

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

Historic Impact
Of Declaration
Was 'Startling'

The right of all men to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is being endangered by the deadwood thinking of many who consider the Declaration to be little more than an idealistic cliché. Yet, since the turn of this century, the world has fought two wars because its people wanted to be free of despots and authoritarian governments. Tragically, the issue still is not resolved. Some day it may be. But, as the following editorial remarks try to point out, that day will not come until we all affirm and reaffirm our faith in the principles that motivated the creators of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.

MOST PEOPLE today consider the Declaration of Independence a historical move by which this country set forth its vow for independence, but lack the imagination to understand that in the year 1776 it was a startling declaration. In fact, with the possible exception of the Bible, and the Magna Charta in 1215, it is one of the most astonishing documents ever published by man.

Look at it from the viewpoint that up to that time in recorded history no group of men had gathered upon the face of the earth and declared they would rule themselves, that they were capable of ruling themselves.

Before that the ruling of a nation was concentrated in the hands of a few men. The masses were not capable of ruling—that had been the philosophy of governments since the beginning of time.

Then, suddenly, a group of men met in Philadelphia, in a raw and untamed country, and issued a document that bluntly avowed: people have the right to overthrow the government under which they live; they have a right to alter or abolish any government that does not operate for their good and happiness. That is a startling declaration.

Thus an experiment began that succeeded and grew. Succeeded so well, in fact, that it came to be regarded as commonplace. And today the Declaration of Independence is thought of by school children as a musty document which many of them are forced to memorize and find boring to read. United States citizens have accepted without reservation the idea that all peoples have a right to overthrow, abolish and alter any government under which they live.

THE TIMES in which the men lived who wrote and signed the Declaration were troubled times, much as they are today. Men throughout the world were demanding freedom of action and thought. An Englishman, Dr. Richard Price, at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, wrote: "Perhaps I do not go too far when I say that, next to the introduction of Christianity among mankind, the American revolution may prove the most important step in the progressive course of human improvement." Dr. Price was correct. It was the step that started the human race on a new trend of thought—freedom for all.

AND the time may be coming when the peoples of all the world, not just a nation, will issue their declaration of independence and no nation will enslave another or force its conception of government on its neighbor. That, too, will be a startling document.

John Adams, who helped compose the Declaration said: "The Revolution was affected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people."

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

(Unanimously Adopted in Congress, July 4, 1776, at Philadelphia)

WHEN, IN THE COURSE of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitles them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; That, whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these states. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

HE HAS REFUSED his assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States for that purpose obstructing the Laws of Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature.

He has affected to render the Military independent of, and superior to, the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

FOR QUARTERING large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas, to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering, fundamentally, the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with the power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-Citizens, taken captive on the high Seas, to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

IN EVERY STAGE of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms; Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind—Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

WE, THEREFORE, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

John Hancock
Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
Geo. Walton
Wm. Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn
Edward Rutledge
Thos. Heyward, Junr.
Thomas Lynch, Junr.
Arthur Middleton
Samuel Chase
Wm. Paca
Thos. Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton
James Wilson
Geo. Ross
Caesar Rodney
Geo. Reed
Thos. M. Kean
Wm. Floyd
Phil Livingston
Frans. Lewis
Lewis Morris
Richd. Stockton
Jno. Witherspoon
Fras. Hopkinson
John Hart

Abra Clark
George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Th. Jefferson
Benja. Harrison
Thos. Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton
Robt. Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benja. Franklin
John Morton
Geo. Clymer
Jas. Smith
Geo. Taylor
Josiah Bartlett
Wm. Hipple
Saml. Adams
John Adams
Robt. Treat Payne
Eldridge Gerry
Step. Hopkins
William Ellery
Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
Wm. Williams
Oliver Wolcott
Matthew Thornton

Independence
Is Proclaimed
By Congress

This news story of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 is written as though the event were occurring today. Its purpose is to give this all-important document the currency it ought to have these days. The Declaration of Independence, for all that it was written 174 years ago, remains predicated on the living issue of human freedom. Consider, as you read, that all this well might be happening right now.

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 4, 1776—These American colonies today became the United States of America as 56 members of the Second Continental Congress signed a Declaration of Independence without a dissenting vote.

The vote came after a long day of bitter debate during which many members of the Congress publicly said they were not "ready for an open break with England."

The congress, which had been meeting behind closed doors for some time, had been actively working on the declaration since last June 10.

Prior to that date, Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, had introduced a resolution urging the absolution of all allegiance to the British crown.

John Dickinson, leader of the conservative middle colonies, opposed the measure, urging moderation, conciliation, and postponement.

On last June 10, however, the measure was back before the body and a committee was appointed to draw up the preamble to the resolution.

Members of that committee were delegates Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston.

Franklin Was Ill
Franklin, who at the time was in bed with an attack of gout, was unable to assist in the writing of the declaration. Adams, Sherman, and Livingston were also unable to assist in the writing since they had numerous other congressional affairs occupying their time.

The task thus fell upon the shoulders of young Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. He submitted his draft to Congress six days ago.

It was passed aside, however, and was not brought back before the Congress until the first day of this month when the body resolved itself into a committee of the whole and resumed consideration of Lee's original proposal.

What followed was probably the most bitter debate in the Second Congress thus far, members reported.

At one time Benjamin Franklin, oldest delegate is reported to have taken the floor to warn the gentlemen that either "they would hang together or hang separately."

Freedom Espoused
The motion placed before the Congress by Mr. Lee read:

"That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved."

As news of the signing seeped through this city, a state of unbelievable surprise was the first reaction. It was quickly overcome, however, by an undertone of determination and the realization that a full-scale war might soon be a reality.

Franklin was the oldest of the signers, while Edward Rutledge, 27, of Charleston, S. C., was the youngest. The youngest and the oldest congratulated each other.

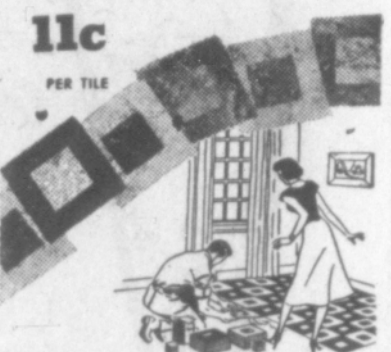
Rutledge is reported to have said to Franklin as the two men shook hands, "Sir, this parchment must outlive time itself!"

Charles Payton
Enlists In Army

Charles G. Payton, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Payton, McKinley route, Coquille, enlisted in the regular army, corps of engineers, through the Coos Bay U. S. Army and U. S. air force recruiting station. Charles, a recent graduate of Myrtle Point high school enlisted under the high school graduate program wherein a written application for a specific technical school was submitted prior to enlisting. Under the signature of the commanding general of the training center of Fort Ord, Calif., he was guaranteed the school of his choice and upon completion of basic training will report to Fort Lee, Va. for enrollment in the laundry machine operation, maintenance and repair course of the quartermaster corps.

HIGHWAY EXECUTIVE
SOUGHT

A bill to be presented to the 1951 legislature by the state highway commission would provide a business manager for the commission. J. M. Devers, chief legal counsel, is preparing the bill. The plan follows a long-practiced arrangement of large business concerns where a business manager reports to the board of directors.

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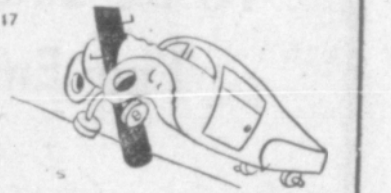
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The answers to everyday insurance problems★
By ERNIE SMITH



QUESTION: Every once in a while we read in the paper about a car being stolen and later being found wrecked or stripped of everything removable. After the insurance company recovers the car, who pays for the damage or for all the things taken from it?

ANSWER: The insurance company pays for all the damage. Its responsibility is to return the car to the owner in approximately the same condition as before it was stolen or to pay the owner for any lost value.

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