

Liquor Has No Redeeming Social Value

HABITUAL drinking of alcoholic beverages is a vice. The fact that a great many people indulge does not make it any less so, but more so.

The evils of alcoholism have been enumerated many times and it is unnecessary to repeat them. Despite widespread social usage, alcoholic beverages have "no redeeming social values," to appropriate a term federal courts use concerning pornography.

Therefore, it is incongruous that proponents of "liquor-by-the-drink" would undertake a campaign to enlarge upon Oklahoma drinking habits at a time when strong forces are striving to put a damper on the dangerous practice of drunken driving.

Instead of putting corks in the bottles, this campaign for "MORE-liquor-by-MORE-drinks" would authorize making alcohol filling stations as handy and numerous as gasoline stations.

Spokesmen for the Oklahoma City and Tulsa chambers of commerce have endorsed the campaign, apparently for mercenary reasons. They

claim more saloons would bring more tourists and more conventioners, who would bring more money to our state.

If true, then these people would be coming here just to drink and get drunk. Who needs them? We have too many of our own citizens already doing those things.

Basically, these arguments are based upon greed. This is another case where, as the scripture says, "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (I Timothy 6:10). Obviously, the love of money is the foundation of the alcoholic liquor business.

Contentions that larger liquor sales would bring in more tax money are spurious and misleading. It is doubtful that net gains would result if increased crime and other costs are considered.

If such a gain should occur, would our legislature pass it on to taxpayers? Look at the spending record of the present legislature with the largest tax surplus in history to find the answer.

The county option bait is just that — a snare and a delusion. Anybody who believes that county option

would confine the evils of "MORE-liquor-by-MORE-drinks" to Oklahoma and Tulsa counties might also believe that a barbed wire fence would stop the wind from blowing across the road.

Law abiding citizens should not feel guilty because of allegations that hypocrisy exists under present liquor laws. It is not they, but scofflaws who regularly violate these laws and public officials who are guilty of gross neglect of duty who are the real hypocrites.

Many people are frightened about the possibility that nuclear warfare might destroy mankind. The truth is that alcoholism is a more immediate hazard to humanity than the atomic bomb.

The insidious effects of social drinking are destroying human bodies, souls, homes and businesses here and now.

The atomic bomb is not habit-forming, but alcohol is an addictive substance. Support for "MORE-liquor-by-MORE-drinks" is an effort to spread its destructive effects even further.

5-18-82

Dear Mr Deering:

I read with interest and appreciation your piece on the editorial page of the "Oklahoma" this morning entitled "Liquor Has No Redeeming Social Value."

Thank you for this article. I agree with it. Also, thank you for our conversation on the telephone concerning this subject recently.

In my opinion, some of the real American heroes of our day are those such as yourself who continue telling the truth in spite of the general moral decline of our day. Enclosed find some materials you may want to use.

Sincerely, Paul Justice

Emigrants Should Look

JUN 13 1982

TO THE EDITOR:

I feel sorry for families from other states that come to Oklahoma expecting to find the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

To me it just seems a little naive for families to just pack up and head for Oklahoma with no forethought of what may be here when they arrive.

There are plenty of jobs her in the City but the cost of living here is not as cheap as some people think. To rent a house or apartment along with deposit can easily exceed \$1,000.

Why don't people simply do a little checking about Oklahoma City before they head this way.

They could get an Oklahoma City newspaper and do some checking. Write some letters to various rental agencies and the same would apply for employment opportunities. Even sending the head of the house hold in advance to "scout" things out and see how things are makes more sense to me than loading up the family and just heading for Oklahoma.

Many people get very disgusted when they get here and don't seem able to rent a place to live or find a good job right away. They sometimes act like we have lied to them or enticed them to come here where sometimes their dreams are shattered with the harsh reality when they realize there is no land of "milk and honey" anymore.

Sharon Farr, McLoud

Dry Up Drink Sources

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express my genuine appreciation for the column written by Mr. Ferdie J. Deering. I

Prayer for Today

LET me, O God, speak a word for others to thee and also speak a word to others about thee. Help me to take their prayers to thee and bring them a word to ease their needs, to live close to thee and to others that I may help them across the bridge between them and thee. Amen.

especially appreciate the one, "Liquor Has No Redeeming Social Value." I believe he has told things in this article which all Oklahomans need to hear so that they may help save our state and its young people from the devastating effects of alcohol. The only place to effectively slow down this abuse is at the source. Those who are selling it are helping to destroy lives in more ways than one.

Human lives are worth more than all revenues any conventions may bring to this state. Please keep Mr. Deering's articles in the paper. We must hear voices such as his.

P.D.J., City

Lesson on Values

TO THE EDITOR:

"The average pay of manufacturing production workers in the Oklahoma City area in April rose to \$8.77 an hour. . . ." Thus reads an article in The Daily Oklahoman June 6, 1982, by Glen Bayless. The article goes on to point out that there are many who are paid more than this — and some who are paid less. I am writing in response to this article because I have a personal interest involved. I happen to have a family member who is presently teaching summer school classes in one of the metropolitan districts (public schools). She has a master's degree in liberal arts, lacks only her dissertation on her doctor's degree (which means she has invested more than seven years in "higher" learning beyond high school), is a superior "born" type teacher, works hard at the job (meaning that she spends many hours outside the classroom in planning, grading papers, doing essential "home-work," and sponsoring "extracurricular" activities), and gives herself without reservation to her teaching opportunity.

For all the "special" activities and homework she gets no pay. For actual hours spent in the classroom she gets \$125 per week. If you would figure the total work time essential to her success as a teacher you would find that she is being paid less than the legal minimum wage for any kind of work — actually, less than teen-agers get per hour for part-time work.

To me, on the simple basis of con-