

Mormon Church Not Planning To Liquidate It's 'Empire'

Salt Lake City, Utah—The Mormon Church has no intention of liquidating the vast business empire it has built up in the course of the past century, President David O. McKay disclosed in an interview.



DAVID O. MCKAY
President, Mormon Church

The snow-haired, 86-year-old President McKay made the statement with the apparent desire of squelching rumors that have circulated since the church announced on April 22 that it was withdrawing from the commercial banking business.

It sold to private interests, for a reported \$10 million, its controlling stock in Zion's First National Bank, founded under Brigham Young's auspices in 1873.

There was immediate speculation that the church would divest itself of other commercial properties which it owns wholly or in part. These include the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co.; The Desert News Publishing Co.; broadcasting station KSL; an insurance company; a big department store, two hotels, a motel, an office building and other real estate in Salt Lake City; a 260,000-acre cattle ranch in Florida; a coal mine; a clothing factory; and scores of farms.

Welfare Program
President McKay pointed out that the church operates many of its enterprises—for example, the farms, clothing factory and coal mine—primarily to produce goods for the far-flung Mormon welfare program. Nearly 90,000 unemployed, aged or otherwise indigent persons received food, fuel and clothing last year under this program.

He said other business enterprises, which operate competitively and at a profit, are a byproduct of Mormon history. When the Mormon pioneers trekked west after 1847 to found their "New Zion" in a desolate wilderness that no one else wanted, the church was the only agency which had the capital and the leadership to provide necessary services such as banking and insurance.

It built hotels "because we needed places for visitors to stay," President McKay explained. It started a department store because no one else had done so—and Mormon families needed a place to shop. It pioneered the sugar beet industry in the West because a new, exportable crop was needed to stabilize the agricultural economy.

How much the church earns annually from its highly-diversified business holdings has never been disclosed. But its expenditures for religious and welfare purposes are reported. They total about \$35 million a year.

Income Source
Officials say that most of this money comes, not from business profits, but from the tithes of church members. Each of the church's 1,700,000 members is expected to give one-tenth of his income to the church.

President McKay said there has been "some sentiment" among Mormons in favor of the church's divesting itself of all business properties.

"There are people who say it is 'unfair' for the church, supported as it is by tithes, to compete with its own members and others in private business," he said.

He indicated that he personally has a distaste for church involvement in any highly commercial activity, and that this was a major factor in the decision to get out of commercial banking.

"But I see no reason why we should pull out of the sugar business which, after all, the church started," he said. "Nor do I see any likelihood of our withdrawing from business which the church started to provide necessary public services, and which are still providing those services."

He indicated that the newspaper and broadcasting station, the insurance company, the hotels and department store fell into this category.

"I think it is important for us to remember that this incident is just what we must expect in a world of armed hostility. If this situation continues, one of these incidents will sooner or later touch off a general war."

Morse, Lusk Vision Good Coming From Spy Plane Incident

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Washington Correspondent

Washington—Unfortunately and regrettable as the spy plane incident was for the United States, both Oregon Sen. Wayne Morse and Hall S. Lusk saw the possibility of some good coming of it.

Morse said he thought Secretary of State Christian Herter was right in telling the truth about American espionage efforts to penetrate Soviet secrecy.

"It is about time for the nations of the world to try truth for a change," said Morse. "Secretary Herter has done that, and I think he was right. At the same time, he has challenged the Soviet Union to join us in opening her territory to the full inspection of armaments. We have been seeking for some time to control nuclear weapons through international inspection of missile and air bases."

"Perhaps now we will be able to make some progress in that direction. This spy incident may help to arouse the American people, and the rest of the world, to the fact that we live in a tinderbox. Unless we change that condition, the tinderbox can explode at any moment."

Real Cold War Meaning
Sen. Lusk said the incident "has brought home vividly once again to the people of America the real meaning of the cold war. It has demonstrated that in the cold war there are no Republicans and no Democrats, but that we are all Americans."

"Mr. Khrushchev may blow up the incident for all the propaganda value that he thinks it has for him," observed Lusk.

"But for us, as is evidenced by the statement of the leaders in Congress of both parties and in both houses, it has served to emphasize the unity of our people in the face of the Communist threat to the free world," said Lusk.

Diplomatic Setback
Aside from his hopes that something good can come from it, Morse viewed the incident as "one of our worst diplomatic setbacks in years."

He said the Russians were trigger-happy in shooting it down and Khrushchev's bragging that he gave the order to shoot "inspires no confidence."

A member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Morse added:

"I think it is important for us to remember that this incident is just what we must expect in a world of armed hostility. If this situation continues, one of these incidents will sooner or later touch off a general war."

Roseburg Census Reveals 10,656
Eugene—(TT)—Census figures released here Friday by the office of T. A. Redding-shafer, acting superintendent of the census for the fourth congressional district, reveal that Roseburg has a population of 10,656.

Douglas county currently has a population of 67,703; Linn county is 58,477 and Empire has a population of 3,720, figures show.

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SLICED **59¢** lb.

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- KLEENEX **NAPKINS** DINNER SIZE **27¢** BOX
- CUT RITE **WAX PAPER** 125 Ft. ROLL **29¢**
- ELASTIC **LIQUID STARCH** 1/2 Gal. **53¢**
- CHIFFON **DETERGENT** 22 oz. BOTTLE **63¢**
- CALGONITE **DISH WASHER** 20 oz. BOX **45¢**
- SKIPPY **DOG FOOD** 3 No. 1 CANS **29¢**
- CLOROX **BLEACH** 1/2 GAL. **33¢**

- WESSON OIL** 1/2 Gal. **79¢**
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