

Minorities Thwart Will of Majority

THE UNITED STATES of America was founded on principles whereby the will of the majority would prevail. Increasingly, it is becoming a nation in which demands of minorities are given priority.

In this country, the most powerful minority now is government. Lawmakers, administrators, the courts and numerous bureaus are exercising power that should be reserved to the people.

The people themselves are primarily to blame for this. Constitutionally, government derives its just powers from the people, through free elections. But so many citizens fail to register and vote that officials seldom are elected by a majority of eligible voters.

Officials are put into office by a majority of those who do vote, but not infrequently, this "majority" may be comprised mostly of militant minorities with insistent demands.

Once in office, it is common practice for officials to devise ways and means to circumvent, frustrate or

ignore the apparent will of the majority. This may be done to satisfy special interest or minority groups, or for personal power or profit.

Here are just a few examples of how this may be done.

After being rebuffed by a majority of voters in election after election, the horse racing fraternity sought to intimidate the legislature by threatening to establish illegal gambling on Indian lands within state boundaries. The apparent intent was to bypass the will of the majority and repudiate the spirit of the law.

Recurring protests against the national 55 mph speed limit may be due primarily to majority opposition and because many consider it improper for Congress to enact such laws for states to enforce.

If the legislature should ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, it would be a response to a vocal minority, rather than to the expressed will of the people. Exercise of presidential power directing the governor and

legislative leaders to come to Washington to be lobbied is an additional example of how government may be used for politics.

Further actions of the president that appear to be contrary to majority wishes include the Panama Canal give-away and abrogation of this nation's commitment to Taiwan in order to cultivate politics and trade with Communist China.

If the majority ruled, habitual criminals would be taken off the streets and kept off. Instead, an influential minority concerned more about rights of outlaws than of their virtues perpetuate practices that keep the "revolving doors" of our prisons turning them out.

Majority demand for eliminating excessive, impractical and costly government regulations is ignored by officials.

A totalitarian state is one in which a minority is in control. Whatever freedom, privileges and opportunities the majority may possess are dispensed by the ruling minority. We aren't there — yet!