

Constitutional Conservatives

Dallas conservatism does not represent any special group. It is a product of individual taste and breeding. It is a way of life, a spirit, a faith. It is a conviction which neither springs from bigotry nor produces it. It is the progeny of American heritage. The strength of conservative conviction in Dallas is nourished by roots planted in the Texas frontier. In that sense, we are unique; but in a larger sense, constitutional conservatives of Dallas are like constitutional conservatives everywhere else in America: they revere the Founding Fathers of this nation and want to re-establish the constitutional system which they created.

The War for American Independence (which the Founding Fathers led to a successful conclusion) was unlike any other so-called revolution in history. The French Revolution of the 18th Century was conceived in hate and executed in violence. Its purpose was the same as that of the bolshevik revolution in 20th-century Russia: to overturn and destroy the existing order of things and to murder the existing leaders of society. The American Revolution was not tinged with such purpose. The Founding Fathers, in rebelling against England, were resisting political tyranny — *to preserve and improve* the existing order.

They feared concentration of political power, and they feared anarchy. Out of their wisdom and their fears, their experience and their great learning, they created the most marvelous governmental system ever conceived in the minds of men. Believing in government by law, and not government by the whims of men, they wrote the Constitution which was a binding contract — not only upon government but upon the people as well. By restricting government to the exercise of specifically-granted powers, the Constitution was intended to prohibit government officials from usurping power and thus becoming lawless tyrants, under pretext of helping the people. Ultimate power to change the organic structure of government was left in

the hands of the people — the means of making such change (amending the Constitution) was carefully prescribed to militate against hasty, unwise decisions by the people. This system, unique in history, was designed to prevent both tyranny by government, and reckless rebellion by the people.

For 30 years, American liberals have supported *lawless government* — government not bound by the specific terms of the Constitution, but usurping power to do anything which officialdom claims will promote the general welfare. Constitutional conservatives resist lawless government, because they know it produces a lawless society. The end is either wild anarchy or oppressive dictatorship. The fervor and dedication of constitutional conservatives stems not from hate, but from a sense of urgency: they want to restore *lawful* constitutional government, by *lawful* means, before it is too late.

The Harvest?

The current furor of liberal hatred for conservatives may conceal a sense of guilt. The warped mind of Lee Harvey Oswald was first attracted to communism by communist propaganda leaflets. Conservatives abhor governmental censorship (even of communist propaganda) which violates constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Conservatives also abhor the distribution of communist propaganda in the United States at taxpayers' expense. Liberalism, however, decrees that communist propaganda must be distributed in the United States, without restriction, at the expense of the American people.⁽¹¹⁾

Constitutional conservatives do not believe in violating the constitutional rights of anyone, not even of communists; but they have for years contended that communists should not be given preferential treatment. Conservatives have been particularly concerned about State Department softness toward communism. What else, but this liberal attitude of special friendliness toward com-