



The NATIONAL Statesman

"A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman thinks of the next generation"

DENVER, COLORADO

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Fifty Years With The Prohibition Party

In September, 1952 I attended a meeting of the Massachusetts Prohibition Party in the Pioneer Press office on Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. I had previously organized a Taft for President Committee in Weston, Mass. our home at the time. When the GOP adopted its platform that year it was so like that of the Democratic Party that few interviewees could tell which was which when party labels were covered over.

As a student at Malden High School in my home-town I had voted for Claude Watson in 1948 in the school mock election. In 1952 I

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When the National Prohibition Party was formed September 1, 1869, many temperance advocates attended the gathering to try to prevent the organization of a party based on Biblical principles. Their belief was that we could rely on the "good men" in the two wet parties to support Prohibition and other reforms. Those in the majority said that that course had been tried for decades with no good results.

In time both were proved right. Prohibition did come sooner because of the 'good man' activity of groups like the Anti-

Another anti-Christian local government in California is trying to stifle the growth of a local church. The Cottonwood Christian Center in Los Alamitos has grown to a membership of about 5,000. They have purchased land in nearby Cypress to build a new facility. They paid al-

Saloon League. It also ended in just 13 years as Prohibitionists predicted, because wet unprincipled political parties did all in the their power to sabotage the law and then repeal it.

Most Christians today still buy the good man theory. How unwise and unproductive this policy is can be illustrated by the current drive to cut the federal excise tax on booze by 50/%. The present federal tax on alcoholic beverages does not begin to cover the cost to taxpayers of dealing with accidents, illness, crime and other social ills caused by beverage

alcohol. Yet, wet politicians want to reduce the booze tax.

Many of the best friends of the liquor traffic, gambling businesses and tobacco companies are men and women who are supported enthusiastically by conservative religious bodies such as the Christian Coalition. Most Christians support them as being "good men" and "good women". Yet, in so doing they help to perpetuate the liquor traffic, something Abraham Lincoln said he would "rather cut off my right arm" than do.

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ANOTHER THREAT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

most \$13,000,000 for the property in 1999. Now Cypress officials are trying to seize the property to allow a Costco warehouse-retail store to be built there.

A federal judge has issued an injunction against this land grab. When property is con-

demned by eminent domain it is usually for public streets, schools, etc. In recent years the law has been misused to have governments take private property for the benefit of other private parties.

The anti-Christian fires

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noted that Mark Shaw of the neighboring town of Melrose was the Prohibition candidate for Governor. I contacted him and found out about the September meeting.

At that gathering 50 years ago, the meeting was bathed in prayer and I found out that Stuart Hamblen, the famed Christian singer and song writer was their nominee for President. The platform dealt with many vital issues that no one else would address in the political arena. I joined the party that day and have been a committed Prohibitionist ever since.

I could not vote for the party then because I was only nineteen and voting then began at age twenty-one. I recall eagerly telling fellow church members the next day about Hamblen's candidacy and being shocked when most told me I should choose the lesser of two evils.

At that first meeting was a diverse group welded together by a love for God and Country and a desire to destroy the vile liquor traffic. Guy Williams, a Baptist laymen from Worcester, was Chairman. Mark R. Shaw,

a Methodist minister was Vice Chairman. Dr. Robert Simmons, a black dentist, Theodore Greenhood, an Orthodox Jew, Grace Luder, a Quaker and Isaac and Katherine Goddard, a retired Congregational couple were people I came to know and love dearly. Frank Searle of Lawrence was literature chairman and took the train to Boston every month for our meetings. One leaflet particularly stands out in my memory. It was titled "Rats in the Vats" and told of numerous rodent parts being found in brewery vats.

In the years 1952 to 1957 before we moved to Winona Lake, Indiana to work at the National Office the one who made the greatest impact on me in the work was Paul Campbell. His wife, Anna Campbell, was the daughter of Solon W. Bingham, longtime state Prohi. Chairman. Paul worked in the State Welfare Department and therefore could not be a candidate. He was not a public speaker and stayed in the background. Yet, he had firm convictions and would not let any discouraging experiences dim his ardor. When I would have given up several times he urged me to keep on keeping on. He paid for the two of us to make trips to western Massachusetts, where I organized three local Prohibition Committees.

In 1952 we had a baby boy, no automobile and a job that paid very low wages. By 1955 I was working as field worker for the

state committee. I was guaranteed one dollar per year. Anything above that I had to raise. My wife Barbara made many of the children's clothes and always cooked from scratch. We would take the subway to the market district on Saturday to get bargains such as corn for 25 cents a dozen ears. Without her frugal ways and loving help I never could have stayed in the work.

In 1955, in an old rickety Plymouth our three children (it became four just before the 1956 election), a student at Providence Bible Institute and a black lady minister from Pittsfield made the trip to Milford, Indiana to attend the National Prohibition Convention at Camp Mack. We drove through the night some days to save on motel bills. On the way home the radiator leaked and the student and I took turns filling it with water until nightfall. We slept in the car and on blankets in a field. A tire went in the wee hours of the morning, as we came down from the Berkshire hills into Springfield, Mass. When we got to Boston the next day we were almost out of gas and had fifty cents left.

At Camp Mack, a Church of the Brethren facility, we heard Homer Rodeheaver, famed Billy Sunday campaign song leader, Sen. William Langer of North Dakota and Bishop Wilbur Hammaker. The outgoing chairman was quite unpopu-

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lar and he organized a rump meeting one night to supposedly change the name of the Party to Pioneer Party and name Sen. Langer as the candidate. Mark Shaw told me about it. I called the wire services and told them that the party had NOT taken these actions. Only the local Warsaw, Indiana newspaper had a false story the next day.

Dr. Enoch Holtwick of Greenville College had been the Vice Presidential nominee in 1952. He was a dignified and effective speaker and had been one of the students who helped get Congressman Charles Randall elected from Los Angeles in 1914. He was my choice for President. Gen. Herbert Holdridge, a schoolmate of Dwight Eisenhower, was the other candidate. Most party leaders were for Holdridge because they thought his rank and war experience would draw many votes.

William Varney, our 1928 nominee, and I worked hard. He nominated Dr. Holtwick and I seconded the nomination. The large Indiana delegation of 50-60 people would settle the matter. I spoke for Holtwick at their caucus. He was nominated by a small margin and Holdridge was named for Vice President. Holdridge later resigned-a good thing-because his radical actions in ensuing years would have been an embarrassment to us.

In the October National Statesman I will relate work done for the national office, experiences of the 1956 campaign and our move to Indiana to work at the National Office. Earl Dodge

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Here is the greatest shocker of all: The LEADER OF THE MOVE TO GIVE THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC MORE PROFIT IS A BAPTIST MINISTER. Congressman Ron Lewis of Kentucky is the prime sponsor of the liquor tax-reduction bill. He is a total abstainer and a Baptist minister. His spokesman admitted Rep. Lewis is pushing the bill because huge distilleries are located in his district.

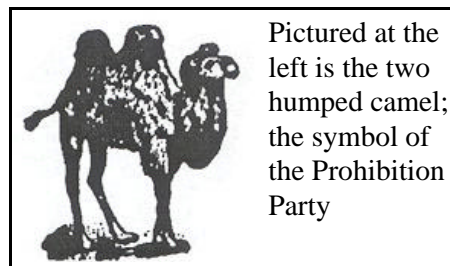
In other words, Lewis, who knows drinking booze is wrong and abstains from it personally, is perfectly willing to put his own political interest and that of his party (GOP) first and principle second. There have been truly good men from Kentucky who did put principle first such as the late great Eugene Siler. BUT, they are few and far between and their parties give them little support.

The early leaders, such as governors John St. John and J.Frank Hanly, Frances Willard, Neal Dow and others, all came to the realization that only through a party of principle could America be a truly righteous nation. They all left their wet parties and became Prohibitionists.

Today, when ballot laws are worse in most states every decade and when so few see the need for a good party, we are often asked why not give up or merge with other third parties. No one else will take up the cause if we give up. As to other third parties, NONE oppose the liquor traffic. I recently received the platform of a party that makes fine statements about God's authority and takes some good moral stands. Missing is any mention of the booze business or religious liberty.

After fifty years as a Prohibitionist, I am more convinced than ever that we need a good party, not just good men and good women. Most public officials are united in the war against terrorism. They, like we, are outraged at the deaths of some 3,000 Americans on September 11. Yet, most are willing to give unqualified support to the traffic in liquor and tobacco in exchange for campaign cash. Those products jointly claim at least 600,000 American lives each year. Two hundred die each year from use of alcohol and tobacco for every one who died in the September 11 attacks. Need another reason for being a Prohibitionist?

Earl F. Dodge



Pictured at the left is the two humped camel; the symbol of the Prohibition Party



FOR YOUR INFORMATION



National Vice-Chairman Paul Scott reports that the National WCTU had a successful convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 6-11. Delegates came from many states and visitors came from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Egypt and India. Speakers included National WCTU President Sarah Ward, World WCTU President Margaret Jackson of New Zealand and Dr. Ashim, an Egyptian liver transplant surgeon who spoke on the role of alcohol in liver transplantation.

The official Prohibition Party web site, prohibition.org, now lists information on the book "The Bible and Its Wines" by Dr. Charles Ewing. The material, prepared by Mr. Leroy Pleten of Michigan, along with the two latest National Statesman issues is available to anyone with internet access.

Colorado public officials, like those in most other states, never seem to make the connection between use of beverage alcohol and the social ills it causes. Colorado University in Boulder encourages all types of immoral conduct by its students. Coed dorms, booze sales and an aggressive political correctness environment all contribute to drunkenness, rowdyism, rape and riots. Now the school is trying vainly to undo the damage by a few restrictions on booze sales and counselling for drunk students.

Meanwhile as Colorado reports a 20-year high 736 traffic fatalities and a 27% increase in drinking-caused fatal crashes, the Denver area RTD announces it will place booze ads on its buses to provide income for "art" to be placed in its stations. Like C.U., RTD cannot connect the dots between alcohol consumption and alcohol problems.

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seem to burn very bright in California right now. "We do not view the church use as consistent with the goals and objectives for development of this key piece of property' Cypress spokesman David Belmer declared. Of course not, church buildings are erected to serve the spiritual needs of church members and others who may attend services. Mr. Belmer, like many other local officials, seem to forget that religious freedom is one reason early settlers came to this land.

The Prohibition Party still stands alone politically in its stand for religious freedom. Many years ago we spoke of the

threat of local officials who try to stop church construction through zoning decisions. Now some seem to think that simply taking church properties will pass muster with the courts.

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, in issuing the injunction, said "Preventing a church from building a worship site fundamentally inhibits its ability to practice its religion. Churches are central to the exercise of most religions. If Cottonwood could not build a church, it could not exist."

We are grateful for this wise judge's decision. If government could take away church property for commercial use no

congregation would feel safe. Few churches would consider buying a better or bigger location if they knew that government could steal it.

Some have asked why we alone deal with this issue. They think it is an arcane or obscure issue. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many would restrict our religious liberty if they could. Some because they hate Christianity, some because they think government should control every aspect of our lives.

I am proud to belong to the one American political party that defends our freedom to worship God as we choose. EFD