

1976

PROLOG: A Tribute to the Founding Fathers

TRUMPETERS IN *-----Fade

NARRATOR: Ladies and Gentlemen, The National Anthem (Anthem end & out)

NARRATOR: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) has three unique messages for America: First, that America's earliest history began more than two thousand years ago and is contained in an ancient and sacred book called The Book of Mormon. Second, that the discovery of America and the establishment of the United States was part of God's plan and was brought about by men who were inspired and guided by God. Third, that America's future destiny is dependent on the righteousness and morality of her families.

(MUSIC AND LIGHTS)

(SCENE)

Christopher Columbus believed that he had been inspired of God in his search for the New Land:

COLUMBUS: From my first youth onward, I was a seaman and have so continued to this day. The Lord was well disposed to my desire, and He bestowed upon me courage and understanding; knowledge of seafaring. . .and other (learning). . . Our Lord unlocked my mind, and sent me upon the sea, and gave me fire for the deed. Those who heard of my enterprise called it foolish, mocked me, and laughed. But who can doubt but that the Holy Ghost inspired me?

(Fade Scene)

NARRATOR: Columbus was not unlike the patriots who were to follow him and who set their minds and their hearts to the founding of this nation. The Mormons further believe that the discovery of this hemisphere opened these lands to two kinds of people: the settlers and the exploiters. "The settlers were the empire builders who pioneered the way and laid the foundations for the mighty nation of the Gentiles which were to come. The Gentiles whom the Almighty chose to "set up" this new nation were the God-fearing ones; they were the educated, the townspeople, the farmers and tradesmen who built fibre into the America we know today. We further believe that God raised up wise men who established the Constitution of the United States, guaranteeing religious and political freedom. What was the faith of these founding fathers? Thomas Jefferson felt that God's control was "self-evident."

(MUSIC AND LIGHTS)

(SCENE)

In the Declaration of Independence he wrote:

JEFFERSON: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

(FADE Scene)

NARRATOR: The success of the Declaration of Independence and the the Revolutionary War came through men who were raised up by God for these very purposes. . . . One must merely read the Declaration of Independence to feel its inspiration. One must merely study history to know that the defeat of

the world's most powerful country by a group of fledgling colonies was the result of a force greater than man.

Where else in history do we find a group of men together in one place at one time who possessed greater capacity and wisdom than did the founding fathers. . . . Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and others. But it was not to their own abilities that they gave the credit. They acknowledged Almighty God and were certain of the impossibility of their success without His help.

(MUSIC AND LIGHTS)

(Scene)

George Washington, in his first inaugural address said:

WASHINGTON: No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation, seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency.

(Fade scene)

NARRATOR: Benjamin Franklin made an appeal for daily prayers in the Constitutional Convention. In that appeal he said:

(MUSIC AND LIGHTS)

(Scene)

FRANKLIN: If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? I believe without

his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the building of (the tower of) Babel.

(Fade scene) (We will record with two different endings--and experiment)

NARRATOR: As we close this second hundred years of God's evident hand over

(Cue in and under THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC so that it will time with a short climax at the end of narration)

this nation let us remember that no constitution on earth has endured longer than ours. We seek and usually find the answer to today's hardest legal questions in this document of yesterday.

The Constitution was and is a miracle. It is an inspired document written under the guidance of the Lord. We believe that the Constitution was brought about by God to ensure a nation where liberty could abound. (? and where His gospel could be restored??)

Today, we are fortunate to live in this chosen and promised land. It will remain free and blessed as long as we, its people, remember the God who gave us life and gave us this free land.

~~FIRST ENDING~~

~~Immediately we greet the beginning of our third hundred years!~~

(Fade all scenes and flags; exit people and set up immediately for scene 1 of PAGEANT)

(Enter individual flags during final statement)

THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC under and continue climax after spoken word)

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be, blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deck-hand
singing on the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits at his bench, the hatter singing as
he stands,
The wood-cutters song, the ploughboy on his way in morning, or at
noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or the young wife at work,
or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else.
Unitedly we greet the beginning of our third hundred years!

(Fade all scenes and flags; exit people and immediately set up for the opening scene of the PAGEANT)