

## Average of Americans' Faults, Qualities Comes Out Too Low

**M**OST of us like to think of our selves as "average American citizens." In our Bicentennial, that isn't good enough!

An average is the quotient obtained in dividing the sum by the number of its parts. An "average American" is the kind of patriot you get by adding up all of our qualities and faults, then dividing by 212 million. That average is too low.

Millions of true blue citizens would pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for their country, as the signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged to each other. These must be averaged with those who are disloyal, undermining our form of government to satisfy their greed and ambitions.

Most Americans are respectful of our flag, meaning it when we recite the pledge of allegiance and singing all of the words of "The Star Spangled Banner" that we can remember. Such devotion is offset by those who think it is smart to walk on our flag, display it vulgarly as pants patches or otherwise insult it.

Our average voter is somewhere between those citizens who inform themselves on candidates and issues, voting regularly, and those whose only election activity is glibly talking about the outcome.

Our average citizen ranks between industrious, self-reliant and thrifty individuals and those whose ambition may be limited to a guaranteed income without work and security without responsibility.

The average American may be neither the pious, God-fearing individual who attends church regularly and supports other community activities, nor the atheist who, having no faith of his own, seeks to destroy beliefs of others. Yet, the average citizen's moves toward God or toward atheism ultimately will determine our fate.

The average citizen is not a criminal but is a victim of crime. Most citizens try to obey the laws of the land, but increasing lawlessness is destroying justice and the proportion of people lacking in common honesty weighs down on our integrity.

The vast majority of young people are bigger, stronger, smarter and more capable than their parents. In spite of exposure to anti-American, anti-religious teachings, gross immorality and pornography, most still believe our country has a great future.

Average quality of our young people is lowered by millions of youths who have never been taught right

from wrong or that other people have personal and property rights, as well as they.

American parents generally have high hopes that their offspring will become self-supporting, trustworthy, freedom-loving and respected citizens. The average level of parenthood is marked down because too many fail to teach these qualities and do not always set good examples for their own and neighbors' children.

American business men, for the most part, are honest merchants trying to earn a fair profit on their goods and services, but the average isn't good enough because of those who overcharge, skimp on quality and workmanship, or whose warranties are worth less than the paper they are printed on.

To raise our average, we must improve quality of citizenship in all categories. No longer may we be satisfied with being "just average American citizens." unless we strive to raise the average by being better citizens and encouraging others.