

ELDER ANTOINE R. IVINS  
*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

IT is a thrilling sight, brethren, to stand here and look into your faces, so many fine and wonderful men, many of whom I know personally. I hope that you will give me your faith and prayers that the very few minutes that I occupy of your time I may be prompted by the Lord in what I say.

Some of you were amused at the last conference in April when I remarked that we needed a few seventies to give the congregation complexion. Tonight we have a large representation of that group of the Melchizedek Priesthood. Unless it might be the high councilmen of the stakes who are present, perhaps the presidents of seventies quorums form the largest group here, and we who stand at their head pledge to the Presidency of this Church the loyal support of that group of men.

If you will read the 107th Section of the Doctrine and Covenants you will learn that they have a very special calling. Their calling is to walk behind the Council of the Twelve in carrying the message of redemption to the people of the world; and if the Church didn't have that charge and that calling I think this group never would have been organized in the Church at all.

We try to impress upon every man who is ordained into the seventies quorums that that is his calling and that if he will not exercise that function he has no right to come into this group of men. They should be the missionaries of the Church. They should be the predominating element in any missionary group in the Church. Now we have two ministries of that type, the foreign mission ministry and a stake mission ministry, all of the same type and class except in some minor details, and we now are interested very much in that stake mission work of this Church. It is proving to be such a wonderful and magnificent work that we are overjoyed with the success that we have realized in the past. But we are worried now, brethren, because we note a falling off in that

effort. We are short this year about six hundred missionaries as compared with last year. We are short from the seventies six or seven percent of that missionary group. We would like to ask you presidents who are here when you return to use your influence in recruiting from your ranks other seventies who can go into that work.

Now, there is no more magnificent work in the Church than to testify that Christ our Lord came to earth to redeem mankind, and that is the very special calling of you brethren, the seventies. You testify to that by word of mouth, but you also do it by the example which you live. And perhaps of the two the more potent is the example that one sets. We believe that the reason that conversions are made among the stakes of Zion more easily than in outside countries is that the people of the Church live the principles of the gospel and that there is radiated from them a light which people not of our faith can see, and perhaps see more readily than we ourselves; so we ask you who are missionaries in this stake work, as well as foreign countries, to show by your lives that there is power and efficacy and virtue in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We appeal to the bishops and the presidencies of stakes to give us the men and the women we need for this work. They are just as essential as any other work we undertake, and we are dependent upon you brethren to supply them for us. All our stake mission presidents can do in that respect is to ask for a group. It is your problem to supply them. And be not afraid, brethren, to give us men of quality and capabilities especially adapted to this work. They are much more successful than the ones who have had no experience, who have no liking for the work. A man to be a successful missionary must have his heart and soul in that work. We pray that you will give us the type of men and women that we need.

Saturday, October 3

First Day

Now, in this particular emergency which has lessened our group, we are finding that our wives and our daughters are one of our most effective missionary elements. If you can't supply us men, increase our numbers by giving us good women. We will take excellent care of them. We will give them an opportunity that they cannot have otherwise, likely—an experience which will broaden them and strengthen them and help them. Those of them who are unmarried will make better mothers, and those of them who are already mothers will go to the work with an experience that will qualify them for it.

Brethren, it is an important work and we have that responsibility. It is the

charge that has been given to the Twelve in every age when the gospel has been established, and it is our greatest purpose to carry to people who have not learned of the truth a light which will lead them back into the presence of God our Heavenly Father. Will you, then, give us the aid and the support that we need that this work may not falter; that it may not go forth haltingly but that it may go with a tread so firm that nothing can impede its progress and that many people may be garnered into the Church to receive of these wonderful benefits and blessings of which we have heard this evening.

God bless you all I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### ELDER JOHN H. TAYLOR

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

THE Lord has said, "I have warned you and forewarned you"—He has warned us again today through His servants. Perhaps some of us will continue to say that there is a tomorrow when we will repent and lead a finer life, but we all know that as far as each one of us is concerned the time comes when for us there is no tomorrow. The Lord has also said that today is the time to repent.

You remember that the Lord told His prophet, Noah, that he should go out and warn the people and tell them of the coming destruction. But the people, seemingly because they thought there would always be a tomorrow and because the floods did not come that day or the next day, thought they would never come; therefore, they ridiculed the prophets and went their way. But the floods came and they were destroyed, because they would not listen to the prophets of the Lord.

I remember hearing a story of a man who had just lost his oldest son. The father was not a very religious man. In fact, he had disregarded most of the Lord's commandments. Because of his son's being called to the other side, a good man went into the house to talk with the father and to the family. The son had been unfaithful in every way.

He had been disobedient unto his parents, to his country, to his God. As the good man talked with the father and the family, the father said, "I think that this is a time for prayer." Perhaps we all think that only when the emergency comes to us it is the time to pray. The efficiency of a prayer is dependent on the type of life we have lived and the way we have made progress upon the earth. When the time comes for the summons, to ourselves or to our family, if we have not repented, if we have not done the things that should have been done, the praying comes rather late.

I trust, brethren, that as we continue traveling along the way of life, we will try to do the things that God through His servants wants us to do. The time is short and there is no telling when it might be too late for us to repent and do the things that we ought to do. It is very easy in an emergency, such as we have in war today, to build big buildings and to make steel and to make airplanes and to build hospitals. Perhaps we can do these things in a material way, but we cannot all of a sudden build character, build decent homes, or have a family who have such confidence in us that they will listen to our words and listen to the words of the servants of the Lord.