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## Henry H. Blood as Governor of Utah

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HENRY H. BLOOD AS GOVERNOR OF UTAH

by

John C. Setaire

Report No. 2 submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree

of

Master of Science

in

History

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
Logan, Utah

1966

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## INTRODUCTION

Henry Hooper Blood was born in Kaysville, Utah, on October 1, 1872, to William and Jane Wilkie Blood. Henry Blood, who became Governor of Utah in 1932, obtained his basic education in Davis County and completed it at Brigham Young University. He served as a Mormon missionary in England from 1901 to 1903.<sup>1</sup>

In 1917, Governor Simon Ramberger appointed Blood to the Utah Public Utilities Commission, which began his career as a public servant. He served in this capacity for four years, and in 1922 became a member of the newly created State Road Commission by the appointment of Governor Charles Mabey. When George Dern became governor in 1925, Blood presided as chairman of the road commission. Through this chairmanship he became known in every section of the state and gained knowledge that enabled him to administer Utah's affairs during the depression years.<sup>2</sup>

Blood was in charge of highway construction during the development of Utah's network of thoroughfares, which enabled him to gain a broad knowledge of each section of the state. With an increased gas tax and funds from the Federal Government, Blood and his commission were able to increase the number of road miles in 1927 of 3436, to 4120 by 1932. By November of 1932, over 10,000 men were

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<sup>1</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, June 20, 1942, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



employed on state road work and the money allotted for road construction increased from \$25,000,000 in 1929, to over \$50,000,000 by 1932. Because of this success, he became President of the Western Association of State Highway Officials. In 1930, he received national recognition when elected President of the American Association of Highway Officials.<sup>3</sup>

(X)  
D.W.

### FIRST ADMINISTRATION

The American economy was at a low ebb during the latter months of 1932 because of the depression. Most people in the country were disgusted with the Hoover Administration and looked toward Franklin Roosevelt to somehow bring a return to prosperity. By the time President Roosevelt took office in March of 1933, most of the nation's banks were closed, 13,000,000 people were unemployed, and millions of farmers faced foreclosure of their mortgages.

Blood's opponent for the governorship was W. W. Seegmiller, who was a spokesman for both mining and agriculture. He claimed that when the mining industry prospered, it furnished a market for farm products and the employment of farm labor. During the campaign, Blood stressed the recovery of the mining industry and the development of roads. On November 9, 1932, he defeated Seegmiller by about the same margin that Roosevelt defeated Hoover in Utah (approximately 114,000 to 84,000). This fact may indicate that Blood was swept into office on the coat-tails of the Roosevelt victory.<sup>4</sup>

At the special legislative session in June of 1933, he voiced the opinion that the events of the past year had clearly indicated a pronounced shift in popular sentiment on the liquor situation. Since the public opinion was changing so rapidly against prohibition, he urged the legislature to amend existing statutes so a

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., November 10, 1932, p. 1.

referendum could be legally held in November, 1933, to decide the prohibition question. The state legislature amended the existing statute and an election was to be held on November 8, 1933. Blood stated why he did not call a state election on prohibition sooner, since an election could have been called after March 21, 1933. By waiting until November both the State and Federal Constitutional questions could be settled by one election, therefore saving Utah the financial costs of two elections.<sup>5</sup>

Blood advocated temperance and took a stand on that principle. He said the liquor question was not a political issue, but a moral one. He recognized the inherent right of American citizens to vote on all questions of public policy; so he signed a bill setting up the machinery for the purpose of amending the Federal and State Constitutions.<sup>6</sup> His position on the liquor question showed his shrewdness, since he did not commit himself politically on prohibition. By taking this stand, he also retained a good standing in the Mormon Church.

At the opening session of the 104th semiannual conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, President Heber J. Grant urged the people to uphold the prohibition laws. David O. McKay of the Council of Twelve Apostles advocated abstinence from alcohol. He stated that some method of control should be devised and assumed not only by the states, but also by the federal government or the cause of temperance would be set back

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<sup>5</sup>Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Second Special Session of the Twentieth Session of the Legislature." (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1933), p. 77.

<sup>6</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, October 28, 1933.

twenty-five years. McKay said alcohol should be placed in the same category as morphine and other drugs.<sup>7</sup>

On November 8, 1933, Utah became the thirty-sixth state in the union to vote for repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. For the first time in the history of the United States, an amendment of the Federal Constitution had been repealed, the twenty-first nullifying the eighteenth. Salt Lake and Ogden voters balloted better than two to one for repeal of both the state and national amendments. The rural areas of Utah contained a closer vote.<sup>8</sup>

The repeal vote in Utah assumed national importance when both North and South Carolina bolted from the status of steady wet to remain in the dry column. Since three states were needed to decide definitely the end of prohibition, Utah's vote was required to join those of Pennsylvania and Ohio for repeal.<sup>9</sup>

In Utah the disapproval of prohibition marked the end of a bitter struggle between the wet and dry factions. The former led by the Crusaders and the Utah League for Prohibition Repeal, while the Defenders carried the banner of the latter.<sup>10</sup> It is interesting to note that in the depths of the Great Depression, one of the first major actions of the Federal Government dealt with legalizing the sale of liquor.

Even though the Governor did not agree with the repeal of the eighteenth Amendment, he stated that he firmly stood for the law

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., October 7, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., November 8, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

and for its enforcement, and would support the will of the majority.<sup>11</sup> Later in 1933, he appointed a committee of citizens from Utah to investigate different methods of liquor control. The committee reflected the general public's sentiment towards the liquor problem. The forty-nine members investigated and debated the liquor problem and finally recommended sale through state controlled stores.<sup>12</sup>

Under the state control plan, the state through a central authority, operates and maintains an exclusive monopoly of the retail sale of all liquor by the package for consumption elsewhere. The committee advised that light beer could be sold at places other than state liquor stores. The majority of the committee favored this plan since most of the people were opposed to any form of private license plan, which usually lead to the legalizing of saloons. The operation of state stores also eliminated the profit feature of liquor traffic, and the profits derived from the sale of liquor would go into the public treasury. The employees operating the liquor stores would be paid fixed salaries so there would be no incentive for anyone to stimulate the sales or work to increase the consumption of liquor.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid., December 7, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-First Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 15.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 16.



The Governor recommended the adoption of the state control plan and the legislature enacted it into law.<sup>14</sup> The State Liquor Control Act was effectively carried out with few amendments.<sup>15</sup>

On January 18, 1933, C. L. Becker, the President of the Becker Products Company, urged the Governor to promote legislation so that Utah would be permitted to manufacture beer. In his letter to Blood, Becker stated that his company alone could help relieve the poor economic conditions considerably. He estimated that \$1,000,000 would be lost annually to other states where it would be legal to manufacture, ship, and sell beer. If Utah was allowed to ship beer out of the state, it could compete with the other states.<sup>16</sup>

Within several months the legislature passed an act stating that beer containing not more than 3.2 per cent of alcohol by weight could be manufactured, exported, sold, or distributed in the state.<sup>17</sup> The influence of Becker and other beer producers may have partially aided in the passage of this bill due to economic reasons.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Salt Lake Tribune, March 5, 1935.

<sup>15</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1937), p. 25.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from C. L. Becker to Governor Henry Blood, January 28, 1932, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake.

<sup>17</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twentieth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1935), p. 20.

<sup>18</sup> These producers purchased materials from local markets and employed laborers from the local area.

At the Special Session, Blood also stated there was an urgent need for greater uniformity in the motor vehicle codes. Since the automobile could travel freely from one state to another, it was subjected to much diverse control in each state. He urged that a conference of Western States to meet in Salt Lake City be called to discuss these problems. The Governor also urged that the Utah Motor Vehicle Laws be revised by adopting the most modern method of determining the legal sizes and weights of motor vehicles.<sup>19</sup> The legislature adopted this last measure.<sup>20</sup>

During the period of serious unemployment in the early 1930's there were many cases where tenants could not keep up rent payments due to conditions beyond their control. Many times these people desired to meet their obligations, but could not do so. The inability of these people to pay caused a hardship to property owners, who were deprived of income needed to pay taxes on the property involved. The Governor urged a measure be adopted to allow these people to keep a roof over their heads, and at the same time allow the property owners credit on taxes due that year.<sup>21</sup> The state legislature enacted a law which gave credit on property taxes for any property owner who furnished free housing facilities to any destitute family.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Second Special Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc.), p. 50.

<sup>20</sup>Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twentieth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1933), p. 18.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 28.

Blood also called the special session for the purpose to provide for the expenditures of the government and high schools, to provide for the expenses of the special session, and to consider other necessary legislation. In accordance with the Governor's first request, the legislature passed a law stating a tax could be levied upon all taxable property to raise a sum of \$4,634,730 for the expenses of the fiscal years of 1933 and 1934.<sup>23</sup> The legislature appropriated a sum for the operation of high schools and \$10,000 to meet the expenses of the Special Session of the State Legislature.<sup>24</sup>

Under the Governor's recommendation various child labor laws were amended. Employment of minors was restricted, but under special circumstances there were a number of exceptions permitting their employment. The legislature described the type of employment and the number of hours a minor could work under these circumstances. The legislature also passed several laws stating the punishment for violating the Child Labor Laws.<sup>25</sup>

Blood urged a new committee be created to pursue the investigation undertaken by the Committee on Reorganization and Operation of State Government. The legislature provided for a committee to study this problem to discover if the government could be run more efficiently.<sup>26</sup> The reorganization of the state government was not

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<sup>23</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Special and Regular Sessions of the Twentieth Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1933), p. 28.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., p. 53.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., p. 16, 17.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., p. 155.



undertaken until the first administration of Governor Herbert Maw in 1941.

From 1931 to 1935, the metal mining industry of the United States experienced a condition of extreme depression because of over production. Utah's chief products of silver, copper, lead, and zinc all sank to the lowest recorded prices in the history of the state during 1932. The price levels in 1933 made profitable production impossible in Utah.<sup>27</sup>

The metal mining depression hit Utah's economy extremely hard because in normal times this industry furnished one of the largest payrolls and home markets in the state. Most of the companies suspended their operations entirely or operated at a reduced capacity. Many of these enterprises operated on reserves accumulated in past years or on credit.<sup>28</sup>

The depression affected Utah's silver producers because silver was used for both money and industrial purposes. Utah normally produced more silver than any state in the union. Many of Utah's ores contained silver, therefore, any improvement of the silver situation would have a beneficial effect on the entire mining industry.<sup>29</sup>

The Governor recommended that the state legislature send a memorial to President Roosevelt and Congress on behalf of silver.

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p. 76.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

The legislature complied with his request and petitioned the President and Congress to arrange for the participation of the United States in an international conference if one was called by another nation to consider an international agreement for the increased use of silver as currency. The legislature also recommended the use of silver in the monetary system of the United States, thereby increasing the supply of metallic money for use as a circulating medium and a base for currency and credit.<sup>30</sup>

During 1934, the number of men employed in mines increased by over 700 men, and the annual payrolls of those employed at day wages increased \$1,116,054. The wages were at the normal level, but because of enforced restrictions of working time the men received less than their normal monthly or annual income. The price of metals rose considerably in 1934. The price of gold was about 69 per cent higher, silver about 117 per cent higher, copper about 26 per cent higher, zinc about 24 per cent higher than in January, 1932. The major reason for the beginning prosperity of the metal mining industry was due to the passage of the Silver Purchase Act of 1934 by the Federal Government. This measure nearly tripled the price of silver and served as a subsidizer for the mining industry. The price of gold rose because on April 17, 1933, the United States went off the gold standard which created an increase in the price of gold.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid., p. 156.

<sup>31</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-First Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 11.

In 1936, mining operations were not yet up to normal, but wages and production had increased considerably since 1934. Several plants that had suspended operation during the depression were now operating, and production and employment were estimated at approximately 70 per cent of normal. By June 1, 1935, the wages of mine workers were restored to the 1928 level, but the metal values with the exception of gold and silver were still lower than in 1929. The Governor urged that the ores be processed within the state, but little was accomplished in this area.<sup>32</sup>

Agriculture became a major concern in 1934, due to the devastating drought that spread over practically every county in Utah and affected the mountains, valleys, and plains. The cash crops were completely lost, which constituted a major disaster since most farmers relied on them to pay taxes and provide for current needs. Blood appealed to the Federal Government early in the season and Utah received \$1,400,000 to aid in water conservation. The legislature created a committee to aid the devastated areas by conserving water for stock watering purposes and for the saving of orchards and other valuable crops.<sup>33</sup>

He also applied to the Federal Government for range development and Utah received \$200,000 for the construction of wells, small watering places, and range roadways in various parts of the

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<sup>32</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1937), p. 29.

<sup>33</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-First Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 10.

state. According to the Governor, the stockmen were in a much safer position for the coming year because of these measures.<sup>34</sup>

The value of Utah's farm crops and livestock advanced from a total value of \$37,000,000 in 1932 to about \$57,000,000 in 1936. The State Commissioner of Agriculture stated the livestock industry in Utah had practically recovered from the depression and by 1936 it had assumed a prosperous condition. He claimed Utah was in a more stable condition from the point of feed range and price than it had been in the past fifteen to twenty years.<sup>35</sup>

Under the Governor's leadership, reclamation made great advances in Utah. From 1933 to 1935, two major projects were undertaken. Construction of the Hyrum project in south Cache County began on March 26, 1934. This reservoir was located on the Little Bear River and supplied water to 11,000 acres of excellent farm land in the southern and western parts of Cache Valley. The project cost \$930,000 and the water users were under contract with the Federal Government to pay the cost in forty annual installments without interest. The second and larger reclamation project was the Pine View Reservoir located on the Ogden River below Huntsville, which contained 38,000 acre-feet of water and supplied 19,000 acres of land. The reservoir supplied cities as far north as Brigham City and cost \$2,400,000 to construct.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>35</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 10.

<sup>36</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-First Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 11.

Several other reclamation projects were undertaken, such as the Moon Lake project in Uintah Basin, which supplied 40,000 acres of land in 1938. Another small reservoir was constructed in Sanpete County.<sup>37</sup>

During the Depression, Blood stated that the legislature should provide care for those individuals who could not take care of themselves. The legislature did not take the responsibility away from the counties, charitable organizations, churches, fraternal societies, Community Chest agencies, and clubs in their efforts to aid destitute persons, but aided people who could not be reached by these organizations due to their incapacity.<sup>38</sup> Under the Governor's suggestion, the legislature created a State Department of Public Welfare to administer state and federal funds made available for relief and welfare purposes.<sup>39</sup>

Utah benefited from the National Industrial Recovery Act. Under this act a program of public works was drawn up by the Governor, which included the construction, repair, and improvement of public highways and parkways, public buildings, and many other public owned facilities. An appropriation of \$1,512,500 was granted for public works projects in Utah. The projects were selected with relation to the geographic centers of unemployment and the various types of labor relief which could be immediately

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid., p. 12.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>39</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twenty-First Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1935), p. 151.



furnished. This program furnished jobs for skilled labor and craftsmen who might not be reached by other programs. The Federal Government financed 30 per cent of the program and the state financed 70 per cent. The state derived its revenue from the 2 per cent sales tax initiated by the Governor. Some of the projects completed by the Federal Publics Works Program were:

a library building and remodeling of the Park Memorial Building at the University of Utah, alteration of the State Hospital at Provo, a dormitory for boys at the Ogden School for the Deaf and Blind, and many new buildings at various colleges in Utah.<sup>40</sup>

In March of 1933, 160,000 people in Utah received all or part of their food, clothing, and shelter from some type of welfare program, a number which constituted 32 per cent of the total population. Federal assistance was necessary because of the destitute condition of a large segment of the population. The use of the State Emergency Relief funds from the sales tax began in September of 1933, and at that time constituted more than 50 per cent of the total relief program. The ratio of state to federal funds dispersed to the public grew less as federal funds were increased to meet the costs of the emergency work programs, drought relief measures, and other special activities initiated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. According to Blood, if the State Emergency Relief Fund had not been established, Utah would not have been so generously treated by the Federal Government.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>40</sup>Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-First Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1935), p. 28.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid., p. 27.

The State Department of Public Welfare began its duties in May of 1935. This department succeeded the Governor's Advisory Committee on Public Welfare and Emergency Relief, which had been in charge of these duties since 1932. The new department recommended by Blood, now became the official agency for the administration of all state and federal funds for public welfare.<sup>42</sup>

In November of 1935, the Federal Government ceased granting direct relief, and the state had to assume care for the needy and destitute unemployables. The transition of this group from federal to state auspices was carried out commendably by the State Department of Public Welfare. When the Federal Government approved the state's program, Utah then became the tenth state to receive federal grants for the relief of the needy aged, and needy blind, and dependent children. Under this new program the Federal Government supplied about 34 per cent of relief funds, rather than 90 per cent as under the old Federal Emergency Relief Program. By 1936, about 6 per cent or 29,000 people were receiving some type of state or federal welfare.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1937), p. 15.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

## SECOND ADMINISTRATION

At the 1936 Democratic Convention, Herbert B. Maw almost won the nomination for Governor over incumbent Blood. Maw championed labor and utility reform and was generally associated with the progressive movement. Blood won the nomination for Governor partially because of his policy of keeping peace in the party by continually consulting with business and party leaders.<sup>44</sup>

The Gubernatorial Election was held on November 3, 1936. Blood defeated the Republican candidate, Ray E. Dill, following the Democratic trend of victory throughout the nation.<sup>45</sup>

Blood's second administration was characterized by his continuation of those programs which he initiated during his first term in office. His major concern was to get Utah's industry and agriculture up to normal standards which existed before the Depression, and to provide aid for the aged and needy. He continued to solve the problems of liquor, mining, reclamation, public welfare, and also undertook various new programs.

After the expansion of licenses for distribution of beer within the state, the system of state controlled liquor stores and package agencies operated in an orderly manner. Employers and administrative officials made no effort to encourage the

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<sup>44</sup>Donnelly, Thomas, (ed.), Rocky Mountain Politics, (Albuquerque, New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press, 1940), p. 28.

<sup>45</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, November 4, 1936, p. 1.



sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages, and bootleggers and moonshiners found their operations unprofitable. In 1937, the Liquor Commission pointed out that the liquor consumption in Utah was less than in any other Western state and few states in the union had a lower per capita consumption rate of alcoholic beverages. In 1937, the nation consumed 1.21 gallons of liquor per capita. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, \$665,000 was derived from the liquor trade and deposited in the General Fund of the State.<sup>46</sup>

Because of the success of the liquor control, Blood urged that the sale of liquor by the drink should not be permitted. He feared the development of saloons if liquor was sold by the drink.<sup>47</sup> The problem of liquor control did not end here since in the 1948 gubernatorial election, the question of selling liquor by the drink was a major campaign issue. Utah faces this question even today.

In 1937, the metal mining industry experienced its most productive year since 1929. Previous state records for production of gold and silver were surpassed and the tonnage of mined ore established an all time high. The metal mining industry suffered a setback in 1938. The demand for metals decreased during this year and the price of domestic silver fell from 77.57 cents per ounce to 64.64 cents per ounce. Some mines and

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<sup>46</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Third Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1939), p. 32.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., p. 32.

plants closed down throughout most of the year and others decreased their production considerably. According to the Governor, the mines were in good physical condition and could resume operation when the demand for their products increased. As the demand for mining products resumed, the mining industry gradually revived.<sup>48</sup>

The mine owners traditionally were neither Republicans nor Democrats, but tended to vote for the Republican Party. Prohibition turned the mining communities support toward the Democratic Party, since both they and the party favored repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.<sup>49</sup> Mining officials did not favor labor legislation and desired the repeal or amendment of both the Wagner Act and Wages and Hours Act. The mining industry deplored the restrictions that labor laws tended to put on their operations. D. D. Moffat, General Manager of the Utah Copper Company, expressed their attitude when he said:

He opposed any organization which advocated the principle of the closed shop and denied a man the right to work, who wanted to work unless they paid tribute to that organization.<sup>50</sup>

Blood attended the Western Governors Silver Conference at Reno, Nevada on March 27 and 28, 1939. The conference discussed several major problems which faced the western mining industry. In most mines where silver was a by-product, income from silver represented the difference between a profitable and a losing

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>49</sup> Donnelly, Thomas, (ed.), Rocky Mountain Politics, (Albuquerque, New Mexico: The University of New Mexico Press, 1940), p. 33.

<sup>50</sup> Deseret News, September 4, 1937.

venture. People who engaged in mining had no assurance of the continuation of present prices. These uncertainties constantly deterred mining industries from making commitments for continuing operations and in planning future employment.<sup>51</sup>

The conference urged the President and Congress to fix the price of silver for monetary purposes beyond June 30, 1939, and that the price of domestic silver be increased from the present basis of 64.64 cents per ounce. According to the governors this change would insure increased employment, thereby taking thousands of men off relief rolls and putting them back to work. They also urged that a silver policy be established, which would not be subject to sudden and frequent changes. They said the prosperity of the mining industry of the west contributed to the prosperity of the entire nation. According to the governors there could be no established prosperity of the mining industry without a firm and definite stabilization of the silver price.<sup>52</sup>

The major reclamation project constructed during Blood's second term was the Deer Creek enterprise on the Provo River, which cost approximately \$10,000,000. The Federal Government authorized this project in co-operation with the State Engineer. It was financed mainly by the Federal Government as a P. W. A. project and supplied nearly 90,000 acres in Utah and Salt Lake

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<sup>51</sup>Letter from E. P. Carville to Governor Henry Blood, March 29, 1939, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake.

<sup>52</sup>Ibid.

counties. Several minor projects were proposed, but were not constructed during Blood's administration.<sup>53</sup>

The Governor recommended the construction of a new state prison. The facilities location in Salt Lake City drew opposition from many people. Home owners felt it should be moved to a location somewhat remote from residential districts. Many people argued the prison's location prevented the development of residences in the surrounding area. The Governor applied to the Federal Government for funds, but the government made no allocation. The state did not undertake the construction of a new facility because it could not finance the project without federal assistance.<sup>54</sup>

Utah was one of the few states to select candidates by the convention system. In 1937 Blood urged the state legislature to adopt a Direct Primary. He appointed a committee to study the political needs of Utah. The committee organized under the leadership of Herbert B. Maw established the Direct Primary on March 11, 1937, when the legislature enacted it into law. The 1940 elections marked the beginning of the Direct Primary system in Utah.<sup>55</sup>

On March 9, 1937, the Old Age Assistance Act became law. This act created a new division in the State Department of Public

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<sup>53</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1937), p. 20.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., p. 20.

Welfare known as the Division of Old Age Assistance. This division administered assistance to the needy aged over sixty-five years of age so they could have the enjoyment of security in their old age. The new division had the authority to do all things necessary to comply with the Federal Social Security Act, so the state could be the full recipient of the Federal Government's old age assistance program. The federal, state, and local governments spent \$3,370,700 for old age assistance in the fiscal year of 1958.<sup>56</sup>

Also on March 9, 1937, an act regulating aeronautics was passed by the legislature. The Governor had attended a conference on aeronautics and urged the legislature to adopt this act. The act created a commission which supervised the establishment, location, maintenance, operation, and use of airports and other types of landing fields. Also under the auspices of the commission were the establishment of all flight schools, flying clubs, and other persons giving flight instruction. The purpose of this act was to create greater uniformity in the regulation of aeronautics.<sup>57</sup>

Under Blood's leadership, the legislature passed the Teachers Retirement Act on March 11, 1937. This act provided disability benefits for teachers who became incapacitated before the age of sixty-five due to mental or physical reasons. The act created a Teachers Retirement Board, which prescribed the source and method

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<sup>56</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, "Twenty-Third Session of the Legislature," (Salt Lake: Stevens and Wallis, Inc., 1939), p. 22.

<sup>57</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twenty-Third Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1939), p. 25.



of acquiring and distributing funds. The board allotted \$684,700 for teachers retirement from 1937 to 1939, which benefited many teachers.<sup>58</sup>

The legislature made provisions for the observance of Utah's centennial by the creation of a commission to plan and arrange a fitting observance for 1947. This commission had the responsibility of developing a program between 1939 and 1947 for presentation to the people of the world, the resources of the state of Utah. David C. McKay served as President of the Centennial Commission.<sup>59</sup>

With the Federal Government's passage of the Selective Training and Service Act in 1940, many men enrolled in the armed forces. Blood encouraged the coming legislative session to assure these men of their old jobs or positions if they were still qualified when they returned from active duty. He felt confident that the legislature would take the responsibility of pledging to allow returning servicemen the retention of their former occupations.<sup>60</sup>

Blood chose not to run for a third term in November of 1940. Herbert B. Maw became his Democratic successor to the Governorship after defeating the Republican candidate.

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<sup>58</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twenty-Second Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1937), p. 158.

<sup>59</sup> Laws of the State of Utah passed at the Twenty-Third Session of the Legislature, (Salt Lake: Authority, 1939), p. 169.

<sup>60</sup> Salt Lake Tribune, September 29, 1940.

### CONCLUSION

Blood gained a reputation as a shrewd and careful executive and his capable handling of state finances was widely recognized. Although he lacked talent as a public speaker, his persuasiveness before the legislature helped convince officials to reduce expenditures to meet the state's income. During his administration the state debt decreased from \$12,000,000 to \$3,655,000.<sup>61</sup>

He played a major role in obtaining much federal assistance for Utah. He stressed compliance with federal policies in welfare, reclamation, and agriculture so Utah would receive Maximum benefits. He worked hard to find means of helping the mining industry and attended the Western Governor's Silver Conference to influence the President and Congress to raise the value of domestic silver. During his administration numerous people received federal and state welfare benefits and many obtained employment on the various public works projects. Many people were given shelter during the Depression, who otherwise might have been homeless. Even though an advocator of temperance, he helped establish an efficient system of state control for liquor distribution.

He took a personal interest in people and their individual problems. He received many personal letters asking for his help or advice on matters, and he replied to almost all of these people.

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<sup>61</sup>Carter, Kate, Heart Throbs of the West, (Salt Lake: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1945), p. 80.

Blood was interested in genealogy and while in office received several letters asking about his descendants. He complied with these letters and showed an interest to find out more about these people with the rare name of Blood.<sup>62</sup>

He received compliments from the people of the state and many national leaders such as President Roosevelt and James A. Farley, Democratic National Chairman in 1940.<sup>63</sup> According to Kate Carter, a Utah chronicler, Blood was an unassuming man and humility marked his every move.<sup>64</sup> The Salt Lake Tribune stated that he began his administration when the state and nation were at the low ebb of depression, and his business-like management of state affairs, while regarded critically by big business and labor leaders since they opposed the restriction of the New Deal, drew general approval from the public at large.<sup>65</sup> From the evidence gathered, it appears as though Blood served the state in an honest and dedicated manner.

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<sup>62</sup>Letter from Henry A. Blood to Governor Henry H. Blood, Utah Historical Society, Salt Lake.

<sup>63</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, June 19, 1942, p. 1.

<sup>64</sup>Carter, Kate, Heart Throbs of the West, (Salt Lake: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1945), p. 81.

<sup>65</sup>Salt Lake Tribune, June 19, 1942, p. 1.



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