

- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: At the time of this organization of the International Association of Lions Clubs where did you consider their corporation Headquarters?
- A: Evansville, Indiana.
- Q: In any particular office in town?
- A: We had our office at that time on the fourth floor of the American Trust Building. That was our Headquarters.
- Q: That was the Headquarters for the Royal Order of Lions, as well as the International Association of Lions?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: That organization, according to the records in the Secretary of State's office, I believe was in 1916 -- the International Association, and that is approximately the date that you talked to the officers about the organizing of the Luncheon Clubs associations?
- A: That is correct.
- Q: I am trying to set the time of this conversation or conference in reference to the making the decision to form the association -- was it approximately the same time as the filing of the Articles of Incorporation in the Secretary of State's office?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: Do you recall who the officers were that you talked with and conferred with concerning the organizing of this new organization known as the International Association of Lions Clubs?
- A: I am not sure that I can tell you who or which ones were consulted about it; but some of the officers of the Supreme Den -- the Royal Order of Lions at that time.

- Q: There is no record of who the officers were, or at least you don't have any record?
- A: I don't have a record.
- Q: There are no records available in Vanderburgh County, Indiana of who the officers were at that time?
- A: Not to my knowledge.
- Q: Who was the Secretary at the time that the records were removed from Vanderburgh County? Do you recall his name?
- A: F. A. Neiberger, of Toledo, Ohio was Supreme Secretary at that time.
- Q: He removed those records about when?
- A: It was about 1922, when the organization disbanded or broke up on account of the Klan.
- Q: Is Neiberger still living, or do you know?
- A: I don't know, but I heard he was dead.
- Q: At least the officers, according to your recollection did agree that there would be a new corporation organized to satisfy these clubs which had been organized by the organizer of the Royal Order of Lions in Texas and Oklahoma, is that correct?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: They gave their consent to this organization?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: After the organization of the International Association of Lions Clubs, what was done to organizing further clubs?
- A: After the International Association of Lions Clubs was incorporated under the laws of Indiana, a letter was sent out to each and every organization in the southwest, which numbered thirty-three (33), and they each and every club was invited to send a Delegate to meet in a convention which was

to take place in Dallas, Texas at the Adolphus Hotel on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of October, 1917.

Q: Who sent out those notices?

A: I mailed them out, and my secretary wrote them.

Q: That was Miss Conen?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: You say that at that time there were 33 organizations in the wouthwest?

A: That is correct.

Q: The records of the organizations of these various clubs and in referring to them as clubs now, you originally thought that they were organized as subordinate lodges -- so I am going to refer to these 33 clubs as "Clubs" if its all right with you.

A: That is all right.

Q: Did that include the Little Rock Arkansas Club?

A: I think so.

Q: That was one that was organized by Mr. Hicks on March 19, 1916?

A: I think that is correct.

Q: The Shreveport, Louisiana Club, organized November 6, 1916 by George McBlair...do you recall him?

A: I don't recall him. He must have been working under Mr. Hicks.

Q: You do recall the Shreveport Club as being invited to attend and send a Delegate?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: The Memphis, Tennessee Club -- do you recall that that is one of the clubs that received an invitation?

A: From memory I think it was one of the clubs.

- Q: That was organized according to some data that has been furnished you, on December 18, 1916?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: Do you recall the invitations being sent to the Colorado Springs Club?
- A: From memory I can't recall positively, but I am pretty sure that the Colorado Springs and Denver and one or two other towns in Colorado were.
- Q: Do you recall any of the other towns in Colorado?
- A: I can't say positively.
- Q: How about Pueblo?
- A: That sounds like one.
- Q: You think that there was one more in Colorado? There were about four, is that what you mean -- according to your memory?
- A: Yes, sir. Fort Collins could have been, but I'm not sure.
- Q: That might be the fourth one
- A: It might be.
- Q: In Oklahoma there is the Ardmore Club chartered in February, 12, 1917 by Cunningham.
- A: That was one that got an invitation.
- Q: Going back to Colorado this Pueblo and Fort Collins --
- A: I am not sure about Fort Collins, but it seems to me that might have been one of them.
- Q: Going back to Colorado these four clubs, or at least the clubs that were invited to the convention at Dallas as far as you know?
- A: Yes, sir.
- Q: In Oklahoma there is the Ardmore Club that received an invitation?

A: All clubs in Oklahoma and Texas received invitations.

Q: In order to expedite this, the Ardmore Club was organized February 12, 1917. The Chickasha Club was organized July 28, 1917 -- I am assuming your answer is "yes" to these questions here?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Muskogee Club was organized October 26, 1916?

A: That's right.

Q: The Oklahoma City Club, September, 1916?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: The Tulsa Club in September, 1916?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: That is five in Oklahoma. Do you have any recollection of any more being in Oklahoma?

A: I can't recall any offhand.

Q: In Texas the -- but first, all those clubs in Oklahoma that are listed did receive invitations to send Delegates to this convention in Dallas, is that right?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: In Texas these clubs also received invitations: The Abilene Club was organized May 23, 1917; the Austin, January 18, 1916; Beaumont, September 16, 1916; Dallas, September, 1916; Fort Worth, September 26, 1916; Houston, April 2, 1917; Paris, February 18, 1917; Port Arthur, April 23, 1917; Texarkana, February 19, 1917; Waco, September 19, 1916; Wichita Falls, July 16, 1917; Temple, June 21, 1917; San Antonio, sometime in 1915; El Paso -- can you give us an approximate date when that was organized?

A: That was around the latter part of 1915, as I remember.

Q: Orange, Texas?

A: I am not sure about the date, but I am sure we had one in Orange.

Q: In Galveston?

A: One in Galveston also.

Q: But you don't know the date -- you have no recollection of the date?

A: No, sir, I have no recollection of the date.

Q: San Angelo, Texas?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: But you don't have any recollection of the date?

A: That's right.

Q: You say you think that there was a club in Wichita, Kansas?

A: I think there was, but I am not sure.

Q: Do you have any recollection as to possibly when it was organized?

A: No, sir.

Q: We can safely say or assume that if there was one there it was organized prior to this convention in Dallas, Texas, and if they were organized they did receive an invitation?

A: Yes, sir, if they were organized they received an invitation.

Q: There was one club in St. Louis, Missouri, is that right?

A: There was a club there that had not been chartered as I remember, called the Vortex Club; they had a man over here to see the Headquarters of the International Association of Lions about affiliating with them.

Q: Do you recall that man's name that came over here to see you about affiliating with them?

A: I would if I heard it.

Q: Was he present at the convention held in Dallas?

A: He was.

Q: Was he the one that was representing the Vortex Club at that Dallas Convention?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was his name E. N. Kaercher?

A: Yes, sir. I remember him very distinctly, because he said "I want to go down to Dallas to this convention. My idea in going down there is to get them to change the name of the International Association of Lions to Vortex Clubs." He was nutty on that line. He wanted it all changed. He didn't want "Lions" in it at all. He wanted all Vortex. He was so determined.

Q: Do you recall a W. C. Power from the Vortex Club in St. Louis?

A: No, sir.

Q: Or from Detroit?

A: I can't recall him.

Q: There was also represented a club from Chicago, is that right?

A: That's right.

Q: Who was the representatives or representative from Chicago?

A: Melvin Jones.

Q: Was there anyone else with him?

A: Yes, sir. There was a man by the name of Joseph Trienens.

Q: When did you first meet Mr. Jones?

A: It was approximately ten days previous to the convention that had already been called to meet in Dallas.

Q: Do you have a recollection of how long before the convention was held that you sent out the notices to these various clubs?

A: About two or two and one-half to three weeks. They had

plenty of time.

Q: It was between the time that you sent out these notices and the time that you left for the convention that you first met Melvin Jones?

7 A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was anybody else with Mr. Jones at that time?

A: Not that I remember.

Q: Where did you meet him?

A: He came to Evansville and came to the office of the Lions.

Q: Did you have an office for your professional work separate from this?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was it in the same building?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Did you meet him in your office or in the office of the Lions?

A: I think we had meetings in both places. We had several conferences while he was here.

Q: How long was he here?

A: As I remember he stayed overnight and we had conferences on that day and the following day. That is from my memory.

Q: These meetings took place both in your office and in the office of the Lion's organization?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Was there anyone else present besides you at these meetings, if you recall?

A: No, sir.

Q: Then all of the discussions and negotiations took place between you and Mr. Jones in private conferences, with just the two of you present, is that right?



A: Yes, sir.

Q: What was the nature of the conversations, if you can recall?

A: I should say that the gist of the conversation was this: that Melvin Jones said "I am Secretary of a club in Chicago called the Business Circle. We have about thirty-five members, and we would like to affiliate with some national organization. I have heard about the Lions, so that is why I came to see you." Then I told Mr. Jones that we had incorporated the International Association of Lions Clubs under the State Laws of Indiana, and that a convention had been called to meet in Dallas, Texas, and that notices had already been mailed to each and every club in the southwest to send Delegates to this convention. He asked me how many clubs we had, and I told him that there were thirty-three clubs that I had sent out notices to. He wanted to know if his club couldn't take out a charter, and that if he couldn't then some member of his club be a delegate and go to this convention in Dallas. I told him "Certainly." That if he wanted to take out a Charter we would be glad to have him do so. This was done. He was the Delegate to go. Mr. Trienens and Mr. Jones both came down here, and we went, all of us, on this same train to Dallas, Texas.

Q: When you say "both of them" came down here, that was after this meeting you had?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Did the Royal Order of Lions, of which you were then the active head, grant a Charter to this organization that was organized here in Vanderburgh County, Indiana?

A: Yes, sir.