

Questions related to Millard Tydings on Prohibition

1. What did the 18th Amendment do “for the first time”?
2. Did Tydings believe the regrettable results of national prohibition were foreseeable?
3. What determines the effectiveness of any law?
4. Can local authorities be counted on to enforce an unpopular law? Explain.
5. Which geographic areas were most resistant to prohibition?
6. How did proponents of prohibition justify forcing it on states and localities that preferred to allow alcohol?
7. Does Tydings seem to agree that alcohol abuse had been a serious issue? Does Tydings seem to agree with what historians say today about how prohibition did actually cut the flow of alcoholic beverages by at least 50 percent? (Historians arrived at this claim by comparing federal liquor tax revenues before and after prohibition.)
8. What does Tydings mean when he says that we have “violated the philosophy of the Constitution under which we have lived for 150 years”?