Bicentennial 'plan' ignored

CHICAGO (AP) — Attorney Marvin J. Rosenblum has a "monumental" plan for citizen involvement and unifying the United States on its 200th birthday celebration next July 4: A human chain of millions of Americans holding hands from sea to sea.

"Nothing like this has ever been attempted or done by any country," Rosenblum says of the "Hands Across the Nation" concept. He sees it as a "national Woodstock," "a Mt. Rushmore of American emotion," a "Great Wall of People" comparable to the Great Wall of China, with Americans clasping hands for a moment from coast to coast.

So far, his idea has no official support. But the 32-year-old attorney is undaunted.

"You have to absorb it," he conceded in a recent interview. He said that when the idea first occurred to him, "I thought it was harebrained."

Rosenblum figures such a chain would take about 4 million persons, or roughly 2 per cent of the nation's population, with 1,320 persons per mile, each standing 4 feet apart. There are 5,280 feet in a mile. He says that selecting a route and circumventing natural barriers such as the Rocky Mountains, deserts and great bodies of water would be formidable. And he admits that organizing the chain on state, county and local levels could be "an incredible organizational problem."

But he maintains it can be accomplished.

"It's the grass roots kind of thing" in which people can really get involved, he says.

"It would go down in history not only as a unique bicentennial celebration but probably would last for hundreds of years afterwards as a mark of the human will. It would show that we're still not so large that we can't be linked together at one moment."

Rosenblum bounced the idea off some of the nation's largest corporations, the Bicentennial Committee, the White House and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

The committee wasn't interested. Neither were the corporations. The White House said it would pass the idea to the Bicentennial Committee. Rosenblum said Kennedy did not respond.

John T. Ambrose

Latter-day Tories campaign to reunite England, America

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 had only been patient enough to work within the system.

It noted, for example, that slave trade was abolished in the British Empire in 1807, "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 rebel 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."

Naturally "there cannot be unconditional amnesty," however. "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."

The Times of London published an article on the committee noting both its plea for contributions and its mailing address. That netted about 20 letters from Britain and a check from one Londoner for 20 new pence — or enough to buy two copies of the Times.

'King' of drinkers headed for expo

BALTIMORE, Md. (AP) — King Gambrinus has headed south to rule over a new kindgom of beer drinkers and teetotalers.

A 12-foot-high, 800-pound pewter statue of the king, mythical patron of brewers, has been moved from the courtyard of the vacant American Brewery in Baltimore to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The American Brewery Gambrinus was not present at the original exposition 99 years ago, but will represent the brewing industry in the Bicentennial recreation. The statue was brought from Switzerland 96 years ago.

Image plagues divorced men

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Pity the divorced man, says an Ohio State University professor. He's stereotyped as a playboy who is finally free.

While much of the stigma of divorce has been overcome for women, it hasn't for men, says Dr. Bernard S. Weiss, who teaches divorce counselors.

"Divorced men are looked at as all those guys who want to play and not pay," said Bernard S. Weiss.

The associate professor of social work at OSU said that in reality the divorced father faces as many problems wondering how he can maintain contact with his children as does the mother who wonders how she can raise them alone.

The playboy image, he said, arises partly because nearly 90 per cent of divorced men default on their support payments

Since the underlying problem of many divorces is too little money, Weiss says it is inevitable that a man who can't support one family is not going to be able to support two.

"He (the divorced man) is not supposed to be depressed or upset," Weiss added. "He's supposed to take a mistress or break up somebody else's marriage."

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