

National Prohibitionist



Twenty-first Century Series



Jul-Aug-Sep 2023



Volume 13, #3

Debate Emerges Over Alcohol Guidelines

Michael Wood

If you will indulge me for a moment, please imagine this headline:

Surgeon General suggests Americans smoke two cigarettes a day

Absurd, you say? The idea that our government would actively set a guideline for the consumption of a substance known to cause disease and death would be ridiculous, correct? The public would be up in arms if our government set health guidelines that included smoking two cigarettes a day!

So, we must ask, why does the opposite hold true when the government considers reducing the guidelines on how much alcohol one should consume in a healthy diet? In the case of tobacco, the Surgeon General has, in fact, emphasized that one of the most important actions people can take to improve their health is to quit smoking altogether. When it comes to guidelines on the consumption of alcohol, the issue takes on a different level of complexity. Despite the fact that the Surgeon General reports that 66 million individuals (nearly a quarter of the adult and adolescent population) reported binge drinking in the past month, and that the yearly economic impact of alcohol misuse results in a yearly economic impact of \$249 billion for our country, the government still considers two alcoholic drinks a day to be part of a healthy diet!

Some experts are finally speaking up. Recent comments by George F. Koob PhD, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, have triggered a fervent debate that highlights both health concerns and political divisions. His comments regarding the scheduled 2025 review of the "Dietary Guidelines for Americans," and within these, the government's

PRO 2024

recommendations on alcohol consumption, have brought the issue to a head.

Dr. Koob is an internationally-recognized expert on alcohol, and in his role at the NIAAA, he provides leadership in the national effort to reduce the public health burden associated with alcohol misuse. Dr. Koob has suggested that the government reconsider the current guideline of limiting alcohol consumption to two drinks per day, suggesting instead a possible pivot towards the Canadian guideline of limiting alcohol consumption to two drinks per week.

Conservative critics are raising eyebrows at potential changes that could introduce stricter guidelines - these changes being seen as impacting the choices of Americans in their daily lives. Texas Republican Rep. Troy Nehls criticizes these potential changes, framing them as an overreach of government control. This perspective underscores the larger political division on the issue, with criticism pointing towards the Democrats' alleged desire to regulate personal choices.

Amidst this debate, the role of alcohol as a social and recreational component of society comes under scrutiny, further fueling ideological disputes. The controversy takes an intriguing turn as the Prohibition Party platform for 2024 advocates for more stringent guidelines on alcohol consumption, while striking a balance by recognizing each individual's right to make their own decision to drink or not. The party's stance, encouraging the education of Americans about the risks associated with alcohol, closely aligns with experts

who fear lenient dietary guidelines might undermine public health.

The larger question of the role of alcohol in society highlights the tension between individual freedoms and collective health concerns. Current guidelines caution that even small amounts of alcohol can pose health risks, especially for certain cancers and for cardiovascular health - yet there is strong political resistance to lowering alcohol consumption guidelines as part of a healthy diet. This perplexing gap between the recommended alcohol consumption guidelines and the recognized health risks of consuming alcohol underscores the challenges public health officials face in striking a balance between scientific evidence and social norms.

So why has the government taken such a different course with alcohol when compared with tobacco? Perhaps it is only a question of time until the dangers of alcohol are placed on par with the dangers of tobacco, and the government guidelines are amended. It is no secret that excessive alcohol consumption can lead to serious health complications; the potential for addiction, negative impacts on both mental and physical health, liver problems, cardiovascular issues, and certain types of cancer are well-documented. These studies underscore the need for careful consideration when recommending alcohol intake.

Nonetheless, the current USDA dietary guidelines recommend up to two alcoholic drinks per day as part of a healthy diet. This seems counterintuitive given the well-documented health risks associated

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The National Prohibitionist

ISSN 1549-9251 D

Published at Box 212, Needmore, Pennsylvania 17238
by the Prohibition National Committee.

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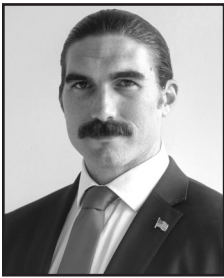
Deadline: last Monday of the month

Contributed articles are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless a SASE is enclosed.

Subscription: \$5/year (12 months) – make checks out to the Prohibition National Committee, memo “National Prohibitionist Fund,” and mail to the address above.

Editing, typography, and graphic design by The Camel Press, Big Cove Tannery, Pennsylvania. Printing by Mercersburg Printing, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

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From the Chairman's Corner

Zack Kusnr

Carrie Nation

A Temperance Crusader Whose Impact Endures

Carrie Nation, a name synonymous with the temperance movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, left an indelible mark on American society that continues to resonate today. Her passionate and unyielding pursuit of alcohol prohibition not only transformed the nation's drinking habits but also ignited debates on women's rights, moral reform, and the role of civil disobedience in achieving social change.

Born in 1846 in Garrard County, Kentucky, Carrie Nation's life took a dramatic turn when she experienced the devastating effects of alcoholism within her own family. This personal tragedy ignited her unwavering commitment to the temperance cause. She believed that the consumption of alcohol was the root of many societal ills, including poverty, domestic violence, and moral decay.

Carrie Nation's most enduring impact was her use of direct action as a means of promoting temperance. She famously wielded a hatchet as her weapon of choice, often entering saloons and bars to destroy bottles of alcohol. These headline-grabbing acts of civil disobedience made her a household name and turned her into a symbol of resistance against the liquor

industry. While her methods were controversial and even illegal, they drew attention to the temperance cause and inspired others to join the movement.

One of the lasting impacts of Carrie Nation's activism is the eventual culmination of the temperance movement in the form of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibited the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcoholic beverages. Ratified in 1919, this amendment led to the era of Prohibition, which lasted until 1933. While Prohibition ultimately had mixed results and was later repealed, it demonstrated the power of social movements to shape public policy.

Additionally, Carrie Nation's activism played a crucial role in advancing women's rights and their participation in political and social spheres. She defied societal norms of her time by actively engaging in public demonstrations and challenging male-dominated spaces like saloons. Her actions paved the way for other women to assert themselves and demand their rights.

Furthermore, her legacy can be seen in the ongoing debates about the regulation of alcohol and other substances in American society. The tension between individual liberties and public health concerns that were at the heart of the temperance movement still influences discussions on issues such as drug legalization, smoking regulations, and public health campaigns.

In conclusion, Carrie Nation's impact on America remains profound and enduring. Her tireless dedication to the temperance movement sparked crucial discussions on alcohol regulation, women's rights, and civil disobedience. While her methods were controversial, they undeniably contributed to the eventual nationwide prohibition of alcohol. Today, her legacy reminds us of the power of passionate activism and the capacity of individuals to effect change, even in the face of formidable opposition. Carrie Nation's name may be synonymous with the hatchet, but her true legacy lies in her unwavering commitment to a better, sober America.

Poison ivy, whatever else you may say about it, has beautiful fall foliage. When one vine encircles a solitary fence post, it metamorphoses into a scarlet turban atop the post, a blazing crown of glory intimidating the duller colors all around it.

Cooper's Compendium

R.T. Cooper's internet publication, *A Biblical Look at Tobacco, Alcohol, and Pornography*, is a welcome addition to the literature on addictions. Dr. Cooper finds clear and concise warnings about the use of tobacco, alcohol, and pornography in this collection of Biblical passages relating to “temperance.” He describes the many physical and social harms stemming from these vices, in addition to citing their Biblical prohibitions.

This digital booklet is an introduction to three full-length books Dr. Cooper plans to write about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, and pornography: *A Biblical Look at Tobacco*, *A Biblical Look at Alcohol*, and *A Biblical Look at Pornography*. The underlying theme of each will be “temperance,” which is, basically, self-restraint. Temperate people control themselves to avoid indulgence in substances and actions which will harm them or those around them in body, soul, or spirit.

Dr. Cooper is the founder of “Temperance Awakening,” a ministry dedicated to helping people overcome addictions. For more information, please contact D. R.T. Cooper at temperanceawakening@outlook.com.

If anyone tells you that a certain person speaks ill of you, do not make excuses about what is said of you but answer, “He was ignorant of my other faults, else he would not have mentioned these alone.”

--- Epictetus

Sign Up For the New York Prohibitionist

Interested in keeping up to date with all the news from the *New York Prohibitionist*? Well, you can sign up for our email list and have the latest issues emailed to you when they come out. All you have to do is email newyorkprohibition@aol.com and let us know you'd like to sign up. You can also do so by messaging the New York Prohibition Party Facebook Page or the New York Prohibition Party Twitter Account.

with alcohol consumption. The disparity between the government’s dietary guidelines and the known risks of alcohol consumption highlights a larger issue in public health guidelines. Striking a balance between social norms, individual preferences, corporate interests, and scientific evidence does pose challenges; challenges which were, however, successfully overcome in recognizing and limiting the dangers of tobacco use.

In a time when health-consciousness is increasing, it’s crucial for dietary guidelines to reflect the most up-to-date and evidence-based information. The apparent incongruity between the current alcohol consumption guidelines and the associated health risks of alcohol calls for a deeper examination of the decision-making process behind such guidelines. Ultimately, public health officials must consider the broader impact of their recommendations, especially when it comes to substances known to pose harm. The aim should always be to provide clear and accurate guidance that empowers individuals to make informed decisions for their own well-being.

The paradox of government guidelines that suggest two alcoholic drinks a day are part of a healthy diet and the alignment of such guidelines with established medical knowledge raises questions about the motivation of the politicians making these decisions. These intricacies illuminate the complexity of policy-making, where the tension between personal choices, corporate interests, and public health outcomes remains palpable.

The Prohibition Party has taken a stance on the issue and welcomes a revision of the “Dietary Guidelines for Americans.” As these discussions unfold over the next two years, our hope is for guidelines that genuinely prioritize citizens’ health and well-being, offering a clear and informed path forward for individuals seeking to responsibly navigate their health choices.

Big Tobacco Hasn’t Changed

As Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court (of the District of Columbia) found in her nearly 1,700-page final opinion, “The evidence in this case clearly establishes that Defendants R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris have not ceased engaging in unlawful activity... Their continuing conduct misleads consumers in order to maximize Defendants’ revenues by recruiting new smokers (the majority of whom are under the age of 18), preventing current smokers from quitting, and thereby sustaining the industry.”

They are fighting federal, state and local efforts to end the sale of menthol cigarettes – products that make it easier for kids to start smoking and harder for smokers to quit and that these companies have intentionally marketed to Black communities at enormous cost in health and lives.

They are fighting proposed graphic warnings on cigarette packs in the U.S. – a best-practice policy adopted by over 125 countries around the world.

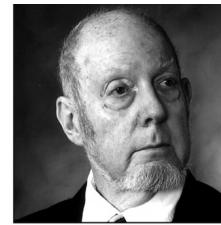
They are fighting to defeat and roll back statewide smoke-free laws, especially for hospitality workplaces, thereby unfairly endangering the health of a workforce that employs a high percentage of women and people of color.

Under a federal court order, warning signs will be installed near cigarette displays in stores July 1 and September 30, 2023 and must remain until June 30, 2025. This is a long-overdue step in holding the tobacco industry accountable for decades of lies that led to addiction, disease and premature death for millions of people.

The order applies to tobacco companies Altria and its Philip Morris USA subsidiary, to R.J. Reynolds, and to ITG Brands.

The signs are the final step in implementing the “corrective statements” the tobacco companies were first ordered to make in 2006, when Judge Kessler issued a landmark judgment that these companies violated civil racketeering laws and lied to the public for decades about the health risks and addictiveness of cigarettes and their marketing to children.

— Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids



Editor’s Musings

In the early 1800s, your Editor’s county was still a “frontier” area. It had many, many tavern licenses, one every couple miles along the main road and about a dozen in and around the settlement which later became the county seat.

This is the heart of the folded Appalachians, and getting from here to anywhere was an expedition. Canals, and later on railroads, made it economically feasible to ship grain to market from most other places, but we never had either; we don’t even have a stream large enough for river boats.

The economic solution for farmers, which is to say most people, was to convert surplus grain to alcohol. A gallon of white lightening could be put on a pack horse and carried to a market miles away and still return a profit.

Folk hero John Chapman, “Johnny Appleseed,” had a similar business model. Johnny was no connoisseur of fine fruit – he was a businessman who speculated in land near frontier settlements. And while waiting for his building lots to appreciate, he planted orchards, harvested apples, and, because fresh apples have a low value per wagon-load, converted them into higher value (hard) cider.



Parker Removed

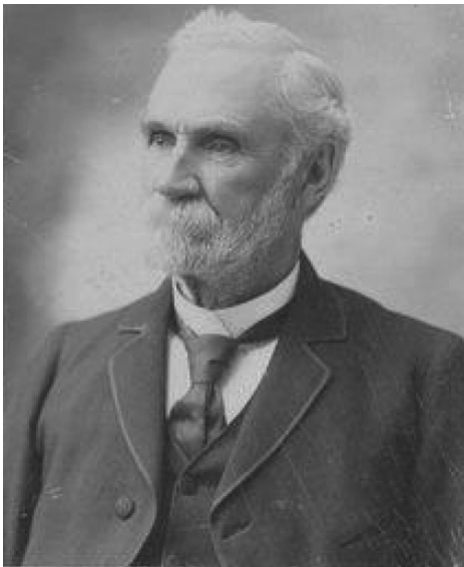
The Prohibition National Committee has voted, per By-Laws IIS5 and IIIS6, to remove Billy Joe Parker from his position as National Committeeman for Georgia. In addition, he is no longer recognized as our State Chairman for Georgia.

Grounds for removal were, briefly, in-temperate and abusive speech when representing the Prohibition Party to the public and making personal attacks on Party officials.

Several remonstrances have had little effect upon his behavior. The Committee appreciates Mr. Parker’s enthusiasm and his long-time commitment to our Party; it believes that his recent actions have damaged our public image; it is therefore with regret severing our formal association with him.

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Walter Thomas Bliss

Walter Thomas Bliss was a lawyer, businessman, and Prohibition Party politician, who ran as the Prohibition Party candidate for New York Attorney General in 1914 and for Justice on the State Court of Appeals in 1917.

Walter Bliss was born on November 6, 1860, in Little Genesee, New York. He was the son of Benjamin Thurston Bliss (b.1830-d.1902) and Mary Jane (Crandall) Bliss (b.1842-d.1943). His father had as a schoolteacher and sawmill worker, before marrying and settling down to become a farmer. Walter grew up with his siblings William (b.1864-d.1940), Carrie (b.1868-d.1938), and Leslie (b.1877-d.1964) on his parents' farm in Little Genesee.

Bliss was been educated in public schools, then attended Alfred Academy. At age 17, he started working as a schoolteacher. He worked as a schoolteacher for 4 years and then began studying philosophy at Alfred University.

He joined the Prohibition Party in 1884, while a student at Alfred, and assisted with the St. John campaign in that year.

Graduating from Alfred in 1886, Bliss spent two years working to save up money for law school, then studied one year at the University of Michigan. He completed his studies reading law with a prominent local lawyer, then began practicing law in Alfred.

Bliss was nominated as a Prohibition Party candidate for town justice in Alfred in 1891 and was also endorsed as part of a multi-party fusion ticket that was run in Alfred that year. He ran against Republican candidate Chas Stillman. Bliss won the

election with 185 votes, to 158 for Stillman; Bliss' subsequent move to Bolivar prevented him from serving out the length of his term.

In 1894, Walter Bliss was the Prohibition Party candidate for Town Supervisor of Bolivar. The same year, Bliss was nominated as a Prohibition Party candidate for State Assembly in Allegany County. Bliss received 758 votes (7.71%) and came in third place. In 1895, the Allegany County Prohibition Party held a convention to select its nominees for county offices. Walter Bliss was nominated as the Prohibition Party candidate for county district attorney. Bliss received 785 votes (9.58%) and came in third place.

Bliss had by now established himself as a prominent figure in Allegheny County politics and would go on to run as a Prohibition Party candidate in many more races.

Walter Bliss became a statewide candidate in 1914, when the Prohibition Party state convention nominated him as the Prohibition Party candidate for New York Attorney General. He campaigned on a platform that included support for passing a state prohibition law, establishing women's suffrage in New York, banning child labor, establishing protections for worker's rights, environment protection for the state's water, forests, and natural resources, simplifying the state's system of primary elections, combating sex trafficking, and improving the state's system of highway construction. He received 27,949 votes (2.06%) and came in 5th place.

In 1919, Walter Bliss created the law practice Bliss and Bliss with his sons Lawrence and Chester. His son Lawrence would go on to become United States Commissioner in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1922. His son George was admitted to the state bar in 1931 and joined the family law firm. Not long after that, Walter Bliss retired, leaving the firm to be managed by Chester and George.

Bliss continued to be involved with businesses and real estate activities in Bolivar and elsewhere in Allegany County during the 1920s. In the early 1920s, he was a major owner of Bliss Oil Company. He was also a partner in the Herrick and Bliss Oil Company, and he continued to develop properties he owned in Bolivar.

On January 20th, 1941, Walter Bliss celebrated his 50th anniversary with his wife Minnie. His health took a turn for the worse not long after, and he died in Olean

Hospital on February 9th, 1941. He left behind his wife, four of his sons, and 7 grandchildren. Walter Bliss was buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery in Bolivar, NY.

— Condensed from a much longer article by Jonathan Makeley, which is available at https://615c4beb-b241-4f4a-a6b4-a074d-c02ce34.filesusr.com/ugd/2cc7be_ac69b-383d60240789a062d3e39944406.pdf

And also on the website www.prohibitionists.org.

Fraternity Boozing

Last year, Virginia Commonwealth University paid \$1 million to the family of Adam Oakes, a VCU freshman whose hazing-related death from alcohol poisoning led to a reckoning for Greek life on campus.

VCU has long barred its branding from appearing on alcoholic beverages as part of University policy, but in May, President Michael Rao instituted interim rules that allowed branded beer for the first time since at least 2013. Now, the VCU alumni association is planning to sell a VCU-branded beer starting on Oct. 26.

However, according to Everett Carpenter, president of the VCU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the policy change that allowed that branding has already been rejected by a faculty committee that was supposed to oversee university policy.

"The proposed changes were voted down unanimously," Carpenter wrote in an open letter to Rao. "This action violates the spirit of shared governance with your VCU colleagues."

Carpenter wrote that the decision to push through this branding "seems incredibly insensitive and disrespectful considering recent alcohol-related tragedies." — Oct 25 announcement, *Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond*.

Land of St. Patrick

Ireland, that place world-famous for green beer, has passed a law requiring health labels on alcoholic-beverage containers! Enforcement will be delayed three years, in order to give the drinks industry time to use up existing stocks, but it's on the books. From May, 2024, labels and in-store publicity must include information on calorie content, alcohol content, risk of cancer and liver disease, and risk to pregnant women.