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October 23, 1962

Dear Don:

We appreciate your letter of October 22nd.

The representatives of the Council on Alcohol Problems did indeed meet with Al Moscow. They transmitted to him their data and their comments on the problem involved. Everything they left was reviewed by Dick Nixon and in his opinion, a meeting was not in order and would have served no useful purpose. He did, however, address a letter to Mr. Birdsall, copy of which is enclosed for your information.

As I recall, they also attempted to apply a little pressure through another Assemblyman. They are persistent, as these people usually are. I do not mean to imply they are not an exceedingly worthwhile group. I am merely pointing out their contact with this organization was at a high level, their issues did reach Dick Nixon, and he did acknowledge their contact by his letter of August 31st.

I am sure you recognize that at this stage of the campaign, Dick's schedule is fully committed and then some, and a meeting between now and November 6 would be impossible.

Trust this will help you get the problem off your desk.

WIN WITH NIXON!

H. R. Haldeman

Hon. Don Mulford
2150 Franklin Street
Oakland 12, California
Mr. R.H. Haldeman  
c/o of Nixon for Governor Headquarters  
3908 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Bob:

I have received a complaint from Rev. Wilbur A. Korfhage, Director of Church Relations, Council on Alcohol Problems, Room 4, 354 - 21st Street, Oakland 12, who represents 29 Church bodies, including 5,200 pastors, and claims representation of approximately four million people.

You may be interested to learn that this minister was able to influence more legislation connected with religion than anyone we have seen in a similar capacity during the seven sessions in which I have served in Sacramento. He is popular and well liked by both Houses.

He contacted me some time ago and asked for help in arranging an appointment with Dick Nixon. I suggested that he proceed directly and he did in Los Angeles.

Your man, Moscow, met with Bergen Birdsall, the Executive Secretary of the Council on Alcoholic Problems. These people are not WCTUers; they are very practical and politically alert, as well as politically important. They believe that their primary mission is to push through legislation that will save lives, particularly in connection with drinking in automobiles. One of the best bills passed at the last General Session was due to the effort of this group in putting through the "Open Bottle Law", which makes it illegal to have an open bottle in a moving vehicle. This is good legislation and I believe these people are worth serious consideration.
The result of the meeting with Moscow was unsatisfactory to these people, according to this man. Moscow was supposed to arrange a meeting between Dick and Bishop Kennedy and other Protestant leaders.

Dick should meet with these people. If he meets with them, there is an excellent chance that he will obtain additional substantial Church support.

Brown has met with these people in a one and a half hour meeting and they are impressed with the ease with which they can talk to Brown. They are not pleased about the fact that they can't get to Dick Nixon.

I shall be happy to forward any message if you desire.

I feel the campaign is moving vigorously here.

All the best.

Corrollary yours

DON MULFORD

DM:h

cc: Jerry Reynolds
Am returning the original draft of a letter prepared by Al Moscow with his memo.

Attached is my draft of a suggested letter. Please note that the letter should be updated.
August 7, 1962

Dear Mr. Birdsall:

I want to thank you for your visit and the resume of activities of the California Council on Alcohol Problems. The work of your Council is exemplary, not only in the field of legislative proposals but also in education.

I have long felt that it is difficult to legislate personal morality, personal habits or personal health. Of course, legislation can help, but educating the general public on the dangers of alcohol consumption is even more important though it takes a longer time.

There is no doubt that the "drinking driver" is a menace to himself and to his fellow men. I believe in strengthening the laws to help our law enforcement officers curb the prevalence of the drinking driver.

But even more important, it seems to me, is the tone set in this state in regard to the consumption of alcohol and that tone can best be set from the top, in the Governor's office.

I would favor passage of those laws which can be strictly enforced and then I would favor a massive public education program so that every automobile driver, every bartender, every liquor salesman is aware of the existing laws and knows full well that they will be rigorously enforced.

In this effort, the California Council on Alcohol Problems is playing a leading role and I commend you for it. I can promise you now that if I am elected Governor of California, you will have a receptive ear in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon
Executive Director

Mr. Bergen Birdsall
Council on Alcohol Problems
427 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, California
August 31, 1962

Dear Mr. Birdsall:

I want to thank you for your visit and the resume of activities of the California Council of Alcohol Problems.

I have long felt that it is difficult to legislate personal morality, personal habits or personal health. Of course, legislation can help, but educating the general public on the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption will achieve results.

There is no doubt that the "drinking driver" is a menace to himself and to his fellow men. Strict law enforcement to curb the prevalence of the drinking driver is essential.

In this effort, the California Council on Alcohol Problems is playing a leading role and I commend you for it. As Governor of California, I will have a receptive ear in Sacramento to these problems.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Mr. Bergen Birdsall
Executive Director
Council on Alcohol Problems
427 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, California