

Oklahoman Editorials <<

\*cp

\*pd

\*hm

\$dd<        \$da

\*dv Okla Edit

wtr:<

\$g24    \$g98

Okla Edit

id:<                Ferdie J. Deering

hd:<                29.9-24

\*w1

byl:<

\$il2-4

cpy:< TRADITIONALLY, the seven red and six white stripes in our nation's flag represent the 13 original colonies that formed the United States of America in order to assure freedom for their citizens.

These same stripes might very well serve to remind us of 13 principles of freedom 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

MORE <<

\*pd

daily oklahoman column by deering - stripes of freedom - page 2 <<  
by laws enacted to please selfish minorities, by court rulings  
that stretch the Constitution, and by regulatory agencies.

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

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 maxi-  
mum taxation, with the people doing more paying than saying.

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. Progress in the United States has resulted directly from  
the ingenuity, initiative, industry and productivity of people.  
Paternalistic government now encourages idleness, indifference,  
indigence and dependence upon public welfare.

8. The Constitution clearly prohibits laws respecting free  
exercise of religion and religious tests as qualifications to any  
office or public trust. The "Permissive Society" seems to inter-

MORE <<

\*pd

daily oklahoman column by deering - stripes of freedom - page 3 <<  
pret 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 defence, 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 respon-  
sibility. Citizens who fail to vote neglect both their oppor-  
tunities and their responsibilities. Far too many do so.

12. No nation or 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 of achievement in development of the USA. Some  
national leaders now claim that national control would be better.

On our Bicentennial, we don't need a new Declaration of  
Independence, but we do need rededication to the principles <<  
/ rededication /  
of the 13 stripes of freedom!

\*ET