

Ferdie J. Deering

JUL 21 1983

# Civic Groups Shouldn't Boost Liquor

THE logical purposes of chambers of commerce should be to build up their communities, promoting quality of life, cultural and social values and well-being of citizens, as well as expanded trade.

It does not seem logical that civic organizations would devote efforts and money to promote vices, even if certain interests stand to reap substantial profits therefrom.

For that reason alone it appears unthinkable that such associations would advocate further liberalization of state liquor laws, as some Oklahoma chambers of commerce are doing.

The evils of alcoholism are well known. The advantages of making alcoholic beverages more easily obtainable may be summed up in one word: Greed. Those who make and sell alcoholic beverages profit from the degrading addictions of their fellow human beings.

If money is the primary objective, will the chambers of commerce begin promoting traffic in cocaine, marijuana and other drugs? These might be even more profitable than

liquor and beer.

If the chambers have no concern for the well-being of their fellowmen, will they be concerned about whether one evil is worse than another evil? If not, they could take up prostitution, casino gambling and racketeering later. These also are profitable for operators.

The fact that liquor promoters engaged the same team that persuaded Oklahomans to legalize horse race gambling reflects the association of various forms of vice.

The title of the organization formed for this purpose is misleading. It is called "Oklahomans for Responsible Liquor Control." The obvious purpose is to sell more drinks to more people in more places. It is not to control or limit sales any more than at present.

The fact that public officials are guilty of gross neglect of duty by failing to enforce existing liquor laws does not provide any assurance they would do better under a looser set of laws.

The victims of alcoholism are not only those who wreck their careers

through habitual and excessive use of liquor. Their families suffer deprivation of money spent on liquor, the loss of normal relationships, and embarrassment, among other things.

A Gallup Poll two years ago said that one person out of every five reported that alcohol had been a cause of family trouble.

Countless families have lost a father, mother or others in traffic accidents caused by drinking drivers. Most citizens apparently favor severe punishment of drunken drivers but many offenders get off with a slap on the wrist.

Oklahomans for Responsible Liquor Control and the chambers of commerce supporting it are advocating conditions which will result in "More Liquor by More Drinks for More People."

In so doing, they are advocating increased alcoholism, more suffering by innocent victims of alcohol addicts, and more hazards for all when more saloons create more drunken drivers. Their aim is to persuade voters that is what they want.

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July 26, 1983

Ferdie J. Deering  
C/O The Oklahoma Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 25125  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Dear Ferdie:

This is with reference to your wonderful editorial in The Oklahoman on July 21st "Civic Groups Shouldn't Boost Liquor".

I do not know you but, since reading this article, I have a new respect for you and for what you stand for.

You couldn't have said it any better.

*Some people will do anything  
for money L.*

Yours very truly,  
FEDERAL CORPORATION

*Louis*  
Louis Loeffler, Jr.

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