

YOUNG WOMEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Bertha S. Reeder, President
 Emily H. Bennett, First Counselor
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 with all members of the Board as at present constituted.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

LaVern W. Parmley, President
 Arta M. Hale, First Counselor
 Leone W. Doxey, Second Counselor
 with all members of the Board as at present constituted.

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr.:

President McKay, so far as I could

observe, the voting of the Conference of this Church was unanimous in the affirmative.

PRESIDENT J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

First Counselor in the First Presidency

First, I am grateful for your promotion to First Counselor. I am grateful for your sustaining vote for Brother Moyle, who fills a great need that we had in the First Presidency. He is indomitable in his courage and has only the welfare of the Church at heart.

But we miss Brother Stephen L. Richards. We miss his gentleness, his kindness, his wisdom, his experience, his courtesy, his loyalty to the Church, and his great work in connection with the missionary service. We miss President Richards.

I now recall vividly the great address of President McKay, and I endorse all that has been said, not only by him in that address but by all the Brethren who have followed. This has been a great conference, filled to overflowing with the Spirit of the Lord.

I am grateful for all this and with the President's permission, I want to add a word or two, more particularly on the world condition.

When Christ came to the earth, there was, so far as I know, only one nation, the Hebrew nation, that understood and worshiped the true God, the God of Sinai—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3.)

He commissioned his apostles:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

"He that believeth and is baptized

shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15-16.)

The latter "and is baptized" was added in our day, for we received the very same commission. And there was entrusted to us the opening, and the carrying on, of the Last Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, and we have been authorized further and commissioned thereto, by the ordination and conferring at the hands of heavenly messengers, the Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God, divided into two, the Melchizedek and the Aaronic, that we might avoid the constant repetition of the name of the Son.

The whole world, when Christ left, except the Hebrews, on the eastern continent, except the Hebrews and the few that Christ left, a few hundred, were pagans, not believing in the God of Sinai and of course, not believing in the gospel as did not generally the Hebrew nation. We have been fighting for two thousand years until today, titulary at any rate, not quite half of the inhabitants of the world believe in this God of Sinai and in the Christ. The other half is pagan who do not accept God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and our God, the God of the Christian world, but who have something that is equivalent thereto that satisfies them, but it is pagan.

But we have this added situation: we

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have the man described by President McKay and commented upon so well, who in effect is the directing head of this whole great body of paganism in their ideology and in their non-belief in God. I think this is the first time in all history when God's people have been faced with an organized paganism more or less guided and directed by one who denies God and says he is unconvertible from his atheism.

We get the impression that he has in mind that his Marxian ideology, and his atheism, shall gain control somehow and make of all of us the followers of his doctrines. He preaches peace, I may say, and then he preaches the abandonment of certain weapons of war, then he preaches that we go back to traditional warfare, where numbers count, he preaches that we shall destroy our military installations, and if he gets rid of these, I see no end to what he may try to do.

The whole Western world, the Christian, the God-fearing world, with the exceptions that exist in each country that follows Marxism, with the exception that exists in Russia, relatively few, but perhaps in good part many, these are the things which we face under his direction.

Now, let us have no illusions about this, brethren and sisters. The plan is really one of exterminating God and Christianity. Into our hands has been placed through divine ordinations the Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God. In our hands is the responsibility of carrying forward.

We do not have now a united front to this united paganism. We are still torn and divided among many sects. But the problem we face, if the plans of the Marxian paganism are carried out, is our extermination.

God has declared that the Lord will never take away or give to another people the authority and the gospel plan which we have. I want to bring home to every one of you brethren and sisters of the Church, and to others so far as I may speak, the seriousness of this situation. You cannot mollify an unconvertible, you may not hope that after his ends are gained, for any but the treatment he has administered upon others.

There are good people in Russia. There are faithful people in Russia.

Elder Benson has recently met a few of them. But they live under this Marxian theory, and one of the elements of that is the destruction of free agency which was given to the sons of God before the world was created. Through it there was the rebellion in heaven. Through free agency we climb to the heights that lead us into exaltation. The Marxian theology repudiates God.

I have a feeling, brothers and sisters, that any man or woman who voluntarily subjects himself to this pagan ideology, who voluntarily lives within its jurisdiction, who voluntarily under this theory gives up his free agency, has lost his testimony and is on the road to apostasy.

I cannot bring too strongly that here in the last days, paganism is under one head, and that head is guided by Satan himself. Please, brethren and sisters of the Church, keep the home fires of testimony and knowledge of the gospel and of God and of Jesus Christ, keep the home fires burning in your homes, in your priesthood quorums, and all the rest, for I am sure, one way or another, we shall have to face dire persecution.

I bear my testimony that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world, the Redeemer of mankind, the first fruits of the resurrection. I bear my testimony that the authority of the Holy Order of the Priesthood of the Son of God is upon the earth, bestowed through heavenly messengers upon Joseph Smith, who has given to us the plan of the gospel. I bear my testimony that the powers and authority that were given to Joseph Smith have passed on down through, from President to President, until we have now President David O. McKay, who stands by your sustaining vote, as the prophet, seer, and revelator, and President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that he possesses all that his predecessors have had who have gone before.

May God bless us all.

I thank you for the strength that has been mine, and I do it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

President David O. McKay:

President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. of the First Presidency has just concluded speaking. He also just presented the