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**The Following Illustrates Why the 1<sup>st</sup> KKK**  
**Had to Be Formed.**  
**It was formed for the Very Survival and**  
**Existence of Whites**

**James S. Pike, a Northern journalist who had once been a fervent abolitionist, wrote an unforgettable account of South Carolina under Black rule.** Pike was sickened by the sight of the Black delegates who crammed the floor of the South Carolina House. “At some of the desks,” he commented, “sit colored men whose types it would be hard to find outside of the Congo.” The distinguished legislators lounged or slept in their chairs, often surrounded by a litter of peanut shells and an empty whisky bottle or two. The more conscientious members ensconced themselves behind open newspapers, often held upside down (few of the Black solons could read or write). Important business was often transacted at Fine’s Saloon, across from the capitol. The saloon, which also housed a brothel, became known as “Republican Headquarters.”

And what business they transacted there! Exorbitant budgets were drawn up for “legislative supplies,” which included hams, oysters, whisky, fine rugs, corsets, imported cigars, perfumes, diamond earrings, washtubs, champagne, and anything else that struck the legislators’ and their lady friends’ fancies. During one session the legislators ran up a bill for

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\$125,000 at the statehouse restaurant. The statehouse itself was refurbished with an expenditure of \$200,000 for furniture worth \$18,000, with the balance disappearing into the pockets of favorites and the proferrers of fat bribes. When the legislators turned their minds to the serious business of statecraft, the results were no less edifying. The state debt quickly soared from \$7 million to \$29 million. Big railway bonds were floated, with scarcely anything to show in terms of repair or new construction.

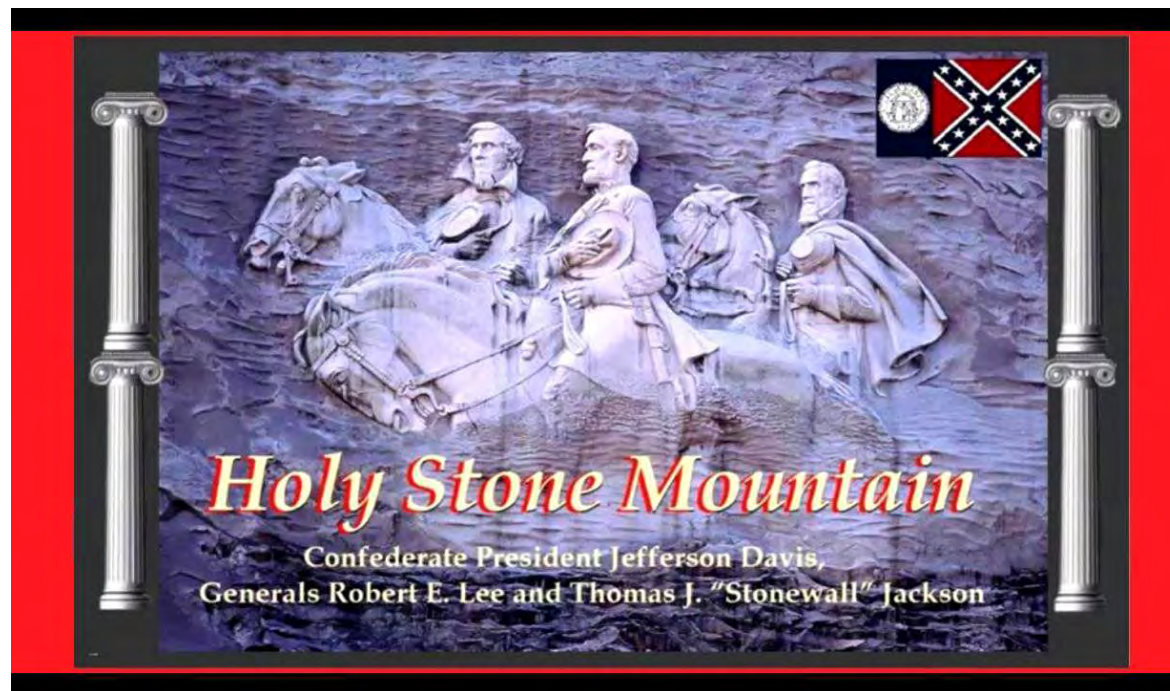
During one memorable session, Franklin J. Moses, Jr., a scalawag who was speaker of the house, was voted a \$1,000 “gratuity” to make up losses he had suffered at the race track. Moses, who later became governor, was typical of the White turncoats who swarmed into the ranks of the Southern Republicans. Despite his service in the Confederate Army, he became completely corrupt, joining the egalitarian Loyal League and building a large Black following. Moses amassed a large fortune through various sorts of corruption and dissipated himself through prodigious eating and drinking. During one spree he was induced by a striptease artist to sign an issue of state bonds. These excesses were financed by exorbitant taxes on the hardpressed White citizens, who were forced to forfeit vast amounts of land to the state government. As Joseph H. Rainey, a Black congressman, cackled, “Land in South Carolina is cheap. We likes to put on the taxes, so as to make it cheap!” The situation in the other reconstructed states was scarcely less appalling. North Carolina’s legislature had its own brothel, right in the statehouse. The members looted an educational fund set up to benefit needy children.

In Mississippi a program of aid for river navigation provided the chief opportunity for graft.

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Arkansas could boast a Black who received \$9,000 for repairing a bridge which had cost \$500 to build. Louisiana rivaled South Carolina in the extent and magnitude of its corruption, and its statehouse, where Black lawmakers held forth on a floor littered with chicken bones and liquor bottles, was required sightseeing for curious tourists. As the 1860's gave way to the 1870's, some of the Northern Radicals' ardor for Reconstruction began to fade in the face of the endemic chaos and corruption which beset the Southern states. Carl Schurz, a German immigrant and a fervent abolitionist, whose reports from the South in 1865 had done much to inspire Reconstruction, now reconsidered, calling the Reconstruction governments "an usurpation such as this country has never seen, and probably no citizen of the United States ever dreamed of."



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