

**Response to Readings:** Saturday, November 4, 2006

## **Temperance and Prohibition in Ohio and American Political History**

Core theme: Presidents and Politics: Ohio and American Political History

**Location: OSU Marion Library Building Room 120 A & B**

Alcohol reform movements have a long history in the United States, going back to the temperance crusades associated with the Second Great Awakening in the 1820s and 1830s. The Prohibition Party has been fielding presidential candidates since 1870. Temperance and prohibition as a social and political movement reached a peak in the early years of the twentieth century, eventually culminating in the national prohibition of alcoholic beverages in 1920. This reform was repealed in 1933, but legacies from the era continue to influence politics today.

The readings and presentation on this topic will highlight the effects of temperance and prohibition on American politics.

As you read passages assigned below, think about the following question and answer it in one to two typed pages:

How did the movements for prohibition and its repeal change American politics? Can you give an example of a movement or organization of today that reflects the changes introduced by the dry/wet campaigns?

### **Readings:**

John C. Burnham, *Bad Habits: Drinking, Taking Drugs, Gambling, Sexual Misbehavior, and Swearing in American History* (New York University Press, 1993), Pages 1-85

K. Austin Kerr, "Organizing for Reform: The Anti-Saloon League and Innovation in Politics," *American Quarterly* (Spring, 1980), pp. 37-53

"Why was there Prohibition in the United States?" at <http://prohibition.osu.edu/content/WhyProhibition.htm>