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Liquor Laws Aren't Hypocritical, But Those Who Violate Them Are

ADVOCATES of the proposed liquor-by-the-drink amendment argue that present regulations for sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages are "hypocritical."

If this is true, it is those who are violating the laws who are hypocritical about them. Law-abiding citizens have no reason to feel guilty for complying with the law, nor should they feel that they are hypocrites if others violate the law.

It would be just as logical to argue that laws against murder and robbery are "hypocritical" because some people kill and steal in spite of the laws.

The reason the liquor industry wants open saloons is to sell more liquor. They try to make people believe there would be no more drinking with bars in practically every

restaurant than is now done.

If that were true, why would they be spending many thousands of dollars to promote more places to sell liquor?

Because cigarette smoking has been blamed as a major cause of cancer, the federal government requires a warning to be placed on each package, advising purchasers of the hazard.

No such warnings are required on liquor, although it is known to be a much greater hazard. More than 10 million Americans are classified as alcoholics, and others are headed that way.

Because smoking of cigars and pipes is regarded as a nuisance to nonsmokers, the Civil Aeronautics Board is considering a ban on both forms of tobacco on planes. For several years, airlines have separated smokers and nonsmokers by seating areas.

However, the same airlines do not segregate drinkers and nondrinkers. They sell liquor all over the planes, which may be as offensive to many people as tobacco smoke is to others.

Similarly, the proposed liquor-by-the-drink amendment would allow sale of alcoholic beverages just about every place where food is sold, as well as in separate saloons and clubs.

People who have traveled in other states to any extent have sometimes found themselves in situations where they had to eat in restaurants and hotel cafes where liquor is served or else go hungry.

Such circumstances often are distasteful, to say the least. In many instances diners are invited to wait in the cocktail lounge, even when tables are vacant in the dining room. Operators hope this will encourage them to buy a few drinks, and many do. In fact, some imbibe so much they forget they came to eat.

Unless Oklahomans want to have liquor forced into their presence at every public place and sneered at when they do not participate, they will vote "No" in November!