

TV WEEKEND

5 Issues Guaranteed To Upset Someone

By WALTER GOODMAN

"America, 200 Years and Counting" is the overblown title of a modest hourlong report on five issues that are agitating the nation: welfare, immigration, affirmative action, guns and, for part of the country, land use.

It takes us first to New Hampshire, a state with neither an income tax nor a sales tax, where the needy are cared for by a combination of local property taxes and volunteers. These days the pressures on communities are increasing. The segment on immigration offers a quick but pointed history of what it calls America's love-hate relationship with immigrants: welcoming them in prosper-

AMERICA

Chronicle

■ A Kennedy sits down with George C. Wallace

■ Fixing one small part of America ■ Wynton

Marsalis does his part for U.S.-Russia relations.

Some things do change. JOHN F. KENNEDY JR. had an amicable meeting in Montgomery, Ala., this week with his father's nemesis on the civil rights front, GEORGE C. WALLACE.

Mr. Kennedy, 34, is the publisher of a not-yet-published magazine on politics and personalities that will be called George — after the first President, not Mr. Wallace. Working on an article on state and Federal powers, Mr. Kennedy interviewed Mr. Wallace, 75, who is hard of hearing, by passing him written questions.

As Governor more than 30 years ago, Mr. Wallace refused to permit the Federally ordered desegregation of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, planting himself at the door of the school's main building in 1963 and backing down only after President Kennedy sent in troops and Justice Department aides. Mr. Wallace also battled civil rights marchers in Selma and made a run at the Presidency as an independent in 1968.

"He's just a fascinating political

figure," Mr. Kennedy said later, according to a report in The Gadsden (Ala.) Times. "In many ways his political career mirrors the history of the country. Some of the issues he talked about, race aside, regarding the Federal Government and law and order, are part of the political dialogue today."

Speaking of dialogue, a New York City woman has won a national contest that posed the question, "What's wrong with America?"

The winner, CAROLINE PADRON, said, "The greatest thing wrong with America is the fact that we think there is something wrong with America in the first place." The contest was sponsored by America's Talking, a cable network.

Ms. Padron, 27, who emigrated from Venezuela in 1978, became a citizen in 1991 and works for MCI on Park Avenue. She will receive a \$10,000 prize and appear in a segment of the network's daylong "town

meeting" special on July 4.

She said yesterday that she had been walking past Bryant Park on Tuesday when the contest was going on, stopped and expressed her opinion, then forgot all about it.

"Then, this morning they called and said I won," she said. She said she was not sure how she would spend the prize money.

Over Chinese food on the Upper West Side this week, WYNTON MARSALIS discussed the fine points of jazz with musicians from the American Russian Youth Orchestra, who then accompanied him to rehearsals for the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra's "Battle of the Bands."

It's all part of a continuing effort by Mr. Marsalis, the artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, to participate in the work of the youth orchestra. It recruits classically trained musicians from the United States, Russia and, this year, Kazakhstan, a former Soviet republic.

"They know jazz," Mr. Marsalis said of the musicians. His goal, he added, is "to reinforce the whole feeling that musicians all over the world work on the same pieces, have the same idols and we all want to sound good and learn how to play."

CONSTANCE L. HAYS