

spoken, on the prohibition question, for example. Call it politics if you wish. The principle is there and always will be, and some day his stand will be vindicated. It has been already in the minds of thinking and honest men.

I have been reading recently the last twenty sermons of Pastor Martin Niemöller, whose unfortunate country could no longer tolerate his preaching. In his next to last sermon is this comment:

We are being accosted on all sides by statesmen, by the man on the street, who tells us: "Do not speak so loudly or you will land in prison. Pray do not speak so plainly; surely you can say all that in a more obscure fashion." But, brothers and sisters, we are not allowed to put our bushel under a basket.

One more sermon after that, and Martin Niemöller no more ascended to his pulpit, and I think he has never been heard from since.

A quotation from Jeremiah will be of interest to all who have the sacred trust of leadership in the wards and stakes and missions of this Church:

Thus saith the Lord; Stand in the court

of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah. . . . all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; *diminish not a word.* (Jeremiah 26:2)

As we face the issues of the future, my brethren, may we, in the leadership of our people here at headquarters, and you in your stakes, weigh all the issues according to principle. There comes a time in the career of every man when he must speak according to the truth or break the trust of his office, and when the Presidency of the Church, and their associates in the general councils of the Church, unitedly take a stand on any principle, let us remember the prophets of the Old Testament, and meet the issues according to their merit as principles, and on no other consideration.

I leave you my testimony of my gratitude to my Father in heaven for the Presidency of this Church, and those who are associated with them; for the restoration of the gospel, and all that it means. This is the work of the Lord, and it will go forward to the accomplishment of His purposes, regardless of the schemes of men and the confused issues of the day. God be with you. Amen.

## ELDER RUFUS K. HARDY

### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

MY brethren, I rejoice greatly at this opportunity of saying a few words and being in your midst.

I sense and understand somehow—I think I am correct—that there are just about one hundred forty-one spiritual gardens which we here tonight have to take care of after we leave this meeting, and I am sure that we all feel that we can go back to these places, having drawn from that great reservoir which has been given to us here, and give that heavenly and spiritual food to those people who live and who abide in the vicinity in which we operate.

You know, I have been struck with this thought, that in all of the history of religion, in all of the Bible stories and all the stories of the Book of Mormon, God's advent among men commenced with small beginnings. As we have been

chatting here tonight, talking about this great and marvelous and wonderful man Moses, just for a moment let your mind dwell on that man, if you like—the cradle; then the leaving of his country because of what he had done; then, as I remember it, the Bible says that Moses, watching the flocks of Jethro, at the back of the desert near Mount Sinai, saw this peculiar burning bush, which was not consumed, and the voice said to him, as he drew near it: "Moses, Moses," and he said: "Here am I, God." And then think of the length of time it took the Lord God Almighty to prevail on him to do the thing that he should do; his excuses of his speech, of his tongue; and finally, I think, as it occurs to me, more in desperation than anything else. God said to him: "What have you got in your hand?" "A staff."

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"Throw it down," and it turned into a serpent, and Moses turned to flee. God said to him: "Pick it up by the tail," and he did.

Even after that he said: "I can't do it. I can't tell these people. They won't believe me." And God said to him: "Go; but I want to say to you, Moses, that Pharaoh will not let your people go, not by a—" I was going to say a joyful, but God said, "Not by a great handful." But he did, and he accomplished the purposes which God

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gave him to do. Why? Because within him dwelt that which dwells within us, this marvelous Melchizedek Priesthood. That is the reason.

Now, I do not pray for that Priesthood, but I do pray that we may function and operate under the great call and the noble assignment which have been given to us, in such a way that we may ever honor the Priesthood, be proud of our acts, and God may smile upon that which we do, and I do that in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## ELDER JOHN H. TAYLOR

### *Of the First Council of the Seventy*

LAST week I received a letter from a man in Washington who wanted to know something about the gospel, or at least receive some tracts. His card was a very ordinary card. It only had his initials on it, and it wasn't worded very courteously, and so my first impression was that the man was perhaps ashamed to have mail come to him which had the Mormon Church stamp on it. Perhaps he was only fooling, trying to see what kind of literature or what kind of letter we would write to him. So because of all these circumstances I was rather inclined to write the way I felt at that moment, then I thought of two instances which helped me decide just what I ought to do in regard to the matter, because it is always what we have learned in the past that helps us in the present.

I remember being in a missionary group in one of the missions where I was laboring. A very humble missionary was there, and not understanding a very fundamental, easy question that had to do with the Church, he got up and asked the meaning of this Church doctrine. The brother who was presiding thought it was so ordinary that even the most dumb should know the answer, and he answered him rather sharply. From that time on the missionary did not ask another question, and he went his way alone.

Last week I heard the story of a man who walked into the Bureau of

Information, and speaking to one of the guides, said, in a friendly way: "Well, here I am again." The guide, not recognizing him, the man made the following explanation:

About a year and a half ago I came to the Bureau of Information, and was taken through the grounds. The guide was very courteous and kind. You were that guide and because you wouldn't take any tips or any remuneration for the kind way that you treated us, I decided that the least thing I could do was to buy a Book of Mormon. So I bought one and took it home with me. I put it into my library, and one day my son came to me and said: "Father, I notice you have a Book of Mormon in the library. Would you mind if I read it?" I answered, "Why, no, go ahead."

So the boy took it down and read the Book of Mormon and the father said:

He not only read the Book of Mormon, but he read a lot of other books that he had found concerning your Church. Later he joined your Church and then found a young lady whom he loved and wanted to marry. She wasn't in the Church, so he preached the gospel to her, and after a while she came into the Church. This was a year and a half ago. Do you know what I am doing today? I am just staying inside of this Bureau of Information because that son of mine, and the young girl whom he had met down in California, are over in the temple getting married. I can't go there because I don't belong to the Church. That is what you did to my family.

As I thought of these things, I knew how the letter should be answered.