

UNITED TEMPERANCE CAMPAIGN

1955

TO BE DIRECTED BY
THE N.S.W. TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

A CALL TO OUR PEOPLE

Christian Friends,

On the 10th of March, 1955, the Council of Churches in New South Wales and the State Council of the N.S.W. Temperance Alliance met together in Bible House, and resolved unanimously to launch a fresh offensive against liquor abuses in this State, with particular reference to the restoration of local option polls.

We have done this in the conviction that these abuses are intolerable; that they are repugnant to both Christian ideals and democratic principle; that they constitute a grave national menace; and that all other methods of reform have proved futile.

Carefully verified reports of the effects of ten o'clock closing to date are recorded herein. Such facts vindicate our support for the retention of six o'clock closing, and they justify our demand for another referendum on the same day as the next State Elections. The narrow majority for ten o'clock should be borne in mind: for ten, 902,532; for six, 892,740. Majority for ten, 9,792—informal, 41,794.

LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Like our friends in many parts of the United States, the electors of South Australia exercise local option rights over liquor licences. By contrast, we, the electors of New South Wales, have been deprived of this democratic right, which was attained in 1905 by temperance agitation, suspended in 1916 owing to the war, never restored, and repealed in 1946. This repeal of local option represented a major political and financial victory for the liquor interests, and a crippling reverse for the temperance cause.

We therefore make this united and earnest appeal to all church and temperance people, to spurn this shameful record of defeat, to take up this crusade again with us, to set up their local organisation as may seem best, and in reliance upon God, to sustain their efforts until the political stranglehold of the liquor trade is broken.

THE TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE WELCOMES THE ACTIVE ASSOCIATION OF THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN THIS CAMPAIGN, AND THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CALLS UPON BOTH CLERGY AND PEOPLE TO FACE THIS PROBLEM REALISTICALLY, AND TO GIVE THEIR UTMOST PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE, ON WHICH THE MAIN BURDEN OF THE CAMPAIGN MUST FALL.

FAR WORSE THAN EITHER FLOODS OR POLIO

In the Maitland flood disaster, the Police Department reports 12 confirmed deaths and 11 unconfirmed. Yet more than 70 persons die on New South Wales roads EVERY MONTH. Harrowing as are the disfigurements of little children smitten with poliomyelitis, alcoholism dwarfs both of these scourges as a cause of misery, cruel maiming, and premature death. Over a million pounds were raised swiftly to help flood victims. Our cause is rendered almost pathetic by lack of money. Yet if less than half of the estimated churchgoers represented by the Alliance (taking churchgoers as one-fifth of the Census members) gave no more than 2/- a year, the income of the Alliance would be NEARLY TREBLED.

We are in urgent need of more staff. Invaluable social and scientific studies on this massive and complicated question never attain general circulation in Australia for lack of money to publish them.

The State elections are due early next year. Many Government supporters represent areas that gave a majority for six o'clock. We ask all Ministers' Fraternals, or where there is no Fraternal, all Church Societies, to receive one of our accredited speakers as soon as may be convenient.

FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR NATION, AND OUR FAITH

BERNARD G. JUDD
Rector of St. Peter's (Sydney).
President, N.S.W. Temperance Alliance.

Vice-Presidents:

Rev. Dr. CUMMING THOM
(Moderator,
N.S.W. Presbyterian Assembly)

Mrs. C. B. SEGETIN
Rev. P. L. BLACK

W. G. HILLIARD
Coadjutor-Bishop of Sydney.
President, N.S.W. Council of
Churches.

Vice-Presidents:

The Heads of the Constituent
Churches.

WHY THIS CAMPAIGN?

Because ten o'clock closing has brought—

HEAVIER DRINKING. The U.L.V.A. reports that 23,000,000 gallons of beer were drunk in the first 3 months of ten o'clock closing. This represents 3,000,000 gallons more than for the same period last year, or a 15 per cent rise in beer consumption.

Sun-Herald—1/5/55.

JUST A PIPE OPENER. Tooth's, which produces 75 per cent of all beer brewed in New South Wales, said three days after ten o'clock closing began, that more beer would be needed and that new plant to cost nearly £200,000 would be producing 600,000 EXTRA GALLONS A WEEK by Christmas.

Sydney Sun—4/2/55.

MORE DRUNKENNESS. Through the courtesy of Mr. R. W. S. Kelly, Under-Secretary for Justice, and Clerks of Petty Sessions, The N.S.W. Temperance Alliance has been supplied with the official Court returns for convictions for drunkenness for 13 metropolitan Courts in the first 3 months of ten o'clock closing, and in the same period last year. They show an increase of 42 per cent. Population increase, 12 months, 2 per cent.

MORE DEATHS ON THE ROADS. The Road Safety Council of N.S.W. has furnished the official figures, which show a rise of 13.1 per cent in road fatalities for period 1st January to 10th May, 1955, compared with the same period in 1954. The Premier of New South Wales pointed out that this is nearly twice the increase of motor registrations (7.8 per cent).

YET the Traffic Superintendent insists that ten o'clock closing has caused a drop of 25 per cent in drunken driving.

Daily Telegraph—19/4/55.

COULD THERE BE ANY CONNECTION? Speaking as a member of the Expert Committee on Chemical Tests (breath, urine, blood) for persons suspected of driving under the influence of liquor, November 23, 1952, Dr. H. B. Taylor, then N.S.W. Government Analyst, said—

"Most of the analyses carried out by his Department were forwarded by Coroners or Government Medical Officers. It was his opinion that 90 per cent of fatal accidents were caused by alcohol." . . .

Mr. Worrall (N.R.M.A.) commented that although this percentage was not reflected in the official figures, he believed that Dr. Taylor was correct in his contention."

Typed Minutes, page 4.

This important revelation was published in *Road Safety* for January, 1953, and in the *Daily Telegraph* as a five-column banner headline on January 9th, 1953:

"ALCOHOL CAUSES 90% OF ROAD DEATHS"

THIRD EXPERT CONCURS. Six months later independent support from another angle appeared in *Pix* (27/6/53) by an experienced Car Insurance Assessor, Mr. L. A. Gray, examiner of 15,000 accidents involving 2,500 deaths. He said: "Though Court records don't confirm it, ALCOHOL IS IN THE BACKGROUND OF 90 PER CENT OF FATAL ACCIDENTS."

MORE DANGER TO PROPERTY. Circular to tenants from agents of large city premises: "Ten o'clock closing has been followed by an increasing number of disturbing and dangerous incidents in the building, especially in the later hours of the evening, including a deliberate attempt at arson, fortunately detected in time, and investigated by the police. In order that tenants' own goods and means of livelihood be made more secure, the hours for the building from 28th March will be Monday to Friday close at 8 p.m. instead of 11 p.m.; Saturday close at 1 p.m. instead of 6 p.m."

RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON ALCOHOL IS FOLLOWED BY A RISE IN COMMITMENTS TO ASYLUMS, HOSPITALISATIONS AND DELINQUENCY.

United Nations' Report on Alcoholism, 1947.

DROP IN FOOD CONSUMPTION. "Australians are drinking more beer, but eating less ice-cream and chocolate. Beer consumption is at an all-time high," said Acting Statistician S. R. Carver today (*Sun* 4/3/55).

Storekeepers' and Delicatessen Owners' Association stated that the first week of ten o'clock closing had seen a heavy falling off in trade (*Sydney Morning Herald* 7/2/55).

SORRY, TOO BUSY! The Secretary of N.S.W. Amusement Proprietors Association (dance halls), which is strictly non-alcoholic, has reported that since ten o'clock closing drunken youths pester the dance halls, but requests for police assistance are met with the reply, "Sorry, too busy."

THIN END OF WEDGE? All who value reasonable hours of work will resist any attempt to use later hotel trading hours as a lever to get later trading hours in other directions. The most effective counter is to restore six o'clock closing.

NATIONAL SCANDAL OF MENTAL ILLNESS. The Stoller Report has shocked the nation. The Federal Government has offered £30,000,000 to help the States cope with this widening sea of insanity. **AND THE CHIEF CAUSE? CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM!** (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 9/5/55.)

► FOR THIS CAMPAIGN

The General Secretary,
N.S.W. Temperance Alliance,
77 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.
Phone: MA 4229

Dear Sir,

As a contribution to this United Campaign by the Churches, I enclose/promise herewith a donation of £.....:.....:.....

Realising the difficult nature of this reform, and being in full accord with the objects of the Alliance, namely, temperance education, and local option polls, I wish to become a member of the Alliance, and to receive its literature.

Please therefore credit 10/- of my donation to Membership Fee, and send all communications to—

Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss

Address

Church

Note: If Membership is not desired, cross out the reference to it.