

# Fundamentalist LDS church members object to new black priest doctrine

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Mormon church's acceptance of blacks into its priesthood has gained apparent approval in most church circles, but one group calling itself Concerned Latter-day Saints says the change was wrong.

Several blacks have been given priesthood offices since the June 9 announcement that God had told church leaders no longer to exclude their race from full participation in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A handful now are in demand as speakers in local church meetings.

A spokesman for the 4 million-member church, Jerry Cahill, said Thursday reaction to the doctrine, even among an all-white congregation he visited in racially troubled South Africa, is one of "grateful acceptance."

A measure of discontent has been apparent, however, in some letters to the editors of Salt Lake City newspapers and in a full-page ad in the Salt Lake Tribune last Sunday.

Much of the criticism comes from fundamentalists, some of whom have been excommunicated from the church for advocating or practicing polygamy, abandoned by the church in 1890.

The chairman of the Concerned Latter-day Saints, sponsor of the \$2,676 ad, said Thursday he wanted to warn fellow Mormons "that they are moving more and more toward changes that will suit the world" rather than God.

The church announced the change as a revelation to church leaders. Sources said it came during a meeting in the Salt Lake Temple eight days before it was announced to the public.

Few official details have been given.

Chairman of the group sponsoring the ad, identified as Joseph Jensen, said that is his real name but "not one I am known by." He asked not to be further identified because threats had been made against his life.

He said his group includes more than 2,000 people, many of whom have been excommunicated from the church for their views.

Asked if he were excommunicated, Jensen declined a direct answer, but said, "I was born LDS, raised LDS and have taught in every organization in the church. I'm fully converted to Mormonism."

He said reaction to the ad has been about 60 percent unfavorable. He said he had received about 100 letters addressed to a post office box given in the ad.

He said those who support the ad

feel the church is about to repudiate works now accepted as scripture. He said if founder Joseph Smith were a Mormon today, he'd be excommunicated.

Cahill said the church had no response to content of the 5,000-word ad. Asked if a person who held views expressed in it would be excommunicated, he said, "It's a possibility. The views certainly are not in harmony with those of church authorities."

The ad says, "There are still a few valiant, uncompromising men, within and without the official church, whose integrity leaves no room for changing the doctrines and ordinances, breaking the everlasting covenant, or for presuming to bestow blessings out of season."

"This is in no way whatsoever against the Negro," Jensen said. "I know some I'd just as soon be pals with as any white man." He said his objection is to the change in church doctrine.

He said only "one or two or three" letters he has received in response to the ad have racist overtones.

The ad quotes Mormon colonizer and second president Brigham Young as saying that on the day church leaders give "the descendants of Cain" the priesthood, "On that very day and hour ... the Priesthood is taken from this Church and Kingdom and God leaves us to our own fate. The moment we consent to mingle the seed of Cain, the Church must go to destruction..."

The church, in making the revelation announcement, said every president of the church has said all men may one day receive the priesthood.

Jensen said sponsors of the ad believe blacks were to receive it only in the hereafter.

## Food handling, processing

### 'Minor costs' boosting grocery prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new analysis by the Agriculture Department says that "minor costs" of getting food from farmers to consumers have contributed significantly to the increase in family grocery bills in recent years.

The so-called minor costs involve the handling and processing of food after raw commodities leave the farm and include business taxes, depreciation, rent, advertising, repairs, bad debts and contributions, and interest.

For years the department has published figures showing how much the farmer gets out of each food dollar spent in retail stores — roughly 40 cents — and how "middleman" charges for transportation

received about 32 percent of what consumers spend on eating, not the 40 per cent indicated in the market basket figures.

The thrust of Weiser's report, however, was to show how the so-called minor costs have contributed to the overall food bill.

But to put the total bill in perspective, Weiser compared the marketing costs — those expenses for food after it leaves the farm — of last year with those of 10 years earlier. Here is how those shaped up:

In 1967, Americans spent about \$90.3 billion on farm-produced food. This does not include seafood or

imported items. Of that amount, the marketing bill was about \$61.4 billion, meaning that farmers received the equivalent for their raw products of \$28.9 billion.

Last year the U.S. expenditure on farm-produced food was around \$182 billion. The marketing bill was \$123.5 billion, meaning that farmers got about \$58.5 billion as their share of what consumers spent to eat.

Labor costs have been the largest single item in the marketing bill, totaling about \$25.9 billion in 1967. Last year, for the first time, the bill for labor exceeded the farmer's share, rising to \$58.5 billion.