

PATHFINDER

February 27, 1937: p. 12

Women at Bars

"It's to protect young janes under 21 from getting loaded at bars. A queen or a jane goes into a bar and stops to talk to a mug. He buys her a drink. It leads to fights that are not always just talk."

So did State Senator Edward J. Coughlin of New York advocate passage of his bill providing that any woman who stood "at or in front of a bar of any club, hotel or restaurant licensed to sell alcoholic beverages" should be guilty of disorderly conduct.

Further, he deprecated present non-restrictive practices with a prophecy: "We may have kids of our own some day and their girl friends might drink at bars. They may accept invitations to get up against the old mahogany."

One other State legislature last week considered a proposal to deny women the privilege of standing up at bars to drink liquor. After reading about the New York bill, State Delegate Blanche Phillips introduced a similar measure in Maryland. "To my surprise," she said, "the boys at Annapolis said it was a very good thing and I think the other three women in the House will go along with me."

Others did not share Delegate Phillips' enthusiasm. Among Baltimore and Annapolis society debutantes and matrons, comments ran from "Ridiculous!" to "Nuts!" Henrietta Crosley, daughter of a professor in the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, remarked: "I have no objection to standing at bars, but I'm really too lazy to do it . . . But if there are no seats, I must have something to lean on . . . I hope the bill won't pass."

In New York, even Senator Coughlin was not very optimistic about the prospects for his own proposal. "I don't think the bill's going far," he said. "There is too much opposition."