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Tradition and Neutrality: Examining Government Aid to the Scouts National Jamboree

by

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Abstract:

Analyzing the facts surrounding the National Boy Scout Jamboree and the Supreme Court's Establishment Clause jurisprudence, this article argues that Department of Defense aid to the Jamboree should be struck down under the neutrality principal. Although the Court has given much deference to long-standing practices that have become part of the national culture, it has also emphasized that government aid programs must be open to both religious and nonreligious entities. The examination of government aid to the Jamboree calls into question the ways in which the Court should balance the government's interest in aiding successful youth organizations with the constitutional requirement that the government not define individuals by religion.

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