



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY

April 5, 1915.

Mr. William H. Anderson,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Sir:-

Pressure of official work has prevented my replying before to your favor of March 30th.

As you will readily understand, I am in no way responsible for newspaper articles or alleged Albany dispatches to New York newspapers.

I stated publicly before Election that I would not, directly or indirectly, be a party to the defeat of any Optional Local Prohibition Bill, and I have not been and I shall not be. I am sure that no agreement or promise of any kind has been made by anybody in position to influence the situation even remotely that in the event of the collection of additional revenues to the State from the liquor traffic, there will be no further legislation on the subject.

I am, with kindest personal regards,

Most cordially yours,

*Charles F. Johnson*

Dec. 22, 1915

(PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL)

His Excellency,  
Governor Charles S. Whitman,  
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Governor Whitman:--

I waited for several hours at your office yesterday but when at three o'clock there was no sign of any chance of seeing you personally I came back to New York, upon suggestion from Captain Spencer that it might really be a relief to you if I would put what I had to say in writing.

There are some things in the ordinary conduct of work of this kind that are more or less routine in nature and have to be done to make the record. However, the matter that I wanted to talk about yesterday was something entirely different and I was so anxious that you be absolutely certain that it was not a mere perfunctory matter or a formal request with a view to making a record, that I arranged the trip to Albany especially to meet you and say these things to you personally. Of course I am not even suggesting the slightest criticism of you for not seeing me, because I knew you were engaged on public business. I merely mention it as the fact that I gave up a day to the matter is undoubtedly conclusive evidence of my good faith, and I am sure that under the circumstances you will not take it amiss to have me communicate this to you in writing. It is entirely a personal matter between us and we haven't the slightest intention of making any use of it or even of the fact that we have communicated with you about it, although there is nothing in it that we are particularly interested in keeping secret.

The simple point is that while there are some things that we are obliged to put squarely up to public officials, this is peculiarly a matter in which there could be no such thing as attempting to force your hand.

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We are informed, and are glad to believe, that you feel that the time has come when some recognition must be made of the growing temperance sentiment. My purpose yesterday was to ask you to put into your message a recommendation covering this point.

I was going to say to you frankly that we do not believe it would be exactly fair at the present time to insist or urge that you specifically commend our particular bill. On the other hand, we are anxious that you should not specifically recommend something else of lesser character which would be taken as specific discrimination against our bill and constitute opposing the Anti-Saloon League's measure. All I had in mind was to urge that you should generally recommend consideration of the fact that most of the voting citizenship of New York are disfranchised on the liquor question and pass it up to the Legislature to determine the form of the legislation.

We are out, of course, to put our bill over, and pending that time to make all the sentiment we can make for it legitimately, but we are reasonable and if treated fairly by the organization of the Assembly and Senate they will find us very pleasant people to get along with, and on the other hand the Assembly and Senate organization, if they attempt to flimflam us or brow-beat us on refuse to recognize our right to exist and do business, will find we do not hesitate to take care of ourselves.

I wish to emphasize one point that I find a great many public men do not appreciate, until their attention is called directly to it, - viz, the difference between declaring in favor of prohibition and declaring in favor of letting the people settle the prohibition question themselves, whether the prohibition involved be state-wide or local. We don't want the Republican Party to declare for prohibition in this state or for no-license locally. I would most emphatically not advise you in your message to declare for prohibition or to take a stand either for or against the saloons. What we want is that the Republican Party and those who speak for it and represent it shall take such a stand that it cannot truthfully be said or even made to appear that any part of the Party organization is used to shelter the liquor traffic and shield it from having to submit to majority rule. We are thoroughly satisfied that this will be the best thing for the Republican Party and if you are interested I am prepared to back up this suggestion. It was about the first thing asked of me nearly twelve years ago by Governor Deneen of Illinois. I was able to make a showing then that surprised and convinced him and

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a lot of things have happened since.

Further, we do not desire to have the prohibition question involved in the next National Conventions and Presidential election. If Congress will listen to our suggestions and submit national prohibition to the states so it ceases to be a federal question this matter will not be involved. We do not know that the Anti-Saloon League will take any stand in the Presidential campaign. We shall not do so unless circumstances compel it.

However, I am very anxious that you shall be in a position such that if this question is injected through responsibility other than our own, nothing will prevent your deriving the full benefit of any possible developments in your favor. I mention national matters because I am a member of the League's National Executive Committee of Nineteen, and am also the National Legislative Superintendent on temperance matters for the entire Methodist Episcopal denomination.

New York is far behind the rest of the country on this question. A large portion of the country will insist on a man who is satisfactory on the temperance question, and yet temperance people are disposed to be reasonable. We have emphasized that we are not asking candidates to declare for prohibition, but just to stand for letting the people settle it.

I have taken the liberty of preparing the enclosed brief statement, which in my judgment is safe and sound. It would satisfy the large bulk of the conservative temperance people. It would be recognized by the intelligent element of the liquor traffic as inevitable and about the least that a man could say on the question if he said anything.

I am thoroughly satisfied that a statement in substantially this form (I have sketched this out merely to indicate how very moderate and reasonable our suggestion is, and not with the idea of formulating the language of any statement that you may make) would instantly call you most favorably to the attention of the moral element of the entire country. Our people, aside from a few zealots, who really abuse us as much as they abuse the liquor traffic, would recognize that it is as much as could be expected of the Governor of a State like New York. It would be taken up by the religious press and it may interest you to know that the Anti-Saloon League has more than a half million



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circulation if its own (this doesn't mean readers,--on the usual basis we have two and one-half million readers) through its various state publications and its national publications, which include a daily.

While the Anti-Saloon League is not interested in the Republican Party as such, my own experience has been that we have gotten more consideration from the Republican than from the Democratic Party, and we are very glad to have any party that desires to serve the public secure all the incidental political benefit it can get out of so doing. We feel that it is legitimate for us any time to propose anything that makes for better government and the end of saloon domination of politics, and are not held back by the fact that a political party or some public official may make legitimate capital out of it.

I sent you, I believe, copies of letters of introduction from former Governor Deneen of Illinois, the last Republican Governor of that State, from Governor Goldsborough, the present Republican Governor of Maryland, who was elected by the anti-saloon people, and from former United States Senator Jackson, National Committee-man from Maryland, but I assume that after two years' time in the state, if the Anti-Saloon League management can't stand on its own feet, letters would not help it in your estimation. You will doubtless be interested in enclosed photographic reprint from the Outlook, indicating the remarkable progress we have made in the past year, and showing clearly the marvelous growth of sentiment; and also the enclosed editorial from the New York Christian Advocate, the big Methodist paper of the country.

I should like to have a word from you that this matter has reached you personally and has received your consideration. Of course I don't expect you to tell me in advance even if you should decide to say something about the matter in your message.

In closing I wish simply to recapitulate by expressing the strong belief that it will help you both in the state and over the nation, and will help your party both state and nationally to make a conservative utterance on the people's right to vote on the liquor question in your message. The question is acute in New York and will become increasingly troublesome until it is disposed of. You can say it in the ordinary course

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of state business, and get the effect of it throughout the entire country, without having in the slightest degree seemed to go out of your way.

I shall try again to see you personally, but ~~personally~~ could not give a day to come to Albany before the legislature meets and I felt this matter ought to be before you at once.

With assurances of best wishes, I am,

Yours very cordially,

State Superintendent.

A-O

W. H. ANDERSON

MEMORANDUM.

I do not believe that a political party should declare either for or against prohibition. Prohibition is an economic and moral question. It should be decided by the people. But it is not enough to stop with saying this, for if it is to be decided by the people, parties should stand for legislation which will actually allow the people to settle it.

In my judgment, the legislature of New York should not try to settle the question of prohibition for any community. Other important business should not be held up while this controversial question is being thrashed out. The election of members of the legislature should not be complicated by this question. The determination of whether a given community or unit of government shall have prohibition should rest with the people of that unit and not with the legislature. However, it is the duty of the legislature to provide the means by which the people may give effect to their sentiment.

So long as the people of cities were not especially interested and did not care to vote upon the liquor question, there was probably no material injustice done by the absence of a provision for city voting, but if the people of cities or any considerable proportion of them want at least the chance to test public sentiment on local prohibition, it is self-evident that they have just as much right to vote as the people in rural sections. Therefore, I recommend that the legislature take such action as will extend the franchise on the liquor question to the voters of cities and stop any discrimination against any particular class of the citizenship of the state.



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY

December 23, 1915.

Personal.

Mr. William H. Anderson,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Anderson:-

I am very sorry not to have seen you in the Executive Chamber yesterday, as I certainly should have insisted on your waiting, had I known that you were there.

I am very much interested in your letter and should like to talk the matter over with you.

As you know, I am thoroughly in accord with the suggestion contained in the memorandum.

I know you will appreciate what I am trying to do here and how constantly I am at work.

If you will let me know a day or two ahead when you can next be in Albany, I shall certainly arrange to go over the situation with you.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas, I am,  
with kindest personal regards,

Most cordially yours,

*Charles F. Johnson*





STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY

July 15, 1916.

Rev. William H. Anderson,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Anderson:-

I write to acknowledge the receipt of yours  
of July 13th.

I expect to be in Albany Tuesday and Friday of next  
week and most of the week following. Am obliged to be  
in the Western part of the State on Wednesday and in the  
Camp on Thursday.

Shall be glad to see you at any time, and as-  
sure you that my attitude on the matters of which you write  
has not changed, and will do what I can to assist in obtain-  
ing legislation giving local option to all municipalities  
in the State.

With kindest regards, I am

Most cordially yours,

*Charles F. Johnson*

# WESTERN UNION

## NIGHT LETTER

Form 2239



GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

BELWIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

RECEIVER'S No.	TIME FILED	CHECK
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SEND the following Night Letter, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Oct. 31, 1917

Governor Charles S. Whitman,  
The Executive Chambers,  
Albany, N.Y.

Can you see me next Tuesday New York City or on Monday or Wednesday either Albany or New York City at your convenience? I wish to take up several matters of most material interest to you and Republican Party bearing on legislative action but one in particular needs immediate consideration to get things shaped right. I consider the matter urgent and important.

William H. Anderson.  
State Supt. Anti-Saloon League of  
New York.

## ALL NIGHT LETTERS TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

The Western Union Telegraph Company will receive not later than midnight **NIGHT LETTERS**, to be transmitted only for delivery on the morning of the next ensuing business day, at rates still lower than its standard night telegram rates, as follows: The standard day rates for ten words shall be charged for the transmission of fifty words or less, and one-fifth of such standard day rate for ten words shall be charged for each additional ten words or less.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a night letter should order it **REPEATED**, that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated night letter rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, **THIS IS AN UNREPEATED NIGHT LETTER AND PAID FOR AS SUCH**, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the night letter and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any **UNREPEATED** night letter, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any **REPEATED** night letter, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, *unless specially valued*; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; *nor for errors in obscure night letters.*

2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for any mistakes or delay in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of this night letter, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of **FIFTY DOLLARS**, at which amount this night letter is hereby valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing hereon at the time the night letter is offered to the Company for transmission, and an additional sum paid or agreed to be paid based on such value equal to one-tenth of one per cent. thereof.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this night letter over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Night letters will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.

5. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning night letters until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices, and if a night letter is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

6. The Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the night letter is filed with the Company for transmission.

In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "**NIGHT LETTER**" service, the following special terms are hereby agreed to:

A. **NIGHT LETTERS** may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such **NIGHT LETTERS** at destination, postage prepaid.

B. **NIGHT LETTERS** shall be written in plain English. Code language is not permissible.

7. *No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.*

**THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

INCORPORATED

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

## CLASSES OF SERVICE

### TELEGRAMS

A full-rate expedited service.

### NIGHT TELEGRAMS

Accepted up to 2.00 A.M. at reduced rates to be sent during the night and delivered not earlier than the morning of the next ensuing business day.

### DAY LETTERS

A deferred day service at rates lower than the standard telegram rates as follows: One and one-half times the standard night letter rate for the transmission of 50 words or less and one-fifth of the initial rate for each additional 10 words or less. Subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams. Must be written in plain English. Code language not permissible.

Telephonic delivery permissible. Day Letters received subject to express understanding that the Company only undertakes delivery of the same on the day of their date subject to condition that sufficient time remains for such transmission and delivery during regular office hours, subject to priority of the transmission of regular telegrams.

### NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to midnight for delivery on the morning of the next ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night telegram rates, as follows: The standard day rate for 10 words shall be charged for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard day rate for 10 words shall be charged for each additional 10 words or less. Must be written in plain English. Code language not permissible. Mail delivery, postage prepaid, permissible.

Nov. 17, 1917

His Excellency,  
Governor Charles S. Whitman,  
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor Whitman:—

The action of the Tammany Congressmen in blocking war prohibition as a national administration measure at the beginning of the special session of Congress last Spring, and the refusal of the liquor interests last summer to permit the enactment of a food control law containing absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor for beverage purposes during the war has created a situation which was recognized by the United States Senate to necessitate the early submission of the Prohibition Amendment to the Federal Constitution to clear the way for war time legislation on this question.

The vote on this question will probably come about the middle of next month. We are advised that fifteen votes from the New York Congressional delegation are absolutely necessary to secure the required two-thirds for the submission of this Amendment and that if these fifteen votes can be secured from New York success is certain.

The Republican Party has from the beginning claimed to stand for moral principle and the welfare of the people. I am appealing to you as the actual leader of that Party in the State of New York, with a splendid record in behalf of morality and the people's rights, to ask whether in your judgment it is not sound morals and good political policy for the Republican Congressmen from this state to vote in favor of the submission of this Amendment, when the effect of such vote is merely to enable the people of the Nation, by states, to decide this question finally in the manner provided by the Constitution for its own amendment.

While the Anti-Saloon

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League is also committed to a Prohibition Amendment to the State Constitution, involving a state-wide referendum on the question of prohibition, there will be a delay of over two years at best before such amendment can possibly become effective. We respectfully suggest that in the meantime immediate relief can be secured by a statute prohibiting the manufacture, sale, importation and transportation of alcoholic liquors within New York State during the war and the period of demobilization thereafter, and shall have such a measure introduced in the coming legislature.

We submit that the refusal of the liquor traffic to heed the regulations against selling to men in the military service, the moral hazard to these men, and the opportunities for vice and disease involved in the sale of liquor, the slowing down of the production of war materials because of the saloon, the use of more than sixteen millions bushels of grain a year by the breweries of New York State alone, and the burden imposed upon an already over-loaded transportation system by the liquor traffic at the expense of the necessities of life, are ample warrant for the passage of such a law, and we respectfully bespeak your support of this measure pending the submission of the Prohibition Amendment.

Yours respectfully,

State Superintendent Anti-Saloon  
League of New York.



November 22nd, 1917

His Excellency, Charles S. Whitman,  
Albany,  
N. Y.

My dear Governor Whitman:

Knowing how busy you are and how excusable it would be for you to overlook it, this is just to call your attention to the fact that we are looking for a letter from you this week.

I probably may not be able to see you on Saturday night when you are down as you say it will be late, but I shall try to see you for a moment or so when you come back from your southern trip.

Yours very cordially,

State Superintendent

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