

New York State Women's Committee for Law Enforcement, Inc.

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Allegiance to the Constitution

Observance of Law

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Chairman of the Legislative Committee
ELIZABETH BROWNELL COLLIER

September 18, 1929

Dear Member of the Committee:

In order to help President Hoover obtain stricter law observance New York needs a State prohibition enforcement law. There are only five States without one. Most of the violations of the National Prohibition Act in this State have come since the repeal in 1923 of our State prohibition law, the Mullan-Gage Act.

Two Jenks Bills that were introduced into the 1929 Assembly resembled closely the former Mullan-Gage Act. Our Committee worked for these measures and found enough votes to pass them. Unfortunately, an influential citizen of this State, whose advice the President at that time followed in the dispensing of Federal patronage, opposed the Jenks Bills and favored the county option bill, which was afterwards discarded as unconstitutional and helpful to wet interests. This citizen was reported - both in the newspapers and in the conversation of legislators - to be using the weight of the Federal patronage at his disposal to block the Jenks Bills. It was said to be mainly due to his influence that they failed of passage.

Our Committee will work throughout the 1930 legislative session for the passage of similar bills. In view of the President's well-known stand for law enforcement it is reasonable to hope that the influence of Federal patronage will promote and not hinder the passage of a sound State enforcement law. Today is none too early to let the President know how widespread the desire is for a strict State prohibition law.

Your help is greatly needed. Won't you write a letter at once to President Hoover, addressing it

The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Ask him to make sure that the promise of his appointments never hinders the passage of a strict prohibition enforcement law by the New York legislature, but, as far as possible, promotes such passage.

Please write as soon as possible. Your letter will be counted and will have weight.

Faithfully yours,

Elizabeth B. Collier
Elizabeth Brownell Collier,
Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

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