

EB81:DN

DALLAS, TEX. (AP)-THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY TODAY COMPLAINED THAT THE DALLAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REFUSED TO LET IT ENTER A FLOAT IN THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE HERE TUESDAY.

REX T. WESTERFIELD OF SAN MARINO, CALIF., PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE SOCIETY, SAID MAJ. GEN. HARLEY B. WEST OF THE CHAMBER REJECTED THE FLOAT PERMIT BECAUSE THE SOCIETY WAS "CONTROVERSIAL."

"IT IS INCREDIBLE THAT PATRIOTIC CITIZENS BE DENIED PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN A PUBLIC PARADE," WESTERFIELD SAID, WHILE OTHER ELEMENTS "DEFAME AND DESTROY OUR FLAG AND THE CONSTITUTION."

HE SAID THE PROPOSED FLOAT WAS TO HAVE PRINTED ON IT "GOD, COUNTRY, FAMILY" AND BELOW THAT, "THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY."

"WE CAN APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT DALLAS IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE BY NOT BEING CONTROVERSIAL BUT WE CANNOT AGREE THAT THE METHOD OF STIFLING THOUGHT, EXPRESSION OF THAT THOUGHT AND PARTICIPATION IN A PUBLIC FUNCTION IS AN APPROPRIATE METHOD," WESTERFIELD SAID.

HE SAID THE SOCIETY HAS ENTERED FLOATS IN PARADES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MOST RECENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY AND NORWALK, CONN.

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