

## FACT Fails to Offer Liquor Facts During Campaign for Open Saloons

**A**N organization called Fair Alcohol Control Today, using the acronym FACT, is the spearhead for the campaign to legalize open saloons throughout the state of Oklahoma.

A spokesman for FACT says that there are no state laws specifically regulating the state's 1,160 private clubs. The fact is that efforts to strengthen state liquor laws have been defeated in the legislature by the same forces that are trying to use this as an excuse to promote more liquor sales.

The latest effort was a bill by Rep. Ross Duckett in the 1976 legislature, which was sidetracked in favor of the move to put liquor by the drink on the Nov. 2 ballot.

When it was observed recently that legislators may not be relied upon to enact better laws for regulating liquor by the drink than they have for present enforcement, FACT declared that legislators can, too, be depended upon.

In one statement, FACT leaders, in effect, criticize legislators for failure in regard to present liquor regulation and in another handout they say the lawmakers will do very well.

The fact is that FACT hasn't presented a single constructive reason why Oklahoma voters should approve their proposal for making more liquor available at more places.

The reason is that they do not have any constructive reasons at their disposal. FACT spokesmen have not touched upon the real issues involved in drinking.

FACT has not said that liquor by the drink will make happier homes. The fact is that liquor is a major single cause of unhappy homes. Drinking mothers, alcoholic fathers and distressed children are the inevitable result.

FACT has not claimed that liquor by the drink would make our highways and streets safer. The fact is that it would not. Records show that half of all highway fatalities involve liquor, and it isn't always the drinking drivers who are killed and injured. More accessible drinks means more drunken drivers.

FACT has not discussed liquor in relation to crime. No doubt, members are aware that most criminals are drinkers, and that the cost of crime is steadily increasing. Many thieves and burglars practice their trade to support drinking habits.

FACT has not argued that busi-

ness would be helped by liquor by the drink. Nobody would expect that there would be less drinking by employees when they go out to lunch at restaurant bars. More saloons would result in more drinking after hours.

FACT has not claimed that liquor by the drink would result in alcoholic beverage users paying their bills more promptly, nor that increased liquor sales would help workers to spend their salaries and wages responsibly. They do not claim that the proposed law would result in larger contributions to churches.

FACT hasn't offered one solid fact as to who would benefit from liquor by the drink in Oklahoma, other than those who would be in some phase of the liquor business.

That's a small minority. For the vast majority, Oklahoma is better off under present laws, poor as they might be.