

The original documents are located in Box 35, “7/2/76 - Remarks Upon Acceptance of Mormon Pioneer Statuette from Spencer W. Kimball, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ACCEPTANCE OF MORMON PIONEER STATUETTE

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1976

I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE PRESIDENT KIMBALL AGAIN.

OUR VISITS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OCCASIONS FOR WARM TALKS BETWEEN

FRIENDS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU WITH US AGAIN

DURING THE HONOR AMERICA DAY CEREMONIES TOMORROW.

TODAY, LET ME EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THIS

MOST APPROPRIATE MOMENTO ON THE OCCASION OF OUR COUNTRY'S

200th BIRTHDAY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS STATUETTE IS A SCALE

MODEL OF THE MORMON PIONEER MONUMENT IN SALT LAKE CITY --

A MONUMENT SYMBOLIZING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN SACRIFICE AND

AMERICAN ADVENTURE THAT IS PART OF THE MORMON HERITAGE.

LIKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR EARLIEST COLONIES,
THE MORMONS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY WERE LEAVING PERSECUTION
BEHIND IN ORDER TO CREATE A NEW COMMUNITY WHERE THEY COULD
WORSHIP IN FREEDOM. YEAR AFTER YEAR, LONG WAGON TRAINS
MOVED OUT OVER THE GREAT PLAINS, OVER THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
AND INTO THE UTAH TERRITORY.

THE MORMON PIONEER MONUMENT IS A TRIBUTE NOT ONLY
TO SACRIFICE, BUT TO THE GARDEN THESE PIONEERS PRODUCED FROM
THE DESERT. TODAY, AROUND THE WORLD, THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ADDS TO ITS PROUD AND
NOBLE HISTORY.

I COMMEND YOU AND THE MORMON PEOPLE EVERYWHERE FOR
THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT YOU ARE MAKING TO STRENGTHEN THE
FAMILY UNIT IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD. IN THE FACES OF THE
MORMON CHILDREN ASSEMBLED HERE, I CAN SEE THE SPIRIT THAT
GAVE STRENGTH TO YOUR EARLY LEADERS. THESE CHILDREN REPRESENT
THE GOODNESS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. LIKE THE FAMILY
ON THIS STATUETTE, THEY TELL US BY THEIR PRESENCE THAT THE
AMERICAN HOME IS A HAVEN OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND MORALITY THAT HAVE MADE THIS COUNTRY
THE GREATEST ON EARTH.

I ACCEPT THIS STATUETTE WITH GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES
FOR YOUR FUTURE UNDERTAKINGS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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