

D.C. Resolution to Remove Pike Statue Introduced

District of Columbia Council member William P. Lightfoot introduced the "Albert Pike, Ku Klux Klan Memorial Statue, Removal Resolution of 1992" on October 22, 1992 [SEE article, page 6]. After pressure was brought to bear by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the resolution was allowed to die in committee. Efforts will be made to reintroduce it in early 1993. Resolutions modeled on this one have already passed the city councils of Birmingham, Tuskegee, New Orleans, Newark, Buffalo, and Austin. The text follows:

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. . . . To request that the President of the United States remove a memorial statue maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor which honors Albert Pike, Confederate General and Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction Sovereign Commander and chief founder of the post-Civil War Ku Klux Klan.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Albert Pike, Ku Klux Klan Memorial Statue, Removal Resolution of 1992."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia finds that:

- (a) A memorial statue of Albert Pike stands at Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia, having been dedicated in 1901;
- (b) The statue stands on public land of the United States, and is maintained at the public expense of United States taxpayers;
- (c) Albert Pike was a chief founder and strategist of the Ku Klux Klan in the years following the Civil War, the "Chief Judiciary Officer" of the Ku Klux Klan and the "Grand Dragon" of the Ku Klux Klan in Arkansas;
- (d) The United States Congress on April 4 and 5, 1898, authorized a private organization to place the statue of Albert Pike on the public land of the United States, being falsely informed only that Albert Pike was a leader of white freemasons in the southern states, and "a distinguished citizen of

Resolutions to remove the Pike statue (inset) have passed in New Orleans, Birmingham, Buffalo, and other cities (above). Right: The D.C. Resolution.

the United States, an able lawyer and statesman, an accomplished poet, and a brave soldier.”;

(e) The Massachusetts born Albert Pike was a Brigadier General of the Confederate Army, when troops under his command committed atrocities and war crimes against United States soldiers, causing a protest from the United States against the Confederate Army, whereupon Pike was relieved of his command and placed under arrest by the Confederate Army;

(f) Albert Pike was indicted for treason against the United States and fled prosecution by escaping to the territory of Great Britain;

(g) The *News Quarterly*, a publication of the Prince Hall freemasons, in its Spring 1992 edition reprinted the most famous poem of the Ku Klux Klan, attributed to Albert Pike, called "Death's Brigade", which is a terrorist threat against African-Americans and all loyal citizens, and the said Prince Hall publication denounced the said statue of Ku Klux Klan leader Albert Pike as "an affront" to the predominantly African-American population of the District of Columbia;

(h) The Ku Klux Klan was an instrument of mass murder, terrorism, judicial barbarism, false imprisonment, kidnapping, and torture, designed to re-enslave newly freed African-Americans, and to prevent the

establishment of modern industrial, labor, and living conditions in the the southern states; and

(i) A statue representing "Confederate-style justice" should not symbolically stand guard over Judiciary Square, at a time when the rights and living conditions of ordinary American citizens are under severe attack, and it is an outrage, affront, and insult to the people of Washington, and to all humanity who may look to the capital of the United States as the seat of justice and freedom.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

That the Council of the District of Columbia requests that the President of the United States honor its request to remove the statue located at Indiana Avenue and 3rd Streets, in Judiciary Square, which is maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor, this statue of Albert Pike, Chief Judiciary Officer and Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Interior, the Office of the Mayor, United States House of Representatives, Committee on the District of Columbia and to the Delegate of the District of Columbia. . . .