

meaning all things as they were, as they are, and as they are to come. He saw his role in the First Presidency of the Church as one of being in harmony with the prophet. Thus, he was conscientious, almost to a fault, in refusing to make decisions without consulting the entire First Presidency.

When a former missionary companion came to urge that one of his grandsons be sent to Australia on a mission, Marion would not agree to use his influence to help. A longtime associate in the welfare program once requested assistance to save a member's farm from foreclosure, and Marion referred him to the welfare department.

A Church employee asked to speak to him in confidence, but Marion replied: "You cannot speak to me in confidence. What you tell me, you tell the prophet. I cannot bind myself to keep anything from him."

Once when President Kimball was out of the country, Marion received a call from one of the temples. The temple had refused to allow the sealing of a man who had not been a member of the Church for one year. The man's stake president, who had traveled with them, wanted to speak to a member of the First Presidency. Marion asked him why he had signed the temple recommend. The stake president had no excuse except to say that he did not believe the instruction that people should not go through the temple until after they had been members of the Church for one year was a binding rule. He said he had been told that the First Presidency could make an exception. Marion informed him that the statement meant what it said. He said that the President of the Church had the keys of the sealing power and since he was not there to be consulted, he (Marion) did not have authority to go against the instructions of the prophet. He therefore refused to authorize the man to go through the temple.

He shared his feelings about President Kimball with the Regional Representatives of the Church in April 1975:

I am constantly amazed, although I sit by him day after day under all kinds of circumstances and know from personal experience [his] depth . . . faith and inspiration, I am still surprised at what he can do each time he addresses us and in our private councils. I can testify

from my own experiences that he is a prophet of God—I have no doubt whatever.<sup>6</sup>

His overriding concern was keeping himself in harmony and doing the tasks which were assigned to him. He was under such pressure that he felt it was almost impossible to give consideration to the many matters that came to his attention. Sometimes he felt like a person at the side of the road watching predicted events go by.

He continued to be an outspoken defender of his faith. As a member of the First Presidency, he was invited to a civic prayer breakfast. When asked about it later, he said: "We had an ordinary breakfast and an ordinary program. The thing that impressed me was that in the three prayers and two talks which should have ended with a prayer, nobody prayed 'in the name of Jesus Christ.' There seems to be a movement on in the United States to eliminate the idea that this is a Christian nation."

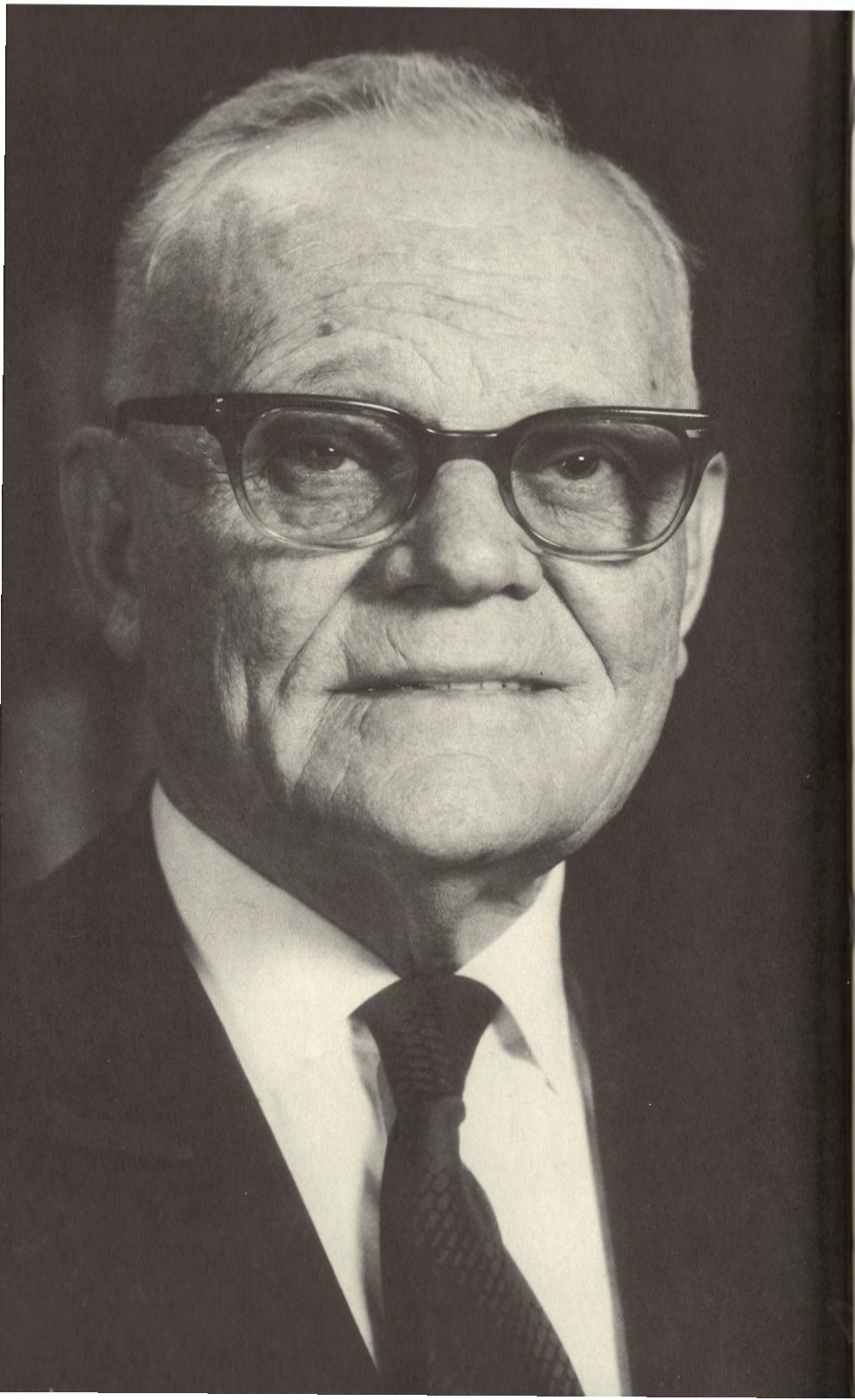
He was in the temple one memorable June day in 1978 when the decision was made to publish a statement announcing that the priesthood would be granted to all men regardless of racial origin. He had seen the weeks of prayer by a prophet who earnestly sought inspiration from the Lord about the matter. In characteristic understatement he recorded, "The publication of it in the *Deseret News* and by the news media all over the nation was the big news of the day."

He was also there in December of 1978, at the historic meeting where the organization of the First Quorum of the Seventy was announced.

He was in a meeting of the First Presidency on the Friday morning when his secretary called him to the telephone to relay the word that Ida had passed away. He had known that her passing was imminent, but the loss seemed unbearable, even though he had prayed diligently over several weeks that the Lord would release her from pain and give her peace and quiet in her soul. Marion sadly noted in his journal, "This he has now done."

He did not attend the special temple meeting for the General Authorities held in connection with the April conference of 1979. It was too close to the funeral and he was not ready for the expressions of sympathy which he knew he would find there. He did, however, attend the meeting in May.





MARION G.  
**ROMNEY**  
HIS *LIFE AND FAITH*

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