

GALLUP POLL ON NATIONAL PROHIBITION DOESN'T REFLECT TRUE PICTURE OF LIQUOR SITUATION, TEMPERANCE LEADER CHARGES IN STATEMENT.

"The Gallup Poll on National Prohibition (published locally in Washington Post-Times Herald, April 9) fails to reflect many significant trends in America against alcoholic beverages," Clayton M. Wallace, executive director, National Temperance League, Inc., said today.

"While national prohibition was the method of dealing with the liquor question under the 18th Amendment," said Mr. Wallace in a statement, "today we live under the 21st Amendment, which gives to each state the right to deal with the liquor question in its own way.

"Under the 21st Amendment, a state may have a liquor monopoly system, a license system, local option, or state-wide prohibition. Under the 21st Amendment, there is a persistent effort to dry up 'wet' territory through local option, with small steady gains toward the 'dry' side.

"Texas has 144 dry counties with 80 more partly dry and only 30 still wet. Oak Cliff, Texas, a Dallas suburb with 225,000 population, voted dry last fall. Polk County, largest dry county in Florida, faced the possibility of a wet-dry election this month. No election was held because the liquor interests could not get enough signatures on their petitions to call up the election. Regardless of public sentiment on national prohibition, there is a real growth in dry sentiment at the local and state levels.

"The recent Gallup Poll shows the strongest dry sentiment in the South. It is in that area that much territory has gone dry under local option. Recent studies made by the research department of the National Temperance League show that the rate of alcoholism in the South is less than half of that in the Northeastern States.

"In a study of the estimated alcoholics per 100,000 adult population for 1953 the national average was 4390, while the average for nine Southern states was 2490. The average for the states of Mass., Rhode Island, Conn., New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and D. C. was 5650.

"On the West Coast, California's estimated number of alcoholics per 100,000 adult population was 7060. We believe these figures show that where the sale of alcoholic beverages is reduced by local option, the harmful results of drinking are also reduced. Where the sale of beer, wine and liquor is wide open, alcoholism and other harmful effects of drinking are much more widespread.

"Furthermore, there is no doubt of a rising tide of temperance sentiment in the churches of America, who are alarmed over the effects of alcohol on the character of the American people."

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