only recognize his own legitimacy but he also must be able to help in the program of showing the illegal mason the error of his ways. It is with approval that we have noted the slant which the Negro press has given to Prince Hall Masons and to Prince Hall matters in recent months. Quite definitely more and more of Prince Hall matters are finding favor with the press (see appendage one). The bogus groups advertise their alleged influence

and their alleged greatness and will knock Prince Hall Masonry whenever possible. The Commission has formulated answers to questions raised by these pretenders and such information has been distributed throughout the realm of Prince Hall Masonry.

In too many instances, however, we seem to lack the fire and the enthusiasm which bhest bogus groups have. Often we hide our light under a bushel basket. These bogus groups do not hesitate to call attention to what they are doing. Yes, we know that often they will hide in a community quietly without publicity until they have the strength and the power financially and numerically to come out into the open. Sometimes it is desirable to infiltrate their ranks and secure as much information as possible as to the program, aims, activities, the strength and the weaknesses of these pretenders. Then this information should be systematically distributed to our members.

As stated before, these bogus groups do not hesitate to advertise their alleged influence and greatness. An example of this was found in the State of Michigan recently. Information has been garnered by the Commission relative to the national meeting of the Fitzpatrick group. A large parade was held in the heart of Detroit and the Negro newspapers in that area carried extensive publicity regarding the affair.

The people in the street do not know the difference; they do not know that these are bogus and clandestine groups. They think that the Prince Hall group and these bogus groups are one and the same. This is the type of thing that hinders and hampers Prince Hall Masons in the practice of legitimate free masonry for Negroes.

I should like to take this moment to make special comment and to commend Illustrious Leland B. French on the very wide and complete publicity given to Prince Hall Masonry in a recent issue of the Cleveland (Ohio) Call and Post. The Prince Hall Masons of that area took a full page ad in the paper, congratulating the Call and Post. The ad was complete with a brief history of Prince Hall Masonry and pictures. Such publicity is of great importance if we are to keep before Prince Hall Masons and the profane our legitimacy and our greatness and our influence.

The Commission pledges itself to:

1. Keep before our brethren information as to our financial and numerical strength as compared to others;
2. Ever remind of the strength and influence of Prince Hall leadership;

3. Publicize the many tributes paid to Prince Hall Masonry and to Prince Hall Masons by public officials;
4. Publicize the historical background of our legitimacy;
5. Publicize the role which Prince Hall Masonry plays in the fight of the Negro for equality.

This program of education is one of the most important factors of the work of the Commission.

LITIGATION

Litigation is not always the safe and sound method to employ in the fight against these bogus groups. Certainly it is not the only method to be used. Litigation should be resorted to only upon sound legal advice. The Commission has advised and conferred with those who have sought information regarding the best method of proceeding against clandestine groups. In many instances, litigation has become necessary and when the Commission has found this to be so, upon the request of the jurisdiction involved, the Commission has worked untiringly to help to bring the litigation to successful fruition. Some of the jurisdictions in which this ever-rising tide of spurious masonry has been thwarted or where cases are now pending, are:

- (1) BAHAMA ISLANDS. In our last report to you, we noted that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Bahama Islands had requested that we assist them in checking the operation of spurious groups in that area. The two most prominent groups known to have been operating in that area were International Modern Masons headed by William V. Banks and the Scottish Rite Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.

In our investigation, we found that there is no existing legislation restraining the use of a name similar to that of an established organization in the Bahamas and that it would be necessary that we show that the similarity in the names would confuse and result in our damage.

The problem here has been solved in a measure by a program of education. Our Grand Lodge has been able to take over a number of these bogus groups. While our brethren in the Bahamas have been successful in absorbing many of these members of the bogus groups, the position of Prince Hall Masonry in the

Bahamas is not fully secure. This insecurity is occasioned by the fact that the seat of operation of these bogus groups is Florida. Our position in the Bahamas cannot be strengthened and secured until these bogus groups are enjoined in Florida.

(2) CONNECTICUT

The case filed by our Grand Lodge of Connecticut and the Supreme Council Northern Jurisdiction against the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, Inc., Ezra Lodge No. 1, et al; King David Lodge No. 54, et al and the Martin Luther King Lodge of International F. & A. M. Masons, Inc., has reached successful fruition.

You were advised in our last report that history was made in this litigation, for here we had the assistance of several Grand Lodge officers of the whit Grand Lodge of Connecticut and testimony was given by them that Prince Hall Masonry was regular in all respects.

The white masons of Connecticut filed a Petition to intervene as amicus curiae. In his petition, the white Grand Lodge made this statement:

"...and that they (the defendants) are knowingly making false and fraudulent claims and representations as to their legitimacy and regularity in order to defraud the public and also to the injury and detriment of the petitioner and of the plaintiff in this action, both of whom have a legitimate, regular and common origin as Freemasons and also rights of property in all the said names, signs, symbols, emblems, badges, insignia, and other indicia belonging and appertaining to the Masonic fraternity."

The lawsuit was tried by Sovereign Grand Commander George W. Crawford, one of the most outstanding lawyers of the nation. It involved the greater portion of two weeks and made necessary two trips to Connecticut by your chairman.

(3) FLORIDA

In previous reports we have noted the importance of our seeking to enjoin the bogus groups operating in Florida. This importance is pointed up in the fact that the Prince Hall Masons of the Bahamas go to Florida for their Scottish Rite Degrees; consequently, the operation of these bogus groups in that State has an influencing effect in the Bahamas.

In recent months, we have been able to begin investigation of these bogus groups operating in the Florida jurisdiction and the time is not too far distant that we will be able to move against these pests in Florida.

(4) GEORGIA

One of the most recent victories against these bogus groups was marked up in the Jurisdiction of Georgia. On April 26, 1961, The Honorable W. A. Bootle, United States District Judge of the Middle District of Georgia, Columbus Division, handed down a very momentous decision holding the Supreme Grand Lodge, Modern Free and Accepted Colored Masons of the World, in contempt of Court for violation of the decree originally entered against the group in favor of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia on December 28, 1951.

This original decree enjoined the Supreme Grand Lodge, Modern Free and Accepted Colored Masons of the World. . . collectively and individually, including its agents, officers, associates and representatives,

" . . . From using the words 'Free and Accepted,' 'Free and Accepted Masons' or 'Masons' in its orders, by-laws, initiations, publications, letterheads or otherwise."

This is one of the J. B. Baldwin group and is one of the strongest of the bogus organizations. In order to avoid the contempt proceedings brought against them, Banks claimed a "merger" with the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Free Masonry, but Judge Bootle said that such contention would not lie, as

" . . . the evidence does not establish that the United Supreme Council is a legitimate masonic body."

This decision of the Court in Georgia is historic as it is the first time that the court has fixed a substantial fine against these infringers with imprisonment assessed for violation of the order. In clear, concise language, the order reads,

"IT IS CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that individual respondent (J. B. Baldwin) and corporate respondent, jointly and severally, pay the movant the sum of Four Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty (\$4,450) dollars as reimbursement of

reasonable expenses for the bringing of this action, together with the cost of transcript of the record and costs of court in this proceeding.

Respondent shall have thirty (30) days from this date within which to pay said sum of \$4,450. If said sum is not paid within said thirty-day period, individual respondent will be incarcerated, on motion of movant, until such sum has been fully paid."

The Court's order and decree was later modified to allow the Baldwin group to make payment in installments. We are very pleased with this litigation in Georgia and we congratulate Grand Master John W. Dobbs on the manner in which he moved against this bogus group. The chairman assisted in the preparation for the trial of the case and in the trial itself.

(5) NEW JERSEY

Injunction proceedings brought by the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,
F. & A. M., of New Jersey, against the
Globe Free and Accepted Masons was

brought to successful fruition with the filing of a consent judgment on the 23rd day of September, 1960. This judgment recited substantially as follows:

"This action by the plaintiff claiming an injunction against the defendants, restraining them from the use of the name "Globe Free and Accepted Masons," and from the use of the names, rituals, ceremonies, insignia, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, paraphernalia, designations or descriptions employed or used by the plaintiff or usually employed or used by lodges of Freemasons or members thereof, came to this Court for pretrial conference on March 23, 1960; and,

"It now appearing that the defendants have conceded that the only legitimate Negro Masonic bodies in the United States are those regularly derived from Prince Hall sources, . . . ;

"It is on this 23rd day of September, 1960, ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the defendant, Russell Coleman, his agents, associates, confederates, affiliates and representatives, individually and collectively, and also the defendant, Globe Free and Accepted Masons, and each and every one of its members, individually and collectively, as members of said

organization are hereby enjoined and ordered to refrain and desist from appropriating, using or employing, in the State of New Jersey, the ritual, ceremonies, or any insignia, name, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, paraphernalia, word, designation, or description whatsoever, employed or used by the plaintiff or any of its subordinate lodges or bodies or commonly employed or used by lodges of Freemasons, or members thereof, and, particularly, from using the name "Globe Free and Accepted Masons" or the words "Free and Accepted Masons," "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," or the initials thereof, and from engaging in any activities, practices, usages or conduct usually engaged in or employed by Freemasons as such; and from holding themselves out, individually, or collectively, directly or indirectly, as a lodge or grand lodge of Freemasons or as members of the Masonic Fraternity."

The chairman of your commission assisted in this case and we are certainly proud of this decision which means that another clandestine group has been enjoined.

(6) NEW YORK

Injunctions proceedings have been brought by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of New York against Ramon A. Martinez, individually, on behalf of and as Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander of the National Grand Orient A. & A. Scottish Rite Freemasons, Jeanette Purcell and or "Jane Doe" individually and as Grand Matron of the Electra Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, in one action; and against the Supreme Council of the United States of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd and Last Degree A. & A. Scottish Rite, Nathaniel A. Brown, individually and as Sovereign Grand Commander, Lonnie B. Cox, individually and as Grand Secretary General, Elton H. Nightengale, individually and as Grand Treasurer, Ira L. Gibbons, Louis J. Meade, Leonard Williams and Viola Smith, individually and as Grand Matron of the Order of Eastern Star, in a second action.

We should like to pause here to comment on the very fine organization in New York to aid in this fight to eliminate bogus masonry. Brother Harrison S. Jackson recently resigned as general chairman of this committee to assume his duties with the Municipal court, and Brother Courtenay L. Wiltshire is now chairman of the legal committee on spurious masonry at New York.

Several committees have been set up in New York and through investigation and study, these committees have ascertained that there were approximately nineteen (19) clandestine grand lodges operating in New York. Because of the effective educational work in New York, whole clandestine lodges found their way into the Most Worshipful Prince Hall G and Lodge of New York and according to a last report from Brother Harrison approximately 200 men were initiated and raised into the various Blue Lodges of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

Brother Wiltshire reports that the case is noted for trial during the September 1961 term of the court and that when it is called in September, a date certain will be given either in October or early November.

It may be of interest to note that Raymond A. Martinez, formerly with the Fitzpatrick group and who has organized a Supreme Council of his own, is pleading for mercy. He offers to assist us in the trial of the cases against the other groups if we will permit him to remain undisturbed. Also, he is endeavoring to abort our efforts to put his group out of business by a wide spread appeal he is making for Negro Masons, regular and bogus, to form some type of federation which will permit the operation of any group.

(7) PENNSYLVANIA

We are still awaiting the decision of the court in the cases which we tried several months ago at Philadelphia against the National Supreme Council, A. & A.A.S.R.

Masons, 33rd and Last Degree of the World, Inc., et al and the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Scottish Rite Masons (Colored) of the U.S.A., Inc., et al.

Briefs and proposed findings of facts and conclusions of law have been submitted, by plaintiffs and defendants. The defendants have used every legal tactic in the books to delay final determination by the Court and also contributing to the length of this litigation has been Fitzpatrick's procrastinations and deliberate failure and refusal to produce all of the documents he was subpoenaed to bring into Court with him, and submit to cross-examination of his clandestine and illegal activities and the irregular and fraudulent operations of the defendant bodies of which he is the head.

However, we firmly believe that the decision will be handed down very soon and that, with the record we have made in the case, we will be successful.

(8) NORTH CAROLINA

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of North Carolina filed proceedings against the National Supreme Council, National Grand Orient, of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, William J. Fitzpatrick, Grand Commander, Calvary Grand Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, J. E. Misenheimer, Sovereign Grand Inspector, General Grand Master, Hiram Lodge No. 168, Rev. J. M. Todd, Worshipful Master, Hiram Lodge No. 168 of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge F. & A. M., Ancient and Scottish Rite of the State of Maryland, William J. Fitzpatrick, National Grand Master, in the Superior Court of Forsythe County.

The complaint seeks an injunction, enjoining and restraining the defendants from:

1. Establishing or conducting lodges of masons and auxiliaries thereof, within the State of North Carolina, wherein the word or words, "Free and Accepted Masons" or the words "Masonic Lodge" or the word "Masons" or a colorable imitation thereof are used in any manner whatsoever.
2. From holding forth or stating that the defendant Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge F. & A. M. Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of Maryland is a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, and from using or employing the rituals, ceremonies, names, insignia, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, paraphernalia or designations of an organization of masons, and from using or attempting to use any of the secret work or formulas of the plaintiff Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina, or the subordinate lodge chartered and established under its jurisdiction.

The plaintiff also ask twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars for damages sustained as a result of the wrongful and unlawful acts of the defendants in holding themselves out as masons.

This case is now pending on a Demurrer which should be heard within the next few weeks. The chairman will go to North Carolina and assist local counsel when the hearing is had.

(9) TENNESSEE

In November, 1960, the chairman of the Commission on Clandestine Masonry learned of the schismatic condition existing in the Jurisdiction of Tennessee in which some members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge were "seceding" to form a "Grand Lodge" of their own.

On November 17, 1960, the seceding group was incorporated as the "Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tennessee" and charter issued by the Secretary of State for the State of Tennessee and in February, 1961, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee brought injunction proceedings against the "Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tennessee, "William E. Woods, Sr., and Edward E. Crawford, . . . and William Woods, Oscar Merrett, Dr. W. M. Watson, Joe C. Bateman, Eddie Davis, H. Dave Stuart, and Herman V. Davis, all residents of Davidson County, Tennessee. The complaint seeks to enjoin and restrain the defendants,

"And their associates and successors and all those associated and cooperating with them and each of them perpetually from carrying on or prosecuting any work under any name or title which is substantially identical with or is a colorable imitation of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. or Grand Lodge of Tennessee of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (Colored) or the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tennessee or any colorable imitation of any of said names and that said injunction perpetually restrain them and each of them from conducting, establishing or maintaining any subordinate lodges or society under said name or names or any such name or title which is substantially identical with or a colorable imitation of complainants' name and from issuing and wearing emblems, badges, insignias, regalia, uniforms, arms, designs, charms, pins, rings, buttons, etc., which in color, etc., are similar or a colorable imitation of the emblem, insignias, uniforms, arms, badges, regalia adopted, used and worn by the complainants and their associates."

The chairman of the Commission on Bogus Masonry is assisting the attorneys in Tennessee to have this group restrained and enjoined from operation. It is our feeling that if a group of Prince Hall Masons secede from a regular Prince Hall Grand Lodge and attempt to form a Grand Lodge of their own, those persons so seceding are just as bogus as any other of the groups which we are trying to eradicate.

When this schismatic condition was called to our attention, some urged that the Conference of Grand Masters should take affirmative action. We took the position, however, that the Conference had no such power or right to interfere with the internal affairs of a Grand Lodge. We brought the matter to the attention of the various Grand Masters and suggested that each might take such action as they deemed expedient. Many of the Grand Masters wrote letters to both the Grand Lodge and the seceding group deploring the fact of the schism and calling attention of the secessionists to the fact that their actions were contrary to the principles, customs and laws of Freemasonry and definitely put the members of the group in the role of "clandestine masons."

(10) WASHINGTON

You were informed in previous reports of the trial of the cases filed by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A. M. against the Most Worshipful Universal Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. and the John A. Bell Grand Lodge. The trial of these cases consumed the greater part of two weeks and prior to making the trip to Seattle for the actual trial, the chairman spent several days in Seattle in preparation.

Decisions have been handed down by the Honorable Theodore S. Turner. Copies of these decisions have been sent to members of this body and it would serve no useful purpose to carry these instruments in their entirety here. However, we should like to point out some of the language of the court, viz., in both cases (which were consolidated for trial) the court found:

"... that the defendants have failed to prove any legitimate Masonic ancestry and are not legitimate Masons, nor entitled to the use of the names Masons or Free and Accepted Masons, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, or the initials F. & A. M. or A. F. and A. M., or any similar names or initials."

and,

"that the prior existence of the white Grand Lodge does not make the plaintiff Prince Hall Grand Lodge, or others of the plaintiff group, clandestine or illegitimate."

and further,

"That the plaintiffs are entitled to a permanent injunction, and the court does now hereby permanently enjoin and restrain the

defendant. . . and the individual defendants named in the Findings of Fact herein, their agents and servants and all persons claiming to represent said so-called Grand Lodge or said individual members and all subordinate lodges of said Grand Lodge, and all their Chapters of Eastern Star and other associated groups, including Scottish Rite Consistories and Shrine groups, and all their members and successors:

(a) From establishing or conducting lodges of Masons or auxiliaries thereof within the State of Washington and from using the words, "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," "Free and Accepted Masons," "Masonic Lodge," "Masons," "Freemasons," "Scottish Rite Masons," or the initials "A.F. & A.M.," or "F. & A. M.," or any colorable imitations thereof in any manner whatsoever.

(b) From holding forth or stating that the defendant. . . is a Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons or Free and Accepted Masons, or a Grand Lodge of Masons, or that the subordinate lodges of said defendant are Masonic Lodges, and from using or employing rituals, ceremonies, names, insignia, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, paraphernalia, or designations of an organization of Masons; and from using or attempting to use any of the secret work or formulas of the plaintiff. . . or the Subordinate Lodges chartered and established under its jurisdiction, or its Eastern Star chapters or their associated groups, and from using or displaying any insignia, emblems, badges, symbols, signs and paraphernalia of the plaintiff Grand Lodge or the Subordinate Lodges established and chartered by it, or its Eastern Star Chapters or its other associated groups.

(c) From engaging in any activities, practices, usages or conduct usually engaged in or employed by Freemasons as such, or from holding themselves out, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, as a lodge or lodges of Freemasons or as members of the Masonic Fraternity."

Interesting highlights of the evidence introduced by the defendants include the assertion by the Universal Grand Lodge that it originated out of Hiram Grand Lodge of California which was a John G. Jones extraction. In the trial of the case, we brought out that he was a former member of a Prince Hall Lodge and that he had been expelled.

The John A. Bell Lodge, in the middle of the trial, changed its allegations of legitimacy and admitted that it was illegal but made the claim that Prince Hall Masonry was also illegitimate. This change in position did not avail them anything because we had the deposition of Sovereign Grand Commander George W. Crawford which set out in minute detail the history, the legitimacy and the wide-spread influence and greatness of Prince Hall Masonry.

Regarding the legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry, the language of the court is clear:

"Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and its Jurisdiction, F. & A. M., has established its legitimate Masonic ancestry, tracing such ancestry back to the original African Lodge No. 459 established in Boston, Massachusetts, by charter issued in 1784 by the then Grand Lodge of England, the mother of all existing Masonic bodies."

The chairman of your Commission assisted in the preparation of these cases for trial and in the trial itself and we are most pleased with the decision of the court.

CONCLUSION

The importance of this all-out fight to rid ourselves of these spurious groups which oppose us in the practice of legitimate Freemasonry cannot be emphasized too greatly. Just a short time ago, we were furnished with additional scandalous material which is being circulated in the State of Florida by bogus groups. The Fitzpatrick and the Banks groups are strong in Florida now but they can be enjoined.

The best time to move against these and any other bogus groups is at the exact moment that they are found operating in a given area. The evil must not be allowed to take root and grow and become firmly embedded and entrenched in a given area.

In our report here, we have pointed up only a few of the places in which bogus masonry has reared its ugly head and where steps have been taken to squelch the ever-rising tide. Since the inception of the Commission, there have been other states where these bogus groups have been enjoined and

there are still other states where it is known that bogus groups are operating and nothing has been done. This should not be! These bogus groups will grow in financial and numerical strength and influence if they are not "stopped in their tracks."

The best plan of action is attack!

Last year, we pointed out that we had received letters from Fitzpatrick and from Banks requesting conferences. In our report here, we have pointed out that Martinez is pleading to be "let alone" and in return, he will assist us in the trial of cases against other bogus groups.

These bogus groups are crying for co-existence! But your Commission is pledged to an all-out fight to complete annihilation. It will carry the battle to these spurious groups and it is only when they are completely destroyed that the Commission will rest in its efforts.

We do not believe that our fight against these bogus groups will in any wise offend our white brethren. It has been our experience that whenever we have moved against these bogus groups our white brethren have been only too willing to assist us in whatever manner possible.

The evil that harms us and deters us also harms and deters them!

The Commission is making an effort to secure information on every known bogus group. We want a working knowledge as to their claim to legitimate operation and we can then find the points at which they are most vulnerable and more easily combat them in this fight.

The records show that many of these bogus groups are created by demagogic ministers (in many instances, ministers who were unable to make a living in organized churches) who have preyed upon the admiration of the gullible public for the institution of masonry to foster their illegal and irrational ambitions.

If we are to combat the evil of these degree peddlers for personal gain, we must not sit supinely by and let any of these bogus groups get a foothold in any area. There will probably always be those among our own ranks who

will become disgruntled for one reason or the other who will seek to divide our ranks and organize themselves into other would-be Grand Lodges. The Commission is prepared for the attack.

The Commission cannot rest upon past performances. Placidity, nonchalance and complacency have no place in the ranks of Prince Hall Masonry. The Commission is committed to this fight to the finish and pledges itself not to abate its efforts until all of these pretenders -- under whatever name and wherever found -- are completely annihilated. The Commission cannot accomplish this task alone -- every legitimate Mason wherever found is called upon to unite in this effort.

The die is cast! It is an all-out fight and the Commission needs your full cooperation and support. You have supported the effort wonderfully in the past -- may we count on you in the future!

Respectfully submitted,

PRINCE HALL COMMISSION ON
CLANDESTINE MASONRY

Amos T. Hall

Amos T. Hall, Chairman

A. J. Worsham, Secretary
James C. Gilliam, Treasurer
Booker T. Alexander
Willard W. Allen
George W. Crawford
John W. Dobbs
E. W. Duncan
William W. Grasty
H. A. Greenwood
John G. Lewis
Thurgood Marshall
David Muckle
P. G. Porter

APPENDIX ONE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Grand Master John G. Lewis of Louisiana heads our Department of Education and he is very ably assisted by Brother O.C.W. Taylor as Director of Public Relations. At the convening of the Conference of Grand Masters in Seattle, Washington in May, Brother Taylor made a report showing that the following publicity had been given to the Prince Hall Masons within recent years since the organization of the Department of Education:

1958 -- Special article appearing in EBONY magazine on the history of Prince Hall Masonry;

1959 -- Personal appearance on Dave Garroway's T.V. show;

1960 --The Shrine story told in SEPIA magazine;
Special story on the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Prince Hall told in SEPIA;
Special story appearing in TONE (magazine supplement serving 46 Negro newspapers in the state).

The Department of Education and the Commission on Clandestine Masonry, pledges itself to:

Continuation of the present program of carrying information and news concerning Prince Hall Masonry in all the major publications serving Negroes.

Securing a representative of every jurisdiction and every affiliated body of Prince Hall Masons to serve on the public relations committee to bring to the attention of the Commission any and all events regarding Prince Hall masonry for distribution and publication.

It is hoped that in the coming year we will be able to set up a workshop for the public relations committee to be held at the annual convening of the Conference of Grand Masters (expenses for traveling for the representatives of the various jurisdictions and affiliated bodies to be borne by that respective body).

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CINCINNATI BUSINESS LEAGUE THE NEGRO BUSINESSMAN

VOL. 1 NO. 1

SEPTEMBER

1961

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings:

My sincere thanks for your vote of confidence in my ability to serve you. I assure you that the duties of this office are not taken lightly. May we have your continued interest, your efforts, and your dedicated pledge to make it a memorable one.

We must not slacken our efforts. Much work remains to be done before the goals of which we dream will be accomplished. We have one of the greatest stories in the world to tell, "Economic Independence Activates Integration." We must help our business and professional friends to better understand the purpose and need of the Business League, which when seen in the light of our principles and responsibilities will result in positive constructive action.

I want to express my appreciation to the members of the League who have contributed in any way to our progress. Thanks to all officers and committeemen. It is a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely Yours,

Charles A. Scruggs, Pres.

WELCOME SHRINERS!

The Cincinnati Business League welcomes the Imperial Potentate, Booker Alexander, and all members of the Shrine to Cincinnati for its national convention.

DOES THE NEGRO BUSINESS MAN PROFIT

It was sixty-one years ago that Booker T. Washington, first president of the N. B. L., sent out a letter to Negro businessmen throughout the country calling them to Boston, Mass., to convene and form the foundation of an organization that would bring Negroes engaged in business together annually for consultation and to secure information and inspiration from each other.

Today the same N.B.L. is functioning throughout the country with a number of advantages that have increased since the League's origin with the roots of all business potential lying in the powerful 20 billion dollar Negro market. Even though the Negro Businessmen have been aware of the tremendous power and opportunity lying in the Negro market alone, he has received less than 10 percent. He has failed so far to use the corporate laws to their fullest extent.

Negro investors could easily form corporations that could compete with the giant white

(Continued On P. 2)

MEETING PRICE COMPETITION

The question which numerous small retailers are asking today is, "How am I going to meet competition from the price cutters when I can't go down to their levels without losing money?"

One answer is: Do things better than the other fellow. What things? Here are ten plus-values which help in reducing the effect of price competition:

(Continued on Page 2)

This League paper will be
mailed to 5,000 residents
of Cincinnati.

ALPHA PHI
ALPHA FRATERNITY
PRESENTS
EBONY FASHION SHOW
Fri. Nov. 10th—8:00 P.M.
AT
WITHROW HIGH SCHOOL

MEETING PRICE

(Continued from Page 1)

Specialization — In some cases, distinctive merchandise and private labels help to offset price competition. To many shoppers the most significant feature of any price is the way it compares with other prices quoted for the same article. But if the article you sell has different features — and is, in fact, not identical with what your competitors sell — the significance of price comparisons can be reduced.

Personal Salesmanship — The human element is important too. This means doing a more effective job than your competition on personnel selection, training, and motivation (see Small Marketers Aids No. 16, "Improving Personal Sell in Small Business").

Timing — Doing the right thing at the right time often isn't easy, but it is nevertheless important in meeting price competition. For instance, you can gain an advantage by following weather conditions and coordinating your advertising with them. Likewise, skillful timing of special sales can be a big asset. Good timing helps you avoid overstocking goods which were once popular but which are now meeting increasing sales resistance. It also helps you capitalize on new merchandise coming into the market for which strong price competition has not yet developed.

Sensitivity to Trends — Recent trends have had great influences on retailing; for example, interest in do-it-yourself activities,

hi-fi radio and phonograph equipment, gardening and amateur photography. Watching the trends and adapting operations to them has paid off in many small stores.

Prestige — Here again your objective is to do something the other fellow can't do. Partly it is a matter of always seeking to improve the quality and appearance of the merchandise you stock; partly it is a matter of working steadily to improve the impression your store makes on customers. Attractive display, topnotch maintenance, good lighting, and quiet selling conditions are also involved. And don't overlook the effect of your storefront and the "personality" of your advertising. (See also Small Marketers Aids No. 3, "Attracting Customers to Your Small Store.")

THE PUBLIC RELATION AND PUBLICITY COMM.

The Public Relations and Publicity Committee wishes to thank all members for both their financial and moral support in the publishing of this paper.

Fred T. Suggs, Chairman

Services — Among the most effective means of combatting price competition are such services as delivery, installment and repair work, and permitting returns and allowances.

Convenience — People are often willing to pay a little more when it is easy for them to shop. Nowadays this often means parking facilities more than anything else. A handy place to

leave the car is extremely important to most customers. In addition, you should not ignore the possible value of night openings.

SELLING CONDITIONS — Worthwhile improvements can often be made in this area. Consider, for instance, extra emphasis on impulse selling, better point-of-sale displays, face lifting and appropriate simplified selling techniques such as self-service and automatic merchandising.

EXPENSE CONTROL — You may be able to find ways of managing your costs and expenses more skillfully so as to provide larger margins. Among the techniques to investigate are machine operations for record-keeping, better control of inventories, and new techniques for reducing losses from pilferage and damage.

CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS — This is a combination of goodwill and customer loyalty, effective public relations, and the acceptance by the business of its proper responsibilities to the community in which it operates. The concept of rendering a useful service rather than simply making a profit is fundamental to improving consumer and community relations.

BUSINESS MAN PROFIT

(Continued From P. 1)

corporations that give them their stiffest competition in the business world. The formation of corporations by Negro businessmen would also assure them of tapping the Negro market for the bulk of its 20 billion dollars spent annually.

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Bus. WO 1-5531 Res. AV 1-2909
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DUNCAN'S LOUNGE

3420 Burnet Ave.
Food, Liquor, Beer, Wine

SQUARE DEAL GROCERY

233 W. Sixth St.
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1004 Chapel St.
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Beer—Wine—Foods
Magnolia Jackson—Prop.
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PR 1-1296

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