Tories 'tread on' to reunion

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Now, upon ground once trod by Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, comes a counter-revolutionary band of loyalists who would finally return prodigal America to the forgiving arms of Mother England.

Already these latter-day Tories have collected $83 and the support of 150 U.S. citizens who envision a happier life in a colony restored. If only another 200 million or so sign up, their petition may be ready for the queen when she arrives for a bicentennial visit next July.

Otherwise, the bicentennial will be nothing but "a big fake, a piece of propaganda trying to cover up the mistakes we've made," says John T. Ambrose, co-founder of the Committee for Reunion with England.

"It's time we realized that the revolution was nothing more than the self-serving acts of a bunch of hotheads and caused a lot of problems for this country which now can be corrected only by reunion."

According to the committee's Declaration of Reunion, the corruption and injustice which have troubled America's 199 years could have been avoided if the rebels only had been patient enough to work within the system.

It noted, for example, that slave trade was abolished in the British Empire "two score and 16 years" before the Emancipation Proclamation.

If only the colonies had stayed in line, there would have been no Civil War, no Reconstruction and no Ku Klux Klan, it adds.

"World War I and II would never have occurred. Germany would never dare attack a British Empire that included both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The American Revolution not only betrayed America, but also Mother England, nay, the entire civilized world," it says.

Not that Ambrose and his collaborators are looking for revenge.

"Mother England is kind and just," the declaration says. "If we apologize now and promise not to rebell any more, she will go easy on us. Amnesty will be offered to the rebel leaders and the present officials of this rebel government. There would be no fear that President Ford, members of Congress or the Supreme Court will be sent to prison."

However, "there cannot be unconditional amnesty. They have made mistakes and must pay a penalty. . .perhaps a period of alternative service in the Bengal Lancers."

The committee was organized back in March when Ambrose, an advertising writer, and David A. Gambill, a Richmond bank employe, decided the bicentennial was, on the whole, boring.

"It's lacked a sense of humor, any real comedy," said Ambrose. "So we got out a mimeograph machine, took an ad in the Richmond Mercury, rented a post office box and sat back to watch the fun."

Old-timer's 'high'

Joe Houston may be 70, but he still enjoys "being high." Houston, a retired steeplejack, is helping paint the tower atop Kirkwood Hall at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. Houston has helped paint the tower each time it needed a new coat since he was 18. (UPI telephoto)

Court rules wife can use maiden name

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The Missouri Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday a married woman may use her maiden name, rather than her husband's name.

Judge Robert G. Dowd, writing for a unanimous three-judge panel, said, "In times past, the management of a woman was given to the woman's husband by her father in the marriage ceremony. Today a woman is under new management, her own."

The court ruled in the case of Judith Montage, 30, a lawyer married to Daniel Natale. Ms. Montage had lost her first court battle in a ruling by St. Louis County Circuit Judge George W. Cloyd.

The appeals court, indicating that its decision may be the first of its kind in the nation, said the ruling in favor of Ms. Montage does not harm her husband because Natale supported his wife's request. The court said, "Possible harm to children born to the marriage in the future is too speculative."

The court also said the ruling does not harm the state because the name requested is not "bizarre, obscene or offensive."

Defendant admits sale of 'speed'

David Samuel Palmer, 22, Route 3, indicted by the Boone County Grand Jury May 14 for selling a controlled substance, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Circuit Court.

Palmer had pleaded not guilty at his June 2 arraignment to three counts of selling drugs. Tuesday he changed his plea to guilty on one count. The state dropped the other two charges against him.

Under questioning by Circuit Court Judge Frank Conley, Palmer admitted selling 106 grams (four ounces) of MDA (an amphetamine) to a Missouri Highway Patrol undercover agent for $1,100 April 17.

Palmer could receive a sentence of from five years to life imprisonment. Dave Strauss, assistant Boone County prosecuting attorney, recommended Palmer be given a 10-year sentence. "This was no small street deal," Strauss told Conley.

Final disposition was set for Oct. 6, pending a pre-sentencing investigation. Palmer has been held in Boone County Jail since his arrest April 27. He is being held for the Cooper County Sheriff's Department on two charges of selling drugs.

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