

President Hinckley

Thank you, Brother Faust, for your moving testimony. I may say that it was my privilege recently to dedicate three monuments on that pioneer trail in the areas of which he spoke, monuments which were erected by the people of the Riverton Wyoming Stake, and that we have acquired the property at Rock Creek Hollow, where were buried the thirteen who died in one night and the two the next day.

Before hearing the closing remarks of President Thomas S. Monson, we express appreciation to all who have provided the inspiring and uplifting music heard during this conference.

We thank city officials and many others: the doctors, Church Health Unit nurses, and ambulance services who have been on hand to render assistance;

the ushers and interpreters; and those responsible for the beautiful flowers on the stand and on Temple Square.

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

We are grateful to the owners and operators of the many radio and television stations and cable and satellite systems who have made their facilities available. Thank you, one and all. And thank you, my beloved brethren and sisters, for your attendance on this great occasion. May the Lord bless you.

Following President Monson's remarks, the choir will sing "God So Loved the World." The benediction will be given by Elder Lynn A. Sorensen, who was released yesterday as a member of the Seventy. The conference will then stand adjourned for six months.

President Thomas S. Monson

A glorious conference

Someone said, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." That's the feeling that we have today.

Traditionally the President of the Church, the Lord's prophet, seer, and revelator, provides the concluding expressions of a general conference and gives his blessing to all. Humbly and respectfully I respond to the assignment to represent him at this time.

This has been a glorious conference. The prayers have been sincere and from the heart; the music and singing have lifted us heavenward and given us an upward reach we thought perhaps was beyond our grasp. The Brethren who have spoken, and Sister Jepsen, have declared the word of God and touched our hearts with their inspired messages. We are all better for having been a part of the conference.

We sustain and love President Benson

President Benson's chair has remained unoccupied during the conference sessions, which brings some sadness to our hearts. His ready smile, the wave of his hand, the declarations of truth that have marked his influence have been missed. However, President Benson, we are pleased and grateful that you have been a part of the conference through television. Our hearts go out to you in the passing of your beloved eternal companion, Flora. How thankful we are for the sacred covenant that binds you two sweethearts together for all eternity! The entire Church joins in a mighty prayer to our Heavenly Father that you may be cradled in the palm of His hand and blessed according to your need and His divine purposes. We sustain you. We follow you. We love you—our prophet.

Closing words at conference

President Benson revered President David O. McKay, who supervised his missionary labors in Great Britain those long years ago. President McKay closed a conference with these words:

"As we come to this parting hour, I hope that the teachings and life of the Master seem to you all to be more beautiful, more necessary, and more applicable to human happiness than ever before. . . . Accepting him as my Redeemer, Savior, and Lord, I accept his gospel as the plan of salvation, as the one perfect way to human happiness and peace."¹

President Joseph Fielding Smith, for whom President Benson had such great love, said as he concluded a conference:

"Now I pray that our Father in heaven will bless his people—bless them abundantly and in full measure.

"I pray that the Saints shall stand firm against the pressures and enticements of the world; that they shall put first in their lives the things of God's kingdom; that they shall be true to every trust and keep every covenant."²

President Harold B. Lee, boyhood friend and companion, and later esteemed associate of President Benson in the Lord's work, declared:

"I can't leave this conference without saying to you that I have a conviction that the Master hasn't been absent from us on these occasions. This is his church. . . . He isn't an absentee master; he is concerned about us. He wants us to follow where he leads."³

President Spencer W. Kimball, who was sustained as an Apostle and member of the Council of the Twelve at the same time as President Benson, closed a general conference by saying:

"As each one of these wonderful sermons has been rendered I've listened with [rapt] attention, and I have made up my mind that I shall go home

and be a [better] man than I have ever been before."⁴

President Benson, these have been declarations from four of your associates who have been an ongoing influence in your life. You, yourself, have said in a similar close of a conference:

"May we all go to our homes rededicated to the sacred mission of the Church as so beautifully set forth in these conference sessions—to 'invite all to come unto Christ' (D&C 20:59), 'yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him' (Moroni 10:32)."⁵

At parting

My brothers and sisters, I know the love President Benson has for you, for the Lord, and for His work. He would urge us to keep the commandments, sanctify our homes, and perfect our lives. May we, in unity, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, achieve these three objectives. Doing so will bring joy to our souls, peace to our prophet's heart, and the smile of God's approval on our efforts.

Sing we now at parting
One more strain of praise.
To our Heavenly Father
Sweetest songs we'll raise.
For his loving kindness,
For his tender care,
Let our songs of gladness
Fill this Sabbath air.⁶

The work is true. Jesus is the Christ. Ezra Taft Benson is a prophet of God. I so testify and pray that heaven's blessings may attend all of us, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

NOTES

1. In Conference Report, Oct. 1965, p. 144; or *Improvement Era*, Dec. 1965, p. 1160.
2. In Conference Report, Apr. 1971, p. 162; or *Ensign*, June 1971, p. 110.
3. In Conference Report, Oct. 1972, p. 176; or *Ensign*, Jan. 1973, p. 134.

4. In Conference Report, Oct. 1977, p. 113; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, p. 75.
5. In Conference Report, Apr. 1988, p. 97; or *Ensign*, May 1988, p. 84.
6. *Hymns*, no. 156.

The choir sang "God So Loved the World."

Elder Lynn A. Sorenson 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. Bonnie Goodliffe and Linda Margetts were the organists.

Music for the Saturday afternoon session was provided by a family choir from the Jordan Utah South and Riverton Utah regions, conducted by Roger L. Sorenson. John Longhurst was the organist.

At the general priesthood session, a combined men's choir from the Tabernacle Choir and Mormon Youth Chorus provided the music. Jerold Ottley and Robert C. Bowden conducted the

choir, and Richard L. Elliott was the organist.

The Tabernacle Choir, conducted by Jerold Ottley and Donald Ripplinger, provided music for the Sunday morning and afternoon sessions. Clay Christiansen and Richard L. Elliott were the organists.

Throughout the conference sessions, prelude, postlude, and interlude music and accompaniments on the Tabernacle organ were played by John Longhurst, Clay Christiansen, Richard L. Elliott, Bonnie Goodliffe, and Linda Margetts.

F. Michael Watson
Clerk of the conference