

He had to be in politics, of course—for a political mayor had the power to revoke his license and put him out of business altogether. He had to cash checks, loan money and play Santa Claus for his customers—and keep on good terms with the police and his alderman.

But his business was keyed up to a 7-day week, and his lease was made on that basis. When the Sunday closing order came he had to go along on a 6-day business week with a 7-day rental. Many who were barely making a living couldn't get by at all after that—and were strongly tempted to cheat. Probably they had been told and had come to believe that self-preservation is the first law of nature.

And, in the meantime, Mr. Brewer's sale of bottled beer, in the homes of those who could afford ice-boxes, grew.

Now ward politicians are in close touch with the saloon. It is a social center. Some are tough and some are clean social centers, but they are only what their patrons make them; and the roughneck wants his social center as well as the soft-clothes chap who belongs to a club for the very same reason that other men frequent saloons.

And the saloonkeeper provides one important public service that the city itself fails to perform. It furnishes toilet facilities for men, just as the department store does for women.

Your ward leaders stacked up against a sore lot of saloonkeepers. To save themselves they encouraged their saloonkeeper friends to try cheating the law. And friendly coppers wanted to "be good," but were afraid they would lose their jobs if they did. They were not sure your ward leaders could protect them. And they knew the reformers were checking them up.

That's the jam you are in. It's a very human situation. You can't have both the Wets and the Drys with you. One or both are bound to be against you. You will have to take one side or the other. That means that you must close ALL of the saloons on Sunday or let ALL of them open—and not let any of your subordinates collect graft for the privilege. If you fearlessly enforce the law and keep ALL saloons closed you will incur the enmity of all of the Wets and gain the friendship of all of the Drys who are not politicians lined up with your enemies. But you must be prepared to do everything else the Dry leaders tell you to do.

If you let ALL of them open you will lose the support of practically all of the Drys and gain the support of most of the Wets.

You can't get the support of both Wets and Drys, but you can lose the support of both. That's about the hole you are in now.

Here's another political angle: If you let them open up in Chicago it will be used against you out in the state. If you don't let them open up that will be used against you, too. You can't please both Chicago and the rural part of the state unless a majority sentiment in Chicago favors Sunday closing. That's something you'll have to determine for yourself—whether you'll be mayor of Chicago and do what the people of Chicago want done or try to please the rural section of Illinois by the way you interpret state laws for Chicago.

But whatever you do, be fair to the police. They'll do what you order them to do. They can close all of the saloons if you want them closed. They can do the other thing if you want it done. But, whatever it is, do it yourself. Give the coppers a square deal. Shoulder all of the responsibility for whatever you do. You're the mayor. Sincerely,

N. D. COCHRAN