

Law Report

A publication of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its Klanwatch Project

Summer 1987

Without a Fight

UKA Surrenders HQ to Mrs. Donald

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The United Klans of America has surrendered its national headquarters building to Mrs. Beulah Mae Donald without a court fight, bringing to a successful conclusion the civil suit filed by the Law Center to punish her son's killers.

Mrs. Donald's youngest son, Michael, was abducted at random and brutally murdered by two UKA members in Mobile, Ala., on March 20, 1981. His body was then



Mrs. Donald

hanged in a tree. S P L C attorneys filed the suit on Mrs. Donald's

behalf in 1984, seeking damages from the Klansmen arrested in Michael's killing and from the Klan corporate organization as well.

On Feb. 13 an all-white jury in Mobile found Michael's murderers, four other Klansmen and the UKA itself civilly liable in his death and ordered the defendants to pay Mrs. Donald \$7 million in damages. It marked the first time a jury had found a KKK group liable for its members' violent acts.

Search for Assets

Following the trial, SPLC attor-

neys and investigators conducted an extensive search to determine the assets of the various defendants. Most of the individual Klan defendants are quite poor, so the focus of SPLC efforts concentrated on the UKA's headquarters building.

The building, which housed the office of Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton, is assessed on the tax rolls of Tuscaloosa County at \$113,000 but may be worth considerably more.

Because of its value, Center attorneys expected a major court battle over the property, which was legally held in the name of the Anglo-Saxon Club, Inc.

Sent a Message

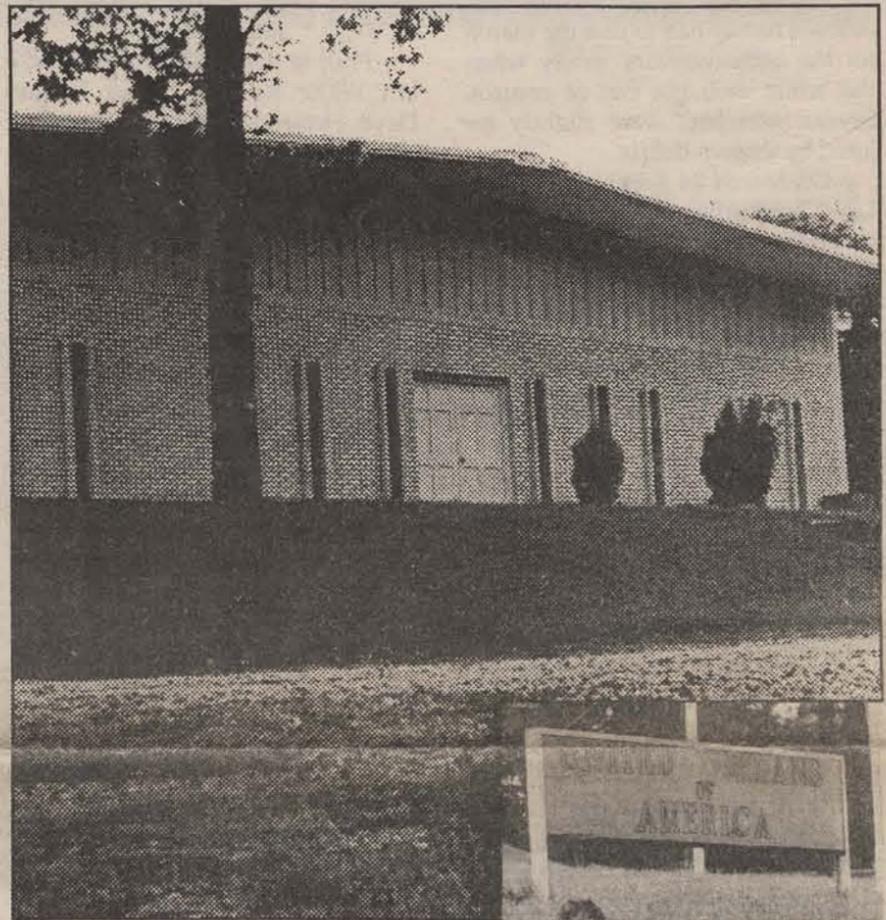
But SPLC investigators uncovered indisputable evidence that the Club was nothing more than a front for the UKA and that the Klan, in fact, was the true owner.

BULLETIN

ABC News will broadcast a special report on the Michael Donald case on its TV news magazine program, 20/20. The segment includes interviews with SPLC Executive Director Morris Dees and key Klan members involved in the murder. Air date is scheduled for June 25 but is subject to change.

On May 18 UKA attorney John Mays of Decatur, Ala., turned over the deed and the keys to the headquarters to the SPLC.

"The message we wanted to send



The former headquarters of the United Klans of America now belongs to Mrs. Beulah Mae Donald, a black woman whose son was murdered by Klansmen in Mobile, Ala., in 1981. Sign (inset) stood beside building until recently. (More HQ photos on page 3.)

by filing this case has been delivered," said SPLC Executive Director Morris Dees. "The Klan may be held accountable for the actions of its members."

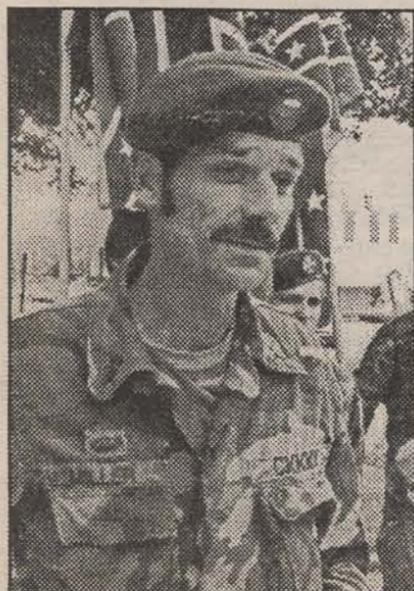
The building is now up for sale, and all profits will go to Mrs. Donald.

Garnishing Wages

Meanwhile, Alabama State Sen. Michael Figures, Mrs. Donald's personal attorney, is pursuing the \$7 million judgment against the individual Klan defendants. One is believed to have as much as \$40,000 in property holdings in the Mobile area. With

regard to the defendants with no assets, Sen. Figures intends to garnish the wages of those who are gainfully employed.

Mrs. Donald's reaction to the news that she now owns the Klan's headquarters was somber. "I really don't feel anything yet," she told Klanwatch Research Director Pat Clark. "I said before that the money didn't mean anything to me, and it still doesn't. I just wanted to prevent some other mother from going through something like this."



Glenn Miller

Glenn Miller Charged with Making Threats

RALEIGH, N.C. — Former White Patriot Party leader Glenn Miller was charged in April with sending threats through the mail after he wrote a letter to his followers declaring war on the federal government.

The letter called for the assassination of federal officials and other "enemies of the white race," including SPLC Executive Director Morris Dees.

Miller, who was convicted last year of criminal contempt of court in an SPLC lawsuit, was free pending the outcome of his appeal when he disappeared sometime in mid-April, went underground, and called for his followers to take up arms.

The typed, two-page letter, which

Miller claimed to send to 5000 followers, was filled with strongly worded threats and had a suicidal tone.

A Warning

It began, "I warned those SOB's..." and contained an assassination point scale system, as well as arrangements for Miller's burial. Dees rated highest on the scale with 888 points and was the only individual mentioned by name. Federal judges were assigned a value of 50 points, "influential" Jews 25, and black citizens 1 point.

Miller's capture on April 30 near Springfield, Mo. was the result of swift investigative work by the F.B.I. and the U.S. Marshall's Service. According to U.S. Attorney Sam Currin

of Raleigh, F.B.I. agents tracked Miller to Missouri through a van he purchased in Monroe, La.

Using the alias "Walter Johnson," Miller bought the van from a used car dealer a week before his arrest. He telephoned the dealer April 29 to ask that the vehicle title be sent to a post office box in Springfield, Mo. Coincidentally, an FBI agent was at the dealer's office when Miller called with the forwarding address.

"That's divine providence if I ever saw it," said Currin.

Other agents located the van in Springfield the same day and put it under surveillance, following Miller

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New Evidence Uncovered In Forsyth County Case

ATLANTA — Klanwatch investigators have uncovered new evidence of a KKK conspiracy to violate the civil rights of demonstrators who marched into Forsyth County last Jan. 17 to protest housing discrimination.

The marchers, numbering about 50, were harassed and taunted by a rock-and-bottle-throwing mob of approximately 300 whites who lined the protesters' route into Cumming, the county seat. Law enforcement officials finally had to halt the march for the demonstrators' safety when the white mob got out of control. Several marchers were slightly injured by thrown debris.

On March 24 Southern Poverty Law Center attorneys filed suit here on behalf of one of the organizers of the march, Rev. Hosea Williams.

The suit, styled *Williams v. Southern White Knights of the KKK*, was filed under the federal civil rights statutes and accuses two Klan groups and a white citizens organization of con-

spiring to deny blacks the right to live in Forsyth County. The Invisible Empire, Knights of the KKK and the Forsyth County Defense League are the other defendants in the case.

The new evidence confirms the belief of SPLC attorneys that the disruption of the march was a conspiratorial act rather than a spontaneous event. In order to protect the source of the information, however, nothing further can be reported at this time.

Fiery Speech

Prior to the Jan. 17 march, Southern White Knights Grand Dragon Dave Holland incited a crowd of Klansmen and sympathizers to harass the demonstrators, urging the whites to go to the march starting point and "give them ape niggers a Forsyth County welcome."

After hearing Holland's fiery speech, the mob lined the march route, forming a sort of gauntlet. Dozens of whites pressed up against the roadway, spewing racial epithets



A Klan-led mob of whites attacked a peaceful civil rights march in Forsyth Co., Georgia, last January 17. Members of the mob shown above.

and hurling rocks, beer cans and other objects. Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents and sheriff's deputies tried to protect the marchers but were eventually overwhelmed. Eight members of the mob were arrested.

A week later 25,000 people returned to pick up the march were it

left off — in a nationwide outpouring of support for the demonstrators. It was the largest civil rights demonstration since the 1960's.

Approximately 60 whites, including white supremacist leaders Don Black and David Duke, were arrested on various charges.



"I am glad that the Klan has suffered a major setback [in the Michael Donald lynching case]..."

"It is an easy matter for those of us with money to spare to contribute to the Center. What is hard is to be a victim of injustice, or to be black in a white-dominated America, or to be a

fighter like Morris Dees and the others at the Center who risk their lives in trying to bring about a more just society..."

*Hildegard Hannum
Old Lyme, Connecticut*

"It was gratifying to see on this evening's TV news that the Federal government started its actions in court today to convict the White Patriot Leaders (Millers, etc.) for stealing U.S. Army and U.S. Marine military weapons.

"Thanks to your untiring efforts this was brought to light. You brought to justice the murderers of Michael Donald and you'll win this one too!"

*Julian Goldstein
Brooklyn, New York*

"I want to express my appreciation for the work, the risk you have taken, and the losses sustained in the fire to bring about the recent decision against the Klan. It is, in my opinion, one of the greatest steps forward taken in civil liberties and certainly one of the most needed...The news was in all our papers and I hope it will end Klan violence. The country is indebted to you for your dedication."

*Mary Jo Eisenhart
Huntington Park, California*

"Congratulations on your great victory in the Michael Donald lynching case! We are happy to see the results that contributions we have made, however small, helped to wipe out the violence of racism. Keep on going on!"

*Peter and Eleanor Small
Moorestown, New Jersey*

"I was happy to read of the success of the Michael Donald trial...Will be equally happy when I hear that Roy Patterson is a free man, as in my humble opinion he deserves to be."

*Eva Goodrich
Canandaiqua, New York*

Glenn Miller Arrested in Missouri After Declaring War on U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)

to a trailer park in Ozark, about 15 miles south. At 4:30 a.m. the next morning law enforcement officers evacuated the park's residents and surrounded the trailer where Miller and three companions were staying.

Tear Gas Fired

When the men failed to respond to an order to come out, five tear gas canisters were fired into the trailer. The four then surrendered peacefully, Currin said.

Authorities searched the trailer and found a cache of weapons. According to the F.B.I., these included semiautomatic rifles, sawed-off shotguns, military explosives, a dozen hand grenades, thousands of rounds of ammunition, gas masks, detonating cords, two high-powered crossbows and \$14,000 in cash. [Miller was accused of receiving \$300,000 in stolen money from The Order in 1984, but he has not been charged.]

Miller's Motives

Law enforcement officials speculate that Miller went underground in the belief that he was about to be in-

dicted on sedition charges in Arkansas, where a federal grand jury had been conducting a six-month probe into allegations that various racist leaders around the country, including Miller, had plotted to overthrow the U.S. government.

When the indictments were returned on April 24, however, Miller was not among those charged.

Miller Cohorts Arrested

By that time he had gone underground. His arrest came a week later. Two of the men captured with Miller were also wanted by federal authorities on charges related to conspiracy to receive stolen military supplies in North Carolina.

Miller's legal troubles stem from a lawsuit filed against him in 1984 by the Law Center. Last summer he was convicted of criminal contempt of court for violating a federal court order issued in the suit prohibiting the White Patriot Party from engaging in paramilitary activity. The contempt case was prosecuted by Dees and Currin.

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The Law Report is published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36195

The Law Center Fund

If you have ever wished you could do even more to advance the Center's work, but didn't think you had the means, there is something you should consider. You *do* have it within your power to play an important part in assuring the Center's ability to fight injustice for years to come.

You can do it by remembering the Center in your will.

Bequests in wills help assure the Center's long-term financial stability. This is a key to success in our legal efforts, which often last years and can cost thousands of dollars to conduct.

Through your will, you can help pass on the torch of equal justice to future generations. If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider the lasting good you can do by participating in the Law Center Fund.

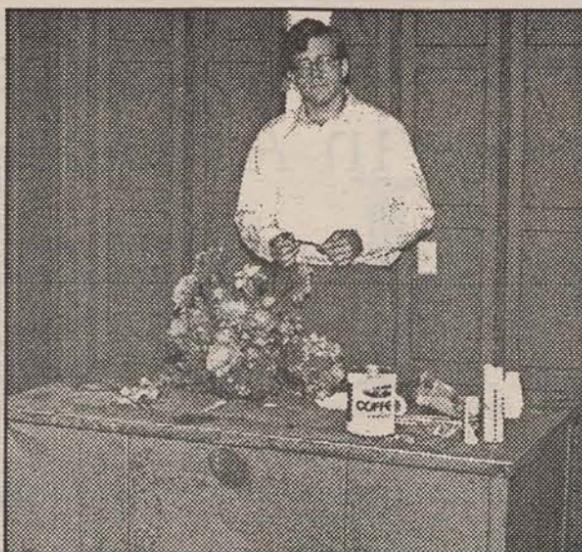
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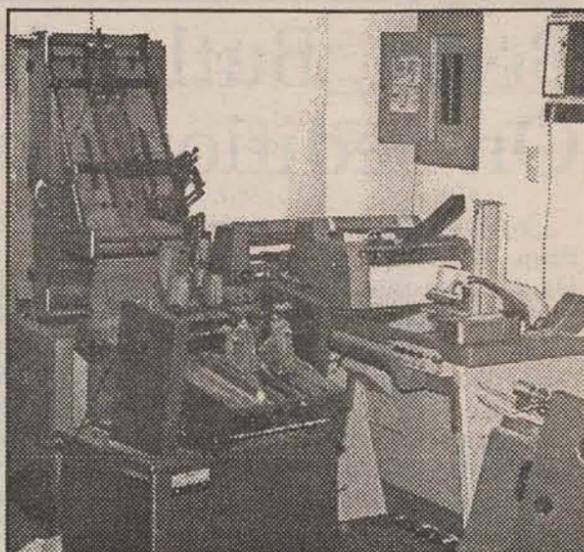
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Klanwatch staffers Donald Jackson, Ed Crowther, and Pat Clark in front of UKA HQ. Jackson is a summer intern.



The office of Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton.



The mail room.

The House That Hate Built

UKA HQ Was One of a Kind in Klan World

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — For nearly 20 years, the United Klans of America was the Cadillac of Klan groups: larger, more polished and better-heeled than its poorer counterparts in the hooded order.

As with any enterprise, the secret of the UKA's success lay in the organizational skills of its leader, Robert Shelton, who has been the nation's top Klansman since the early 1960's.

In the two decades since then, thousands of white Southerners have joined the UKA, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in membership dues and donations. Enough money flowed into the UKA treasury to permit Shelton to quit his factory job in the mid-1960's and go to work for the Klan fulltime.

\$113,000 or More

One manifestation of the success Shelton enjoyed over the years was the UKA's modern national headquarters building, constructed in 1978. Located ten miles north of here, the property is assessed on the tax rolls at \$113,000 but may be worth considerably more on the open market.

Whatever its value, the building was palatial by KKK standards. Most Klans operate out of the homes of their leaders; others rent; only a few groups actually own property, and none is worth as much as the UKA's former national headquarters.

Recently the UKA surrendered its headquarters to Mrs. Beulah Mae Donald in partial payment of the \$7 million judgment levied against it last February by a jury in Mobile for the Klan-related murder of her son.

Staff Tours HQ

A few days after the property was deeded to Mrs. Donald, members of the Klanwatch staff inspected the building and grounds. Located at the end of a wooded road, the building sits in a 2-3 acre open field surrounded by woods. The building itself was secure and everything appeared to be in good condition, but nearly every vestige of the Klan had been removed — both inside and out.

Three white crosses used for ceremonial "cross burnings," which stood in front of the headquarters on an earlier visit, had been taken down; so had a 3-foot-high cypress sign emblazoned with "United Klans of America," donated by the Florida Realm (district). The only other hints of Klan ownership were a ballot for imperial kloran (chaplain), a crude drawing of a Klansman, and an unburned cross left out behind the building.

"Tough Times Don't Last"

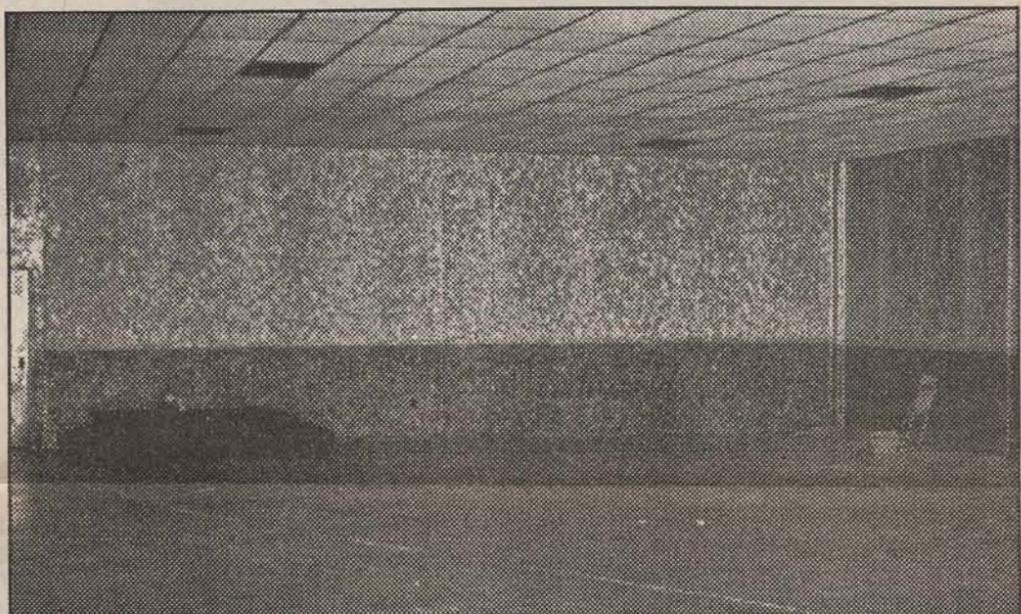
Inside, the building is laid out like a small warehouse, with panelled offices up front and a large (4800 square-foot) open room in the rear. The front door opens up into a short wide hallway, with a printing room to the left and the Imperial Wizard's office to the right. Several items were abandoned: a printing press, a postage machine, and the Imperial Wizard's desk.

At the end of the hallway a plaque hung on the wall in what may have been one last attempt to intimidate. Burned into it were the words: "Tough times don't last/tough people do."

The hallway opens up into the great hall with its two-story ceiling. There monthly meetings of the "Alabama Realm" were held, and every Labor Day Klansmen from across the country came to the national "klonvokation" or convention. These meetings sometimes drew 200-300 delegates.

Loss Spells Doom

Above the administrative offices is a bunk-

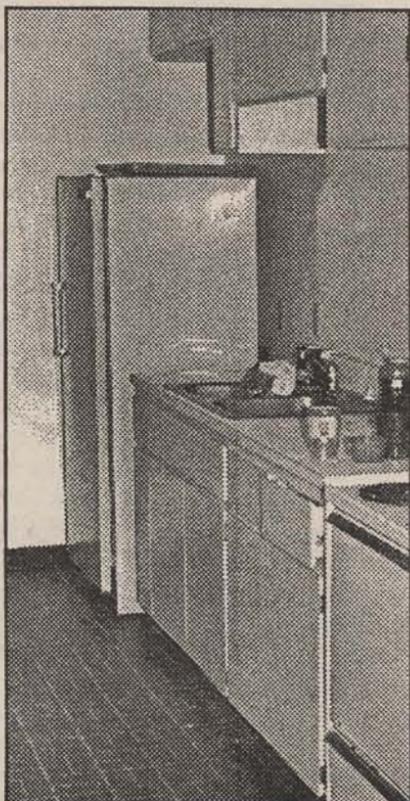


The UKA's annual klonvokations (national conventions) were held in the headquarters' 4800-square-foot meeting hall, pictured here. In all, the building has 7200 sq. ft. of space. It sits on 6.4 acres.

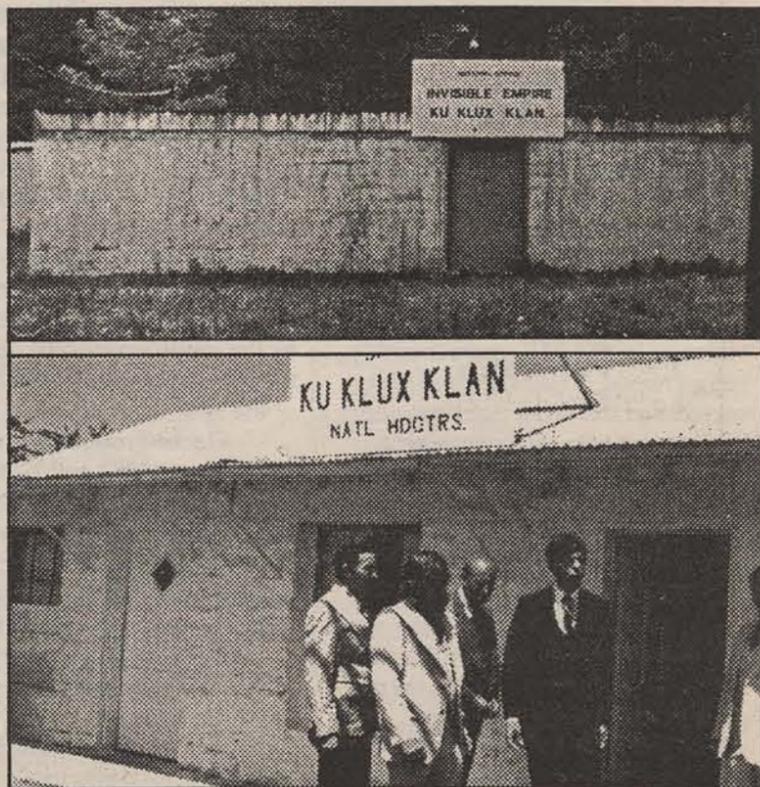
room for overnight guests. Like the rest of the building, it is air-conditioned. The building also has kitchen facilities.

Outside, a firing range built for target practice — every Klansman owns at least one gun — had been torn down. A can of kerosene, presumably used for lighting crosses, lay on the ground.

The loss of the building is believed to spell doom for the UKA. Humiliated, stripped of its major corporate asset, the group is not expected to survive, bringing another chapter in the Klan's bloody history to an end.



Several appliances were left in the kitchen.



Most Klans operate out of their leader's homes or out of ramshackle headquarters like the ones above. The UKA's headquarters were a notable exception.

Beam, Butler, Miles Indicted On Sedition Charge in Arkansas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Louis Beam, Richard Butler and Robert Miles — three of the racist right's biggest names — have been charged with sedition for allegedly plotting to overthrow the federal government by force.

The three leaders were among 15 racists indicted by federal grand juries in Arkansas and Colorado in April in the federal government's continuing crackdown against criminal activity in the white supremacist movement. The indictments were announced at a press conference here on April 24 by Attorney-General Edwin Meese.

In all, 10 of the 15 were charged with sedition by a grand jury in Ft. Smith, Ark. They were accused of conspiring to destabilize the government through terrorist acts, overthrow it and establish a white supremacist state in its place. The alleged conspiracy was to have included attacks on public facilities, power plants and government institutions and officials.

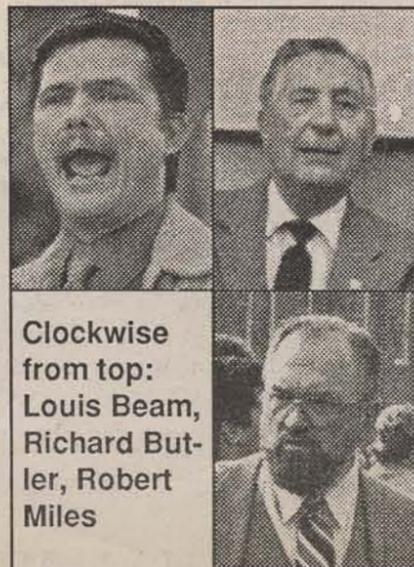
Berg Murder

Three of the 10 were also charged with federal civil rights violations in the murder of Alan Berg, a Denver radio announcer and vocal opponent of right-wing extremists who was gunned down outside his home on

June 18, 1984.

The remaining five defendants were charged with plotting to kill federal officials involved in an earlier prosecution of white supremacists in Arkansas in 1985.

The sedition charges — rarely used by federal prosecutors — arose out of a conspiracy conceived several years ago by members of the Order to start a racist revolution. During 1983-84, Order members robbed banks and armored cars on the West Coast to fund the revolution, and about two



Clockwise from top: Louis Beam, Richard Butler, Robert Miles

dozen of the group's members were eventually convicted or pleaded guilty to racketeering charges in 1985.

Beam At Large

The sedition acts are alleged to have been part of the Order conspiracy and are said to have occurred during the same time frame.

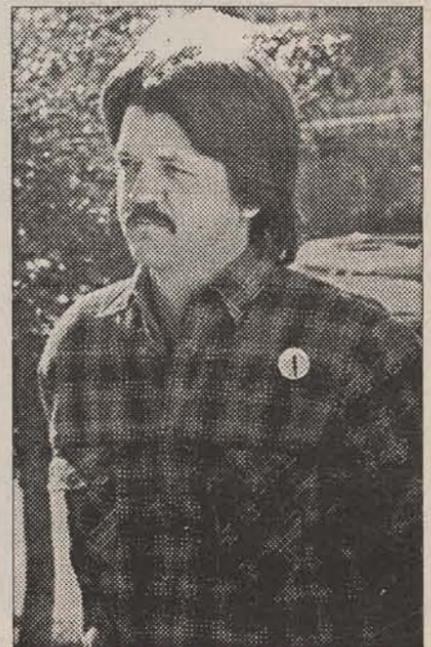
With the indictment of Beam, Butler and Miles, the federal government has struck a powerful blow at the racist right. The three are among the movement's highest leaders and have played key roles in its radicalization since 1980.

Of the three, only Beam remains at large. Longtime SPLC supporters will recall that Klanwatch successfully sued Beam's Texas Knights of the KKK in 1981 for harassing Vietnamese fishermen in the Galveston Bay area.

Beam Visits SPLC

In 1984 Beam, Klan leader Thom Robb, and Order member Dan Bauer travelled to Montgomery and entered the Law Center's old office in an apparent attempt to intimidate SPLC staffers. They were ejected.

As a result of the incident, strict security measures were employed at the Center, which until that time operated on a walk-in basis. Visitors are now checked before admittance.



Steve Miller

Steve Miller Convicted In Plot

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. — Former White Patriot Party official Stephen Miller and WPP paramilitary trainer Robert Jackson were convicted here April 10 on federal charges of conspiring to obtain stolen military weapons.

The plot included plans to use the weapons to attack the Southern Poverty Law Center and kill Executive Director Morris Dees, who successfully prosecuted Miller on a federal contempt of court charge last summer.

Guilty Pleas

Miller and Jackson were among five WPP members indicted in January for conspiring to obtain stolen military hardware in order to build a paramilitary army. Two former WPP members, Simeon Davis and Wendell Lane, pleaded guilty prior to the trial and testified for the prosecution. The fifth defendant, Anthony Wydra, 19, was acquitted.

Miller, the WPP's number two leader, faces 25 years in prison.

(Jackson, who failed to appear for his trial, was convicted in absentia under a new federal law that permits defendants to be tried in their absence if they refuse to appear for trial after formal arraignment and appointment of an attorney. Jackson was represented by an attorney at the recent trial.)

Revenge Motive

The conspiracy against Dees apparently stemmed from Miller's conviction on criminal contempt of court charges last July 25. Stephen Miller and former WPP leader Glenn Miller (no relation) were found guilty of violating a federal court order issued in a Klanwatch lawsuit that prohibited the WPP from engaging in paramilitary activity. The WPP organization was also held in contempt. Dees and U.S. Attorney Sam Currin of Raleigh prosecuted the case.

Last October the WPP disbanded, spelling the end of the country's most militant and active hate group. Prior to the Millers' convictions, the WPP's membership was estimated at about 1500.

Threat of Right-Wing Violence Persists

Since 1981, the federal government has engaged in a vigorous crackdown on criminal activity in the white supremacist movement. The indictment of Louis Beam, Richard Butler and Robert Miles on sedition charges (see above) is only the latest in a series of federal prosecutions against right-wing extremists.

From North Carolina to Washington state, the U.S. Justice Department has brought charges against dozens of supremacists who have violated the civil rights of minorities — and even some who have plotted to overthrow our political system.

As a result of the prosecutions, civil lawsuits by Klanwatch, and other factors, membership in the KKK and other neo-Nazi groups has actually declined in recent years.

Numbers Down, Violence Up

But as the number of members has dwindled, the threat of right-wing violence in the U.S., paradoxically, has increased. That is because a large segment of the racist right considers itself at war with the government.

Today's racist world is divided into two camps. On the one hand, there is the old KKK, comprised mainly of racists who hate blacks. Its strength is estimated at 4000-5000.

The other faction is made up of hardcore, right-wing revolutionaries: radical Klansmen, neo-Nazis, tax protesters, "constitutionalists," and members of the Christian Identity movement. The common bond shared by these radicals is a hatred of Jews, based upon the belief that Jews are out to "destroy" the white race and

rule the world.

All-White Nation

Unlike the "conservative" wing, which wishes essentially for a return to Jim Crow segregation, this faction wants to create an all-white nation by expelling or exterminating non-whites and minorities from the U.S.

The radicalization of the racist right indicates that a growing number of extremists consider violence rather than propaganda as the tool most likely to help achieve their goals.

During the KKK resurgence which began in the mid-1970's, Klan leaders had talked of nonviolent change and working through the political system. Some even characterized the KKK as an "NAACP" for whites and predicted the Klan would become a mass movement.

But by 1982, when Klan membership began to decline, frustrated racist leaders gave up on attempts to appeal to the white masses and committed themselves to the violent overthrow of the System.

Home-grown Terrorism

Between 1983 and 1985 a "home-grown" terrorist group, the Order, took the first steps toward starting that revolution by robbing banks and armored cars on the West Coast in order to build a war chest to fund it.

Federal law enforcement officials admit they were caught off guard. But working around the clock, they quickly got a handle on the group's activities. In a major trial in Seattle, 21 Order members were convicted or pleaded guilty to racketeering charges in 1985. Prosecutors hoped

the convictions and long prison terms handed down — up to 100 years — would halt white supremacist plots to overthrow the government.

Optimism Eroded

But recent events have eroded their optimism. In the 18 months since the Seattle trial ended, three sets of defendants have been charged in Order-type plots.

Taken together, these developments suggest that a small, loosely knit underground movement of right-wing extremists still exists in the U.S., even in the wake of the federal crackdown. According to Klanwatch sources, estimates of its strength range from several dozen to as many as 300. This hard core is heavily armed and committed to violence.

A 3-Stage Revolution

All but the most naive of the extremists believe their revolution, even if successful, would take years to carry out. They believe it will unfold in several stages: (1) a destabilization period characterized by terrorist attacks against the government. During this stage the public would lose confidence in the System, and the nation would polarize along racial lines; (2) open warfare between the races, with whites ultimately winning; (3) consolidation of the victory and the making of a "new order," free from all minority influences. This period would see the expulsion or extermination of all non-whites and white "race traitors" from the U.S.

The threat of right-wing violence, then, is two-fold: the old KKK and the neo-Nazi revolutionaries.