

Saturday, October 1

Second Day

Prophet, before the world was. The Prophet also said that any man who had the responsibility of administering to the inhabitants of this earth likewise was ordained in the Council of Heaven; and he further said, "I suppose that I was ordained to this very office in that Council."

What are we? We are the agents of God, himself, through the Holy Order of the Priesthood of the Son of God. I wonder if we think of that. I wonder if that is on our minds when we deal with one another, when we deal with our families, with our neighbors, and with our friends. We hold these powers with which out of his abundance God has endowed us, that we might be able to carry on the mission with which we were charged when we came here.

Brethren, may the Lord bless me and bless you, give you and me abundantly of his spirit, that will enable us, first, to recognize what we are, the representa-

tives of God on earth, endowed with certain of his powers. Never forget that. And next, help us so to live that we may enjoy those powers and exercise them, and then we shall rear our families as they should be reared. We will heal them when they are sick. We will be protected from harm and accident and disease. We will have more happiness than any of us can now imagine, all subject to the will of the Lord.

May God give us all of the blessings that we need to help us to magnify our Priesthood, which is the power and the authority to exercise some of the powers that God, himself, possesses, I humbly pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

We shall now hear from President Stephen L Richards.

## PRESIDENT STEPHEN L RICHARDS

### *First Counselor in the First Presidency*

**A** FEW YEARS ago I stood on the banks of the Susquehanna River at or near the place where Joseph and Oliver received under the hands of John the Baptist the Aaronic Priesthood. I learned that it is not known just where the Melchizedek Priesthood was bestowed, but it is assumed that it is in that vicinity. I had time for contemplation in the visit to this historic place, and I knew, as I contemplated the remarkable gift that the Lord had brought in this Dispensation, that the accounts of Joseph and Oliver were true; and I felt as sure of that divine experience as if it had taken place before me. I had not had occasion to doubt it before, and certainly I have entertained no doubt about it since; and it has been my pleasure and satisfaction throughout the years to declare the authenticity and the divine origin of the Priesthood of God which has come through his servants in his latter-day work.

I do not know how to give proper estimate of that great power. I know

that man by nature is the most noble of all the Lord's creations. I know that he is endowed with intelligence, with reason, with a conscience, and many of the virtues that we think so highly of, and I have great admiration for men who develop their native talents and latent endowments to a point where they possess great intelligence and great learning, and equip themselves for great service to our Father's children.

But I have reached the conclusion in my own mind that no man, however great his intellectual attainments, however vast and far-reaching his service may be, arrives at the full measure of his sonship and the manhood the Lord intended him to have, without the investiture of the Holy Priesthood, and with that appreciation, my brethren, I have given thanks to the Lord all my life for this marvelous blessing which has come to me—a blessing that some of my progenitors had, and a blessing which more than any other heritage I want my sons and my grandsons and my great-grandsons to enjoy.

There may be many of our young

men, and some older ones, who are in this vast listening congregation tonight—some who have not been with us before and some who have not felt the warmth of the fellowship that we are permitted to enjoy. I hope I am not presumptuous when I welcome them into the bonds of fraternity and the brotherhood of the Holy Priesthood. And I know of few things that you can do to more perfectly bring to these newcomers a deep appreciation of this great and wonderful blessing than to take them to your hearts and your counsels in the quorums of the Holy Priesthood. The Lord has provided these quorums. He has specified them. He has given the very numbers which constitute them, and we know that he intends that they should be true fraternities among our brethren. Every one of us needs the help of a friend. We all need sympathetic understanding. We need encouragement. Sometimes we need correction. Within the quorums of the Priesthood there lie the facilities and the opportunities for a brotherhood that shall help all within it.

I would like to see the quorums of the Priesthood assume a larger and more important place in the teaching of the Gospel, in the nurturing of our young men and boys, and in their prepara-

tion for the great work of the latter days. I believe that they are organizations which the Lord himself designed to bless all of our brethren.

Now of course many things might be said about the opportunities that these quorums afford. Will you, my brethren, give to these groups to which you belong, these sacred societies, your allegiance, your love and devotion, and your help. The Lord needs his Priesthood to carry forward his work. I do not know that any of us can envision what the coming of the Savior will be like, but I have always felt that when he does come he will require the aid of his servants in perfecting the Kingdom, and that he will call upon his Priesthood in preference to any others to consummate his glorious work. I would like to be ready to serve acceptably to him when that day comes, and I know you would also, so I ask the Lord to bless us that we may so devote ourselves to the great Cause to which we have the honor to belong, to so uphold the standards of righteousness, to so proclaim the Gospel of our Lord, and to so live as to be worthy to be called and chosen now and when he comes, and that is my prayer for all of us, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### PRESIDENT DAVID O. McKAY



**WE** HAVE RECEIVED a message reading as follows: "Gathered in San Fernando Stake nearly completed stake center are 251 boys, 456 men, or a total attendance of

707."—James D. Pratt, First Counselor, Stake Presidency.

Later in the Conference perhaps we can give you a total report.

Much has been said, brethren, during the Conference about the favorable reports made in the public press, compliments paid by government and state officials, to the leaders of the Choir in Europe, to the excellency of the Choir, paying compliments to the Church, etc., and every word spoken has been merited. Some might feel that such praise will be dangerous. Let me tell you that nothing has been said about the efforts

of the Adversary coordinately with these words of praise.

When permission was granted by state and local officials to erect the Swiss Temple near Bern, notice was given that such permission had been granted, and the request made that if anybody had any objection, let him so express himself. High poles were erected on the site, showing the height of the main building.

Well, there was opposition led by a minister. A certain time elapsed—for other objections. Finally the authoritative council met and decided that the application to erect a temple be granted.

This minister met again and said, "I protest it." "Oh yes," said the chairman, or leader of that group, "but you did not put your objections in writing."