

# CAN WE WAVE THE FLAG TOO MUCH?

An Oration

by  
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*Can We Wave The Flag Too Much?* is the response by S. L. DeLove on the radio program, "Know Your History Hour," December 30, 1956, to a listener who wrote as follows: "Your programs are wonderful--especially the no commercials--but you are waving the flag too much." It is part of the Congressional Record and appeared in the June, 1990, issue of the magazine *Concerned Women For America*.

Is it possible to wave the flag too much? Provided, of course, that you wave it with integrity? Is it possible to study Lincoln or Shakespeare too much? Is it possible to read the Bible too much?

The great, the good, the true, are inexhaustible for inspiration, example, and strength. I believe that we are not waving our flag enough, not nearly enough.

It seems to me that we are developing a tendency to be timid or even apologetic about waving the stars and stripes. Walk up and down the streets on July 4th and count the flags. It is our nation's birthday, a sacred day in world history, the most important day of America. Why isn't the flag flying on every rooftop and from every home and building? This complacent attitude is strong evidence of cancerous patriotic decay. The flag is a symbol of our national unity. It is the spirit of our undying devotion to our country. It stands for the best that is in us...for loyalty, character, and faith in democracy.

Isn't our flag a synonym of the United States of America? Does it not represent man's greatest, noblest, most sublime dream? Is it not the zenith of achievement, the goal to which generations have aspired?

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe it is time for us...for the mad, rushing Twentieth Century American...to stop for a moment and think. Let us arrest our near reverential admiration of material success and return to the spiritual and ethical values. Let us imbue and rekindle in ourselves and our children the so-called old-fashioned way of patriotism, a burning devotion to the principles and ideals upon which our country was founded.

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