

Ferdie J. Deering

JUL. 4 1978

# Government Taking U.S. Freedoms

"IT'S STILL the best country in the world! I wouldn't want to live anywhere else!"

With that aphorism, we Americans often excuse our shortcomings as citizens. Thus, we admit that voter apathy and political deterioration are eroding our freedoms, but we rationalize that things may be even worse in other countries.

We aren't unaware of what is happening. In an unprecedented spate of daily news, we read of political corruption, congressional profligacy, personal irresponsibility, declining morality of the people, and crime in the streets.

We are just too preoccupied with having a good time, earning a living, or perhaps we are confused and overawed by the size of the "monsters" that are gnawing away at our freedoms.

Millions of Americans are celebrating Independence Day by frenzied efforts to have fun, by squeezing in another day of work at home or on the job, or by doing nothing at all. Some will participate in patriotic deliberation on significance of

the occasion.

One thing that would unite all Americans on this day would be an effort to abolish the Fourth of July as a holiday. Patriots, fun-seekers, workers and loafers would oppose it, for different reasons.

The colonists determined 202 years ago that big government run by centralized authority in a distant capital was oppressive, costly and inefficient. So they formed the United States of America to make government responsive to a free people.

If even the most ardent federalists among the colonists anticipated what would happen, it isn't recorded.

The colonists didn't intend to create a government whose principal business is collecting earnings and redistributing the wealth as political patronage, at home and abroad.

The colonists did not anticipate that flagrant attempts would be made to destroy the sanctity of religion, to wipe out standards of morality, and to pervert the minds of youth. They could not have expected courts to interpret the con-

stitution as they have done.

One might wonder what might have happened if the colonists had undertaken to form a new nation with the help of a bureaucracy, such as exists in our government. The environmental impact and economic feasibility studies could have taken decades!

The war against tyranny and for freedom never ends. We are engaged in such a war and because there are so many non-combatants and objectors, the people are losing it to the centralizers, the bureaucrats, social reformers, and special interest groups.

Yes, the United States of America still is the best country in the world. But unless we beseech ourselves as citizens and compel our government "of the people, by the people and for the people" to reverse its spendthrift, bureaucratic ways, it might not always be.

We need only to observe what has happened in England and other democracies to see what can happen here!