

LIGHT

Facts And Action In Applied Christianity

An Occasional Bulletin In Christian Social Ethics

WILLIAM M. DYAL, JR. DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION, EDITOR

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
460 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

FOY VALENTINE, EXEC. SECRETARY-TREASURER

ROSS COGGINS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

ALCOHOL--U.S.A.

BOTTLED EXPLOITATION

"Not all exploitation comes in political garb.

Many of the world's newly emerging nations are discovering it in bottles.

Alcoholism in Africa, as well as India, dates back to the European colonial days. When freedom came for the native populations, liquor lingered as a sort of farewell booby prize.

Now the degree to which alcoholism hampers stability and growth disturbs many of the new leaders. Too often, drinking has caused backsliding and uncertain futures--and this at a time when responsibility is so vital to personal and national progress.

Statistics are not easy to come by in Africa, particularly for the incidence of African alcoholism. National councils on alcoholism have been set up in many countries, but they are still in the early stages and their statistics are not extensive.

However, in a 1964 survey the Salisbury (Rhodesia) Council on Alcoholism found that some 41 percent of those Africans queried reported someone in their family was "drinking a lot." The council estimates alcoholics among urban African households in Rhodesia and Zambia at 2,110, of which 1,300 are men and 810 women.

Salisbury has had a council for more than seven years. Others have been set up in Umtali and Bulawayo. They have been able to help alcoholics among both the African and European communities. In addition, Alcoholics Anonymous has branches in Rhodesia and other parts of Africa. Through them many have been restored to useful lives."

--The Christian Science Monitor, June 24, 1965

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT?

Roger Burgess

"Since the major support of the temperance movement, both in leadership and finance, has come from the churches, here are some recommendations to churchmen interested in the future of the cause.

1) The temperance societies must be willing to accept and use new research and educational facilities.

This has been difficult for many leaders in the movement. Prior to World War II most of the literature on alcohol problems published in the U. S. came from the temperance organizations. Few schools of alcohol studies other than those sponsored by temperance groups were held. Most research was done by scholars and scientists supported by the temperance movement. All this has changed. With the help of government and private grants dozens of universities are undertaking extensive research projects yielding much new information on drinking, drunkenness and alcoholism. In 1962 alone 24 colleges and universities held summer schools of alcohol studies for students from every professional discipline.

But suspicion lingers. Because many of the new researchers are not total abstainers, because lecturers in the summer schools refuse to participate in the "wet-dry" controversy, temperance leaders become uneasy: "He who is not with us is against us."

Temperance forces are not equipped financially to support long-term social research, nor can they match the quality and variety of courses offered in university-sponsored schools. To keep abreast of the rapidly expanding field of knowledge about alcohol and alcohol problems the temperance leaders will have to swallow their pride, make use of the new research being developed outside their own movement, participate more fully in the excellent training enterprises sponsored by the colleges and universities.

2) The temperance forces must cooperate with new agencies at work in the alcohol problems field.

This, too, may be difficult; pride can be a terrific obstacle. There was a time when temperance societies constituted the only major group seeking solutions to alcohol problems. This is no longer the case. For ten years the American Medical Association has had a committee on alcoholism, headed by Dr. Marvin Block. The National Council on Alcoholism now has 70 affiliated information centers and rehabilitation programs across the nation. Research and educational programs pioneered by the Yale Center for Alcohol Studies are being copied in a dozen other university centers. Alcoholics Anonymous dominates the field of alcoholism rehabilitation. State and provincial alcoholism agencies, in the U. S. and Canada have their own association in Washington, D. C., with a full-time staff. Educators have formed the American Association for the Advancement of Instruction on Alcohol and Narcotics. The federal government is preparing a new program under its public health service.

At one time temperance societies dominated alcohol education in the public schools. Backed by legislation in every state requiring alcohol education, they provided literature, sent lecturers to the schools, trained teachers. But in the past 20 years the Yale Center for Alcohol Studies has graduated hundreds of young educators, unrelated to

the temperance movement but concerned about alcohol problems. Many are now on the staffs of state alcoholism programs and state boards of education. Convinced that alcohol education should be integrated into the regular curriculum of the school, they are not content to leave this field to the temperance societies. Thus the job of curriculum preparation, of teacher training, even of providing visiting "experts" to assist in teaching is being taken over by government agencies.

In education as in the other fields mentioned above, temperance forces can become part of a team approach. They will be welcomed if they offer assistance freely and with objectivity; they will be shut out if they attempt to go it alone.

3) Temperance societies must be reorganized, especially on the national level.

The current fragmentation of the temperance forces is tragic. There are at least 20 national temperance bodies, most of them struggling for existence, competing for support and attention. Often they expend far more energy in battling for position in the ranks than in attacking the problems. They make little effort to coordinate programs, to avoid overlapping and duplication. Yet if they could unite--pooling their financial resources, employing competent, well trained staff, attacking specific problems together--they could again become a major force in our society.

The effort to do so is beginning. The new American Council on Alcohol Problems--a merger of the National Temperance League with Temperance Education, Inc., another national program--represents approximately 40 state organizations. But consolidation has a long, long way to go.

4) The temperance forces must re-examine and restate their goals.

Organizations faced with a changing climate or environment may become rigid, refusing to change philosophy, program or strategy; or they may adopt new and more popular causes in order to continue as institutions; or they may adapt their strategies and programs to the changing environment without casting aside basic philosophies.

There is abundant evidence of the first two reactions among temperance organizations. Some have refused to change in any way from the basic philosophy and program which proved successful a generation ago; others have adopted new causes, launching campaigns against legalized gambling, pornographic literature and so on. A few are choosing the third alternative.

In general, the goals of the temperance societies as understood by the public today are abstinence for the individual and prohibition for the state. Yet these are not the purposes for which the societies were established. The original temperance movement had a broader purpose: to seek solutions to all the problems caused by alcohol. Programs to encourage abstinence and to obtain prohibition were adopted later as means to the broader end. They were not unworthy means, nor are they unworthy today. Abstinence as a principle has real validity, especially in a highly mechanized society. Prohibition is valid, too, where the overwhelming majority want and support it. But history teaches clearly that preoccupation with "means" can often deflect an institution from its basic goal.

The problems created by alcohol are many and complex: some relate to drinking, some to drunkenness, others to alcoholism. Temperance forces must define more clearly just which of the problems they plan to attack and what specific solutions they propose. No one solution will do in such a galaxy.

5) The temperance societies must work with organizations and groups not committed to total abstinence.

This may be the hardest step of all. For 100 years a primary goal of the temperance cause has been total abstinence--often proposed as the answer to all the problems relating to alcohol. There has been suspicion, even condemnation, of those who do not follow the same path. But the new forces in the field are not dominated by total abstainers--nor by professional "wets" in the employ of the liquor industry. More often they are neutral, or try to be, on the question of abstinence vs. moderation. Nevertheless they are militant in their desire to find solutions to the problems. Most are willing to join forces with any like-minded group so long as common goals can be approached objectively and cooperatively.

Is it a compromise of principle to work with those who do not concur on abstinence? Only if abstinence is considered the only solution to all alcohol problems. Certainly it is one valid solution--for the individual. But in a society which seems determined to continue using alcohol at least for the present, additional solutions must be found, solutions that can be supported by moderate drinkers and abstainers together. This is not defeatism; it is realism.

6). Temperance forces must provide a focal point for interdenominational and interfaith cooperation."

--The Christian Century, August 11, 1965, pp. 985-6

DRINKING TIED TO CANCERS

"A new study shows that heavy drinking of alcoholic beverages is linked to the development of mouth and throat cancers, a doctor said yesterday.

Dr. Milton Terris, professor of preventative medicine at the New York Medical College, said his study found that heavy drinking is more than twice as prevalent among cancer patients as among people without cancer.

Terris said he arbitrarily defined "heavy drinking" as four or more drinks a day.

The study, he said, was based on a study of 598 cancer patients at three veterans hospitals, and 598 people without cancer.

He said it showed:

... Of the cancer cases 19 per cent had liver cirrhosis. Of the other the percentage was 9.

... Of the cancer cases 43 per cent were heavy drinkers, compared to 20 per cent of the others.

... The ratio for heavy smoking was 20-12.

... There were more heavy drinkers among the cancer victims even if you compared only those who were also heavy smokers."

--Nashville Tennessean, September 5, 1965

TEENS THINK HARD ABOUT DRINKING

Patricia McCormack

"What do the nation's 23 million teen-agers think about adolescents drinking beer and whisky?

Some have flip answers. Sample:

"The only way to learn to drink is practice. The more you practice, the better off you are."

But teen-agers who are leaders--heads and members of student councils, editors of school papers--take a more serious view.

Easy to Obtain

"Any teen-ager in the city can get liquor whenever he wants it," reported Jacki Sharkey, editor of the Catalina High School paper in Tucson, Arizona.

But Charlotte Ackerly, editor of the Palo Verde High School paper, also in Tucson, said very few of the students drink, fewer are delinquents, and most are responsible persons.

Danny Hoover, student president at John Francis Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles, discussed the drinking problem with the student council and then made these points:

. . . Drinking is increasing partly because teen-agers have more money and liquor is easier to get.

'Forbidden Fruit'

. . . Parents should be more aware of where their children are and what they are doing. Liquor store owners should be more careful in selling.

. . . Some parents set a bad example. Study the adults and find out why they have drinking parties. You may find out why teen-agers drink.

In Darien, Connecticut, Sue Coyne and Rufus Millet speak for students who are setting up a youth recreation center--one response to the death last June of Nancy Hitchings, 17, after a party where liquor was served.

They maintain that drinking is a problem because of its after-effects and also because alcohol is a "forbidden fruit," tempting curious teen-agers. In addition, they say there are group pressures to drink.

In many communities, teen-agers take a stand on drinking by developing a code that covers conduct.

A code adopted in 1961 by student councils of schools, public and private, in Mt. Lebanon, Pa., rules against drinking. The teen-agers developed the code with a minimum of adult influence. It is called--'We Agree.'

--New York World Telegram and Sun, January 28, 1965

A BAPTIST EDITOR LOOKS AT ALCOHOL IN HIS STATE

Marse Grant

"Christian people with strong convictions on whisky are finding it harder and harder to make their impact felt in local or statewide legislation and elections. This is regrettable, but nevertheless it is true. A number of factors are responsible for this:

(1) The ABC system has been in effect 30 years in this state and there are no signs it will be voted out; in fact, more and more ABC stores are being established. At present, 39 counties and 26 towns sell liquor. The General Assembly has had a rash of bills this session asking for more local elections. Numerous communities are facing fights at the present time and bills are pending in the legislature calling for still more elections. Dry forces must admit their election record in recent years leaves something to be desired. Victories are few and far between.

(2) Unless there are unusual circumstances surrounding a bill, the General Assembly is going to approve a local election on liquor stores if requested to do so by the municipal or county governing body. Wilkes County folks who came to Raleigh April 28 knew this, but they wanted to express their opposition just the same.

(3) A better job must be done locally on the drinking problem. After all, this is where the issue is decided in an election and it's where liquor is consumed. The responsibility rests in the local communities.

(4) This problem of alcohol is with us and in the future it's going to be more difficult to handle than in the past. At the same times, Baptists who have strong feelings on this subject are finding less and less support from some of the other denominations. Not only are some other religious groups silent on the issue, but they are openly supporting ABC stores as was evidenced in the Wilkes hearing in Raleigh. An Episcopal minister, Frank McKenzie, was widely-quoted by news media as supporting ABC stores. No longer is there unanimity on this subject among ministers and their churches. Baptists usually take strong stands and this is commendable.

(5) But Baptists, numbering 960,000 in this state, must do more than merely oppose whisky. They must show the same conviction toward society's other ills--the area of human rights, for example. Otherwise, Baptist influence on whisky legislation will be less and less. To many non-Baptists, our opposition to social evils is confined almost solely to whisky and gambling. This selectivity is puzzling to those who see some Baptists fighting whisky but, at the same time, teaming up with groups that would deprive other human beings of basic human rights. Such inconsistency does not help in the fight against liquor. Baptist must be for that which is right and Christian instead of always taking a negative stance.

This is the picture as we see it in North Carolina. It is not very encouraging, we admit, but we believe it is realistic. At this session of the General Assembly, distilleries and local liquor bills are in the news. In 1967 it will be liquor-by-the-drink again--and possibly other legislation increasing the flow of whisky. The die is cast and only intelligent, consistent socio-political action will deter the march toward a more wide open state."

--Biblical Recorder, May 8, 1965

ENOUGH SAID!

"Five thousand more people were killed in vehicular traffic accidents during 1964 than in 1963--an increase of 12% in one year.

ENOUGH SAID! (continued)

The expectation for 1965 is 50,000! Fifty percent of these casualties will result from drinking and driving!

Drinking alcohol in the USA is making a "disaster area" -- far more frightful than flood-damage.

-- Temperance Education, Inc.
Washington, D. C., 1965, No. 3

U. S. personal consumption expenditures, 1963:
Alcoholic Beverages, personal \$11,080,000,000
Religious and Welfare Activity 5,424,000,000

-- Department of Commerce
Office of Business Economics
Survey of Current Business
July, 1962 - July, 1964

Alcohol advertising expenditures for time and space bought in newspapers, national magazines, television for 1963 - \$197,865,765.

-- Advertising Age, December 14, 1964

From reports for 1963 covering 127,210,000 of the total population of 189 million in the U. S., there was a total of 4,437,786 arrests for all purposes. Of these arrests, 2,409,286 were related to alcohol.

-- Crime in the U.S.; Uniform Crime Reports - 1963, FBI, Washington

RESOURCE MATERIALS ON ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM

Order from Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee:

- "Drinking Problems," Burgess and Price, \$.50
- "What About Alcohol?", Regan, \$.75
- "Basic Information About Alcohol," Set of 4 35mm filmstrips with 2 33 1/3 rpm records, Set of 4 - \$20.00, single - \$6.00.

Order from Service Department, Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns, 100 Maryland Avenue, Washington, D. C.

- Tracts: "The Congregation Ministers to the Alcoholic and His Family" - \$5.00 per 100
- "Alcohol and the Human Body" - \$2.00 per 100
- "Alcohol and the Human Spirit" - \$3.00 per 100
- "Alcohol and Personality" - \$3.00 per 100

Order from Baptist Book Store:

- What Shall We Say About Alcohol?, Hooton, \$2.00
- Basic Information on Alcohol, King, \$3.00
- Films: "The Devil's Cup," 28 minutes, rental - \$9.00
- "Road to En-dor," 30 minutes, rental - \$12.00

COMMITMENT CHECK LIST

In response to the Church's guidance and as my witness to God's concern for all families, I will:

- ☐ Discuss with my family the meaning of alcohol advertising and the use of alcohol in T.V. dramas and movies.
- ☐ Support laws to control drinking by drivers.
- ☐ Work for adequate alcohol education in public schools.
- ☐ Decide never to serve alcoholic beverages in my home.
- ☐ Seek adequate rehabilitation facilities for alcoholics.
- ☐ Encourage understanding among those who differ on social drinking.
- ☐ Organize a study-action group on alcohol problems in my church, club, or professional association.
- ☐ Commit myself for the first time to the discipline of total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.
- ☐ Renew my commitment to total abstinence.

-- Methodist's "Families Foster Freedom" Campaign

NEW BOOKS ON ALCOHOL

Two valuable new book manuscripts on alcohol and alcoholism are being considered for publication by Broadman Press. The authors are Wayne Cates and William Garmon. Publication would be in late 1966. Watch the book announcements for them!

LIGHT
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION, SBC
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
October 1965

Non-Profit Organization U. S. Postage PAID Nashville, Tennessee Permit No. 1552

Return Requested