

R. Ivins, John H. Taylor, Richard L. Evans, Oscar A. Kirkham, Milton R. Hunter *. Seymour Dilworth Young**.

The Presiding Bishopric: LeGrand Richards, Marvin O. Ashton, and Joseph L. Wirthlin.

OTHER AUTHORITIES AND OFFICERS PRESENT

Church Historian and Recorder: Joseph Fielding Smith, and A. William Lund, assistant.

Members of the General Committee, Church Welfare Program, Superintendency, Deseret Sunday School Union Board.

Superintendency, General Board of Y.M.M.I.A.

Commissioner of Education and Seminary Supervisors.

One member of the Presidency of each Stake.

The President of the High Priests Quorum in each Stake.

The senior member of the High Council of each Stake.

One member of the Bishopric of each Ward, the President of each Dependent Branch in the wards, and one member of the Presidency of each Independent Branch in the Stakes.

FIRST DAY

MORNING MEETING

The opening session of the Conference was held in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square, Friday, April 6, at 10 o'clock a.m.

In the absence of President Heber J. Grant, who was convalescing from an illness, President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., First Counselor in the First Presidency, presided and conducted the services.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

First Counselor in the First Presidency

This is the opening session of the 115th Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are convened in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Church was organized under the direction of the Lord 115

*Milton R. Hunter was sustained at this conference as a member of the First Council of the Seventy, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rufus K. Hardy March 7, 1945.

**Seymour Dilworth Young was sustained as a member of the First Council of the Seventy at this Conference to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Samuel O. Bennion March 8, 1945.

years ago today, with six members. Its membership today is approaching 1,000,000.

This conference is meeting with the approval of the proper Federal authorities. In conformity with the policy announced by those authorities for the curtailing of attendance at conventions, conferences, and like gatherings, and acceding to their request that we do so act, the attendance at this Conference has been drastically limited. This accords with the policy regarding attendance at these Conferences and other Church gatherings that was voluntarily adopted and put into force by the Church itself immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The attendance is based upon a representation of Church administrative units and has been worked out on a Church-wide basis, irrespective of geographic location, as was only fair and just. Our attendance at this Conference will be only about 14% of the normal attendance at such gatherings. We eagerly look forward to the time when we may again resume the holding of General Conferences with unlimited attendance.

There are on the stand this morning all the General Authorities of the Church, except President Heber J. Grant, President of the Church, who on the advice of his physicians is remaining at his home. However, he is able to listen to the Conference proceedings on a direct wire from the Assembly Hall to his home. We of this body representing the priesthood leadership of the Church send to you, President Grant, our love and our greetings and our prayers in your behalf for your early and complete recovery. We thank our Heavenly Father for the preservation of your life, and for the degree of health and strength He has given you. We ask Him to give you his richest blessings. We honor and revere you and we thank our Heavenly Father for your wisdom and guidance over the years and now.

Elder Joseph Anderson is the Clerk of the Conference.

President Grant has requested his First Counselor, President Clark, who is speaking, to conduct the Conference services.

The full service will be broadcast over Station KSL, Salt Lake City, as will also the service this afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. The services tomorrow, Saturday, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. will likewise be broadcast over KSL, and also the two services on Sunday at the same hours. These same sessions will be broadcast over station KSUB at Cedar City.

The singing will be by the congregation, composed of about 1500 male members, representing the priesthood leadership of the Church. Elder Richard P. Condie is the conductor; Elder Frank W. Asper is the organist.

The first song will be "Redeemer of Israel," Song Folder No. 3, L.D.S. Hymns No. 231, Hymn Book No. 194.

We suggest that our audience of the air join in the singing of the Conference.

The opening prayer will be offered by President Axel J. Andersen of the South Salt Lake Stake.