

QUINN SPEAKS OVER W. P. T. F. ON LIQUOR

Representative O. E. Quinn, in a brief speech over W.P.T.F. in Raleigh, Tuesday of last week discussed the proposed Hutchins Bill. His speech in detail follows:

I wish to thank the Durham Life Insurance Company and State W.P.T.F. for this privilege of speaking as a member of the General Assembly. To my own people in Duplin County, I express greetings and assure them that I am exerting every possible effort to serve as best I can the best interests of Duplin County and the State of North Carolina.

Since I do not have time to discuss all of the issues pending in the General Assembly, I shall devote the few moments at my disposal to the discussion of the Hutchins' Bill that provides for a State-wide Referendum on the liquor issue. I happen to be one of the several Representatives who signed that Bill when it was introduced. I wish I had time to discuss several of the reasons why this Bill should be adopted by the Legislature. Even if I were not a Democrat, I believe that I would favor the adoption of the Hutchins' Bill in order to give all of the people of our State the right to express their wishes regarding this most important question. I believe that the problems relating to the liquor traffic can be handled better through a State-wide policy than by the various Counties having

different methods and plans. In 1908, by a majority of 44,000, the people of this State declared that they wanted a State-wide policy for handling liquor problems and that prohibition should be that policy. Since the people made that decision, many improvements have occurred that make the 1908 decision, more desirable today than it was 28 years ago.

Since 1908, when our people declared that the liquor problems could not be handled satisfactorily through local option or other local plans, we have covered our State with a network of improved roads and we have added automobiles and other means of rapid transportation. Practically all of the important improvements since 1908 are added arguments and reasons why we need a State-wide policy instead of a confusion of local plans to handle the liquor problem. And, when our people in 1933 voted down National Prohibition by a majority of 184,000 votes, they re-affirmed their belief and desire that we should have a State-wide policy and that this policy should be prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Last Thursday, when we had a public hearing on the Hutchins' Bill, the only person who ventured to raise his voice against this Bill, declared that he agreed completely with our beloved Govern-

or, Hon. Clyde E. Hoey, when he stated in his inaugural address that "Liquor is Public Enemy No. 1." And our Governor not only stated that liquor is Public Enemy No. 1, but he declared that "You will never build either a great State or a great County upon profits derived from the sale of liquor."

Whatever our people might think regarding the liquor traffic or the manner in which we should handle the same, we must realize that more than opposition to the liquor traffic is involved in the Hutchins' Bill. Any Legislator who votes against that Bill votes to deny the people of North Carolina the right to express their will on this important issue. It is this fundamental principle of free government that our Governor had in mind when he stated in his inaugural address "It would do violence to democratic principles to abrogate a law established by a vote of the people of the whole State until another opportunity is given for a full and fair expression of public opinion at the ballot box." Since our people declared in 1908 by a majority of 44,000 that we should prohibit the liquor traffic and since they re-affirmed that wish in 1933 by a majority of 184,000, it is unthinkable that the General Assembly of North Carolina would defeat the Hutchins' Bill and thereby refuse to give the people the right to express their wishes. I am opposed to legalizing the liquor traffic and I would hate to see the people of North Carolina legalize traffic; but I do insist that if we are go-

ing to legalize Public Enemy No. 1 in this State, such an unholy thing should be undertaken with-

out giving the people the right to vote on the issue in a State-wide Referendum.

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