

DE E. BRADSHAW, PRESIDENT  
T. E. PATTERSON, VICE-PRESIDENT  
JOHN T. YATES, SECRETARY

SOVEREIGN CAMP  
Woodmen of the World  
Omaha, Nebr.

CLAUDE MANLOVE  
State Manager  
316 Shukert Building  
KANSAS CITY, MO.

Kansas City, Mo.  
June 1, 1936.

Esteemed Sovereign:

You are no doubt familiar with the attempt which was made by Superintendent of Insurance R. Emmett O'Malley during the last legislature to pass a law levying a tax upon the money you pay for your Woodmen insurance. That attempt failed.

You doubtless also know that tax suits have been brought in the courts by Mr. O'Malley, in connection with Messrs Wheeler and Wallace, Attorneys of Oklahoma, and associate lawyers in this state, to compel fraternal societies operating in Missouri to pay back taxes on all contributions made by their members covering a period of approximately the past thirty-five years. In addition to the attempt to force us to pay this enormous amount of back taxes, they are undertaking to collect fabulous lawyer's fees. This effort of the insurance commissioner and these lawyers, if successful, would require the Fraternalists to pay many millions of dollars in back taxes and lawyer's fees.

For each of the past years, annual reports have been made to the insurance commissioner of all the transactions of our Society, and this and all previous insurance commissioners have approved our acts and issued us a license as a Fraternal Benefit Society. The legislature of Missouri has never passed any law requiring the paying of such tax by us, nor has any State Officer heretofore made any request or demand for the payment of such a tax because the fraternal statute specifically exempts us.

In addition to all of the tax burden you now have to bear, these men would place a new tax upon you for the privilege of carrying your fraternal protection for your family.

We have worked together in fraternal service, protecting the humble Missouri home, helping the sick, extending the fraternal hand to our members, assisting those afflicted with tuberculosis by treating them free of charge in our Sanatorium at San Antonio, Texas, and practising together as best we knew, the principles of fraternity. I am now appealing to you as a member of the Woodmen of the World to help elect state officials and members of the legislature of Missouri who will oppose the levy of any tax upon the payments we have made and are making for our fraternal insurance.

Fraternaly yours,  
Claude Manlove  
State Manager.