

**President George Albert Smith:**

Elder Orval W. Adams has just read the report of the Church Auditing Committee.

In view of the report we have just received I hope that those who have been so anxious and concerned about the poverty of the Church are listening in, if they are not in this building.

The Relief Society Singing Mothers and the congregation will now sing "High on the Mountain Top," by Beesley, No. 123 in the Hymn Book, L.D.S. Hymns 131. Elder J. Spencer Cornwall, leader of the Tabernacle Choir, will be the conductor.

The Congregation and the Singing Mothers joined in singing, "High On the Mountain Top."

**President George Albert Smith:**

I would like to call attention to these beautiful calla lilies that decorate the stand. They come with the the compliments of the Berkeley Stake of Zion.

Elder Clifford E. Young, one of the Assistants to the Quorum of the Twelve, will now address us.

### **ELDER CLIFFORD E. YOUNG**

*Assistant to the Council of the Twelve*

It must be a source of pride, my brethren and sisters, to all of us to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and in the light of the reports to which we have just listened we ought to be more grateful than ever before for the goodness of our Heavenly Father. Frequently we hear complaints of the requirements that are made of us, and many times these complaints are presented in "lump sum," so to speak.

#### **THE WELFARE PROGRAM AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE**

The welfare budget, for example, is regarded from the totals that are presented, and as we see the program in the light of these totals, we think of it as a burden on us as members of the Church. As we analyze it, however, the per capita assignment is not so heavy, and this field of activity becomes not a burden, but an opportunity for service. As a matter of fact, the welfare program is not measured in dollars and cents but in kind, and it may be possible in the future that our money may have little value. But we shall still be in a position to render relief to those who may be in need by reason of this program of producing through the concerted efforts of all the members of the Church. Is it not a source of satisfaction to know and to feel that if and when the day of need comes to us,

we may go to those whose right it is to extend help and that help will be available? As I said, it may not be in dollars and cents, but it may be in the very things of which President Clark spoke; the example in Germany to which he referred. It wasn't money that those poor people needed. It was something to put on their backs, and food to eat, and warmth. Money couldn't buy what they needed because the things they needed were not to be purchased. But in this great program to which we have subscribed, food and clothing were available without money. This is the reason that to the Latter-day Saints the welfare program has in it the elements of security, and how grateful we ought to be for it.

#### EXPERIENCES OF A PIONEER FAMILY

This is a great year, an anniversary year, and I think we may reflect on some of the things that have gone before, and they may give us inspiration for the future. I am thinking this morning of a little log cabin that stands down in Liberty Park, built by my grandfather Riter. It was transported there from one of our pioneer lots by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and others who are interested in preserving shrines that they may be a source of inspiration to the people. This little log cabin is no different from many that were built in 1847. It was originally a one-room log cabin and built in that year. Later on a partition was placed in it so that there were two rooms. The mother who lived in that little log cabin was a convert to the Church from Pennsylvania. She, her sisters, her mother, and her husband were caught in the "Gospel Net," to use the term that Brother Widtsoe affectionately uses in speaking of his worthy mother, and may I say in passing, the type to which he refers in his delightful book is the type that sometimes we forget. They too were pioneers. They came out of the world. The physical hardships may not have been quite so severe when they came, but they pioneered, nevertheless. They left their homes, their kindred, and many times their own parents for an unpopular faith because they had in their souls a testimony of the divinity of this work. Well, this little family to which I referred, the mother who at one time lived in this little log cabin, came to Nauvoo, there to find not a home as she expected, because shortly after she came, she was to witness the martyrdom of the Prophet and his brother, the patriarch. Then the family moved on, and they started across those boggy Iowa plains of which Brother Preston Nibley has been telling us so vividly in his *News Church Section* articles. I doubt that you and I can visualize, can appreciate, the difficulties under which they traveled. As they began their journey they met with discouragement, hunger, lack of things to keep them warm. The conditions were indescribable, yet there was no complaint. Oh, some of them felt and wondered why. In this little band there was a father who was a practical fellow. He was a Pennsylvania Dutchman. He left a home where things were reasonably secure, and he said one day to his wife,

"We'd better turn back. We'd better go back whence we came. Conditions are so uncertain." That is a natural thing for any father to say. It is a natural thing for a mother to think. They were traveling among Indians and were not sure just where they were going, and conditions were not very favorable. They naturally would think of their children. They had two boys. They thought of the boys' welfare, not of their own. I am wondering how many of us would want to turn back, but that mother wouldn't turn back. She had been caught in the "Gospel Net," and she knew it was true, and so she said, "We will not turn back—we'll not turn back; we're going on!" That was my grandmother Riter, and her faith and indomitable spirit have always been an inspiration to me, and that spirit should be a source of inspiration to all of us.

### NO "TURNING BACK"

This Church is now celebrating the one hundred seventeenth anniversary of its organization. There has been no turning back since that memorable day; there must be no turning back now. Some perhaps have dropped by the wayside. One of the great contributions of pioneer life and of pioneer colonizing was the fact that the "Mormon" people did not turn back. You have read the story of other pioneer companies who came to the West in those early periods. Many of them started out perhaps with thirty or forty people and ended with half the number. They were not home builders; they were trappers; they were men seeking something else than homes. But it was different with the Latter-day Saints. They were to come West under the direction and inspiration of a great leader to build homes, and there was little turning back, and that is the inspiration for us today, my brethren and sisters, that there be no turning back, there be no wavering.

Brother Anderson read of the growth of the Church, of its membership. We are gratified about that, but when we come to analyze it, numbers mean very little. We are only strong, we're only powerful and influential insofar as we live the things that God has revealed for us, his children. We are only a great people as we cling to those concepts that were revealed for our benefit and blessing.

The welfare program and every program of the Church are strong only as we support them with our faith and with our devotion. And we are strong only as we live the concepts of right as revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

God help us that we may live so to do and that we may not turn back and not waver, but be worthy and strong in the faith, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.