

combined choirs, BYU combined men's choir, and Tabernacle Choir and to their conductors and organists for the beautiful and inspiring music during the conference.

We thank our city officials for the cooperation given this conference: the doctors, the Church Health Unit nurses, the ambulance services who have been on hand to render service, the ushers, the interpreters whom we don't see but others here listen to their voices, and those who are responsible for the beautiful flowers on the stand and on Temple Square.

We express appreciation to local and national press representatives for the coverage of the conference. We are

grateful for the owners and operators of the many radio and television stations and cable and satellite systems who have given time and made facilities available to carry sessions of this conference in many countries. We are also grateful for government and civic and educational leaders who have been here at this conference. We appreciate you.

Following President Hinckley's remarks, the Tabernacle Choir will sing "Go Forth into the World in Peace," and the benediction will be offered by Elder Benjamin B. Banks of the Seventy.

Then this conference will stand adjourned for six months.

President Gordon B. Hinckley

Elder Derek Cuthbert passes away

We have just received a telephone call that Elder Derek Cuthbert has just passed away. We have been praying for him. He has served faithfully and diligently and well as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, called as a General Authority of the Church some years ago. He was a convert to the Church in Nottingham, England, and has been true and faithful in every respect. He has filled assignments on this continent and in other areas of the world. We extend to his beloved Muriel and their family the love, sympathy, and condolences of the whole Church, and I am sure that as we conclude this conference, President Benson, in a particular way, would like to extend his blessings to the Cuthbert family.

President Benson's love and blessing

Customarily the President of the Church has concluded the conference. Our hearts would have been stirred had President Benson been able to stand before us and speak with power and inspiration as he has done so

many times in the past. Because of conditions incident to his age, he is unable to do so. He has indicated that I should say a few words of benediction in his behalf.

I think he would have me express his love for you, our brothers and sisters, wherever you may be across the world. He would leave his blessing upon you, the blessing of a prophet.

May I give you some of his own words on which to reflect as you leave for your homes.

The Lord has established his kingdom

"I solemnly declare that the Lord has established his latter-day kingdom upon the earth in fulfillment of prophecies uttered by his ancient prophets and apostles. Holy angels have again communed with men on the earth. God has again revealed himself from heaven and restored to the earth his holy priesthood with power to administer in all the sacred ordinances necessary for the exaltation of his children. His church has been reestablished among men with all the spiritual gifts enjoyed anciently.

"All this is done in preparation for Christ's second coming. The great and dreadful day of the Lord is near at hand. In preparation for this great event and as a means of escaping the impending judgments, inspired messengers have gone forth to the nations of the earth carrying his testimony and warning" (in Conference Report, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden Area General Conference, 18 Aug. 1974, pp. 128-29).

"I hope that all of us can see . . . the hand of the Lord moving His kingdom forward to accomplish on an accelerated basis what He designs to accomplish. . . .

"The Lord is now revealing, and will continue to do so through channels He has appointed, everything necessary for the future development and perfection of His Church" (interdepartmental meeting, 16 Mar. 1977).

These words have been the counsel of our President and prophet. I commend them to you as we conclude this great annual conference.

Church Presidents are men of God

To his words I add my own words of testimony as one who has known and worked closely with seven Presidents of the Church, extending over a period

of more than half a century. I know that each of these men has been a man of God, raised up by Him, trained and nurtured, schooled and disciplined for the great and singular and unique callings which have come to them. Our people have been blessed as they have followed their counsel. We will continue to be blessed if we will walk in the paths which they have pointed out and will continue to point out to us.

Now, my beloved brethren and sisters, as we return to our homes, may we carry with us a remembrance of that which we have heard. May God bless you, may His Holy Spirit abide with you in your homes and in your hearts, and may you have reason to kneel before Him with thanksgiving in your prayers as those blessed with the light of His glorious gospel. I'm sure that President Benson would invoke that prayer upon you, and I do so in his behalf and by way of personal testimony and blessing, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

The choir sang "Go Forth into the World in Peace."

Elder Benjamin B. Banks offered the benediction.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE MUSIC

The Mormon Youth Chorus, conducted by Robert C. Bowden, sang at the Saturday morning session of the conference.

Music for the Saturday afternoon session was provided by the Ricks College combined choirs, conducted by Kendell Nielsen and James Brague.

At the general priesthood session, music was provided by a BYU combined men's choir. Mack Wilberg and Ronald Staheli conducted the choir, and Richard Elliott was the organist.

The Tabernacle Choir, conducted by Jerold Ottley, provided music for the Sunday morning and afternoon sessions.

Throughout the conference sessions, prelude, postlude, and interlude music and accompaniments on the Tabernacle organ were played by Robert Cundick, John Longhurst, Clay Christiansen, and Richard Elliot, Tabernacle organists.

F. Michael Watson

Clerk of the conference