

come under our direction, and to the dead, I humbly pray, bearing testimony that these things are of God. I do it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We shall now hear from President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., member of the First Presidency.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

Second Counselor in the First Presidency

MY BRETHREN: It is a duty to respond to the call of the President of the Church and to stand before you and try to say something that will be helpful and that will upbuild all of us. Again I ask that you help me with your faith and your prayers for I have long since learned that only by such assistance is it possible for me to do or say anything either as it should be done or said or as will be helpful to those to whom I speak.

We are all impressed, I am sure, with the great gathering of Priesthood not alone here in this building, in the Assembly Hall and Barratt Hall, but in the various Stake Houses throughout this entire Western country. I foresee in no distant future that we shall have wires running into the East and I can foresee that at this great Priesthood meeting we might have fifty or a hundred or a hundred and fifty thousand members of the Priesthood gathered together to listen to the instructions, the admonitions, and the encouragement that are given on these occasions.

I would assume from what we have been told regarding the potential attendance, that not only is this the greatest gathering of Priesthood that the Church has ever seen, but that it is the greatest gathering of Priesthood that the world has ever seen, up until this point of time. In the old days when Israel gathered together, the Priesthood was confined to one tribe. The great body of Israel did not possess the Priesthood and their great gatherings were therefore not of the sort of which this gathering is.

I am impressed with the number who bear the Priesthood today, here on earth. I have seen no figures showing how many bear it who are on the other side, but it must run into the millions. We are not so many here. There are in the Melchizedek Priesthood, approximately, a little over a quarter of a million bear-

ing that Priesthood, and bearing the Aaronic Priesthood, there are a little over 153,000, a combined Priesthood membership, according to the figures which I have, of about 377,000. This Priesthood is organized into quorums; these quorums are presided over by officers; these officers are obedient to their superiors. The authority runs from the top clear down along a distinct line, and reaches the last ordained deacon.

It is a marvellous organization, one that has been framed and created and established by our Heavenly Father that we might be effective in our work and in our service. You know, I like to think of it with all of its organization, I like to think of it as the Army of the Lord, the Army to which the Lord looks to carry on his great warfare with evil. You have a Commander-in-Chief sitting here on the stand, with all the authority relating to your priesthood activity that any Commander-in-Chief possesses with reference to an Army. You have a great division of this priesthood, under the sub-command of the Presiding Bishopric, who have a little Army of their own of 153,000 boys and men.

Years ago we used to hear that there was no comparable organization of men in the world, except the German army. We were better organized by that appraisal even than the armies of the world, with that exception. The Lord set up this great organization, man did not do it, and he set it up when we were few in number, but it is set up on such principles that however great it may become in numbers, it can still function, operating under our Commander-in-Chief. We are to fight evil, we are to fight the foes of righteousness, we are to fight a life and death struggle for ourselves, not only, but for those who are associated with us, for the membership of the Church.

Some of our Army is hospitalized,

not many I suppose, but they have little disturbances, little sour stomachs over the bishop, or some of the General Authorities or somebody else. Somebody else has a pain in the leg, he cannot walk well to his meetings and duties. And then there are some who are A.W.O.L. Now, I hope there are not too many of them. And then there are still others, altogether too many, who have not yet been mustered in, and one of the jobs for us who are already in, is to get in the fellow who is not in.

To me, it is an enthralling thought that the priesthood of the Church of Jesus Christ is the Army of the Lord.

When Cromwell was fighting his battles to obtain the control of Britain, on one occasion he came to a stream, and across the stream was the enemy. Before his men plunged into the stream, he said, "Put your trust in God, my boys, *and keep your powder dry.*" He did not say, "*but keep your powder dry,*" because that would have had in it an implication of derision of the first statement, "Put your trust in God." Cromwell said: "Put your trust in God . . . *and keep your powder dry.*"

That statement embodies a principle which is just as applicable to you brethren as it was to the army of Cromwell.

"Put your trust in God . . . *and keep your powder dry.*" And what is your powder? Well, there is one little thing I would like to suggest to you, before talking about the powder, and that is this: Do not cross over the line into the camp of the enemy, and beware of those who cross the line from your enemy and come into your ranks. They may be all right, but many and many a man, I think that is not an exaggeration, is coming over to us from the camp of the enemy. We welcome him and take him in, and he turns out to be a spy, one who is seeking to destroy us. Be on your guard.

Now, as to the powder. The man

who is unchaste has wet powder. The man who is guilty of that filthy crime of homosexuality, has wet powder. The man who cheats his neighbor, his powder is not dry. The man who blasphemes, his powder is not dry. So the man who lies, and steals. Somewhat so the man who is selfish, who is unkind, who is uncharitable. So is the man who does not do his duty in the great Army, who does not stand guard to keep out the enemy, the man who does not live so that the Lord can give him inspiration and revelation according to his needs.

Any man who fails to live up to the standards of the Church, as we know them, as they have been prescribed, is not keeping his powder dry.

What kind of an Army are we going to be?

Now I come back to my theme song. As an Army, we must be united; we must, as the Army of the Lord, have no allegiance except to the great Cause and the officers of this Church who direct our work. We must do as we are asked to do. We must obey counsel. We must act as one, and we shall act as one, if we carry through on the idea that we are the Army of the Lord to fight evil and to establish righteousness and to do the works which the Lord has commanded us to do.

May God give us the power and the strength to be really an Army of the Lord, serving him, keeping his commandments, doing as we are told, saving men, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The congregation and chorus joined in singing the hymn, "Come, Let Us Anew."

President David O. McKay:

Our next speaker will be President Stephen L Richards of the First Presidency.

PRESIDENT STEPHEN L RICHARDS

First Counselor in the First Presidency

MY DEAR brethren, gathered tonight in a vast congregation, both seen and unseen, I greet you in the fraternity of the Holy Priesthood, which

in the providence of our Lord we have the honor and the privilege to bear. I esteem you as my brethren, my friends, and colleagues in the advancement of