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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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The Premier Mr. Wran has succeeded in passing through Parliament the extension of hotel trading hours to include Sunday trading. It is a very controversial matter and affects the welfare of the community. In the past, extension of hotel trading hours has been put to a referendum and only ten years ago the electorate rejected overwhelmingly the Sunday trading that Mr. Wran has now enacted. Although lots of people asked for a referendum Mr. Wran would not hold one. There can only be one reason for this refusal, he did not think he could carry it, and so he has legislated in spite of the opinion the electorate so strongly expressed only ten years ago.

Alcohol is a drug of addiction and its consumption should be controlled rather than be made more easy. It is responsible for a great deal of death in the community as well as ongoing unhappiness in homes. The community costs for hospitalisation and law enforcement as a result of the sale and production of alcohol are enormous and yet the government does nothing but encourage its increased consumption. Electors have not been given the opportunity of expressing their mind at a referendum but I hope they won't forget to do so at the next election. Candidates should be asked what their views are with regard to the control of the excessive consumption of alcohol, the great drug problem of our community.

Mr. Wran heads up a government which has prevented the police from enforcing the law with regard to nudity in public places. It is no longer possible to take your family to South Head reserve which is perhaps the nicest area in the harbour foreshores because the path goes close to Lady Jane beach where people are allowed to bathe naked.

If it is right to do this in one public place it is silly to think that you can convince people it is wrong to do it in some other. Already on our other beaches naked bathing is taking place and so making the beach an unpleasant place for a picnic. The ordinary man and woman knows that the deliberate exposure of nakedness in public is wrong, our innate sense of modesty tells us that; it is a form of sexual perversion. If we continue to tolerate it, it will coarsen our society.

Mr. Wran has recently introduced Lotto and he has said that he proposes to legalise casinos. Gambling is a vice and it is wrong to promote it simply in order to raise taxes and yet this is the only reason why Lotto has been introduced. It is always wrong to make money out of vice and weakness, whether to support a club or a government. It is the taxing of the weak and shifting on to their shoulders what should be borne by the whole community. To say these things will never make a person popular, at least not till he is dead. For example, Jesus is well thought of now but in His own lifetime He told His disciples "if they have hated me they will hate you also and if they have kept my words they will keep yours". Yet Christians must speak the words of Jesus to their contemporaries that through them God may have mercy and perhaps bring us all to a better frame of mind.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
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