

Pamphlet File

W H Y

RACE TRACK GAMBLING SHOULD BE OUTLAWED.

Read herein what Religious Leaders, Educators, Big Business Men, Leading Lights at the Bar and a Converted Gambler and Criminal have to say.

The Kentucky Anti-Race Track Gambling Commission is committed to the one task of outlawing legalized gambling on racing.

It is not making war on racing nor has it any thought of hurting the thoroughbred business. Propaganda to that effect is false and malicious.

We are against any candidate, regardless of party, that is not for the repeal of the nefarious, obnoxious, iniquitous Statute that gives the semblance of legality to this great and growing evil.

M. P. HUNT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**KENTUCKY ANTI-RACE TRACK
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

401 Norton Building Louisville, Ky.

This tract to be had for free distribution for the asking

CLASS LEGISLATION.

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 1, 1922.

Dear Dr. Hunt:

The arguments against race track gambling are absolutely conclusive. First of all, according to our Kentucky statutes, gambling at race tracks is made legal, whereas it is a violation of law anywhere else. It is nothing less than absurd that we should have statutes legalizing a practice at one end of Fourth Street and making it a crime at the other.

Again, it is class legislation of the worst kind. Why should the Kentucky statutes favor the racing organization of this state in this special way? Why should an exception be made of this group of gentlemen who desire to make money in horse-racing? By no principle of democracy can such legislation be justified.

A third tremendous argument against race track gambling is its corrupting and debasing influence upon a vast number of people, young and old, who come in contact with it. It is a well-known fact that many embezzlements have been due to losses at the race track, and we know in the history of Louisville that more than one suicide has resulted from the same cause. Nothing is more hurtful to character or militates more against business success than the habit of gambling. It is ruinous in every particular.

Why, therefore, should Kentucky thus legalize an industry and institution which is so corrupting in its influence, and why should we give this special privilege to one group of our people? There is absolutely but one answer: We ought to pass a law abolishing race track gambling in Kentucky.

Yours very sincerely,

E. Y. MULLINS.

President Southern Baptist Theological
Seminary and of the Southern Baptist
Convention.

AN UNREASONABLE LAW.

There cannot by any possible process of reasoning be any greater argument for race track gambling than for any other form of gambling. It would be just as reasonable to enact a law permitting all forms of gambling throughout the entire state during the racing seasons as it is to have a law permitting race track gambling during certain given periods.

The idea that gambling as permitted under the present law pertaining to the race tracks has any necessary relation to or connection with the live stock industry is unthinkable and is only alleged to deceive. When the people of Kentucky are disillusioned and are fully awake to the enormity of this great evil, they will demand that the Legislature repeal that section of the law which permits race track gambling.

R. B. GRIDER.

Presiding Elder Louisville District of
the M. E. Church, South.

RACE TRACK GAMBLING SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

1.—Breeding race horses is neither an essential or really valuable industry to Kentucky, as claimed by some. Race horses are bred, raised and raced principally by rich men, most of whom reside outside of the state.

2.—Sources of evil should be reduced to a minimum.

3.—Many absconders, suicides, etc., attribute their downfall to betting losses at horse races.

4.—Department stores of cities where races are conducted, can testify how difficult it is to collect bills after a race meet.

5.—If unlawful to bet when races are not in progress, or unlawful to bet on races at any place other than the track itself, it should be unlawful at all times and in all places.

6.—That which requires betting or gambling for

its support is not worthy to exist.

7.—If it be considered wrong to legislate against some forms of gambling, why should it not be thought wrong to legislate against murder and theft?

8.—The law maker is not a custodian of individual morals, but he has sworn to do his duty, and it is his duty to make it as easy as possible for the people to do right, and as hard as possible for them to do wrong.

Yours very sincerely,

WM. T. BAKER.

V.-P. and Treas., Harbison and Gathright.

A MERE VEIL

Henderson, Ky., Oct. 2, 1922.

Dear Sir:—

I am in entire accord with your letter of the 28th, in reference to race track gambling.

The pari-mutuel is nothing more than a veil, an effort to deceive, that ought not to mislead. It is legalized gambling. The influence and effect is corrupting and demoralizing. It is worse, being legalized, than it would be if open, old fashioned betting were permitted. Its legalization is a pretext, a mask, a devil's cloak, more baneful than open, avowed gambling.

Very truly yours,

MALCOLM YEAMAN.

A leading member of the Henderson Bar.

AN ENEMY OF SOCIETY

Louisville, Ky., Nov. 2, 1922.

My Dear Doctor:—

I have yours of the 31st ult., asking me to express my sentiments about race track gambling.

I think it likely that my sentiments on this subject are already sufficiently well known. I can only briefly say here what I have said many times before that the race tracks in Kentucky, and the gambling business

conducted upon them during the races, constitute the greatest school for gamblers in the world. If one did not actually see the thing in existence, it would be almost impossible to believe that a state which recognizes gambling as a crime and which denounces the operator of a gambling machine as a felon—an enemy of society—could at the same time license, and thus legalize, the doing of the very thing at certain times and at certain places, which at all other times and in all other places it denounces as a felony, because of its known evil effects upon the citizens of the state.

It is, in my judgment, a public disgrace that the State of Kentucky should, as under the present condition of affairs, it does, bargain away the morality of its people for a price, to wit, a heavy tax based on the number of days that racing is conducted in the state.

Yours truly,

HELM BRUCE.

One of the first among the many eminent members of the Louisville bar.

PAY ADEQUATE PENALTY

I am not opposed to horse racing in itself. I am in favor of clean racing, just as I am in favor of clean baseball, clean football and all other sports when properly conducted. I am opposed to legalized gambling on race tracks or anywhere else. Legalized race track gambling, and its offspring, the hand books, are denounced as a vice on the statute books of every commonwealth in the Union, including Kentucky. I do not believe that anything which is fundamentally wrong can be maintained or commercialized except at great injury to the state. Any people which sanctions or supports a positively harmful influence must sooner or later pay adequate penalty.

HARRY GIOVANNOLI.

Editor Lexington Leader.

WIVES AND CHILDREN SUFFER

Louisville, Ky., Nov.9, 1922.

I am totally and tetotally opposed to race track gambling:

1.—Because it is not honest. In all business there must be a valid consideration. In gambling the winner gets something for nothing.

2.—Gambling disqualifies one for any kind of business. Thousands of men and women have become worthless non-producers through gambling.

3.—Innocent wives and children must suffer because of money lost to gambling sharks. Hundreds are penniless following the races.

4.—Because it naturally leads to other evils. There is more devilry and crime during the racing period in Covington, Lexington and Louisville, than on any other occasion. The races bring together more thugs and theives than any other institution.

J. W. PORTER.

Pastor 3rd Ave. Baptist Church and for years editor of Western Recorder.

CAUSE OF SUICIDES

Louisville, Ky., Oct. 18, 1922.

Dear Dr. Hunt:—

Legalized gambling and the extent to which it is encouraged and being developed at the race tracks has brought about an entire change in horse racing and the interest nowadays is not centered so much in the horses as in the machines and the gambling; thereby wrecking the lives of many young men, accounting for many embezzlements, shortages, imprisonments and suicides, and bringing distress and ruination into many otherwise happy families.

Yours very truly,

P. H. CALLAHAN.

President of Louisville Varnish Co.

Past State Commander of K. C.

FOE TO HONEST INDUSTRY

Georgetown, Ky., Sept. 30, 1922.

Any form of legalized gambling is a foe to honest industry. Men and women should be taught to work for a living in some employment which adds to a nation's wealth, builds up civilization and develops character. These things no form of gambling can do. It appeals to idle dependence on chance. The gambler type of character can do nothing for America, morally nor in an economic way.

Very truly yours,

M. B. ADAMS.

President Georgetown College.

TEN REASONS WHY

1.—Legalized race track gambling is in effect the creation of a special privilege and monopoly. The Kentucky Jockey Club, entrenched as it is financially and politically, is able to exclude or absorb all competitors, and has done so. This is repugnant to our democratic principles.

2.—It is the foe of sound business and prosperity. One of the leading bankers of our City has told me repeatedly that during every race meeting in Louisville there are numerous defalcations and thefts among the employees of our banks and business houses, which are kept quiet for obvious reasons.

3.—It is contrary to public policy. While racing is the "sport of kings," the kings of the track have their sport at the expense largely of the poor. For the greater number of betters are boys and girls and young men and women of slender means.

4.—It is inconsistent with all other law. The highest courts have held the pari-mutuel machines a form of gambling.

5.—It is the legalizing of what is elsewhere a felony. For the law declares that anyone carrying on such gambling save at the race track meet "shall be

guilty of a felony, confined in the State Penitentiary and shall be deemed infamous after conviction and never thereafter be permitted to hold any office of honor, trust or profit."

6.—It brings all law into contempt, if, as in this case, one law can be made to nulify and contradict all other law.

7.—It is destructive of the family and the home. Two headlines from our newspapers prove this: "Track losses cause man to turn robber. Married and has two children"—"Gambler broke, kills wife."

8.—It is a disgrace to Kentucky. During every race meeting our police force must be increased and the papers invariably warn us to keep our doors and windows locked as it means the "advent of touts, thieves, thugs and cut-throats."

9.—It is an affront to our Americanism, for it is outlawed in every state of the Union save three.

10.—It is immoral and therefore unchristian.

This is not the opinion nor special pleading of the fanatical reformer, nor the over-zealous preacher. It is the verdict of all our people as unanimously expressed in all other laws of the land.

Rt. Rev. R. L. McCready, D. D.
Dean of Christ Church Cathedral.

Some years since Judge Henry S. Barker in arguing before a legislative committee in favor of a bill to outlaw this evil said, "This is a moral question; and a moral question can never be settled until it is settled right.

"Gambling is an evil, and an evil cannot be lawfully enacted to benefit a small class of citizens.

"As members of the General Assembly, you are the vice regents of God, trustees of an express trust. The question is, will you do right or will you do wrong? Right or wrong? That question you will answer *now*, and also hereafter. I pray you to answer it now in the way you would give your soul to be able to answer it hereafter."

LEADS TO ALL FORMS OF SIN.

We boast of our Christian citizenship and that our state stands for the things that go to make character; and yet we legalize one of the most destructive agents in all the world for the overthrow of character. History has proven again and again that gambling leads to all forms of sin. It is a disgrace, a shame and a crime that we do not put a stop to legalized gambling in our state. The Christian people of this state are responsible for the perpetuation of this awful evil. For the sake of the coming generations, of the home, of the church, of the state let me add my earnest plea and prayer that this terrible evil be wiped out of existence.

FINLEY F. GIBSON,
Pastor of the great Walnut St. Baptist Church.

TESTIMONY OF A CONVERTED GAMBLER.

By one who has followed race-track courses from Saratoga, N. Y., to Tia Juana, Mexico.

The first dollar I stole when a boy was to bet on a horse race. Up to that time I had never wanted anything bad enough to make me do anything dishonest.

My associations as a gambler for 15 years, brought me in contact with thousands of young men, employed as office clerks or in stores, and I have heard from their own lips statements like the following: That it was their desire to secure money to bet on horse races that led them to rob their employers, or the desire to secure money to make good their losses that led them to become criminals.

I can certainly say that race-track gambling is the making of more thieves than any other vice that I know of. The pari-mutuel is only a blind to evade the law; it is plain downright gambling and causes as much harm as the open gambling does.

I have seen with my own eyes hundreds of mothers and children suffering and in want through the loss of

money on the races. Sorry to say, the evil is no respecter of persons and it numbers among its victims all classes of both sexes.

W. H. COOK.

(This converted gambler and criminal, saved eight years ago in the Noonday Prayer Meeting of the Central Baptist church, Memphis, Tenn., is now giving his time to telling the story of his life which makes a thrilling and effective message against this subtle evil.)

SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

Race track gambling in Kentucky should be abolished for five reason:

1.—It brings pickpockets and professional gamblers continuously to our city; robberies and holdups increase during that period.

2.—Licensed by the state, it is a school of crime, encouraging our youths to gamble.

3.—The law is inconsistent because it approves this form of gambling and condemns the ordinary crap shooters.

4.—It is really a private enterprise, which profits greatly at the expense of the public without adequate returns.

5.—It often wrecks the home, disrupts business, causes suicide.

C. C. STOLL.

Pres. Stoll Oil Co.

BLOT UPON STATE.

My Dear Brother Hunt:—

I congratulate you heartily on the splendid battle you are making against horse racing in Kentucky. The race track is one of the foulest blots upon our grand old state. It is drawing countless into the whirlpool of gambling, dishonesty, and every phase of moral and spiritual ruin.

May God grant you wisdom and grace to carry forward successfully the battle you are making against this gigantic evil.

I wish you would send something for the columns of The Pentecostal Herald. It has a wide circulation in this state.

Praying God to bless you, I am,

Faithfully your brother,

H. C. MORRISON.

Editor Pentecostal Herald.

WRONG IN PRINCIPLE.

The principle of race track gambling is wrong, as it fosters the idea of gain without effort. Its practice undermines the best traits in character and makes resistance to other temptations harder.

The associations are bad and the excitement an injury bodily and mentally.

All the years of my married life I heard my husband, who was a banker, say he dreaded the races more than any time in the year for always men made the step downward at that time and disgrace followed to many homes. He thought no other form of indulgence had so many evils follow in its train.

MRS. JAS. A. LEACH.

Prominent in the club life in Kentucky.

A FINAL WORD.

Remember that it is gambling on the races and not the races on which war is being made.

A sport that cannot live without the aid of gambling had better a hundred times die. But may it not be, do not facts justify the conclusion that the plea that this sport can not live without gambling, comes largely from the gamblers themselves, who would continue to victimize the public. God's people can put the gambling at the race tracks out of business and until we do we are verily guilty of our brother's blood in the sight of a Holy God who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing. Let every right-thinking man and woman join and help swell the chorus. This evil can be stopped, and by the will of God shall be.

Your servant,

M. P. HUNT.

Executive Secretary of the Kentucky Anti-Race Track
Gambling Commission, Room 401, Norton Building,
Louisville, Ky.

N. B. As this second edition goes to the press (March 26, 1923), I deem it expedient to warn our friends and allies in both parties that a hot political campaign is just ahead of us, and it is already evident that candidates committed to the wrong will try to fool good people into voting for them. If you are in doubt as to where a man really stands as to race track gambling, ask our office. It is a part of our business to know.

Also be sure to see that candidates for the Senate and House commit themselves positively against race track gambling.

The party whip is going to be used for all it is worth. But just remember that God and home come first, and party third. Washington truly said, the hope of the nation is the independent voter.