

One is impressed upon reading the writings of President Clark on the Constitution to see how faithfully he stays with the fundamentals. It is the separation of powers and its intimate relationship with the development of limited government which occupy so much of his concern; it is the Bill of Rights with its limitations on the power of government to interfere with the moral life of man with which he is so impressed. This concern for fundamentals makes him aware that some aspects of the Constitution do not warrant the same divine approval as do these great fundamentals. As he told a group of bankers: "It is not my belief nor is it the doctrine of my church that the Constitution is a fully grown document; on the contrary we believe it must grow and develop to meet the changing needs of an advancing world."

It was clear, he told the group, that given the lust of men for power and gain it was inevitable that legislation must be constantly adjusted to take into account the never-ending problems which human nature present. But he insisted "all such changes must be made to protect and preserve our liberties not to take them from us, greater freedom, not slavery must follow every constitutional change."

President Clark was concerned, however, that constitutional change might come, and had come, not by the prescribed methods spelled out in the Constitution, but in the urgency of a crisis by a careless disregard for constitutional principles. He was concerned that the American people might acquiesce in constitutional changes which appeared to satisfy the demands of the moment, but which in the long run would not produce the increase of freedom by which he thought each constitutional change should be judged. His was a consistent reminder, therefore, that the American people, and particularly the Mormon community, must look to the fundamentals of the Constitution, must constantly review the purposes for which the Constitution was written, must be aware of the struggles out of which the Constitution emerged, and that they must remember the founding fathers' hope that their posterity might be spared the burden of repressive government--a burden they knew only too well. If the American people, he thought, could focus upon the fundamentals of the Constitution, and if they could remember that they could not safely abrogate the great principles on which the Constitution rests without risking their freedom and that of their children, then there might be hope for the future.