

Saturday, April 4

with us I think it would be a marvelous thing.

I am happy to bear my testimony that I know, without a doubt, that this is the work of God; that we are engaged in the building up of the Church and kingdom of God on earth; that the people in this Church are the ones who hold the confirmed gift and power of the

First Day

Holy Ghost, and that you men, as leaders, all of us here, have the rights and gifts of the Holy Priesthood which cannot be found elsewhere in this world, only in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am happy and thankful to be numbered among you.

I pray the Lord to bless us, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

First Counselor in the First Presidency

Our next and concluding speaker will be President Oscar A. Kirkham, of the First Council of the Seventy. This, I believe, is his first Conference, and we will give him ten minutes.

ELDER OSCAR A. KIRKHAM

Of the First Council of the Seventy

I HUMBLY pray that the Lord will bless me as I attempt to express my appreciation for the high and holy calling which He has brought into my life. It may be surprising to you at this moment that I see my father's face and my mother's face. May God help me to be humble and worthy of the joy which might be theirs.

I rejoice greatly in the more intimate association with the choicest group of men that I have ever known in my life; and in this country, in most of its states, and in many countries of Europe, through the kindness of the Lord, I have had conferences and association with our national and international great men. I was deeply impressed when I came to this calling. The word of it came to me in New York. I was in East Orange, attending service. I came back to New York, to the hotel, opened a telegram from my wife, which said: "Unanimously sustained as one of the General Authorities today. I wish you were home." I confess to you—it may have been my weariness—but the idea didn't strike me that it was myself. I didn't quite get it clear. I went and got a copy of the *New York Times*, went upstairs to my bed, turned on the night lamp

and started to read. I said: "I believe I will read that telegram again." I read it again, and this time I realized what had happened. Then I did not read, nor did I sleep.

When the First Presidency of the Church set me apart, I asked President Grant if he had any official word for me, any instruction. He said: "Yes, Oscar. Express yourself freely in council. Say what you have to say, freely, but when a decision is made, line up." I will tell you that those are words of wisdom. In my opinion that is democracy in its very essence.

The First Presidency have asked me to keep my connections with the Boy Scout program. I shall attempt to do that. My special calling in the Church is with the Council of Seventy. I have learned to love these brethren already, and appreciate greatly their intimate association. I humbly pray that God will help me to be a good Scout, a good missionary.

Before you again I express my humble appreciation. May God magnify me for the task. May I ever enjoy your sympathy and your blessing, as I am called to labor with you, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.