

December 1, 1944

gambling

Rev. Ralph Walker, Pastor
First Baptist Church
910 S. W. 12th Street
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Rev. Walker:

Thank you for your letter of November 30th regarding Mr. Harrison's letter concerning the operation of slot machines in the City.

Mr. Harrison is not correct in his statement that slot machines are in use generally and are taking the money of service men. The only places I know of where these machines are in use are some of the private clubs which are not frequented by service men except possibly an occasional officer or man who is taken there by friends as a guest. The machines are not permitted in any public places and have been tolerated in the private clubs only because of the restricted membership of such clubs and the insistence of the membership that they be permitted inasmuch as they are not available to any person except one able to afford to play.

In many parts of the state outside Portland, the machines, I believe, are permitted in public places. The question of machines in private clubs has been one of much argument with a great many fine citizens standing firmly in favor of such use.

I do not know who Mr. Harrison is but can assure you that his statement that the machines are robbing the service men is entirely erroneous. Frankly, this is the first complaint I have had on the subject of machines in clubs even though they have been used for the past eight or ten years.

Very truly yours,

DA

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

"The White Temple"

PORTLAND 5, OREGON

910 SW 12th

RALPH WALKER, Pastor

November 30, 1944

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Earl Riley, Mayor,
City Hall,
Portland, Oregon

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Eiley:

I don't know who Daniel Harrison is, but he seems to be pretty well steamed up about slot machines. Just what is the situation?

I have always been prejudiced against slot machines and if it is the truth that they are in operation in our city and state, and illegally so, certainly I think a Baptist minister who tries to stand for what is right should be against it. Would you kindly express your idea to me personally?

Sincerely your friend,

Ralph Walker

RW/m

Portland, Oregon.

November 25, 1944.

Pastor of White Temple,
12th at Taylor, Portland.

Dear Sir:

I wish to call your attention to the fact that coin machines (slot machines) are being operated in practically every club in this city. There are machines for coins from five cents to one dollar, and the bait is a possible jackpot paying from five dollars to one hundred dollars depending on the machine. Many of our service men are playing these machines in the hope they will have more money to spend while on furlough or while passing through Portland, and of course they usually lose all or most all of their money as the machines are set or "plugged" against the players. I have been told on good authority that the Elks Club with its twenty machines takes in \$10,000.00 per month; that the Aero Club does even better than that, and that the Multnomah Club, Press Club and other city clubs and the private golf clubs in the county are taking in money hand over fist. An officer told me he thought these slot machines were taking in over one hundred thousand dollars per month, and this at a time when this money should be going into war bonds. Can't something be done about this, and some protection be given our service men? The operation of these machines is clearly against the law but so long as no one complains, they are allowed to run. These machines should be put out of business for all time, or at least until after the war. Won't you please see what can be done about it?

Sincerely,


Daniel Harrison.