

O. T. O. LETTERHEAD.

25 January 1946

Euphemet, Rex Summus Sanctissimus

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.

Herewith my report concerning the personnel and activities of the Order in Southern California. Appended as Exhibits "A" to "H" are the statements of various members concerned. Whenever possible I had these people sign their statements to insure accuracy of reporting. Jane's statement is included in duplicate as it was necessary for her to leave before I could type out her report. She has signed the original.

Soon after my talks began it became apparent that the old lodge at 1003 in which Jack, Max, Smith and Betty were the principle figures was a dead issue, and the sooner forgotten the better. As a consequence this report can do little more than give an outline of what has happened in the past but it can be used as a guide to understanding the present situation and the future possibilities. During the week of 14 January to 20 January that I stayed in Los Angeles gathering this material the situation was altered considerably. (All of the main points concerning personalities are given in the statements.) Being on the scene of action I was able to gather a more comprehensive opinion of the situation than is given in the statements, and also to report on activities that may not have been mentioned. My observations are as follows: (1) Jack is a man of integrity and aspiration, all he lacks is an experienced instructor. He is easily the outstanding personality of the whole group. Max is a good instructor for the General Staff school. I gathered from Jane and Roy that he might have a slight tendency to a Smith complex. Roy, who has remained friendly with both camps, gave me the most comprehensive report. He appears to be well balanced magically and he gave the impression that he has been marking time until Jack has settled down to business and something worth while can be accomplished. I detect a fatherly-protective attitude toward Phyllis Seckler. Betty has taken up with a friend of Jack's by the name of Ron Hubbard. As a consequence she and Jack have parted as "friends" and Jack is left free. There is a new girl by the name of Helen Parer, much more poised and patriotic than Betty ever was, who may take her place. Jane you know. Her

views and news concerning Max were totally unexpected. Roy seems to think that she may have placed more faith in Frederick than necessary. Fred and Margo Gwynn were very helpful in regard to Betty's activities. Fred is a pale young man with a neat little mustache trimmed as precisely as a box hedge. Superficially it would seem that he places a great deal of faith in astrology - whenever he describes a person he always qualifies his remark with some such statement as "He's Moon in Pisces". Margo is a rather plain woman with dark hair - she has definite opinions. Georgia is a rather elderly looking woman with gray hair. Roy thinks that you were probably right concerning her change of life. Jane mentioned that Georgia had had often embarrassed Roy by being overly affectionate. Ray Burlingame strikes one as being a true "diamond in the rough" type. What he had to say was said simply and directly, and he mentioned that he had put practically everything he possessed into the Order as casually as the fact that he had divorced his first wife because she did not agree with his views on Thelema. Jean Schneider appeared to be serious enough but I would say that she lacks mental ballast. So much for that. (2) The old Lodge: Jack had no competent person to give him instruction so that the influence of Smith lingered on even after his departure. I believe that Roy wrote to you concerning Smith's philosophy on running a lodge. This was supposed to have been based on a remark of yours while visiting a Lodge in Canada to the effect of "Give these people a good time". Also it may have been necessary, even so, for Jack to have gone through this ordeal with Betty in order that he may take a different attitude toward women in the future. (3) The present situation: Max is holed up in Beverly Hills giving instruction to a very small group of serious students on the subject of Kabbalah, etc. The night I attended his class the membership consisted of Fred and Margo, a Mr. Millikan, and a Mary Gardner. Incidentally this Mary Gardner, a very lovely blonde, has been told that the fellow who died at Cefalu did so while you were performing a Black Mass. This, together with the carings-on at 1003, was almost enough to drive her away entirely. Jean asked me for the true story and I related what you had told me. I also suggested that she ask Jane to set Mary straight on the Cefalu matter. I think that Jean could use a bit of straightening out too. Jack, on the other hand, is shaking the debris of Agape from his shoulders and preparing to make a clean start with a more ambitious program than ever. A lesser man would have washed his hands of the whole affair. Following are some notes taken during his talk with Jane, Ray Burlingame and myself (Roy could not be present). The Lodge has been making no progress for some time---I have decided to clear out the dead wood and start over---the new Lodge must have these four cornerstones. 1. Advertising, 2. Initiation in an atmosphere of sincerity, 3. Adequate training and a course of instruction for the individual members, 4. Performance of the Mass.---It is the responsibility of individual members to accept and accomplish the detail work necessary to running a Lodge---the only responsible people he has are Jane, Roy, Ray, Richard Canwright (whom I was unable to meet)

and himself---each of these five is to memorize the Mass by heart
 ---Roy is take over the first Three Degrees---this program is to
 be ready by the Equinox---Ask A. C. for 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and
 9th Degree initiation ceremonies---ask for a Charter for Agape
 Lodge---Minerval degree initiations are to be held in the desert
 ---The Lodge Head must dominate his consort---this he now knows
 as a result of three years of bitter experience---He and Betty
 are now only friends. It was at this point that I brought up
 the question of our legal status before the law in collecting
 money for Lodge work. In the discussion that followed it was
 brought out that (1) Jack had suggested to you that the O.T.O.
 be incorporated, (2) you had told him not to bother you with de-
 tails but to do as he saw fit, (3) according to Liber CI. 52.
 members of the IX^o share the whole property of the Order. There-
 fore it was decided to proceed without delay to incorporate the
~~Central Organization of Theosophical Order of the Eastern Star~~
 O.T.O. in California. Under this plan O.T.O., Inc. would be the
 central organization in California with power to grant charters to
 chapters throughout the state. Thus Jack would have Agape Lodge
 in Pasadena, I could have Thelema Lodge in San Francisco, and Max
 could have a chapter in Beverly Hills if he so desired. When and
 if Karl decides to incorporate O.T.O. on a national scale then
 the O.T.O. in California would merely become an affiliate of the
 National Lodge. Once incorporated we can obtain copyright pro-
 tection throughout the United States for the Symbols of the Order
 and for your books. These are now being stolen by AMORC, etc,
 and are being used against us. Jack has taken the papers to his
 lawyer so the corporation should soon be a legal fact. In order
 to relieve Jack of some of the responsibility he has been carrying
 I accepted the position of Treasurer for the corporation, in Cal-
 ifornia. (4) Future possibilities: As soon as Jack has his pro-
 gram ready and his nucleus complete he should be able to start
 his advertising campaign. There is every possibility of success.
 Max will probably continue his individual instruction. I am start-
 ing on cold ground here in San Francisco. First I must prepare
 my material and start a study class - then I can form a Lodge.
 That may take several months.

Comments: Here are items that were not included in the above.
 One line of advertising that Jack intends to use is "the Synagogue
 of Satan" idea from Konx Am Pax---Roy ~~stinks~~ seems to think that
 Jack still has some antagonism to Karl that stems from the Smith
 influence---Jane remarked that Phyllis had felt Smith to be a
 fountain of power, but that she did not have this feeling with
 Jack---Jane quotes Louie (one of the characters around 1003) as
 having said, when he came over from Max's camp, "If he (Max) will
 get off his dead ass and quit wishing for lightening to strike
 this place he might get somewhere".---Roy volunteered the opinion
 that there was no point in getting a statement from Louie because
 he was so unreliable---While I was in conversation with this Louie
 one day he volunteered "They (the Lodge and Order) almost got
 plenty of publicity when the newspapers tried to connect Regina
 with that campus slaying (at a university in Los Angeles where
 Regina had been lecturing). I thought it interesting that he
 used the word "they" in describing the Order, and not "we".----

Ray mentioned in passing that while you have given Jack your full support and told him that he was a good man, etc, you have written to other people saying "do not pay any attention to that crazy bunch at 1003", or words to that effect. When these people have, on occasion, shown these letters to Jack it has taken the wind out of his sails---Also that the Gwynn's may still be influenced by the Black Magic of AMORC from whence they came---then we have the old merry-go-round. Jack says that Max should have come to him and aired his complaints before taking them to Karl. Max says that he did take his suggestions to Jack but, when nothing was done to correct the situation, he had no recourse except to report as ordered---the following may be of interest. One evening while I was at 1003 Jack and Hubbard decided to do some fencing - without masks. The light was very poor and they kept tangling with the rugs but, as both men know something of the sport, it was not exactly mortal combat. When Betty, however, took a feil against Hubbard I thought that someone was going to be killed. They finally desisted after she had been rapped smartly across the nose.

In conclusion: I did not presume to advise Jack concerning his private practice. That is a matter for his superiors. I assume that he has been asked to make a report on matters of this nature. If not I suggest that such a report be requested. I agree whole heartedly with your backing Jack to the limit in the Lodge work. My Army experience has shown me the value of this. Jack has complained of a lack of information concerning your needs. I would suggest that you draw up a list of expected expenses and doings, books to be published, travel to the States, doctor bills, etc, for a year in advance. In this way he will have some idea of your intentions, at least. I am of the opinion that Jack probably misunderstood Max concerning the alleged "I want nothing to do with the Order". Max probably said something to the effect that he wanted nothing to do with Agape. I have no idea how much influence this Helen Parker will have on Jack. If I am to be treasurer of the O.T.O. in California one thing must be made clear. I have no extra resources, now that I am out of the Army, so that I will not be able to make up deficits out of my own pocket in the transfer to Karl. Jack seems to feel that he has been imposed on in the past in this respect. The primary reason why I am staying in San Francisco, besides the fact that I prefer it to Los Angeles, is that Jack and I have different ideas about how to present Thelema. He has a "Synagogue of Satan--Let's be frank about it, this is a revolution--come one, come all to Brotherhood of Freedom" idea. I, on the other hand prefer to work along the "Abbey of Thelema--what is your Will in Life--process is purpose--you must integrate your mind before you can hope to use it" line. We have agreed that both programs are necessary in order to enlarge the scope of our appeal, but I think that we would soon come into conflict if we tried to work everything from one Lodge. I do not intend to imply that we have only one program apiece in mind for the future. Our ideas are very elastic in this respect. We are, however, in the position of hard headed young

engineers trying to find practical applications for laws that have been handed down to us in theory. We know that these laws will work but how do we apply them? The fact that they have not met with success in the past argues that new approaches are necessary, and this requires experimentation.

I have shown Jack Max's statement, and Max Jack's statement. I am sending a copy of this letter and the statements to Karl. Otherwise all of this has been in confidence. I saw no point in unnecessarily opening old sores and starting the babel of tongues again just when Jack has some chance of building anew.

The end of the report on Hodge-Podge Lodge - otherwise known to its inmates as Ghastly Gables.

Love is the law, love under will.

Foster H. Johnson alpha
Sovereign Grand Inspector General 93⁹⁷/₉₃

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Jack says:

That he distrusts Max and considers him to be inimical to the work of the Lodge. This distrust is based upon Max's actions of having gone behind Jack's back to discredit him by writing distorted versions of the activities here at Agape, and in antagonizing members by underhanded methods (item: Max secretly took a note of complaints about Agape, written by a member, from a typewriter in the library and sent it to Earl saying, "This is the sort of thing going on around here.").

That he has never been given a coherent version of what, or how much, property you need in your name, nor has he been given any definite information as to when you are coming over. He seems to think that Earl should have given him more detailed information.

In re Property. Jack has found it expedient to sell 1003 and to invest his profit in the construction of a plant to manufacture explosives that he is promoting. This promotion is, of course, a well calculated gamble. As he is putting his full financial resources behind the scheme he may find it difficult to raise any large sum until the project starts paying off in, he hopes, about six months. His ability then will depend upon how successful the business is.

Once his financial difficulties are eased he proposes, among other activities, to launch an advertising campaign in the daily papers to interest people in Thelema. He will write more detailed information concerning this.

He would like to consider his difficulties with Max as having been in the past and sees no reason why they should conflict in the future as long as they keep to separate spheres of action! He is very definite on this point. He quotes Max as saying that he, Max, was not interested in the Order, the OTO, and wanted nothing to do with it. On the basis of this he feels that Max has renounced his right to interfere in any way with the affairs of the Lodge.

(written by hand) Prefer to avoid disgracing Order by further bickering. Otherwise no comment.

/signed/ J.

Max says:

That he reported everything about 1003 as ordered, and that Jack did not report on all activities (i.e. seeing Smith, etc). That Jack is changeable. He will agree to one line of action in a conference and, five minutes later, be off on another tangent. That Betty's contribution to the degeneration of his good will by constantly distracting him. That he, Max, was asked to leave 1003 on the grounds that it was no longer a profess house (following Jack's resignation attempt from the OTO) and that the furniture, etc, belonged to Smith. As soon as Max and Jean had left it became a lodge again.

That Betty will not be satisfied until all serious Lodge members are gone and she and her gag of pseudo-bohemians have the house to themselves.

That Jack cannot successfully combine a Lodge, a profess house, and a rooming house for thrill seekers all under one roof.

That he finds it exceedingly difficult to believe these stories about Georgia. Considering his intimate acquaintance with her for some years he feels that he knows her sufficiently well to say that he has never observed any tendency on her part to be an extrovert.

(added by Max in writing) I have read the above and have no hesitancy to say that it represents the gist of my observations. But I am quite fed up with the whole mess and would like to forget it. It does no longer concern me and I have my own work to do.

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Fraternally,

/signed/ Max

Roy says:

That Jack is a man of tremendous possibilities, but that his true potential cannot be achieved until the last vestige of the Smith influence has been removed. That Jack was entirely sincere when he opened the profess house at 1003, but that success was made impossible by the activities of Betty. She achieved this end by her insulting manner in the kitchen to all of the more serious members of the lodge. It was for this reason that Georgia and Joe Crosby, Masgo and Fred Gwynn,

left or were asked to leave. It seems that if they did not leave voluntarily she, Betty, would raise such an unholy row that Jack would ask them to leave. In regards to this he wishes to point out that Betty had ample precedent for her behavior. When Smith "cast off" Regina and "elevated" Helen to the position of his consort, Helen acted in a similar "lady of the manor" style. Regina left. Now Betty, in the coat of power, has felt that she can rule Jack only by alienating all of the serious Lodge members who might give him counsel counter to her wishes. And her wishes have been to use the house as a "pseudo-Behemian outlet for license."

That Jack is undergoing a crisis at the present time with regards to Betty. He has found that when someone of whom he is very fond "Does as she wishes", then the reaction is very different than when he "Does as he wills".

That Phyllis Seckler was used in a most disgraceful manner. Her child-like faith was so played upon that she came to understand that it was her bounden duty, as a "Priestess of the Temple", to give herself to any and every male member under the guise that she was being "initiated" in the Order. The result is that she now has two bastard children to add to the two that Paul gave her and a "we don't talk about that" attitude arising among the Lodge members.

That Jack has been known to take a rather strange attitude of concerning certain magical operations. (Item: at the Fall Equinox, Jack had the group perform the Mass in sections. Instead of having one person control the operation, however, he broke it down so that each person of the group said one line apiece at a time. When reminded that this was apt to result in a mixing of the planes he said "Let's don't be superstitious.") There seems to be a split in his personality between a scientific-materialist on the one hand and a fervent-aspirant on the other. Also that Jack seems to have in mind some idea of impregnating statuettes with a vital force by invocation, and then selling the statuettes. Roy is not certain how far this project has gone but he is concerned lest the Gestia start taking matters into its own hands.

That Jack has reminded him of the young Crowley - he is so set on overturning the present system that he will stop at nothing.

That Max is excellent in his field but it was a mistake to send him to 1003.

(WRITTEN)

READY OKED

SIGNED/ ROY LEFFINGWELL

(c)

Jane says:

That Jack lacks stability, as yet, and calls himself schizophrenic. He is all enthusiasm, and drops it; he makes plans, and they are never carried out; he loses interest. That Betty has acted as Jack's nemesis. She has been against the Order all along. Max was secretive in his writing to Karl. Jack liked Max as a person until he received letters from Karl saying "Max writes me saying so & so about you."

That Max has a very strange psychic "smell". Here are three instances: (1) Jane had a "vision" while at Winona, and while wide awake, as follows: All of the members at Winona were in a stockade except Max, who was prowling around outside and appeared to be a hyena. (In addition; Max came to the Mass during a period of time when Smith had lost his power and vitality but the moment that Smith again became the agent of power Max withdrew - this withdrawal came about at a moment when Max was kneeling and taking the sacrament. Jane seemed to see a figure withdraw from Max and melt away. Then Max got up and resumed his seat - but he did not again come back to Mass.) (2) Frederick, after dining with Max - who impressed him as a man with spiritual stature, felt as though something were wrong and used the expression "something smelled", which later he finally described as that of a hyena. (3) Jack, while sitting in the library one day, suddenly brought his hand down on the desk exclaiming "I've got him!" very vehemently. Jane walked to the door and saw Jack sitting there. He repeated "I've got him! He's a jackel--shoots darts out of the fog."

She has noticed this very marked antagonism between Smith and Max, and now Jack and Max.

Re Jack's losing interest: that he was lifting a dead weight. All of his plans were so sabotaged and the interest of his new members was so lacking that he can hardly be blamed for being discouraged.

That Max was terribly jealous of Smith's Lodge on Winona. He did a great deal of talking against the Lodge on the outside and, apparently, a great deal of wishful thinking that lightening would strike the place.

That she, Jane, expressed a desire to visit Max's chass one evening but that she was refused on the grounds that she was an outsider and would disrupt the chass. Jane knows that on other occasions outsiders have been admitted.

That Jane has never seen Georgia throwing herself at people - although she has seen other people doing so.

That Phyllis Seckler was very difficult. She is now beginning to mature.

/signed/ Jane Wolfe

(D)

Fred and Marge Gwynn say:

That Jack is fundamentally of good material and that, on occasion, he achieves remarkable exaltation and power in ritualistic magic. At these times the little, changeable Jack is utterly left behind and his sincerity shines forth.

That Jack seems to be mixed in his plans and appears at times to automatically turn from reason. He seems to try to achieve balance through shocking one force he has set in motion by starting another force in a different direction.

That Betty plays the part of Kundry, unconsciously, and exercises a continuously disruptive influence upon the plans that Jack, or anyone else, may make for the Lodge. In addition she indulges in wanton acts of sabotage in the kitchen, a la Blythe Spirit, which aggravates the household to an intolerable degree (item: when Betty went to the desert for a week, real work was accomplished. The moment she reappeared all plans were canceled and confusion once more took over.)

That only a very slight shift in Betty's viewpoint, i.e. discipline, would make her an entirely different person. They stress that she has repeatedly shown great kindness and generosity to others who were in an emergency. That if this abhorrence to discipline as something "Christian" can be overcome her innate brilliance would shine forth. Marge says that on occasion Betty seems to become obsessed (perhaps with an emotional) and that in this stage her eyes become almost opaque.

That Betty went to almost fantastical lengths to disrupt the meetings that Jack did get together. If she could not break it up by making social engagements with key personnel she, and her gang, would go out to a bar and keep calling in asking for certain people to come to the telephone.

The Gwynns lived in the room that had belonged to Smith and Fred related two instances of astral disturbances (1) On several occasions he was half-awakened to find what appeared to be a phantom in the shape of Betty in the room by the bed. His wife almost left him because of his repeated banishing rituals in the middle of the night. After Marge had mentioned this to Betty the visitations ceased. (2) He awoke one night "as cold as ice", although it was a hot night in summer, and it was only with the greatest effort, using both banishing rituals and hot tea, that he achieved relief.

That Georgia has been more sinned against than sinning.

Georgia says:

That she is interested in all phases of the work but that A. C.'s publication fund has come first. This has seemed to be the most important project.

That she does not think that the Lodge will ever be much of a success until some duly accredited person from outside Los Angeles come in and organizes the work. She stands ready to support such a person to the best of her ability.

That the work is her life. She is continuing her practices as she has been doing for the last ten years and is working to raise money for Karl's transfer.

(F)

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Ray Burlingame says:

That Ray wants to run a one-man show. That he works along individual, A.A.A. lines, but that he does not appreciate the value of an organization.

That Jack had a great problem in trying to run a house with so many families. That Jack is changeable, but that he always comes back to the Order. That Jack has, perhaps, tried to expend the O.T.O. much too fast.

That he like the Gwynn's - that Marge and Betty had difficulties. That Marge almost worked herself into a nervous breakdown trying to keep the house clean. That her aspirations were high but that she couldn't stand the fire.

(G)

Jean says:

That she went to 1003 with every intention of liking Jack and of helping the work but that she has come to the conclusion that he lacks a certain integrity. She likened him to those professional wind-bags that do all time promoting around studios and among theatrical people.

That Jane is a bit wish-wash. She tends to sway back and forth between ideas.

That Betty is impossible in the culinary department, and in all departments.

/signed/ Jean Phillips Schneider

(H)