



**PLYMOUTH PARADE** -- Plymouth's biggest parade of the year will be held July Fourth under sponsorship of the Plymouth Jaycees. The parade will begin at 12:15 p.m. at Main and Union, proceed down Main to Hartsough and head to East Middle School where the parade ends.

# A Baby Which Hasn't Matured

The Declaration of Independence announced the birth of a new nation, expressed a unique theory of democracy, and summed up the reasons compelling Americans to independence, and the political and social principles upon which the Revolution was based.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration, detailed grievances against King George III with the foremost charge being his government had become destructive of the unquestionable rights of mankind to enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

**WHEN ANY** governmental form contrives to deprive citizens of these rights, people have the right to alter or abolish that form and establish a new government, Jefferson argued.

The Revolution would not lead to anarchy, he contended, because "all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right them by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed."

The core of the Declaration is the doctrine that all men ARE created equal, and if some men are not treated equally, they should be. This doctrine, above all others, has kept this nation from living up to its ideals be-

cause there are too many Americans unwilling to accept as equals others different than themselves.

The equality doctrine is the plumb line of America's unique form of Democracy. Our failure to totally pass this test has caused friction in past years and is a foreboding of future unrest and divisions which will make less jubilant the bicentennial observance of July 4, 1976.

**A CRUCIAL** point in understanding the Declaration lies in accepting the meaning of the term "We hold these truths to be self-evident...."

In terms of philosophy, the description "self-evident" means that these truths require no proof. Just as many believe the Bible contains God's truth and need not be proved, so is it true that the "self-evident" truth proclaimed in the Declaration is to be accepted rather than debated.

That truth, which requires no proof, was stated by Jefferson when he penned: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL men ARE created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and

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