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In contrast to the many logical arguments in favor of local options to limit importation or prohibit alcohol, the one decisive argument against such a measure is purely pragmatic, local option and prohibition doesn't work. It should work, but it doesn't. What brought about the Twenty First Amendment Repeal was the slowly dawning awareness that alcohol prohibition wasn't working. The Alaska Legislature should not amend the Local Option Statue because: People will still get drunk, still become alcoholics, still suffer delirium tremens. Drunken drivers will remain a frequent menace on the highways. Drunks will continue to commit suicide, to murder others, and to be murdered by others. The courts, jails, hospitals, and mental hospitals will still be filled with drunks.

Instead of consuming alcoholic beverages manufactured under the safeguards of state and federal standards, for example, people will drink homebrew, rotgut, or white lightening, some of it adulterated, some of it contaminated. Some will use methyl alcohol, a poison, because ethyl alcohol is too costly, it can lead to blindness and death; adulterants most often found in bootleg beverages, can produce paralysis and death.

There most likely will be a shift from relatively mild light wines and beers to hard liquors that are less bulky and therefore less hazardous to manufacture, transport, and sell.

Some will argue that all that is wrong is lack of effective law enforcement. So enforcement budgets may be increased, more Alcohol Agents may be hired, arrests can be facilitated by giving agents more power, penalties can be escalated. But prohibition still won't work.

The use of other drugs will increase, The list is long and can be lengthened, but we need not belabor the obvious.

The Twenty-first (Repeal) Amendment left power in the states to retain statewide alcohol prohibition, and made it a federal offense to ship alcoholic beverages into a dry state. Statewide alcohol prohibition, however, failed like national prohibition. State after state repealed its statewide alcohol prohibition laws; Mississippi's, in 1966, was the last to go.

All drugs, including alcohol, have important medicinal or social uses. All are subject to the same kinds of misuse. Establishing a social policy designed to maximize the benefits and to minimize the damage done by these drugs is a challenge for all of us.

But the first step is to make known the simple fact that the widely publicized perils of barbiturates are in fact the perils of alcohol, and that other drugs in this class are not without hazard. When the Alaska Legislature eventually arrives at a sound law or statue for any of these drugs, this law or statue should be a consistent for all of them.

“Consider one of the most perplexing questions of our time: Where do' solutions go when a candidate gets elected?”

A Alaska Legislator was once asked about his attitude toward whiskey. "If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life, and inflames sinners, then I'm against it. But if you mean the elixir of Christmas cheer, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it. This is my position, and I will not compromise."