

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington Writing to State Legislator Bennett, January, 27, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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January 27, 1947.

Hon. R. H. C. Bennett,  
State Legislature,  
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

As you face the problems which this legislature will have to solve, I am sure that you will do it with an aim to improve and not to injure the state and the county which you represent.

There are certain matters which are to come before your body in which I am concerned, as are all other lovers of humanity, not merely from a financial but also from a moral standpoint. The two that I am most concerned about just now are the two which have to do with liquor and gambling.

As to the former, surely Oregon is becoming a drunken state rapidly enough without making it still easier for drinkers to get and to consume liquor. According to the information furnished by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, the annual per capita consumption of legally sold hard liquor in the state has risen from \$4.00 to \$37.87; the former figure for the year 1934, the first one after prohibition was repealed, the latter for the year ending June 30, 1946. Such figures, \$37.87 for every man, woman and child in the state, are appalling. Half as many liquor permits as the total population of the state -- not half the people over 21 who are entitled to permits, but half of all of us, including the babies. And this does not include the sales of beers and light wines, nor the bootleg sales, which were supposed to end with the repeal of prohibition, but which did not. Surely nobody can rightly say that there is need that the liquor laws become more liberal. We spent for this legally sold hard liquor \$41,268,870.53 the last fiscal year; we do not need to encourage a still larger sale by making liquor more readily accessible. The liquor laws need change, but not in that direction.

And the same is true of the gambling situation. That the state should be taking an income from so injurious a thing as gambling, on horses or dogs or anything else, is to my way of thinking immoral. Let's make all gambling illegal. There is enough money wasted in gambling to run the state government.

With the hope that you will take your stand on both these matters with the best and not the worst elements of the state's population, I am

Sincerely your friend,

Levi T. Pennington.