

visers. Nessen said the tax cut bill was not discussed in that meeting.

The White House meeting Friday centered on the prospects of a federal budget deficit that could reach \$105 billion in the next fiscal year—roughly proposed — if the Congress were to approve a number of major new spending programs under consideration on Capitol Hill, Nessen said.



Staff Photo

John N. Ambrose and David Gambill
End to 'Bicentennial Cover-Up' Sought

March 1975

Full-Page Ad Urges U.S. To Reunite With England

By Ray McAllister

"America, Don't Be Deceived by Bicentennial Propaganda," warns a full-page advertisement in this week's Richmond Mercury.

Then, in three-quarter-inch capital letters: "REUNITE WITH ENGLAND."

The advertisement goes on to say that corruption in high places, violence, slavery and a multitude of other "sins" would have been prevented or alleviated had there been no American Revolution.

And, in addition to calling for reunion with England, the ad demands the "bicentennial cover-up" be ended and that complete restoration of all confiscated land and property, with interest, be made to the Tories.

THEN THE AD takes on a slightly milder tone: "Some may perhaps pooh-pooh ours as an impossible cause, but consider the alternative: a narrowly biased bicentennial reenacting the speeches of hot-heads, selling figurines of Washington and Jefferson for a dollar, putting their radical faces on sheets and tablecloths, and then singing about how great we are!"

Entirely a joke?

After all, \$153.60—the price of a full-page ad in the Mercury—is a lot of money for a joke.

John N. Ambrose, a keypunch operator at a local department store, is the man who wrote the ad for the Committee for Reunion with England (CRE). Wearing a white suit—in fact, dressed entirely in white—he walked into the newspaper's office and paid for the ad in cash.

He professes to be serious.

"**THE THING THAT** aroused our anger was a bicentennial minute on CBS a while ago,"

Ambrose said. "Jonathan Winters told of some revolutionaries who threw three loyalists in the river near Norfolk 200 years ago.

"What they didn't mention—as The New York Times later wrote— was that two of the three men drowned. Here it was being told as a funny story—look at the playful Americans—and really it was a despicable and sickening moment."

That, claims Ambrose, triggered the formation of the 10-member committee of which he and David Gambill are cochairmen.

"The whole bicentennial thing is being treated very narrowly. It's being mythologized, really, and we'd like to put it in perspective," Ambrose said. "We'd like to bring out what the real issues of the day were."

THUS FAR, THE committee says it has received no contributions but that a number of persons have reacted favorably to the ad.

"Some people have understood what is underneath the slightly overstated rhetoric," Ambrose said. "They've been very enthusiastic."

Gambill, who works in the adjustments department of a local bank, claims to be even more of a "loyalist." He says he supports the British.

"I'm going to be for them in the bicentennial," he said. "During the Civil War centennial celebration, you were expected to be for the losers if you lived in the South. Well, I'm picking the losers—I was a Mets' fan in '62 and I voted for McGovern."

GAMBILL, TOO, says he is angered by the

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Full-Page Ad Calls For English Reunion

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perspective in which the bicentennial is being placed.

"I don't think we should be dividing the Revolution into a play with good guys and bad guys," he said. "The loyalists were loyal to the established government. They were good

and virtuous men, by and large, but because they lost, we consider them evil."

As for reunion with England, Gambill and Ambrose say it makes good business sense. And, Gambill adds, he believes there will be a reunion.

"What do two companies do when they're in trouble?" Gambill asks. "They merge.

"Of course, we could end up with another Penn Central by merging, but it's worth the risk."

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