

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington Writing to State Legislator Carl Francis, February 6, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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February 6, 1947.

Mr. Carl Francis,  
State Legislature,  
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Francis:--

Let me thank you for your letter of the 3rd. which comes nearer to stating your position on gambling and the liquor laws, and does make clear your stand regarding the proposed amendment to the constitution.

My own position is not hard to state. I am in favor of the prohibition of all gambling and of the sale of all liquor for beverage purposes, with proper laws and law enforcement to make both prohibitions as effective as possible. This paltering with either evil is not my ideal of good statesmanship nor good government. The argument that neither law would stop the bad practices can be used against every other criminal law. Stealing is prohibited by law, as is murder, libel, fishing under certain circumstances, driving a car above a certain speed, and scores of other things. None of these laws stops all such offenses, but I've heard of no proposal to legalize stealing and let the state take part of the profits which the thieves gain by violating the law and stealing. Why should the state legalize the liquor business, which does far more damage than fast driving? And the same goes for gambling, and for other evils that are not now licensed but might be on the same grounds that we license the sale of the narcotic, habit-forming drug called alcohol.

My guess is that the present legislature is in no mood to pass a prohibition law. But it is to be hoped that they will not make matters worse.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.