

fort. Now is the time to remember the law of the survival of the fittest. We survive or we perish according to our adaptability or inadaptability to our environment. Each of us must ask, "What changes must I make in my thinking to fit me to this new environment?"

I am not in any sense fighting the idea presented by Brother Bowen. I think he is just as right as he can be. You

can't change fundamentals. We have people coming in all around us by the thousands. What are you doing about it? Are we going to absorb them, or are they going to absorb us? It depends on our attitude.

May the Lord help us to be broad-minded and see the *hand of the saw* and work our heads off. Amen.

ELDER NICHOLAS G. SMITH

Assistant to the Council of the Twelve Apostles

IT is a marvelous thing, my brethren, to be numbered among the men who have been called to act in the name of God here on earth. There are one hundred eleven thousand—slightly more—men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood, divided into one thousand two hundred six quorums. I suppose there are five thousand of that number here tonight, and you constitute the leaders of the Church. As you know, my activity has been largely in the mission field. Since returning from the Northwestern States Mission, I have been assigned to read every Priesthood quorum report in this Church, and make notations as to where these Priesthood quorums are falling down. It has been an interesting thing to me to note that for the month of August just past, in activity, the high priests quorum of the San Diego Stake leads with eighty-two percent of its members active. The lowest stake in the high priests quorums runs only twelve percent. All along between that point of twelve percent and eighty-two percent, the different quorums function. Eighty-two percent would be a low percentage if the Priesthood really realized the importance of their calling as God's representatives in their respective places, I am sure.

In the seventies for August, Long Beach Stake led with seventy-four percent of the seventies active; in the lowest stake only eight percent of the seventies were active.

Of the elders in Juarez Stake fifty-nine percent were active, and there were two stakes that only had four percent of their elders active.

Now it has been interesting in checking these reports to find that many of the questions are not answered. They are slurred over and the very reason for those reports, of course, is to call to the attention of the presidency of the quorums wherein they are failing, and it is the duty of every presidency of a quorum to know his quorum members' activity and to be closely associated with them and to be indeed a father to his brethren and to show a great deal of interest in them. I have noticed that practically nothing is being done with respect to the request President Grant made some years ago, that we work with those who are addicted to liquor and tobacco; and I find in one quorum where there are forty-four members and not one of them is reported as observing the Word of Wisdom. Now, I think perhaps the secretary has neglected to fill in the answer in his hurry to get the job over. In other quorums I find where a third of the quorum members use liquor and tobacco, I am sure that these things are not pleasing to our Heavenly Father. But if the quorum secretaries would be more careful—if the presidencies of quorums would check upon these questions and the answers before they sign the reports and see that they are properly filled out and if quorums would only send in their reports—we have some quorums that haven't sent in their reports all this year, yet—to me it is rather strange after laboring in the mission field, and having one hundred percent response when you ask the missionaries to do something, to come home and work with the Priesthood and find

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that it runs as low as four percent who are active in some stakes.

Brethren, the gospel is true. I know it, and I love it. I love these men with whom I associate. I love the stakes and the wards, and the mission fields. I have found, wherever I go among the stakes, such a sweet spirit that I am sure things are not reported that are happening there, and it would be nice to have these things on file in the head offices of the Church where they can be checked upon

and known. Surely much is being missed I feel as I go amongst you and feel the spirit in your stakes.

God bless us and help us to measure up to this responsibility, that the men who hold this Priesthood might act as do their sons who spend their time in the mission field and put in thirteen and fourteen hours a day in doing something about the responsibility which is theirs is my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRESIDENT DAVID O. MCKAY

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

We shall now have the privilege and pleasure of hearing a message from President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

There was one other member of the General Authorities on the program tonight, but his doctor, solicitous of his health, has advised that he be not subjected to the strain of public speaking. That is Brother Sylvester Q. Cannon. We should like to hear from him, but we want him to know that we are solicitous of his health, and we will excuse him from this extreme responsibility during this Conference. He knows he has our faith and prayers for a complete recovery.

President Clark will now speak to us and we trust he will take all the time that he feels impressed to occupy.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

First Counselor in the First Presidency

BRETHREN: I have been trying for a week to relieve you of this experience, but Brother McKay, so kind, so sweet, and so merciful, has been perfectly adamant. So I stand before you here, not to preach, but to counsel with you.

There is a great deal of misapprehension among our people regarding the United Order.

I have not been able to believe that the United Order meant what some people have thought it meant, so within the last months I have spent quite a little time reading the revelations thereon, also reading our history, and at the same time giving some consideration to a dissertation which has been written regarding the Order.

There is a growing—I fear it is growing—sentiment that communism and the United Order are virtually the same thing, communism being merely the forerunner, so to speak, of a reestablishment of the United Order. I am informed that ex-bishops, and indeed, bishops, who belong to communistic organizations, are preaching this doctrine. So I thought that perhaps if I said just a few words to you tonight regarding the way I interpret the revelations that are printed about this in the Doctrine and Covenants (if there are other revelations about the Order, I do not know of them), I thought if I said something about it, it might be helpful. I recommend that you, my brethren, read a few of the Sections of the Doctrine and