



Staff Photo by Carl Lynn.

TORIES JOHN N. AMBROSE (left) AND DAVID A. GAMBILL PREPARE PUBLICATION
 'The American Revolution Not Only Betrayed America, But Also Mother England'

Assail Misconceptions

Tories Keep Cause Alive

By STEVE ROW

On the eve of The Great National Bicentennial Celebration, Richmond's — and perhaps the nation's — two leading Tories concede that an American reunion with Great Britain won't happen any time in the near future.

John Nicholas Ambrose, a 24-year old community college instructor, and David Anderson Gambill, a 25-year old insurance agent, are founders and cochairmen of the Committee for Reunion with England.

The committee still is alive, they say, and has "about 100" dues-paying (\$3 annually) members

spirit that existed between the two countries in World War II."

Gambill becomes serious when he discusses the "reunion" effort in terms of Anglo-American relations.

"We have treated Britain like a poor relation" since independence, he said. "Why are we so quick to hop into bed with the Russians and the Chinese, and leave the British as yesterday's lover?"

And he strongly defends the 18th century American Tories, who constituted about one-third of the colonial population.

"They risked everything for their beliefs and lost it, since

at the same time.

"It was untrue to say that colonial Americans were being denied the rights of British citizens," he said.

TROOP TREATMENT

He also said it was untrue to say that British troops quartered in the colonies were free to break the law, when in fact they were tried by British courts.

British soldiers also were tried for their part in the so-called Boston Massacre and were even defended by John Adams, Ambrose said.

Gambill also pointed out that the "rebel" cause could not

members.
In March 1975, while most of Richmond was busily celebrating the 200th anniversary of Patrick Henry's "liberty or death" speech at St. John's Episcopal Church, the pair placed a full-page advertisement in a weekly newspaper here announcing the formation of the committee.

BETRAYAL OF WORLD

If the colonies had remained a part of the British Empire, the two reasoned, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, rise of the Ku Klux Klan, World War I and World War II never would have occurred.

"The American Revolution not only betrayed America, but also Mother England, nay, the entire civilised world," the ad said.

But now, with the July 4 celebration a day away, Ambrose and Gambill say they see very little, if any, chance of their idea coming to fruition.

Not that it hasn't been an interesting effort, however.

"It's been a whole lot of fun for us," Gambill said. "We've had a few chuckles from 'The Tory Torch' (an "irregularly" published newsletter) and some interesting feedback from some of our correspondents."

FEWER THAN A DOZEN

The two are not precise when discussing the extent of the membership in the committee. Locally, fewer than a dozen persons belong, and Gambill said nationally it's somewhere "between 100 and 2.5 million. We can't pinpoint it any further."

No regular meetings are scheduled, but the effort still has attracted considerable attention on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

"We get a handful of letters from British citizens," Ambrose said, "including one from a British housewife who said she enjoyed our 'joke.'"

"But she also said it would be 'marvelous' to rebuild the

Nottoway Flag View 'Personal'

A spokesman for the Virginia attorney general's office who said he thinks display of the Confederate flag in the Nottoway County courtroom is in "bad taste" has asked The News Leader to publish the fact that the statement was only his personal opinion.

The spokesman said the comment published in The News Leader yesterday in no way reflected the position of the attorney general's office.

the side that wins gets the glory, and the side that loses is forgotten. And the Loyalists have been forgotten in the Bicentennial mania."

Ambrose said neither he nor Gambill has any "vested interest" or relative's name to clear up by taking up the cause for Great Britain. Both are native Richmonders, and neither has visited England.

"Our forefathers' property was not confiscated. But our roots are in Great Britain, and we want to correct some historical mistakes," Ambrose said.

Ambrose said he debated in February the question of the independence movement with a history professor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. He teaches English there and said he flies a Union Jack flag in his window, even though the college has been designated a "Bicentennial college."

He said he was judged the winner after pointing out that "taxation without representation was a false argument. Citizens in Birmingham, England, for example, had no representatives in Parliament

C&P to Test 'Information' Call Charging Device

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. of Va. soon will begin testing equipment to be used to charge customers for directory assistance.

C&P said that the charge for directory assistance—after six free inquiries each billing period—will begin Nov. 6.

Customers will be charged 10 cents for each directory assistance call after the sixth C&P said.

The equipment test will involve breaking into customers' calls as they dial for directory assistance, according to C&P.

Euthanasia Paper To Be Presented

Edwin E. Gillam, a Richmond Hi-Y Club member from Thomas Dale High School, will present a position paper on "Euthanasia" to delegates at the YMCA National Affairs Conference at Blue Ridge Assembly, N.C.

Gilliam will represent Virginia at the conference tomorrow through Friday. Representatives from about 20 other states also will participate.

Euthanasia is the act of killing a person painlessly for reasons of mercy.

have been won without the aid of one of Britain's chief enemies at the time, France.

"That the Americans 'won' the war was as much a fault of the British at home as anything," Gambill said.

ERRORS OF BOTH

Ambrose added that mistakes were made "on both sides and probably could have been avoided if they had the kind of 'shuttle diplomacy' we're using now."

The pair said they hope to remind the public of the two sides of the independence movement, since the Tory side is being "buried in an avalanche of patriotic rhetoric and events."

They said they also hope to show that the patriotic "idols we have created here had feet of clay."

Gambill, for example, dismissed Samuel Adams as a "miserable old crank and a failure," and he called Patrick Henry "only an orator and politician, and not an original thinker."

"Even Thomas Jefferson was not an original thinker—he stole from John Locke, a British philosopher," Gambill said.

SHOW DEBT

Gambill also pointed out that the committee has been attempting to show that Americans owe much to the "mother country—our literary heritage, with the incredible language they developed, the system of civil government and the strong political bonds.

"We seem also to have forgotten the many lessons in British courage, and their long record of reform in government."

"What we hope to do is keep our eyesight on the past, the present and the future," Ambrose said. "We think our great experiment in democracy is not working—witness the fact that we will have a minority president in 1976, no matter who wins."

SOMETHING NEW

With reunion apparently out of the question, what will the two do now?

"We'll probably publish a few more issues of the 'Torch' for our members, and then find something new to do," Ambrose said.

"After all, we have the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution coming up in 1989. We could point out the weaknesses in the Constitution."

"And don't forget the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War in 1998," Gambill added. "I've always wanted to take that one apart."