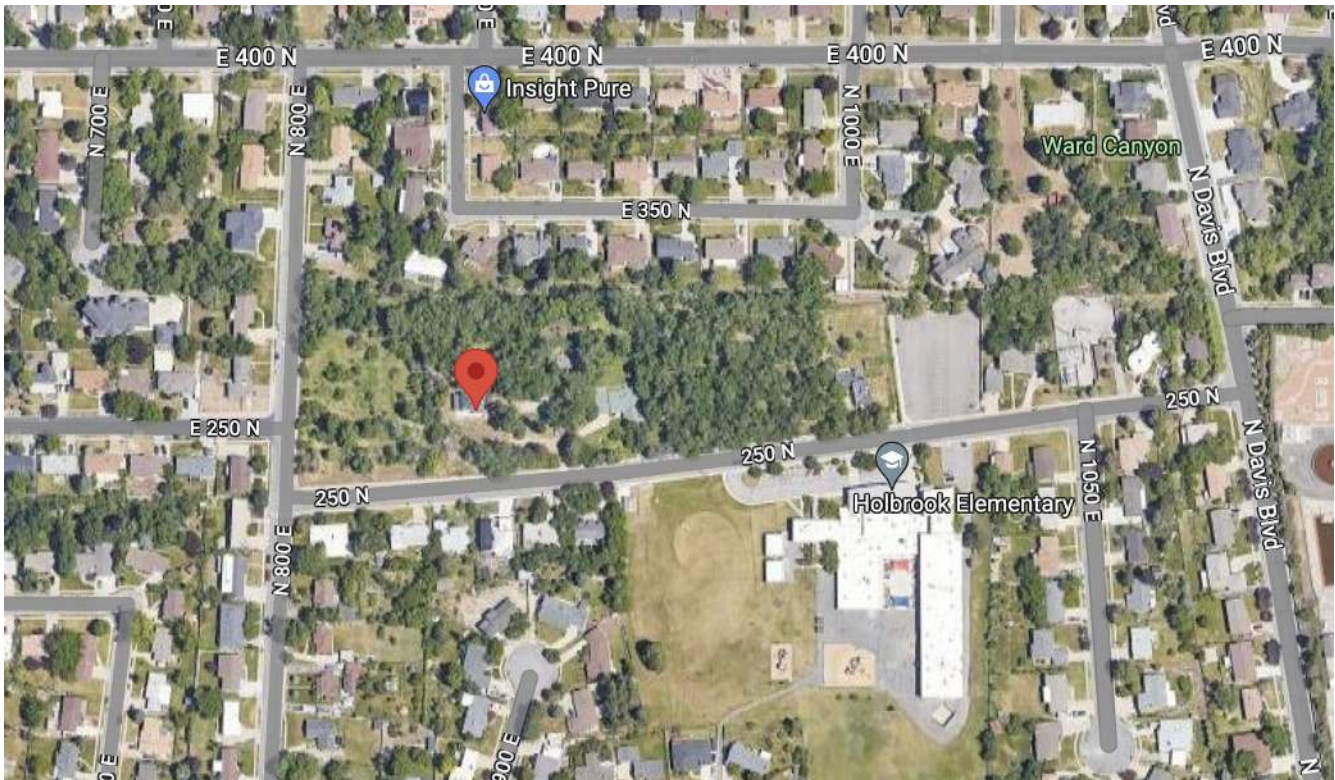


Third Transition of Power Discussion Following Ortell's Death

MEETING OF GOVERNING BOARD AT ETHEL'S HOUSE

Meeting Date: Sep 5 (Saturday), 1987

Location: Ethel's (#1,1's) Home | 893 E 250 N, Bountiful, UT 84010



Governing Board Members Present

- No. 10 (Merlin Kingston)
- No. 19 (Ivan Nielson)
- No. 21 (Ray Brown)
- No. 34 (Wendell Owen)
- No. 2 (Clyde Gustafson)

Also present

Ardous Gustafson

Meeting Notes

No.10 (Merlin Kingston):

I got Brother 2's permission to do this and I hope that none of you think I am stepping out of line in any way.

Prayer: Ardous Gustafson.

No.10 (Merlin Kingston):

Some of these things should not be made public or brought before the people of the Order. It is very important we follow the Lord's direction and spirit in whatever action that takes forth in the order. I had quite an experience. I did quite a little fasting last week. I got home late last night. I was up to Wasatch with two of my boys, Charlie and Joseph.

Tuesday night I was shown during the nights a terrible condition of oppression and minor slavery throughout the order. It got so bad that when I came too I was shaken and very frightened and felt terrible. I laid there the rest of the night unable to go back to sleep or get it off my mind.

It came to me we should meet together and go over a yew of these things with the men of the governing board without anyone else and we should still meet tonight with Brother 19 taking charge. I feel that is the way unless someone else feels different. I got up to call some of you brothers.

That is the reason I asked you all to come here this day and I felt like it should be before we meet this evening. Some of the things I was going to mention personally I would rather not even talk about. There is facts here and we have to face them. Sometimes there is things we do not like to talk about and we rather sweep them under the rug. These are facts and we have to face them and know what we are dealing with.

I would like to start out with a dream Brother Eskel Peterson had just after the order started. This dream he was shown that he and Brother Elden were side by side in a garden hoeing a row of corn. Finally Brother Eldens row went into his row. Not long after that Brother Elden had Brother Eskel put out of the order.

Brother Elden for various reasons gave Brother Brown instructions that Brother Eskel could not stay in the order. Brother Brown told him he could no longer be a member. Before that when he was still in the order he never would cooperate or follow instructions and never did work in harmony with the order. Since that time I have heard that dream told three different ways.

About six or eight months ago we went down to see Brother Eskel. Sister Ardous asked him if he would repeat that dream. After Brother Eskel was put out of the order he always had it in his mind he was the man that was running the order. When Brother Elden passed away he figured that was the time. He sent letters to Sister Ethel and Sister Afton.

He thought that way he could slip right in the driver's seat.

Today probably he felt his grandchildren would be running the order. I was gone the two days before Brother Ortell passed away. I got the idea Brother Ortell was railroaded into his grave. During the time I was with Brother Ortell that opposite spirit was there trying to take over and tormenting him and he suffered something terrible.

During that time Sister LaDonna set dates she said she knew when he was supposed to die.

She said don't torture him any more let him go. He has suffered enough.

Brother Elden set a pattern. I am not saying it should be a certain way.

He set a pattern as a general course for the young girls to wait until they were eighteen to get married.

To get to where you can understand what I am trying to bring out; brother Ronald Mattingly brought a book that was direction that his daughter was to marry Alice's son. I told him I did not have time to read it. He brought it to one of Wendell's dances and gave it to me to read. I took the whole time of that dance to go all through that direction and he had direction that his mother got. The boy was Cyril, Sister Alice's boy.

He said, "I want you and Alice and Cyril to meet me at Brother Ortell's place."

The six of us went there and talked to Brother Ortell. We talked it over and Brother Ortell asked him about his direction. He had plenty. He asked Sister Alice and Cyril and they did not have any direction.

On Sunday Afternoon that next day they had gone down and picked up that girl and she moved up and went to live with Rachel and she worked at the corner office. The next Sunday Ronnie went to Cyril and said I have new direction and I have changed my mind. Brother Ortell called me later and wanted to know how I felt about it.

He said, "what do you think about all these marriages."

I said, "there is one I do not feel like it was done under the direction of the spirit of the Lord."

He said, "sometimes when Sister LaDonna crowds things so hard it makes it real difficult for me to tell."

If the order sets a precedent to make a practice of all these girls getting married at fourteen and sixteen and not getting the direction for themselves, if the order takes that course, that is the condition I fear for this work.

I know there was a young marriage like that Sister LaDonna was trying to crowd through.

They were trying to rush him to his grave so they could continue on with those plans.

I know they figured after the funeral Brother Paul would take Brother Ortell's place.

In the governing board meeting Brother Daniel said they might not accept him but after a month or two a lot of them will and the ones that don't accept it might have to be put out of the order.

In the first of the order when Brother 2 lived in the rock house by Brother Elden's place Brother Faber and Joe Forsyth they got up and talked about Brother Kimball and they brought up all the wrongs he had been doing.

They said, "Brother Elden you claim to be a prophet of the Lord; if you are a prophet of the Lord stand up on your feet and prophesy."

Brother Elden stood up on his feet and said, "Woe unto those who seek to stop these tests before their time. Anyone found trying to put someone else out of the order will find themselves out first."

Brother Elden asked those brothers if they had anything else to say. They said no. He said we will excuse you two.

After they left Brother 1 pulled out a paper out of his pocket and said this is a bill of divorcement for brother Heber C. Kimball. He said he is receiving a bill of divorcement from the Order. Due to his age and large family he would have his rent paid for six months. He would have the privilege of drawing his food and supplies from the Store house for one year.

He lived in that house right to the day for six months. He came to the store house in the car he bought with the money from the sale of the peas the Order planted and raise on that place. He took the money from the peas he sold and bought that car. He came in that Ford for one year to get food and supplies. The last week when the year was up he came up to get supplies and he was drunk. He got the car loaded up and he backed into a tree and ruined his car.

Raymond Brown (21):

Brother 1 came out to me when he was there and said you want to watch out when this man back out, this is the last time he is ever going to be here.

No.10 (Merlin Kingston):

“The ones that don't accept it and agree with it we will have to put them out of the order.”

Brother Elden before he left I stood in this room and heard him say it, and he told Sister Ardous the important part of the records of this work are the records, and you have to see that these records are right.

I have given that responsibility to you as long as you live to take care of those things. That is what this work is going to stand on. That is the foundation and they have to be right.

Some of Sister LaDonna's boys have brought reports that were slanted.

I think it has been to push people aside and give them chances to push them aside. They did it with Sister Leona. Those boys bring back reports that are not right and how can Brother Ortell make the right judgment on those people. No one has put out the effort and time and loyalty to see those books done right as mach as Leona has. She was trying to help. She wasn't trying to push them out of their place.

Before the last baby was born she answered the phone and Brother Daniel called and he wanted her to get dressed and go back in that night. He gave the reports to Brother Ortell [saying that] she was trying to sabotage those reports. It is a very critical time.

Brother Ortell said, “let me go; I want to get out of this mess. Let me go.”

When we were picking out the clothes for Brother Ortell, Sister LaDonna wanted these white shoes for him. She wanted to fix him up just like her dad. When her father died Sister LaDonna had the Order garments put on him. These are some of the facts we have to face and I think this Order is at a critical crossroads right now.

I would like to tell a dream Sister Joyce had. Sister Carolyn got shot in 1971. In 1973 she died. When we came back after she died Sister Joyce took deathly sick. While she was in that condition Brother Elden and her mother came to her.

During that night she had a dream or vision. They went into the church house. Brother Elden handed her a big long stick. You are to point to the Mother Mary so the people of the Order won't be deceived.

She thought, “anyone can see which one is the Mother Mary.”

She watched up there. The impostor would jump in front of the Mother Mary and she got her so disguised that Joyce could not determine which was the right one. She walked up to the stage and finally could identify the right one. The one that disguised her kept jumping in front of the real one and the people were completely confused as to which was the right one.

I know the information given back to Brother Ortell was sometimes on a slanted view and sometimes he based his judgment on what he heard. Before Marilyn got married Daniel said he received direction he was to marry her.

When Joyce heard this she said, “we better get ready for this to take place.”

I said that direction is not enough. You and I and Marilyn should get direction ourselves.

After that Marilyn dreamed she married Daniel and she planted her garden and the flood came and washed it all away. Finally Marilyn and I and Joyce all got direction it was to be Jerry. When Joyce and Marilyn got their direction my direction coincided with the direction they had received.

If this that Paul is trying to do is right I hope it goes that way. If it is wrong I fear for the future of this work and the businesses and the people that might be taxed beyond their capacity to pay.

The bigger this work grows the more money it is going to take to support those big families. I am not trying to grab power myself. I only hope I can be an instrument in the hand of the Lord to keep this work going like it should for the benefit of the people.

Right now the thing is going to be decided in the next few days whether this work remains in Brother Elden's name and through his grandchildren or it goes into Eskel's ear of corn through his grandchildren.

If it goes the way Brother Paul is going to push it about 95% of the people in this work will be Eskel's grandchildren.

Brother Elden came back to see us in a dream. Brother Ortell did not notice Brother Elden was there. Brother Elden stood to the back of the room and he looked very sad. I said why don't you come out and help us, but he just stood in the back. I had that dream twice about a year apart. If this work goes like it was supposed to, Brother Elden was picked for that job and it is to stay in his hands and lineage throughout the thousand years.

It might be in the power of these six people here to determine the way that goes. Maybe we do not have any power to do anything about it, but I do know this is one of the last chances to do anything about it.

It is our job to do what we can to hold things together.

If it doesn't go LaDonna's way, I do not know what the ripples will be. No matter how things go I am going to try to back him; if it goes to Brother Paul, I will back him in everything he does when it is directed by the spirit of the Lord.

All of these things is what I was going through that night before I called you men the next morning. I hope I haven't said anything I should not, but I felt it was necessary we all understand things and know what the situation is.

I hope everyone will keep our confidence and not make this public knowledge.

That about slavery was between a dream or vision. When a person gets taxed to a certain percent you are working which goes into the class of slavery.

Brother Ellery is a boy I have always admired. On the dress factory they figured out a high rent. He had to have a roof job as the water was coming in and ruining his material and clothes. He got a roof job and SIC charged him with that roof job. The job cost \$20,000. SIC should have paid for the roof job.

There are a few things building up in the Order that should be taken care of. The house trailers at Woods Cross, they were bought for \$7,000. With the interest on them it is building up to \$18,000.

The governing board needs to help with the load of the Order.

They need to meet together often and regular.

Clyde Gustafson (2):

In as much as my work is up to Ogden I would like to hear from you other men.

Ivan Nielsen (19):

I have been waiting to get opinions of Brother Merlin and feel how the other members of the order to see how they feel about these things. I am glad Brother Merlin has aired some of these ideas and facts. I think we have to have a view of the whole thing. I think we have to have a rounded out view in order to get direction on these things. There is other things I would like to find out too about certain things.

Sister LaDonna wanted to talk to me about brother Ortell before he died and that Brother Ortell wanted Paul to be the leader.

Sometimes you wonder, like some individual asks me, how do you know she is telling the truth and telling it straight.

Sometimes you have to look out for some of those things and get a rounded out knowledge. I can see the truth in a lot of these things in what Brother Merlin brought out, the consequence could come. I would like to ask Sister Ardous if she heard Brother Ortell make his wished of having Paul as leader of the Co-op, just how Brother Ortell stated his wishes for the successor.

Raymond Brown (21):

I hope the spirit of the Lord will be with us in these critical times because I can see they are critical. I also heard that Brother Ortell told Sister Ardous and Elden those things and I think that is why he spoke in the last meeting we had. I think all of us should work for unity. We do not want a division in this work. I feel like that is important. If we have a division like they had in the beginning of the church it would not be good.

I heard that brother Ortell anointed Brother Paul while the baptisms were going on. I know after meeting last Sunday there was quite a few people talked to me about these things. I know Sister Eileen had a vision last Sunday. She said the vision came so clear and she could not see Brother Merlin but she could see Brother Elden. We really have a serious situation here and we don't want to let a dividing situation occur because if we do we will fall. We have to be united on all these things and we have to learn the truth.

The last meeting Brother Ortell was to we talked after meeting and he was really concerned about the people being united and working with one another in harmony. He said all these things affect you in the same way and he wanted to see to it these young generations coming up remained united and in harmony with each other. I feel that is an important factor in this work, in progressing as it should.

While I was striving in Idaho the thing that came to me to solve a situation of this kind would be a compromise. It would need [to be] by by both men in question. Brother Merlin has a commitment that was given by Brother Elden to fulfill and I think Brother Paul has these things we have heard, feels like his father has told him. I think we should keep these things in mind and get the things solved. Where both of these men have a commitment to our leaders they could get together and bring about a feeling of peace and responsibility for each one.

I know it has really concerned me about these things coming up the way they have to cause a division. We have worked too hard all our lives to have it go down the drain. All those things are possible if we do not do things right and follow the direction of the Lord. I think we should get together on these things and air them out so we can do things right. I ask the direction of the Lord so we can make these things work in harmony and peace, because the Lord tells us contention comes of the devil and we do not want to fall in that category.

I ask the blessings on all of us in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Wendell Owen (34):

I am very glad brother Merlin called this meeting and told us of the things he has. It is important to be aware of the whole picture. I like the rest of you desire to work things out in harmony where we can work things out that is pleasing to the Lord.

It is just like referring to Eskel again.

He said, "Brother Elden stole my plan."

It was the Lord's plan.

Brother Elden said, "I would hate to call it my plan."

That plan was sent out on this earth to all these people. My father was in a very similar situation. He tried to start a cooperative because those thoughts were out in the air. The Lord had sent those thoughts out.

When Brother Merlin mentioned who would you want to have running this work, brother Elden's grandson or Eskel's grandson. _____ a son of Charles Owen than it would to a son of Charles Kingston. My father did about the same thing. He carried out his part of things in this generation but he was unable to stay himself. Maybe I would by nature be a little more distressed if I saw that happen to someone else.

I got a testimony of Brother Elden. I did not really know brother Elden before the order although he was my cousin. When we did go to Idaho my mother was a twin and when we went to visit that was the place we went. The first one in the family I got acquainted with was Brother Merlin. In my family I always had that natural respect for my father and mother.

When Brother Pencovic came around I knelt down and prayed and I was given a complete testimony of Brother Elden that has never left me. I had the privilege of working for him in Elmo. I always feel that way towards him.

About the next one I got acquainted with was Brother Ortell. I got acquainted with Sister Ardous in the coal business and I learned to love and respect her. Brother Ortell was more quiet and he was a little harder for me to get acquainted with. I realized he did not have too much confidence in me. He talked to Carlas about staying if my father left. Some of the ideas my father had about taking care of me, I felt at the start with Brother Ortell he did not think too much of me. I felt there was something I had to go to gain that confidence. I had that desire to please brother Ortell. I have striven all my life to accomplish that.

In doing that I was able to get quite close to Brother Ortell before he passed away, and I felt I was able to earn his confidence and feel the confidence and trust in me; and as a result I felt very close to

Brother Ortell. It would be hard for me to believe that he was any the less than the Lord expected of him in those things.

When Sister Ladonna gets an idea in her mind it can't wait.

As a result of that it leaves a path strewn of the people behind her and the people around her feel about things. I don't suppose there are not any of us are not influenced by our wives who we love very much. There are not any of us that are not going to be affected by those things on some decisions. I would bet my life Brother Ortell has finished his life and carried out his work in the best possible way anyone could do it. Between him and Brother Elden I had had a very strong impression came to me about him and Brother Ortell; the thought came very strong our power has been doubled, that power that is being sent into the order has been doubled, that they are working together to send that power to us on the earth. That power is there because there are individuals on the other side are sending that power.

We are in need of that power to fulfill the prophesies the Lord has in this work. I feel Brother Elden and Ortell are one in bringing to us the things we need at this time.

The thing is whether Brother Paul or Brother Merlin is to take this place at this time. I think both sides have a very important part and a very important place. Whether Brother Ortell could have or should have lived longer might have been determined by the amount of burden we should have placed on him. To put all that burden should not be placed on one individual. I would like to do for that individual the same as I did for Brother Ortell and that is my intention.

Coming back to this thing about Brother Eskel. Brother Ortell has talked to me about the things Sister Ardous mentioned. Brother Ortell told me some of the men that were brought here and chosen to take part in this work there are a few men shown to him that were kings. They were of royal blood. He said one of those men was my father. I can actually trace me lineage back to the royal heads of Europe. Any way that is neither here nor there. He told me Brother Soren Peterson was one of those men. He took that line and passed it on to his children. He said that was Soren's whole accomplishment in those things.

He told me those two, we realize those royal lines were brought here, the blood and lineage of Christ on which he built the base of this work. I have realized all my life I have been trying to place myself at the disposal of the Lord. I have reached greater blessings than I could have received in any other way.

When the Lord established this work here he gave it the foundation of three sons and two daughters. It would be a very sad thing if that lineage and that lineage of Brother Ortell would split up. It is important at any and all cost to individual feelings in order to save those purposes that the Lord has here of building his kingdom on that rock and his purposes will not be fulfilled if that is not done.

I realize some of the things with LaDonna and some of the boys we have had to work with. I had been working on this bottling and detergent business. I made a few trips to California to learn about this business. An opportunity came up to be an instructor in machinery repair with Brother Wayne at Circelville. It ended up I got signed up for that and after that we bought a shampoo business. Brother Ortell had me go down and follow that out in Circleville.

Finally the Macado ended up being Susie's job. I really wasn't aware of what was taking place on it. Brother Ortell said we have real problems with that business at Macado. I went there about a week and I did not discuss with Susan what Brother Ortell said to me to get things worked out. Until I got away from it and looked back I did not see what I had done to Susan. If I had that part of my life to live over I would try to do a better job.

There is no question about it Daniel and those boys put in a lot of time setting up the computers and the methods they used seems to be quite similar to the method I did there with Susan.

We are here to work with our brothers and sisters. I can see Sister Ardous has faced that same situation and has patience. The main thing Sister Ardous want[s] is see these things accomplished and go ahead.

Sister Lorna said her and Sister Nora Lee were talking about what had happened. Nora Lee said I guess that means Ladonna will be running the Order. Lorna said the strongest spirit came into that room and said LaDonna would not run Brother Paul. If Brother Paul was supposed to take that over I feel he will have the strength and I do not think he will allow himself to be run by LaDonna and I think he will work very much with Brother Merlin and I know he would have those desires.

I heard him say he did not want to make a gap between himself and Brother Merlin.

Brother Ortell has always spoken very highly of Brother Merlin. If the prophesies of the Lord are to be accomplished it is important that those three sons and the posterity of those three sons will work as one and these royal lines, if you are going to graft those things into the main trunk and any part of it is split it will never accomplish the things it has been ordained to accomplish. I think we should all strive to have that peace and harmony to work together. I know Brother Elden is looking to Brother Merlin to carry those things out and bring about the results that are planned.

If that is the way for Brother Paul to take that over we should be able to work together and take the things that are expected of us in humility and bring about the things the Lord intended to be brought out. In our future growth things are going to grow so fast that it is going to take the effort of all of us.

Brother Fred went and got the trailers moved down. For some reason or other things stopped on them at that point. Brother Ray got one or two of them. We have one at the mine. I have a place at Price we need some of them. If people save their money, how are we going to have it so where that money is put

sooner or later that interest eats it up? At that point someone has to take a loss. I think we should take some of the responsibility to get some of those things worked out.

As far as Brother Paul I feel he is the outstanding man in the bank.

In about a day or two he knew what was going on and he was able to grasp the whole thing at the bank.

Alan Jenkins said, "Daniel is no Paul."

I feel that Paul is an exceptional person and is more like his father than any of the other children. I feel like [if] he was given this responsibility he would try to carry it out to the best of his ability. Who ever does it is going to have to have a lot of help.

I feel like that there has to be a head.

A lot of the responsibility has to be taken by three different individuals. It need[s] them, and not separate, working as one, like Brother Ortell and Brother Elden on the other side. There is more than all of us can take care of.

In my seeking to serve Brother Ortell I have a lot more than all of us can take and in my seeking to serve Brother Ortell I have a lot more responsibility put on me. Sometimes I even wish I had not had that much.

When it comes to making the decision we realize we as the governing board have a big responsibility in that.

It is our responsibility to accept what the Lord has chosen.

Brother Ortell said you do not have the privilege of voting me out of that position as leader of the order.

We can vote as to whether we can uphold the one that has been chosen but the Lord does the backing and the choosing. If we want to be in harmony with the Lord we will be in harmony with what he picks and chooses.

I am fully in harmony with what Brother Merlin said we should not say if so and so is not in harmony with the leader he is going to be put out. Just like Brother Merlin mentioned we do not have the right to put out anyone that is here. The Lord extended us the privilege of being here in this work and if we want to extend that choice of being a part of this work, if they don't live up to the responsibility of those things, the Lord removes them.

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It is my prayer we can have the Lord here and follow his instructions on these things. It is my prayer that all of us continue to work together and continue to be in harmony and that record of all of us is talked about, remains in tact.

No.2 (Clyde Gustafson):

I appreciate being a member of the work of the Lord For some unknown reason I feel a spirit of peace and calmness. The last two or three weeks I have worried about different opinions and oneness and how things were going to turn out. I realize a lot of these things can get out of hand.

No.10 (Merlin Kingston):

If the Lord decides it is best for this work for Brother Paul to be the leader I am all for it.

Prayer: Raymond Brown

Meeting adjourned.