

TWO VIEWS OF PROHIBITION IN COMING PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Johnson City Staff-News, Thursday Afternoon, October 6, 1927

The following two viewpoints of the impact of Prohibition on the upcoming 1928 Presidential campaign are provided by the Moderation League and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Austin Fox, chairman of the Moderation League, Inc. in announcing the League's study of the first two prohibition waves in the United States, and its analysis of the 1926 Referenda, which show that we are now nearing the end of the third prohibition wave.

With the three leading candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination wet, the Republican Party must run a wet in 1928 if it wants to save the electoral votes of the industrial eastern states.

These eastern states are not merely wet, but so overwhelmingly wet that their huge majorities in formerly dry states have in most cases been wiped out, and in the remainder so greatly reduced that the election in those states will not turn on the prohibition question but on party politics. The Republican Party therefore, is faced with the problem of holding the east, its former stronghold which is seriously threatened by development within the Democratic Party.

Our study, which was prepared by the Research Director for the League, shows that public opinion has already swung away from prohibition. The present is merely the tail end of the third prohibition wave in the United States. The first was in the 1850s, the second in the 1880s, and the third wave reached its peak in 1918. These waves seem to recur in cycles or intervals of about thirty years, and are able to maintain themselves for only about a decade after reaching their peak. That the third wave is now passed is shown by the 1926 prohibition referenda in eight states. The concurrent wave in Canada has already passed. Public opinion is still swinging further away from prohibition, more and more every day. The time has now come when it is no longer safe for a party to run dry if its opponents are wet.

(Special Correspondent)

Since the Women's Christian Temperance Union resolved at its recent convention in Minneapolis to work for the nomination and election of "the undoubted friends of prohibition," it has been the subject

of attack from wets who assume the W.C.T.U. is about to go into state and national politics as a separate party. The W.C.T.U. is not advocating any such idea nor is it abandoning its fifty-three year old program of education.

The republican women in the W.C.T.U. want their party to nominate dry candidates on dry planks. The democratic women in the W.C.T.U. will work to the same end in their party, nor does this general desire detract from the work of extending temperance education to the schools and other channels. The fact that its **600,000 members are voters** and interested in getting a square deal at the ballot box led the convention to insert the following two planks in the platform:

“We pledge the active support of our organization to an educational campaign to promote law observance, to support enforcement officials who are the undoubted friends of prohibition and who really care that America shall receive full benefit therefrom.”

“We declare that every citizen should accept his citizenship obligation by voting at the primaries on Election Day that dry voters should actively support dry candidates for nomination and election.”

The members of the W.C.T.U. will do their share next fall by working in wards, precincts and districts, and this work will affect both major parties as the W.C.T.U. membership is almost evenly divided between republicans and democrats.