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Flag Reflects Rights in Peril

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TRADITIONALLY, the eleven red and six white stripes on our flag represent 13 colonies that formed the United States of America in order to gain freedom for their citizens.

These same stripes might very well represent 13 principles of our freedom, all in peril as we celebrate our Bicentennial.

1. The Declaration of Independence was a revolt against big, oppressive government from a distant capital. Today we have a bigger government ensconced in bureaucratic, remote Washington.

2. The principle of rule by majority is being thwarted by laws enacted to please selfish interests, by court rulings that stretch the Constitution, and by regulatory agencies.

3. The Bill of Rights holds that "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Today, states' rights are regarded as a lost cause.

4. Our country's founders sought foreign aid but strongly resisted "foreign entanglements." Today, the USA is entangled in international affairs on every continent.

5. Minimal taxation, enacted by direct representation of the people, was an objective of early Americans. Now we have maximum taxation, with the people doing more paying than saving.

6. Free enterprise was so basic that the Constitution hardly mentioned it, except to assure free trade. Excessive regulation and burdensome taxation are endangering this economic system.

7. Our remarkable progress has resulted from the ingenuity, initiative, industriousness and productivi-

ty of the people. Paternalistic government now encourages idleness and indigence.

8. The Constitution clearly prohibits laws respecting free exercise of religion or religious tests as qualifications to any office or public trust. The "Permissive Society" seems to interpret our freedom of religion as license to abandon morality.

9. Freedom of the press and freedom of speech are not enjoyed by people living under dictatorships. Only eternal vigilance by a free people can continue them in this country.

10. The preamble to our Constitution states its purpose: "To form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty." Our rising crime rate threatens to frustrate these objectives.

11. Freedom is a privilege that embodies personal responsibility. Citizens who fail to vote neglect both their opportunities and their responsibilities.

12. No nation's society can rise above the level of integrity of its people, and when governmental officials fall below that norm, the system itself is in danger of ruin.

13. Individual initiative, self-reliance and thrift were fundamentals in development of the USA. Some political reformers are trying to substitute nationalization and socialized controls.

In our Bicentennial, we don't need a new Declaration of Independence or Constitution. We do need to restore and rededicate these "13 stripes of freedom" to assure our country's future!