

LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

VOLUME VII

AUTUMN, 1940

NUMBER 4

FOREWORD

That the alcoholic beverage industry is the most thoroughly regulated of all industries is accepted as a truism. What is comprehended by this assertion may not be so universally appreciated. First, it involves denominating as an "industry" the distillers, brewers, wine makers, rectifiers, importers, and wholesalers, as well as those who deal directly with the consumer of alcoholic beverages. Furthermore, "regulated" indicates a control (extending to proprietary management) participated in by all levels of government from the municipal to the federal, each, perhaps, acting with some degree of independence. Finally, it must be realized that governmental regulation on all these levels may be concerned both with social control of liquor and the securing of revenue, and the achievement of these two ends may be assigned to different agencies. The statutes, ordinances, and administrative regulations under which the industry operates, accordingly, seem innumerable; but, against a background of the experience prior to Repeal, this symposium attempts to treat the more significant legal and administrative problems revealed by the experience of the last seven years.

It is recognized, of course, that the importance of studying alcoholic beverage control will be apparent to those directly concerned, either as regulators or as the subjects of regulation. It is natural, also, that there should be interest on the part of those concerned with promoting temperance and the prevention of the sale of alcoholic beverages, although, necessarily, the symposium has not dealt with the social problems centering around the consumption of such beverages. It is believed, however, that the analyses of the controls exercised over the liquor industry have a significance which transcends the subject of alcoholic beverages itself. Governmental control over all economic activity is increasing. It is obvious that much can be learned by both government and business from what has taken place in the most rigidly controlled and comprehensively regulated industry.

The titles of the articles in the symposium are sufficiently revealing of the contents. A planned article on self-regulation in the distilled spirits industry was not available due to circumstances beyond the control of the periodical. The recent abolition of the Federal Alcohol Administration and the transfer of its functions to the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue makes it appropriate to call attention to the article by Mr. John E. O'Neill on "Federal Activity in Alcoholic Beverage Control." Mr. O'Neill's article describes the new federal organization and goes into detail as to the administrative procedure now prevailing.

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