Truth 1953-1955

TRUTH SEPTEMBER, 1953 VOL. 19 NO. 4

OH, AMERICA!

Land of the Free--Home of the Brave--Where Art Thou?

On the 26th of July, 1953, in the dark, but early hours of the morning, "storm-troopers" under the direction and command of Governor Pyle of Arizona, swooped down upon the peaceful Short Creek community. With guns bristling and leveled at women and children, and with their badges all nice and shiny, and worn in the most conspicuous place, this invading army brought fright and enforced marshal law, to **one of the most peaceful and modest communities of Americans in the United States.**

A week before the Governor had called in the press, leading magazine correspondents, etc., and briefed them on the forth-coming invasion; which more properly might be termed "THE GREAT CONSPIRACY". Press correspondents were on hand from all the leading papers of this country and Europe, with one exception--to **our knowledge there were no reporters from Russia or the other Iron Curtain countries. No doubt, the officials in those countries felt it a waste of time to report a raid such as occurs among their belated people almost daily**. In fact, one would suppose the Governor had been fully briefed on such an action by those who make such travesties upon the civil rights of the people their business.

One eye witness of the high-handed proceedings, (an aged mother who has a son fighting in the armed forces of the United States) told this writer that the story of the raid will never fully be told. The fright administered to innocent women and children; the utter disregard for law, and the **"due process of law"** etc. She reported of sitting in her home and watching two officers armed with pistols chase seven small children around the house in an effort to arrest them. Another sad case was the arrest of an aged 85 year old Patriarch together with his sons, who the night before had just arrived home on furlough. Thus if such experiences were multiplied a thousand times, perhaps one could picture the gravity and pity of the scenes.

The question is properly asked, Why this great show of force at four o'clock on Sunday morning? Thoughtful people are beginning to think that it was staged as a cheap but costly publicity stunt. It is true the people of Short Greek believe in the righteousness of plural marriage. It is true they have endeavored to live on a united basis as far as their earthly wealth is concerned. It is true, they believe in breeding, and are the parents of large and delightful families. Whether Governor Pyle knows it or not, the people of Short Creek were well aware of his raid. They had ample time to run. They refused to do this. They felt they were American citizens. They had faith in the State of Arizona, **that though their religion was not popular, they would be treated fairly and given the**

same rights as ordinary citizens. They thought that raids upon the innocent women and children were confined to the Old World peoples.

These people were honest, hardworking and thrifty. They were trying to make the desert blossom as a rose. They were honest land-owners and tax-payers. They had freely given their sons to the armed forces of the United States when the call came. The State of Arizona knew of their belief and practices and countenanced the same more or less for the past seventeen years. These people had faith in the State and its institutions. ***They freely offered themselves to the invaders--asked for justice, and were given a stone.***

GOVERNOR BOGGS RIDES AGAIN

To the honest Mormon mind, this raid so closely resembles the exterminating order of Governor Boggs of Missouri, that it is both surprising and frightening. In reviewing the history of Missouri and the recent raid upon the innocent of Short Creek, **one would suppose that Governor Boggs, together with his friends Governor Ford of Illinois and Judge Douglas, had been temporarily released from the infernal regions to brief their modern co-conspirators and to assist them with the proceedings!**

For fear that Mormon history is not fully known by Governor Pyle and his army we re-print the famous "BOGGS EXTERMINATION ORDER", together with the speech delivered by General Clark in carrying out the Governor's orders. The "order" follows:

GOVERNOR BOGGS' EXTERMINATING ORDER.

Headquarters, Militia, City of Jefferson, October 27, 1838.

Sir:--Since the order of the morning to you, directing you to cause four hundred mounted men to be raised within your division, I have received by Amos Rees, Esq., and Wiley C. Williams, Esq., one of my aids, information of the most appalling character, which changes the whole face of things, and places the Mormons in the attitude of open and avowed defiance of the laws, and of having made open war upon the people of this state. Your orders are, therefore, to hasten your operations and endeavor to reach Richmond in Ray county, with all possible speed. The Mormons must be treated as enemies and must be exterminated or driven from the state, if necessary for the public good. Their outrages are beyond all description. If you can increase your force, you are authorized to do so, to any extent you may think necessary. I have just issued orders to Major-General Wallock, of Marion County, to raise five hundred men, and to march them to the northern part of Daviess and thereto unite with General Doniphan, of Clay, who has been ordered with five hundred men to proceed to the same point for the purpose of intercepting the retreat of the Mormons to the north. They have been directed to communicate with you by express; and you can also communicate with them if you find it necessary. Instead, therefore, of proceeding as at first directed, to reinstate the citizens of Daviess in their homes, you will proceed immediately to Richmond, and there operate against the Mormons. Brigadier General Parks, of Ray, has been ordered to have four hundred men

of his brigade in readiness to join you at Richmond. The whole force will be placed under your command.

L. W. Boggs,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief

To General Clark

(History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 175.)

GENERAL CLARK'S HARRANGUE TO THE BRETHREN

Gentlemen, you whose names are not attached to this list of names, will now have the privilege of going to your fields and providing corn, wood, etc., for your families. Those who are now taken will go from this to prison, be tried, and receive the due demerit of their crimes. But you (except such as charges may hereafter be preferred against) are now at liberty, as soon as the troops are removed that now guard the place, which I shall cause to be done immediately. It now devolves upon you to fulfill the treaty that you have entered into, the leading items of which I shall now lay before you:

The first requires that your leading men be given up to be tried according to law; this you have already complied with.

The second is, that you deliver up your arms; this has been attended to.

The third stipulation is, that you sign over your properties to defray the expenses of the war; this you have also done.

Another article yet remains for you to comply with, and that is, that you leave the state forthwith; and whatever may be your feelings concerning this, or whatever your innocense, it is nothing to me; General Lucas, who is equal in authority with me, has made this treaty with you--I approve of it--I should have done the same had I been here--I am therefore determined to see it fulfilled. The character of this state has suffered almost be-yond redemption, from the character, conduct and influence that you have exerted, and we deem it an act of justice to restore her character to its former standing among the states, by every proper means.

The orders of the governor to me were, that you should be exterminated, and not allowed to remain in the state, and had your leaders not been given up, and the terms of the treaty complied with, before this, you and your families would have been destroyed and your houses in ashes.

There is a discretionary power vested in my hands which I shall exercise in your favor for a season; for this lenity you are indebted to my clemency. I do not say that you shall go now, but you must not think of staying here another season, or of putting in crops, for the

moment you do this the citizens will be upon you. If I am called here again, in case of a non-compliance of a treat made, do not think that I shall act any more as I have done--you need not expect any mercy, but extermination, for I am determined the governor's order shall be executed. As for your leaders, do not once think--do not imagine for a moment--do not let it enter your mind that they will be delivered, or that you will see their faces again, for their fate is fixed--their die is cast--their doom is sealed.

I am sorry, gentlemen, to see so great a number of apparently intelligent men found in the situation that you are; and oh! that I could invoke that *Great Spirit, the unknown God,* to rest upon you, and make you sufficiently intelligent to break that chain of superstition, and liberate you from those fetters of fanaticism with which you are bound--that you no longer worship a man.

I would advise you to scatter abroad, and never again organize yourselves with Bishops, Presidents, etc., lest you excite the jealousies of the people, and subject yourselves to the same calamities that have now come upon you.

You have always been the aggressors--you have brought upon yourselves these difficulties by being disaffected and not being subject to rule--and my advice is, that you become as other citizens, lest by a recurrence of these events you bring upon yourselves irretrievable ruin.

(History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 202-3.)

He also said: "You must not be seen as many as five together; if you are, the citizens will be upon you and destroy you, but you should flee immediately out of the state. There is no alternative for you but to flee, you need not expect any redress; there is none for you."

(Life of Heber C. Kimball, p. 234.)

Further instructions of Governor Boggs to General Clark were:

"It will also be necessary that you hold a military court of inquiry in Daviess County, and arrest the Mormons who have been guilty of the late outrages, committed towards the inhabitants of said county. My instructions to you are to settle this whole matter completely, if possible, before you disband your forces; if the Mormons are disposed voluntarily to leave the state, of course it would be advisable in you to promote that object, in any way deemed proper. The ringleaders of this rebellion, though, ought by no means to be permitted to escape the punishment they merit."

(History of the Church, Vol. 3, p. 204.)

Since the famous Short Creek incident, many citizens have classified Governor Pyle as being a throwback to the early persecutors of the Mormons. One outstanding prophecy along this line was madeby the Rev. Harry A. McGimsey of Phoenix. No doubt the Rev. gentleman meant his prophecy to bestow honor upon the Governor's activities. (The

reader will remember that chief among the persecutors of Joseph Smith were the ministers of religion.) Said he: ***"I prophesy that his name will always be remembered with those of Governor Boggs of Missouri and Governor Ford of Illinois who also did their utmost to stamp out the doctrine and practice of polygamy."***

May we first correct the Reverend on an item of history. Neither Governor Boggs nor Governor Ford were out to stamp out polygamy. In the days of the Missouri persecutions, plural marriage was not known among the Mormon people, and in Nauvoo it was barely introduced and played no part in the persecutions. Joseph Smith was charged with treason (do you like insurrection better?) when he was murdered.

Now as to the prophecy of the Rev. gentleman. We might concur with this prophecy and add, that unless speedy repentance is manifested by the officials involved and complete redress offered the sufferers of this travesty upon justice, the Reverend can rest assured that his prophecy shall be fulfilled.

Under the circumstances we think it altogether fitting to add the names of Herod and Nero to this infamous scroll, Herod also being the oppressor of children which caused them to flee in their innocence before the sword of the LAW.

In as much as we are on this particular subject, the story would not be complete unless we narrate the FATE of those who struck liberty from behind and tried to wrest from her grasp the scepter of power. Speaking of BOGGS, FORD and DOUGLAS the record states:

"Among those who have arrayed themselves against the work of God, and pledged themselves to its destruction, where is one who has gained permanent honor or advantage, nay, rather where is one that has not died in obscurity--"Unwept, unhonor'd and unsung?"'

Governor Boggs of Missouri, who relentlessly persecuted the saints for a number of years, and issued an infamous order for their extermination, under which 12,000 of them were driven from that State, died a lingering death in California, with none so poor as to do him reverence. Governor Ford of Illinois, who pledged the faith and honor of that State as the chief executive thereof, to protect the life of Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, and then left them unprotected to be murdered by their guards and the mob that joined them, lived until his flesh withered upon his bones and at last died a pauper, and was buried by charity."

Mill. Star, Vol. 48, p. 302-3.

Another bit of history regarding the children of Governor Ford is most interesting: "Ford's children in consequence of his poverty, were adopted by different citizens, Thomas being taken care of by Hon. Thos. E. Moore, of Peoria. The young man served in the army and afterwards moved to Kansas, where, with an elder brother, he followed various occupations, principally driving large herds of stock from the South.

Last July he was going to Caldwell and stopped at a ranch for refreshments. Here he was watched by two armed men, and, after proceeding about a mile, was suddenly seized by three men before he could defend himself. They took him for one of the cattle stealers, with which the State was infested, and, in spite of his protestations, prayers and appeals for an investigation, they proceeded to hang him to the limb of a tree. He told them he was the son of ex-Governor Ford, but they laughed him to scorn and refused to examine his papers."

The Martyrs, p. 119.

THE FATE OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

"In May 1843, the Prophet Joseph Smith, in a conversation with Stephen A. Douglas, related to him the wrongs the saints had endured at the hands of Missouri, and in conclusion said: 'Judge, you will yet aspire to the Presidency of the United States; and if you ever turn your hand against me or the Latter-day Saints, you will feel the weight of the hand of the Almighty upon you; and you will live to see and know that I have testified the truth to you.'"

It is well known that Douglas became the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and ran against Abraham Lincoln in 1860. The republican party in their Chicago platform classed slavery and "Mormonism" as the "Twin Relics of Barbarism"; and Douglas, not wishing to be behind in anything that would contribute to his popularity, forgot the warning of the Prophet, and in the fervor of his eloquence exclaimed concerning "Mormonism"-- "cut the ulcer out!" -- and that bolt, hurled by his own hand, destroyed beyond the hope of redemption his political prospects, and died in comparative obscurity".

Mill. Star, Vol. 48, pp. 302-3.

Back to the Short Creek raid. By what "due process of law" can a whole peaceful township be raided and jailed without benefit of counsel or justice? Then, as if turning the knife to leave an uglier scar, in the hearts of the innocent, **the bonds for the fathers were deliberately held up two days in order to give the invading forces the chance to kidnap en masse the women and children.** The husbands and fathers reached their once peaceful and loving homes to find them empty and without any knowledge as to where their loved ones had been taken. Their homes were strewn about with personal belongings which the searchers left as they pillaged through the draws and cupboards in the homes of the people. Such were a few of the scenes to greet the once peaceful Americans of Short Creek. Why is it that Mormon Polygamy is judged guilty on sight?

Decent people are beginning to wonder why the Governor did not investigate this township and their religion before striking such a blow to liberty and justice. Why are officials so willing (it has always been thus, we Mormons should know) to gather evidence and raid on the affidavits of prejudiced and immoral individuals, rather than an open investigation?

Citizens of the United States and the State of Arizona, this is your fight! Today the authorities of Arizona have humiliated the Constitution of the United States in an effort to wipe out a religious belief they know nothing of. If the people are willing to condone such an act against those believing in the righteousness of Mormon Plural Marriage--tomorrow it will be someone else's peculiar religion, until men can no longer sit back in comfort with a sense of security, for there will always be the black clouds of doubt hanging low over the sacred homes of all Americans.

Now is the time for the free press to exert itself! for free speech to wax eloquent! for all true lovers of Christ to come forward and condemn such a cowardly act of grown men bristling with artillery chasing innocent and helpless women through the wilds of Mohave county in an effort to kidnap them from their husbands and fathers!

The people of this country can not afford to let this action go unchallenged. The citizens of Short Creek have been open and above board in their dealings with the State of Arizona. The State has countenanced and blessed their religious modes for years (at least by failure to act against them). Whatever may be our feelings regarding Mormon plural marriage, this portion of their religion is now dwarfed in the awful conspiracy perpetrated against them. The greater and more far-reaching principles involved should receive the focus of our attention and thoughts. ***It would not be right for freedom loving America to settle back in a state of neutrality when so many of her citizens are suffering drivings and persecution.***

At this writing mothers and children have been forced from the association of father and husband. **This, mind you, has all been done, before anyone has been tried or proven guilty of any crime.** The mothers are lonesome and the children fretful, for they are in the houses of strangers hundreds of miles from their own peaceful homes. By what stretch of imagination does this 20th Century Boggs suppose that he can guarantee the happiness and peace of the mothers and children, for the rest of their lives? Does he think that by forcing a spiritual divorce upon them, and commending to the custody of the State all their children until they reach their majority, or until the mothers desert their religious belief to pay homage to the gods of Baal, happiness and peace will be brought to these broken families? By what law of justice can women and children be used as a lever to prosecute their husbands and fathers! Where else (except in Russia) are people asked to give up their religion or suffer death!

We feel it is right to ask that the leaders who have perpetrated this fraud upon the innocent village of Short Creek, should be impeached, and full redress given to the wronged inhabitants. We believe the American people are not worthy of the rights they enjoy if they now sit idly by and let the Governor of Arizona use "POLICE STATE METHODS" to exterminate the identity of a people, without, at least, offering a solemn protest. We appeal to the legal profession of Arizona and the nation to stop this high handed procedure, in order to safe-guard its dignity and justice.

Can the history of the Short Creek inquisition be written? Perhaps someday, when fearless men are no longer shackled with the chains of custom and tradition. When

it is written, unless redress is speedily forth-coming, its flaming pages will cause the HEART OF THIS NATION TO ACHE WITH PITY AND REMORSE!

OH, AMERICA

Land of the free, home of the brave! Land of the pilgrim's pride. Land where our fathers died! Arouse thyself; awaken, and do not delay. Let thine resolute voice now be heard from sea to sea! Thou, into whose hands the Almighty has thrust the scepter of liberty! Thou, upon whose breast the God of all justice has caused the principles of liberty and true justice to nurse and grow. Thou, into whose hands has been placed the commission, to route the oppressor where ere he might lurk in every nation. Thou, whose patriots, are still at this moment, spilling their blood to safeguard the religious rights of all men. OH, AMERICA, thou defender of the defenseless. Thou lover of the purity of motherhood, and the sacredness of the newborn child. Thou champion of champions! AMERICA, the victor of Bunker Hill; of the Argonne; of Okinawa, Iwo Jima and Corregidor; of the storm-troopers of Hitler and Stalin; that stood so recently victorious upon "Old Baldy" and "Pork Chop hill" in the far recesses of POLYGAMIST KOREA. Thou, the noble and unvanquished defender of innocence, come from thine hiding place and let thy will be known; for thy mothers, the kind and tender ones, those of "EXCELLENT CHARACTER" are now prostrated against the wailing wall, away from their kindred and in the houses of their enemies! Thy children, the babes of innocence, have been tracked down as beasts of prey! Thy children, into whose hands thou expectest to thrust the gun and bayonet, that in the strength of their youth, they might defend thine shores and the religious liberties of all men! These, thine little ones, are restless and fretful, and in the quiet darkened hours of the night can be heard to sob for their fathers who are far away. Thy sons, OH AMERICA! Thy strong sons; those who have borne the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. From whose bosom you have conscripted the flower of their young manhood to bear the STARS and STRIPES abroad. Thy sons, from whose worn hands thou hast willingly taken taxes and support! All this they have done without a grudge, and with the firm faith that they were a part of the "CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM" that is moving upon the minds of all men. These, thy sons, are now alone in their empty houses, while their families, they know not where, are scattered and smitten. **Come, oh, America, and linger not; for these strong ones have now been leashed to the torture racks, for conscience sake.**

Ere it is too late, let freedom ring, "that this nation, under God, might have a new birth of freedom; that this government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

ARE ALL THE CHILDREN IN?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,

And storm clouds gather in the threatening west;

The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter;

The bird hies to her nest;

The thunder crashes; wilder grows the tempest,

And darkness settles o'er the fearful din.

Come, shut the door, and gather round the hearthstone ---

Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling, When gilded sin doth walk about the streets.
Oh, at last it biteth like a serpent!

Poisoned are stolen sweets

O mothers, guard the feet of inexperience,

Too prone to wander in the paths of sin!

Oh, shut the door of love against temptation! Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,

The night of death is hastening on apace;

The Lord is calling: "Enter thou thy chamber, And tarry there a space."

And when He comes, the King in all His glory, Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,

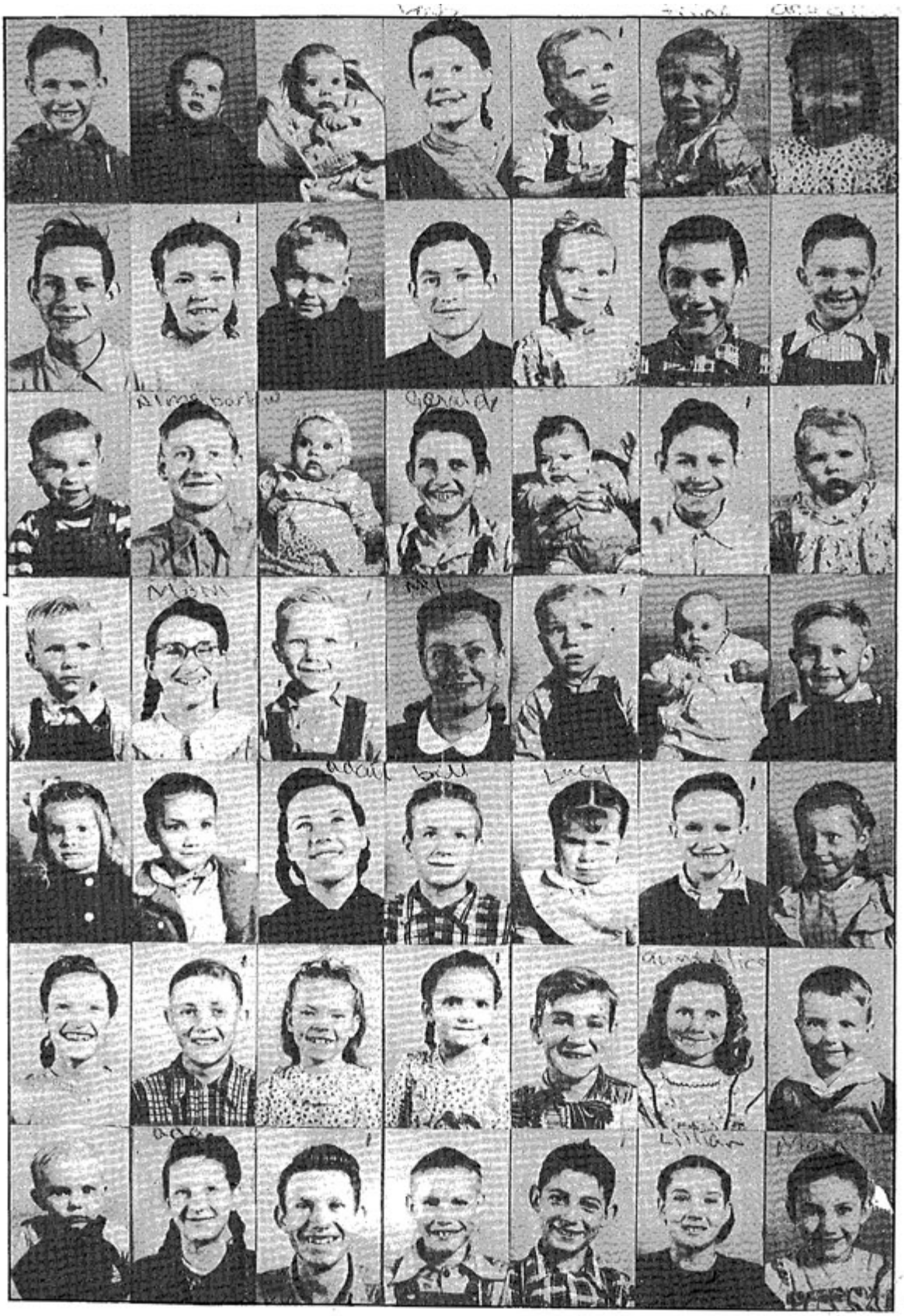
Oh, may the gates of heaven shut about us, With all the children in.

--Elizabeth Rosser.



The following three pages of photographs represent a portion of the children who are victims of Governor Pyle's raid and kidnapping procedure. They are a pretty lively and healthy bunch. The Nation will hear from them in the coming years.





An Open Letter

TO GOVERNOR J. HOWARD PYLE OF ARIZONA,

Your sympathetic correspondent was present with the people of Short Creek on the early Sunday morning of your sensational invasion.

Are you interested in knowing some of the impressions this forceful encroachment made?

Before I relate a few observations pertaining to the Short Creek community and the "bold attack", permit me to say that I am one of your prisoners. With the other men of your community, I was charged with conspiracy for reasons I do not understand. We have been arrested, placed in prison under heavy bond, and apparently condemned as if guilty according to the charges before trial has established any shade of guilt. Are there any reasons except suspicion and prejudice?

I have taught school for about two years at the community of Short Creek. I brought my wife and children to this place and have continued to make my home here. We have been happy in our associations. I have an enduring love for these friendly people. I appreciate their ideals and religious principles. I have been made hopeful of a better life. My faith in God has been strengthened by observing the unconquerable spirit of this sturdy, industrious pioneer people.

I would like to take this opportunity while sitting in prison, to remind you that the Intermountain West was claimed and settled by persevering pioneers. Those staunch and sturdy people of earlier times, under the guidance of their Creator, helped tame and develop the arid regions of Utah and Arizona. Those empire builders left a rich heritage that the ones to follow might have a better and easier life. The early pioneers had a hard life; many times had only scanty food supplies, and went poorly clad. Neither did they have elaborate homes and magnificent cities. They had to work vigorously to keep themselves and families. Often they were required to pull in their belts and go on short rations during a lean period. Today we honor them in our memory.

The people of Short Creek are the children of those early pioneers. They believe and live as their fathers and mothers. They, too, are making a struggle to reclaim the desert that the people who follow will have a better opportunity and a more enjoyable life. The "Strip" country of Arizona needs pioneers today as the whole western territory needed pioneers in earlier days.

Why do you brand the people of Short Creek as dishonorable conspirators?

When you hurled that "Pyle Drive" against these peaceful people just following the commemorable and celebrated "Pioneer Day", like the Prodigal Son, you desecrated the inheritance that has been bequeathed to Arizona from her pioneers. Are you not using authority vested in the office of Chief Executive to hinder rather than help; to despoil rather than to protect?

Instead of spending such a vast amount of the citizens' money, as the initial cost, to vanquish this quiet, peaceful, unarmed community, why did you not open your heart and spend some of this money to shield and safeguard this people from despoilation? If you had supposed the people here to be poor, underprivileged, ill fed, and improperly sheltered, why did you use all these funds, which were entrusted to your care, to advance a full scale operation which would make the ghost of Nero to awaken out of his long and restless sleep and call for his fiddle? Why are falsehoods, loaded revolvers, and so much money being marshaled to "wipe out" some of Arizona's best citizens? If this present policy were applied to earlier pioneers what would be Arizona's inheritance today?

The people of Short Creek are tortured in their minds as they are preyed upon by men and women cloaked in uniforms of authority. Sensitive and delicate women are forced into unpleasant company and interrogated on personal affairs that are the business of no one but themselves. The innocent and helpless are frightened. Abusive, insulting, insinuating, and incriminating questions are asked.

Responsible men and women of this community are charged with conspiracy and arrested. The men and some of the women are hauled off to prison. This leaves the children, according to plan, in the custody of "juvenile officers". Without their fathers, who are classed as felons, the children are branded as dependent, neglected, and delinquent. This gives "legal (?)" authority to scatter our families to the secret conclaves of state institutions--and beyond these institutions --who knows?

How the wolves howl when they see their prey near destruction!

Our invaders search the sky for buzzards to cast shadows over our once happy homes where our children played, laughed, and sang. Call your wizards, Governor Pyle, and interpret the meaning of all this.

Can anyone show or prove in any reasonable, unbiased hearing or investigation that our children are of poor health? Who can say that our children are dependent, neglected, and delinquent except by the arrangement of the state. The conditions appear only after the stage has been set by leaving our families bereft of their protection and providers--their husbands and fathers.

By what law is our property confiscated and attempts made to sell what can be sold to pay our fines before we have been tried in a court of law, proven guilty, or sentenced?

This proves we are condemned as charged; also it proves intention to collect fines in any way and on any ground upon which anyone wishes to accuse us. Whims, covetousness, prejudice, envy, suspicion, and hatred are the sources of our condemnation.

Where are the laws to protect the innocent? Why is our property occupied and threats made to abate all property that will not sell, as a nuisance? Who and what is the nuisance here? We have had this nuisance only since this invasion and this lingering occupation.

When will these occupation forces relieve us of the burden of their presence? When will this real, self imposed nuisance be abated?

Governor Pyle, you have wandered far from the duties of your office as Chief Executive. In this recent action against a God-fearing community, esteem dwindles to pity. People who understand the things being done by your orders are ashamed.

In a matter so important as declaring war on a harmless community, mobilizing such a vast show of power, and terrorizing the innocent, why did you trust the words of short sighted and malicious men? Should a man of your position be swayed by malice and prejudices?

Our Constitution forbids Congress from making any law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. How can you ignore or avoid that great bill of human rights by sending forces against a people living as they do because of religious belief? Your position is opposed to the sacred Constitution of our country.

Your recent radio address announcing your sensational campaign is tremendous evidence to prove the fallacy of your position. Whether deceived, suspicious, or innately malicious, the whole address places ignorance in a blazing light. What honor and popularity is left may be consumed and fade to shame and disrepute. A just God will not permit you to succeed in your expressed purposes. Why? Because God, the God saints of all ages have worshiped is greater than man and all his combined forces. How can anyone escape the justice of an offended God?

May I please suggest a few corrections that should be made on your recent radio address made to the public on the morning of that "Big Push"? Any person wishing to know the truth will make a personal investigation with a humble and prayerful heart.

1. You say you wish to protect 263 children. In doing this you promise to tear those children from the breasts of loving influence of their mothers and plant them among strangers. You then add that these children have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness--happiness of their own choosing. This is to be accomplished by placing them in the cold environment of state institutions. Where can you go to find people who will love and care for these children like their parents? This question needs thorough consideration. You cannot find foster homes sufficient to justify the anguish and distress caused by destroying those sacred ties binding mothers and fathers to their children and children to their parents.

Wisdom of all ages will speak to you if you will turn an ear to listen. You should never offend innocent children. Neither should any man offend mothers who have given these innocent children their birth, nor fathers who honor, support, and love their children. Do so, and God is offended. What does Christ say about those who are offensive to the innocent? I desire to quote Matthew, Chapter 18, verses 6-7: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the

world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!"

2. You claim that Short Creek girls are forced into marriage before reaching the age of 15 years. We all know this to be false. It is so ridiculous it hardly deserves comment, less contradiction; permit me to say that under the Mormon marriage system, no one is forced into marriage, regardless of age. The women of our community choose their own husbands. If two or more choose one man regardless of his age and he accepts, they covenant with God and with each other in the most solemn marriage ceremony to preserve virtue. Virtue is the essence of our life. Can this way of marriage infringe upon the rights of freedom of anyone else? No. The men and women of our society can stay single if they choose. A man can choose to have only one wife if he desires. Is it the business of anyone other than the ones involved? Why all this probing and meddling? History proves that adulterers and prostitutes are quick to accuse and judge. Where are the examples of virtue and purity among our oppressors? "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

3. Those "five or six coldly, calculating men" who direct us in our religious activities, whom you claim to be the "evil heart of our insurrection" are men of great love and understanding. The people of this community uphold and support them because of their goodness and virtue. These men are not profiteering off the labors of this people or anyone else. This well-informed group of people would never support an oppressive or wicked leadership as you have insinuated. All support is voluntary. Each one expresses his free will in making decisions.

4. We are called conspirators and insurrectionists. If you can get free from your "100 other problems of state" sufficiently long to give this matter additional investigation and due consideration, you no doubt will be a little more specific as to what constitutes conspiracy. Search America through its entirety, and you will not find a better class of patriotic citizens than the people of Short Creek. This people is not Communistic as the world knows Communism. We detest this system of government and regard such a system of force as cruel and devilish. Our union is based on the Christian principle of brotherhood. This is a brotherhood of love wherein each man is his brother's keeper. We share and cooperate willingly on the principle of love.

5. If you desire to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed", then please permit this people of Short Creek and others of any belief the right to worship their God as they choose, free from fear and molestation. Tear and break down this standard of free man worship from our government and every man is encouraged to take the sword against his neighbor. Every philosophical, political, and religious faction would soon be violently striving for dominance. The zealous bigots with the most cruel might at his command would seek to determine right.

Governor Pyle, do you think a law should be enacted to give all religious factions the right of free worship except the Mormons who believe in the fundamental doctrines of Christ as revealed through the Prophet Joseph Smith?

6. You have spent 26 months to plan this assault. Plans were concocted to a very minute detail,--even to selecting a time of worship following a solemn pioneer celebration. Also "legal" papers were complete for the liquidation of our families. Your workers were so busy making plans that they failed to learn why they were doing all this planning. Why could you not have spent a little time out of these 26 months of feverish activity to come to our community and see for yourself. Were you afraid you might have found Judge Faulkner "Mohave County's highest legal authority" to be misinformed? Did Judge Faulkner ever investigate for himself by seeking to know the ideals and aims of the people of Short Creek? Where did he pick up his false notions about this conscientious people? Why is Judge Faulkner, the accuser, bearing false witness, also set as the juvenile judge for the disposition of our children?

Did it ever occur to you, Governor Pyle, that the "convicts" of this community are those who have been incarcerated for their religious belief? By your recent orders and arrests you have made "convicts" of all accountable citizens of this community.

8. You emphasize that you have gone to "almost unbelievable length to insure that the rights of no one are violated". Do you think the public is so gullible that they will drink down these words without a second look or thought while merciless treachery is revealed in plan and action? The sanity of readers and listeners is being underrated and insulted. Sensational, emotional appeal to bid for support by twisting and distorting to deceive is propaganda trickery more becoming specialists trained in schools of tyranny. When actions prove the same end, it is past time to look to our values and appeal to God and pray for deliverance.

9. In your plans to sever our children from their brothers and sisters, from loving parents and associates, transplant them to cold and strange environments, the records are to be destroyed. The parents are not to learn of the location of their children and the children are to forget their parents. This you expect to do so that the children will not have to endure the "disgrace" of their birth. Let me quote you: "This protection is very inclusive. It is calculated under Arizona law to give these children every possible garment of secrecy so that in years to come the action in which they are now involved cannot appear anywhere as a matter of public record."

Governor Pyle, in almost the same breath you accuse us of falsifying our public records. Even if this be true, which it is not, could it be any worse than the admitted plan of secret and destroyed records? Are there also other reasons for losing and destroying the records? Is it more that you are ashamed to face the future with a public record of such unhallowed procedures? I continue to quote: "Right along with the courts have gone trained social welfare workers. A full staff from the department of social welfare has gone along with the officers and the courts to take immediate custody of those children the court decides should be brought under the protection of the state of Arizona." Then you say, "There hasn't been any and there won't be any hardship in all this."

Governor Pyle, you are being weighed in the balance and found wanting. The handwriting appears on the wall. How can you break up homes--homes where there exists

a deep and abiding love, also a devotion to high ideals and divine principles of law and order? How can you break up these homes without causing hardship?

Governor Pyle, you glorify yourself and your aids in traveling the broad way that leads to destruction. Unless you change your course and surrender your evil designs you stand condemned before a just God, before all earthly tribunals of law and order, and before all men, women and children who love and respect the sanctity of the home.

That recent raid is equal in rank not worse in its far reaching design than the inquisitions of the dark ages.

You cannot destroy us. You will destroy yourself trying, for you will fall in the snares you have set for the people of Short Creek. What became of Haman? He sought to destroy the people of God. He built a scaffold to hang Mordecai. Haman hung instead. Comment!

Let it be ever remembered to all who may read and hear, that the people of Short Creek appreciate the kindness, the gentlemanly conduct, and the courtesy of many of the officers implicated in this crusade.

We know many of these men were not on this engagement because of desire. We know you were and are on duty under orders. Many did not know beforehand the nature of their assignment or the consequences.

Also, the people of Short Creek are grateful for all friends who are champions for the cause of freedom.

A lonely observer corresponding to Governor Pyle,

--Jerold Ray Williams.

SHORT CREEK MELODRAMA

Graham County (Ariz.) Guardian

The editor of the Guardian, along with about every other newspaperman in the county, knew about the Short Creek raid before it ever happened. And to think of the method by which it was being conducted, was revolting to say the least. We knew that over 100 men, armed to the teeth, were going to close in on Short Creek--and along with them would be more than 25 newspapermen, cameramen, and representatives of national wire services and magazines, who recorded a blow-by-blow account of the state's progress in rounding up 122 persons accused of practicing plural marriage. The New York Times, writers for “Time” and “Life” magazines, Los Angeles reporters and motion picture cameramen were also on hand.

Aside from the human side of the situation, think of the cost to the taxpayers. Each of the 122 persons charged must be given a fair trial. A jury panel of 70 persons for each trial must be drawn and paid for. The person selected cannot serve on the next case. That would mean 122 separate trials. As far as we are concerned, it is just a cheap publicity stunt the way it was handled, and a costly one.

The Bill of Rights (1789)

In the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, protection of those "unalienable rights" asserted so eloquently in the Declaration of Independence, was written into the fundamental law of the land. The document known as the Bill of Rights, guaranteeing such precious liberties as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press, is the joint resolution of Congress of September 25, 1789, proposing 12 amendments, only 10 of

which were ratified, and in 1791 became a part of the Constitution. It is inscribed on parchment and is signed by Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and John Adams, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate. Faded though the writing be, and yellow the parchment, this original document symbolizes the extraordinary personal and civil liberties that are a cherished part of our American heritage.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

ARTICLE I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor to be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI

In all criminal prosecution, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

ARTICLE VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

IN RETROSPECT

The 24th of July, Pioneer Day, was celebrated in Salt Lake City in a very general and unusual manner. The large Tabernacle, in which the services were held, presented a marked contrast to what it had done on previous occasions and under similar circumstances. The several stands were heavily draped in mourning in appreciation of the enforced absence of those who were, in less trying times, accustomed to occupy them, and in their stead were the following mottoes:

"The First Presidency: In exile for Conscience' sake."

"Of the Twelve Apostles and Counselors: Those not here are in jeopardy, in prison, and in foreign lands, because they prefer to obey God rather than man."

"The Presidency of the Stake: Having tasted of the vengeance of their enemies, and felt their cruel disregard of law, their labors and visits are like the Angels', seen only by those who have faith."

"Of the Presiding Bishopric: Those who are absent choose to be wanderers in their own land in preference to being victims to those who have selected them for ruin."

Over the organ was the motto: "In God we put our trust", and in the front of that immense instrument was a large banner, on which was painted a figure, with hand uplifted toward heaven, and around it were the words: "Under the Everlasting Covenant, God must and will be glorified." Three of the Pioneers were seated on the front platform, together with representatives of various church quorums and organizations. The body of the hall was filled with children belonging to the Sunday schools of the several wards in the city, while the remaining portion and the galleries were occupied by adults. Addresses were delivered by Bishop 0. F. Whitney and Elder B. H. Roberts; R. R. Irvine read a piece written by Eliza R. Snow Smith, entitled "Past and Present"; twenty-one boys and twenty-one girls repeated a prayer in unison; the Sunday School children and the Tabernacle choir furnished appropriate vocal music, and a martial band contributed to the music of the occasions. The spectacle itself was one calculated to live long in the minds of those present, but when considered with the circumstances of which it was reminiscent and commemorative, it will leave an impression ineffaceable upon the memory of all--old and young--who took part in or gave countenance to the solemn services by being present. Mill. Star, Vol. 48, p. 535.

ARE THE ASSAULTS UPON THE SAINTS JUSTIFIABLE?

What possible object can the officers of the United States Government have in aiming blows at the Latter-Day Saints? is a very pertinent question to all those who may think of investigating the doctrines in which the Saints believe. Are the Saints living in the

violation of natural laws? Of the Constitution of their country? Of the divine laws as contained in the sacred code? If it can be shown that the Saints are so living, then the position taken by the officers may be the correct one, and President Arthur (Governor Pyle of Arizona) and other officers be justified in calling the attention of the nation's law-makers to the laxity that exists, and in asking for the enactment of such laws (within constitutional limits) as are calculated in their nature to bring offenders to justice, and correct the moral tone of that people. If it can be proven that the saints are not guilty of the evils laid to their charge, then are the officers stepping outside of their legitimate duties, and assuming to do that which is in opposition to the best interests not only of the Saints, but of the people of the nation at large, insomuch that one section is embittered against another, and the seeds of animosity are sown broadcast, that must naturally result in turmoil and trouble, and in placing the peoples of various sections in attitudes of hostility against each other, thus weakening the general government by internal strife. To the first proposition we would answer, there is nothing in the Articles of Faith in which the Saints believe, against which one word can be said in condemnation. One of these Articles says: "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things." There is nothing in this article that should be repulsive to the minds of those who have the most exalted opinions of all that is good and pure in nature. The noblest of God's sons, He by whom we obtain forgiveness of our sins, taught the young man that he must observe these principles.

Bayard Taylor says: "We must admit that Salt Lake City is one of the most quiet, orderly, and moral places in the world. The Mormons are the most temperate of Americans. They are chaste, laborious and generally cheerful." (The same is true of the Saints in Short Creek, Arizona, today.) This great writer, after a short sojourn among the Saints, publishes to the world the foregoing statement over his signature. If his statement be true (and we know it is), then so far as drunkenness and immoral conduct is concerned, the Saints are above reproach as compared with their fellow-countrymen.

It is the marriage system of the Saints against which the cry is now raised, though it has not always been so, for they were persecuted as bitterly before such a practice existed among them as they have been since. The Saints believe in marrying more wives than one, and in maintaining them and their children. Is this contrary to the laws of nature? We answer, no! For wherever a man is found in his natural state he is a pluralist. From this practice no evil can result; it promotes life and does not destroy it. No loathsome disease follows legitimate marriage. The world confounds promiscuity and plural marriage, and speak of them as being the same: but not so! Promiscuity, being opposed to natural laws, curtails offspring, brings diseases of the most loathsome kind; blights, destroys, and drags down to an untimely death its votaries. Visit the anatomical museums, and see there evidences of the fulfillment of God's words: "I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." Upon every hand we can see the frightful effects of man's perverse course in breaking nature's laws. From legitimate marriage, whether to one or more wives, none of the frightful evils resulting from promiscuity have ever been manifested in any degree. Blessings have followed marriage, cursings promiscuity. Deity has written

upon plural marriage, honor, power and glory, in the coming forth of His Son Jesus through the lineage of David.

We will now look into the question of the Saints disregarding the laws of their country. The formation of the Government of the United States was the outgrowth of a desire to be free. After much labor and thought, by the best minds that could be found in the land, a Constitution was drawn up and agreed to by the people. The greatest possible liberty compatible with the rights of others was granted to all. To guard religious liberty and protect the citizens in the exercise of his faith, the first amendment to the Constitution was drawn up, in the following terms: "Congress shall pass no law interfering with an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Under this wise provision the people have accepted whatever they thought proper as religion, and none can legitimately say, “Why do you so?" Probably among no other people of the earth can there be found as many religions as among the Americans. The Latter-Day Saints are believers in the Bible, and are practicing the principles therein contained. Through a spirit of intolerance the Saints were compelled to seek a home in the west, far removed from other people. There they have built up a commonwealth. Villages, towns and cities have multiplied upon that land. Nowhere in the Republic have the people given greater proofs of their honesty, industry, sobriety and regard for law and good order. An article of their faith says: "We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates; in obeying, honoring and sustaining the law." This is not only a matter of faith, but of strict religious practice. Men bitterly opposed to the faith of the Saints have spoken and written in high terms of the good order that prevails in their midst. Serious troubles have threatened the Saints many times, but for years past, all attacks have been directed at their marriage system. Congress has passed several laws looking to the regulation of that matter, but Congress itself was in error by breaking the fundamental law in its efforts to reach the Saints. General Rosecrans, one of the leading statesmen of America, now comes forward and virtually admits that all laws passed against the marriage system of the Saints were unconstitutional, for he now recommends an amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting the Saints from practicing the principle of plural marriage. By this act of that statesman are the Saints vindicated of the charge of lawbreaking, and the responsibility of breaking the great compact rests upon those who disregarded their oath and passed unconstitutional laws.

As to the question, “Are the Saints living in violation of the divine law?”, we are certain they are not. The doctrines of faith, repentance, of baptism, and the laying on of hands, are plainly pointed out in the Scriptures; the administering of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the gathering together of the household of faith, are also principles given in the sacred code. The officers, ordinances and gifts that the Saints claim to have and enjoy, were placed in the Church by the divine Master himself. The observance of the moral law was made obligatory upon the former-day Saints, and the Savior gave most positive instructions in regard to it. He condemned without stint, all manner of evil, but never uttered one word in condemnation of patriarchal marriage, although its practice was common in that age. The Saints of today are trying to observe all the commandments and requirements that have been given for the good of the children of men, that of marrying more than one wife and rearing children to the honor and glory of God, among others.

That practice of the Saints is based upon a revelation from God to them in this age, and is fully sustained by that of the patriarchs and prophets of ancient days.

The unity of the Saints has been for many years a source of annoyance to politicians; indeed, that is the real object aimed at in the present crusade. (Governor Pyle also is afraid of this unity; said he: “It is easy to see from this rapid expansion that in another 10 years the population of Short Creek would be in the thousands, and an army would not be sufficient to end the greater insurrection (?) and defiance of all that is right.”) Many plans have been adopted to destroy the faith of the Saints in their religious teachers and cause division among them. All attempts having failed to accomplish that end, and, understanding that popular opinion was against the marriage system of the Saints, much excitement has been raised with that popular war cry, "Down with the Mormons! They are believers in the doctrine of having more than one wife."

Union is strength, and by their union have the Saints been able to hold in check all the attacks of their enemies. Says the Savior, "If ye are not one, ye are not mine." Union has been and will continue to be the power of every people. When internal strife grows up among any people, the hands of government are weakened, and overthrow must of necessity soon follow. Israel, when united, was a formidable people, but internal dissension has scattered them to the four winds of heaven.

We submit these facts, knowing full well that the Saints cannot be condemned by an unprejudiced mind for disregarding natural law, breaking the laws of their country, or treating with contempt the divine law. Those who have assailed the Saints have violated their oath of office, and have aimed a blow at the bond of union that should exist in the nation by recommending unconstitutional laws. They must in time suffer for the wrongs they have done an innocent people, and we can afford to wait for time to vindicate our innocence and avenge our injuries.

(The above article is from the Millennial Star, 1884. All brackets ours--Editor.)

OH, WHERE ARE THE PATRIOTS?

Apostle Orson F. Whitney in his History of Utah, Vol. 1, p. 663, says:

"Patriotism does not consist in aiding government in every base and stupid act it may perform but rather in paralyzing its power when it violates vested rights, affronts insulted justice and assumes undelegated authority."

Find a community where brotherly love functions and prevails among men, where the common vices have been overcome and presents no problem, where the grosser crimes are unknown. Find also where fidelity and chastity characterizes all marital relationships, where filial love abounds in all parents for their children, where children's faith in their parents is unbroken, unmarred, and unstinted. Find where parents and teachers have united their skills and their prayers in the deepest concern for children's social, ethical, and eternal welfare.

This tirade of pseudo-judicial proceedings traipsing fiendishly in the wake of the governor's Gestapo raid on the Short Creekers is like Nero following the rabble to the arena, there to glut over the bodies of the Christians, which reveals the naked and unhallowed thirst for political acclaim. Oh, why do not those encumbered with public trust weigh the putrid evidence brought to bear upon them by pinch-minded, cynical, selfish complainers rather than swallow the hook, line, and sinker because a people are spoken ill of, but are offending none save those who are offensive to themselves, and move to refract the light of their own ill-taken position because this people are unpopular? Know it saints and sinners! If Christ, the Lord could condescend to visit the earth now, His manner and deportment would be so foreign and unpopular to the people generally, that crucifixion would be quickly resought to obliterate the shadow of the peoples' follies.

Can our fair states comb themselves before their mirrors and admit no guilt? Is there the seed of bravery in officialdom to confess one shortcoming and therefore reach in humility for even one plane higher? Or is the status quo on the all time high with never a chance for progression?

Neighbors, friends, honest hearted men, women, and children, beware of unpopularity. The land of the free and the home of the brave will mayhaps not shelter your unpopular, though innocent, demeanor. What will you do in a time when constitutional rights are assailed? Will you wait until you are in the snare, the victims of political conspiracy before you rise and act? Stir yourselves, become alive, speak, act, and defend the truth that the lethargy of death will not claim you nor the blood of the innocent tincture your garments.

It is now already un-erasable history, that certain ones have conspired against a humble, peaceable, progressive people of Short Creek whose way of life in their mortal imperfections is patterned after the revealed plan of God, the Creator; declared in a state of insurrection and a preposterous, spectacular raid, planned to find, as they hoped, evidence while honest men slept. But the besieged, armed only with the conviction of the rightness of their position before God, were alerted and foiled the dark hopes of their oppressors to find men in bed; but were congregated, calling upon God through prayer and song in face of their captors who chose to "rush in where angels fear to tread".

Men, women, and children arrested by blanket order at dawn on the Lord's holy day, corralled by officers, hurried into quick court with all the legal (?)paraphernalia, jailed in Sunday School rooms with the speed of rattle-tongued officials and production line precision. Meanwhile, homes and private offices were broken into, doors left askew, properties ransacked and taken, mothers questioned and children taken into custody as wards of the state, Fathers, Patriarchs, Pioneers, Veterans, Gentlemen paraded off to jail 400 miles distant. While the national guard, welfare organizations, supply trains, lawyers, libels, spectators, and newsmen filled the erstwhile peaceful valley and filled the air with commotion, smoke, and apprehension where the music of sweet children's voices should have been heard but was painfully converted into cries and prayers.

In order to give color of law to the imbroglio, only a few of those charged and jailed were heard, or rather suffered to be present in juvenile court, where mothers were assured they may be wards of the state with their children, but definitely and permanently apart from the fathers.

One young veteran home from the Korean theatre of war was, in his absence divested of his young wife, his marriage annulled, and she sent off into detrimental circumstances, and this as he manfully abode time in jail while bond was stalemated in order to process the affair.

Over thirty men bailed out of jail came home at midnight to find their plagued little city not only empty of its raiders, sheriffs, judges, guardsmen, and stooges, but as each man entered in at his own gate, in deathly silence, found his children's playthings on the walk, no light in his window, his door unbarred, effects littered in confusion, his house empty, no companion to greet him and bid him loving welcome, nor babies in cribs to sigh and pray over. Fatigued, bewildered, and dismayed, constrained only to call upon God and lie down in exhaustion only to wake to more vivid evidences of havoc wrought in his "American absence".

O sacred name of the patriots! Where is the heritage left us? O Washington, where is your courage deposited, and Jefferson, your principles? O Pilgrim Fathers, have, you forsaken your progeny and left no legacy upon your sons of state?

Have you wrested in vain? Rise up, 0 Fathers; return to your posts; take charge of the helm. Enlist all the honest. Summon the statesmen. Call on the prophets. Enliven the people. The establishment of freedom must now be redone!

--Fred Jessop

Bonds Of Love

Editor, the Arizona Republic:

Just what kind of a country are we living in? It makes one wonder when he can pick up the paper and read that court is being held to decide which children will be left with their mothers, and which ones will be placed in foster homes!

Because these Short Creek mothers believe in a religion which is not publicly accepted, does that make them mothers who love their children any less than mothers of some other religions? And are the children of a different breed, that they don't love their mothers, fathers, and brothers and sisters? Are they of a different makeup, that they won't be heartbroken and lost when they are torn from their family and all that is near and dear to them? Will they be any happier than your child or mine would be, away from the people that they love?

This would not be quite so shocking if we were living in Russia, where it is commonplace to uproot children from their mothers; but must we remind ourselves that this is America, where we have freedom of religion--where children have security and need not fear being taken from their own people?

No matter what one's opinion of these people is, it is still nothing short of disgraceful to have these mothers before a court that will decide if they can keep two of the children, or just one, or maybe none! A mother's love is just as strong whether she be a United Effort mother, a Mormon mother, a Catholic mother, or a Russian mother. And this is America!

CONCERNED

St. George, Utah

The following pages contain selected cartoons and articles from various newspapers reflecting the general opinion of the people. -- The cartoons on the opposite page is from the "Arizona Free Press".

EDITORIAL

Cloak-Dagger Raid

AN ARTIFICIALLY created cloak-and-dagger script—typical of Hollywood's worst product—was followed by state officials at Short Creek.

A veritable army of law enforcement officers roared into the tiny village in the dark of the moon.

Bristling with guns, they swept into the homes of misguided women and children.

In fact, the raid on Short Creek and its polygamists was planned and carried out in an atmosphere that would have made Mack Sennett and his Keystone Kops green with envy.

There can be no doubt that Governor Pyle's coup made the front pages of every newspaper in the nation, but certainly it was a humiliation to the citizens of this state.

Most assuredly, the guilty men in Short Creek should have been locked up long ago for their licentious misuse of children and their flagrant flaunting of the laws of decency. But what of the women and children? Their lives now bear an indelible tag—words that are too cruel to print.

The only life they know has been disrupted in a bewildering raid that resembles too closely the hated police-state roundups of the Old World.

Let us repeat:—There can be no defense for the conduct of scheming men who foisted a decadent philosophy of life on their innocent victims. But why in the name of decency was it necessary to enlist the aid of more than 100 law enforcement officers, armed to the teeth, in serving warrants on people who are so isolated they couldn't run anyplace anyway?

By what stretch of the imagination could the Short Creek children be classified as insur

Were those teenagers playing volleyball in inspiring a rebellion?

Are those pig-tailed brides a threat to th Arizona?

Short Creek knew long in advance that the coming. So many of the residents waited p school yard, singing hymns.

It is pretty obvious that a couple of offic strolled into the village in broad daylight, se rants, and left with their prisoners.

But that wouldn't have been according to 3-dimension script.

Nobody condones the illicit activities of th sensualists. But our heart goes out to the y have been branded for the rest of their lives cause of coercion practiced on their misguided the state plans to tear them apart!

However wrong a way of life may be, it car years without building up some ties of human can the disruption of these ties be entirely re viding food and shelter.

Again we say—officials of the State of Ar miliated its citizens by a pistol and shotgu sembled an operation to subdue Pork Chop H

Insurrection? . . . Well, if so, an insurrectio and volleyballs!

The Arizona Republic, Phoenix,

Battle Of Short Creek



"As the highest authority in Arizona, on whom is laid the constitutional injunction to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed', I have taken the ultimate responsibility for setting into motion the actions that will end this insurrection."—GOV. J. HOWARD PYLE.

PRESCOTT
EVENING COURIER
ARIZONA
PROGRESSIVE ALERT ABLE FAIR RELIABLE UNAFRAID

Short Creek Destruction Is Aim

A hundred and ninety-two persons, all of them women and children, were herded into buses at Short Creek and taken to Phoenix last Sunday. It was heralded as "the second phase of plans to erase what state authorities term the largest center of polygamy in the nation." Perhaps the community merits a full measure of censure, but it certainly does not deserve destruction.

Just who has he authority to wreck a settlement because its residents violated a statute? Where is the law empowering "the servants of the people" to wipe out a village when its residents are charged with what some people consider a crime. Polygamy isn't murder; it is not a capital offense. A few months ago, a Maricopa county man faced the accusation of having several wives and the court set him free. Had he been in the Arizona Strip, the spouses would have become public hostages, the taxpayers feeding them and their children; expulsion from home might have been his lot.

If any Arizona town hereafter should find itself legally at odds with the state; like permitting gambling, such as slot machine operations or poker playing, woe be unto it! The machinery of government not only would punish the aggressors, but could make a luckless Sodom or Gomorrah of their doomed burg. It's something to think about.

If the Short Creek "rebels" have title to the land whereon they raised crops and stock, one wonders how the right of seizure was obtained. A precedent is being set by carting the families of lawbreakers away, confiscating their property and razing the places where they lived. Regardless of the guilt of those involved, it appears the retribution is greater than circumstances justify. The deal is a rather raw one.

There must be a search into the case to learn where precedents for such drastic action were established. There may exist a legal basis for what is going on; and there may not be. Assuredly reactions will come, particularly after the four score children have been torn from maternal arms and "leased" to strangers. The human element so far has been ignored.

Acclaim of the raid has been noted, but condemnation is widespread. Some people think the whole affair was handled properly, others are not so sure, and they are asking "Upon what meat have our Caesars in the capitol building been feeding that they have grown so great." It hasn't been announced whether the deserted town will

"It might help to let 'em go home!!"



Poor Judgment At Short Creek

Very poor judgment was used in gathering over 100 law officers to subdue the unlawful but pitiful and unarmed residents of Short Creek. Why the Governor made such a circus out of it will be his personal secret.

Why A Circus?

We can make some guesses: Possibly he wished to draw away some of the criticism, by the public, of his administration's slash of Dr. Salsbury's health department funds. Or maybe the state prison affair was a bit too hot. Whatever the Governor's reasons for conducting the raid in a secret-police way, it has not given this state a good name.

Short Creekers Wrong

One must condemn wrongdoing on the part of the Short Creekers, but declaring an insurrection (incipient rebellion) in this instance, does not agree with the dictionary, or the generally accepted meaning of the word.

As the Arizona Republic said, in a front page editorial: "Why in the name of decency was it necessary to enlist the aid of more than 100 law enforcement officers in serving warrants on people who are so isolated they couldn't run anyplace anyway.

Volleyball Players A Threat?

"Were those teenagers playing volleyball in a school yard a threat to the safety of all Arizona? . . .officials of the state of Arizona have humiliated its citizens by a pistol and shotgun raid that resembled an operation to subdue Pork Chop hill."

State Left Unprotected

One police officer reported that only nine officers were left on duty in this entire state while the raid was in progress. One highway officer at Springerville was ordered there. What affected the Governor's judgment in such ways as to order away our police protection for a raid against diaper and volleyball insurrectionists?

What will the Governor do in a real emergency?

Independent News
St. Johns, Arizona

What Others Say

Editorials Of Current Interest
Reprinted From Leading Newspapers

The Phoenix Gazette

SHORT CREEK 'INSURRECTION'

The Gazette

Tucson Daily Citizen

"Operation Short Creek," a state raid against the polygamous colony in the remote recesses of the northern Arizona border badlands, has passed its first phase. Arizonians have had time to reflect upon the whole sudden episode. It was spectacular. It also verged on the ludicrous.

Aftermath of the mass arrests will simmer down to long, routine, unspectacular court actions for adults of the separatist community and tragic readjustment for some 263 children.

But one question lingers in many minds and presses for open expression: What in the world were Gov. Howard Pyle and Atty. Gen. Ross Jones up to in the way "Operation Short Creek" was staged?

Here was the situation: The colony of benighted, misguided people had been flourishing for years. Its illegal marriage relationships had been an open secret. Actually it had been known to exist for the last 20 years.

The state of Arizona had been investigating the colony for more than two years, starting during the term of Attorney General Jones's predecessor Fred O. Wilson.

Preliminaries completed, all was in readiness for the state to move. And how it moved! What could have been, and should have been, a quiet routine roundup was built up with all the elements of a Grade B Hollywood "colossal."

Sirens screaming, red lights blazing, the task force of state law enforcement officers rolled into Short Creek at Sunday dawn in a "surprise" attack which found the community's residents, somehow alerted, waiting — patiently, resignedly, some confusedly.

There were as many newsmen, cameramen, radio and television crews on hand—by prearrangement—as were present for the somewhat more historic truce signing conference going on in Korea at about the same time.

It was not until Sunday night that President Eisenhower took the air to comment on the Korea truce. But Governor Pyle was ready for his something less than tremendous broadcast Sunday morning—when he might better have been in church himself.

Governor Pyle's speech had been carefully prepared in advance. It mattered not whether his script fitted the mild action unfolding in Short Creek. His supercolossal buildup declared that there had been a "momentous police action against insurrection."

At that same moment some of the highway patrolmen were standing around in Short Creek embarrassed and rather shamefaced at the parts they were assigned by the governor and the attorney general to play. Of "insurrection"—which means nothing but armed uprising against authority—there was none. One sheriff in the best Western tradition, with a few deputies could have strolled in and handled the whole situation.

The newsreels and the slick magazines will be full of the mock heroics and histrionics of Arizona's fearless governor, and lesserly of the stern devotion to law enforcement of its attorney general. But it is our guess that Arizonians themselves will be full of disgust that their highest officials deliberately made themselves principals in a fiasco.

Ike Launches 'Liberty Year'

WASHINGTON, July 2 (AP)—President Dwight D. Eisenhower Thursday signalled the beginning of a year-long "march of freedom" designed to emphasize that "the heritage of freedom which we cherish as Americans" depends on faith in God.

"This is the kind of thing I am glad to do," Eisenhower commented in signing the freedom declaration sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals.

The President affixed his signature to a large leather-bound volume which is later to be signed by governors, mayors and other leaders.

Earlier, Eisenhower issued a proclamation calling on Americans to observe July 4 as a day of penance and prayer.

The freedom declaration cites the seven "divine freedoms" outlined in the 23rd Psalm—freedom from want, from hunger, from thirst, from sin, from fear, from enemies, and finally, the freedom to live abundantly.

Tucson Democrats Protest Short Creek Raid Methods

TUCSON (AP)—The manner of conducting Sunday's raid on the polygamous community at Short Creek was called "odious and un-American" yesterday by the Young Democrats of Tucson.

By resolution the club accused Governor Pyle of seeking nation-wide publicity for his own benefit and termed the conduct of the raid "circus-like."

The resolution passed with but one "no" vote which came from a member who felt it beneath the dignity of the club to take the action.

The resolution read:

"Be it resolved by the Young Democrats of Greater Tucson that Governor Pyle be criticized for the circus-like manner in which the Short Creek matter was handled.

"This criticism is not based on the fact that allegedly unlawful practices were brought to a halt, but rather on the method and expenses used to achieve the above end.

"It is not necessarily a prerequisite for the successful enforcement of law that the governor of a state call a press conference of national magazines, papers, and newsreels a week prior to the raid merely for the purpose of insuring the governor nation-wide publicity for his own benefit.

"In addition, it would appear that the manner in which this commando-type raid was carried out and the repercussions resulting to the innocent children involved is odious and un-American."

The Arizona Republic, Phoenix,

Pyle Defended

Editor, The Arizona Republic:

I certainly do not agree with your editorial on the front page of our Arizona Republic for Tuesday July 28, 1953. It is surely an unjust criticism of Governor Pyle and our law enforcement officers of the State of Arizona. Instead of being written up as tyrants, you should have commended them for a job well done. They did a real job against a group of law breakers without shedding a drop of blood which is surely a commendable thing and something not to be compared to Pork Chop Hill in any way.

Even with your editorial against our governor, I prophesy that his name will always be remembered with those of Governor Boggs of Missouri and Governor Ford of Illinois who also did their utmost to stamp out the doctrine and practice of polygamy.

If the teaching of polygamy and the United Order was removed from the Mormon's sacred book, "Doctrine and Covenants," there would be no more need for raids every few years to protect women and children from the lusts of cannibals who masquerade under the cloak of religion.

A raid that is staged on a group who are armed and throwing dynamite cannot in any way be classed as an "insurrection with diapers and volleyballs."

All decent minded people are 100 per cent behind Governor Pyle and his law enforcement officers.

REV. HARRY A. McGIMSEY

Happy Landing

Editor, The Arizona Republic:

I was ready to compose a letter about the Short Creek invasion when the morning Republic of Tuesday arrived with the front page editorial. Bravo to you who wrote it.

Knowing that the United States will at a not too distant future recognize plural marriages (because of wars killing off so many men), it would have been better for Governor Pyle to have made a study of this little self-sustaining, isolated community of Short Creek—these people who lived and survived their religious convictions against odds for so many years. Rather than prosecute these people, they should be given a choice of religious asylum in another country.

In Governor Pyle's campaign speeches, he said, "What is right for Arizona." Now I can see, he did not mean what is right for the people in Arizona. The mother whose picture you took—the one with her three fine-looking, frightened children clinging to her skirts—she and her children are typical of a high American type. Regardless of polygamy, they have a good, healthy look about them.

Governor Pyle is riding the Short Creek tiger now. Happy landing to him.

Copyright © 2008