

Association Against the Prohibition Amendment



The following are excerpts from speeches and writings by officials and members of the AAPA:

"Excessive drinking among young people is a natural consequence of our prohibition laws. This is not evidence of depravity on their part, but a youthful reaction against the challenge of restraint. It is smart to drink. It is smart to carry a flask. Before prohibition the lad who took liquor on the hip to a party was almost unknown. Today he is a common figure."

[from Henry H. Curran, "The Wet Side of Prohibition," *New York Herald Tribune*, 12 January 1926.]

"If ninety per cent of our people must be protected against their own personal desires and inclinations by . . . the remaining ten per cent, the United States has ceased to be a Republic. The people do not govern themselves but are in the hands of dictators whose self-assumed superiority decide personal as well as public affairs."

[from Pierre Du Pont, AAPA pamphlet, *A Business Man's View of Prohibition*, 1929.]

"[Prohibition] discriminates between the rich and the poor. The former may . . . have stored away . . . an abundance of liquors, which the poor man was summarily denied by reason of his lack of money. Why should he be more a slave to . . . censorship . . . than his wealthy employer? Slavery was abolished . . . at the end of a bloody Civil War. Men were then taught the right to think and act as they might choose, so long as they invaded no other's rights, was a divine gift The poor man, as well as the rich, has the right to spend his own money as he pleases, and to choose his own diversions Slavery is the subjection to another's will or control. Must wage earners be groomed as oxen in the stall by their employers?"

[from Henry S. Priest, AAPA spokesman, testimony at Congressional Hearings, 1926]

"The Constitution inherited from our Fathers has been amended and mutilated Our Constitutional guarantees . . . have been violated. Sumptuary law (such as national prohibition) grants and withholds privileges upon a difference of religious belief. The right to govern ourselves in local affairs -- a right won by our ancestors in three generations of struggle -- is ignored."

[from AAPA pamphlet, *Some Existing Conditions and Their Causes* 1922]

"Not only have the American people done nothing to sustain the Bill of Rights and pass on to posterity a glorious heritage of self-dependence and manly action; not only have they witnessed without concern the progressive destruction, clause by clause, of the constitution; but, forgetting that a bill of rights is essentially a body of limitations imposed in justified distrust of power, they have . . . permitted their rulers . . . to confer upon themselves from the reserved mass of powers such accessions of authority as are fatal to any conception of limited government."

[from Sterling E. Edmunds, "Mining and Sapping Our Bill of Rights," *Virginia Law Review* November 1929 (reprinted and distributed in pamphlet form).]

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