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# Peace Advocate in Cincinnati Horsewhipped: Socialist Leader of People's Council Abducted While on Way to Meeting [event of Oct. 28, 1917]

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CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 1 [1917].— Herbert S. Bigelow, head of the People's Church of this city, one of the leaders of the People's Council for Democracy and Terms of Peace, Socialist and pacifist, was taken into a dense wood near Florence, Ky., shortly before midnight last Sunday [Oct. 28, 1917], tied to a tree and horsewhipped by men "who wore long robes and hoods, similar to those described as worn by the renowned Ku Klux Klan," according to a report received from Florence.

This report stated that the party, with Bigelow as a prisoner, gagged and handcuffed, worked its way to the center of the wood. Here they removed the handcuffs long enough to disrobe him, and then tied him to a tree. One of the leaders of the party then read from a piece of paper by the light of a lantern held by one of his associates. The reader said:

"In the name of the poor women and children of Belgium this man should be whipped."

At a given signal another man, clad head to foot in white, stepped out of a circle that had been formed, and, with a "blacksnake" whip, delivered 12 lashes upon the back of Bigelow. The ropes were then cut. Bigelow was warned to stay away from Cincinnati and he was released while the party made their way back to their waiting automobiles and disappeared.

## Writes of Experiences.

Bigelow wandered an hour in the woods and seeing a church spire in the distance, made his way toward it and found himself in Flor-

ence, Ky., about 20 miles from this city. He was taken to the home of Dr. H.K. Grant where he received medical attention, and then, according to his own statement, he stayed up the remainder of the night writing in detail his experiences of the evening. It was not until late in the morning that he notified his friends in this city where he was.

Bigelow was taken into custody by five men as he was entering a hall in Newport, Ky., shortly before 8 o'clock Sunday night. He was scheduled to address a meeting of Socialists. At the time of his apprehension handcuffs were put on him and he was hurriedly thrust into a waiting automobile and spirited away.

Recently federal authorities conducted a raid on Bigelow's office in Cincinnati, where documents concerning the activities of the local People's Council were seized. Sunday afternoon at his People's Church services, Bigelow prayed for "the repose of the soul of Emperor William and the proud men surrounding him."

Bigelow's own statement, written at Florence, Ky., bears out the earlier story of the abduction and whipping. He added, however, that oil was poured over his head after the lashes were administered.

### **No Recognition.**

In a statement Bigelow stated that, owing to the men "wearing long white robes," he was unable to recognize any of his abductors, and that because of darkness, he could not give an accurate guess as to how many made up the party.

Residents along the Lexington Pike state they noticed a line of 22 automobiles pass on the way to Florence, Ky., Sunday night; some were carrying men upon the running boards.

Bigelow was Democratic candidate for Secretary of State of Ohio in 1902 and was a delegate from Hamilton County to the constitutional convention in 1912. He was elected by this convention as its president. For the last several years, however, he has been actively associated with the Socialist Party.

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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