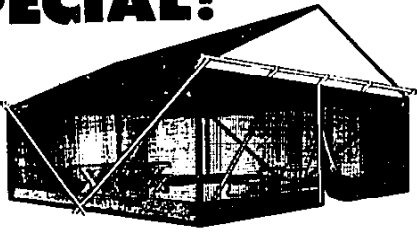


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# Nation's Bible Should Be Read July 4, 1972

The low ebbs of man's journey on earth are repeated when history is forgotten or unlearned.

The fool ignores history, and a nation of fools is journeying toward the folly and tragedy of a past era which met its fate after failing to learn from the history of an earlier age.

Our nation will flourish or flounder depending upon whether fools will comprise the majority of our populace. If Americans can keep our history in mind, there is hope that any present or future crises can be overcome. Otherwise, the future is bleak.

JULY FOURTH, 1976, will be the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence -- an announcement of independence in 1776 which demanded a war be fought to become fact.

But has it become fact? The Revolutionary War, indeed, did grant this country freedom from the mother country and the Constitution enacted supplied liberties the patriots decreed worth fighting for. An examination of the Declaration, however, would indicate we have yet to execute the ideals so proudly professed 196 years ago.

The Declaration lacks basis in law because it was simply an announcement, and was left out from the pages of the Constitution. As an announcement, however, it defined the reasons why the patriots felt revolution was mandatory and laid an ideological foundation upon which were added the legal document of the Constitution

and the Bill of Rights contained therein.

When the Constitution is violated, the courts are able to protect the rights of individuals or uphold a principle under attack. The violation of the Declaration, however, lacks any provision for redress except in the consciences and souls of all Americans.

A CONTEMPORARY commentator recently stated that the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution are a package to be considered the "Bible" of Democracy.

He suggested that, just as Christians read the Scriptures often, so should Americans refer frequently to the Constitution and Declaration.

Can we claim to be "good citizens" if the last time we read the Constitution was 20 years ago in a school civics class? Can we speak of "Americanism" without having read the Declaration within the distant past? How can we "stand up for our rights" without reading what these rights are?

July 4, 1972, might be well spent reading aloud to the family the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. A day of patriotic devotions might help decide whether we are a nation of fools or real Americans committed to preserve Democracy for tomorrow instead of merely appropriating it for today.

A nation which learns together grows and will dispel the prophesy of pessimistic historians that all great empires must fall.

(The material contained within this section was written by Emory Daniels, editor of the Southfield News & Observer. The interpretation of the historical matter presented is that of the writer's and not necessarily that of this newspapers or any of its advertisers -- editor)



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