

1955
On February 27, 1955 Dr. Richard D. Poll, second speaker on the Oakhills Second Ward
Sacrament Meeting program, with at least the active encouragement of the Bishop, J. Roman

Andrus, talked as follows, as far as I am able to understand and interpret his message.

~~Poll and myself discussed the matter subsequent to the meeting for about thirty minutes
and the same understanding was maintained.~~

Dr. Poll stated that he and his wife Gene interviewed President David O. McKay a few
weeks ago at which time President McKay stated clearly and positively that the principles

precepts of organic evolution were in no way incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
of the Latter Day Saints. About thirty minutes later, ^{they returned} President Joseph Fielding Smith, ^{when} stated clearly

and definitely that the principles and precepts of organic evolution were positively in
agreement with the Gospel of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Now said Poll here is a clear case

~~of~~ contradictory statements by two men sustained as Prophets of God. I have three
alternatives said Poll, 1. Decide which of these two contradictory prophets is a false

This I do not care to do because of the experience of the apostate groups such as the
Hedrickites, Reorganized Church, Fundamentalists, etc.

2. Try to convince myself that I did not understand them and that consequently the
statements do not actually and do not actually contradict each other. This I cannot do because I know
I am positive that they did and do contradict each other.

3. Conclude that they are both wrong and that neither one knows sufficient about the
subject to be able to make a statement. I accept the latter as the truth of the case, said

Poll. (In other words Poll suggests that neither President David O. McKay nor Joseph Fielding
Smith knows what he is talking about.)

Some in the congregation were elated by Dr. Poll's talk, such as those so-called edu-
cational progressives who have been and are critical of the authorities and doctrines of the Church.

Others, who I consider to be more faithful, felt very bad, such as the Stake Relief Society

President who with tears in her eyes said to me as we were filing out of the chapel, "What
we are going to do, I am terribly confused and upset". In my opinion the affect of this talk

by a BYU Professor has been and will be very damaging to our young people as well as the welfare
of our adults.

This talk culminates a long series of insinuations and innuendos by several of the

Several months ago Dr. Poll in a Sunday evening ^{meeting} ridiculed, in my opinion, the ^{single} ~~posit~~ testimonies of many of our ~~many~~ saints.

Some time later in a Sunday fast and testimony meeting Dr. Poll stated that he was sure the Gospel was true, but he thought and believed it was. He stated that one could get truth by any of several methods, such as revelation, inspiration, study, and by doubting. He said he was trying to get the truth by doubting and that he believed that one method was as good as any other.

Referring to Dr. Poll's testimony in the above paragraph, the Ward Sunday School Superintendent took the time ^{the same time} ~~one~~ Sunday evening in the Oakhills Second Ward stating that he was not sure that the Gospel was true for the Church right but that he believed that it was. He stated that his method of trying to find out was by studying in his biological laboratory. He also stated that his respect for the Bishop kept him in town on Sunday, otherwise he thought he would be up the canyon where he felt he could serve God just as well as in a chapel. A man within the last two weeks has been ordained an High Priest.

About three weeks ago the instructor in the Oakhills Second Ward High Priests group, in talking about the pomp and ceremony of the Great Apostate Church during the early centuries after Christ wondered if we weren't coming to the same condition because among other things the congregation always arises when President McKay enters the auditorium. Immediately the group leader arose and said that there was something which in his opinion was much more serious and that was the fact that at the dedication of the BYU McKay building he never saw so many big black cadillacs in his life. At this juncture Dr. Foll said this subject is extremely important and suggested that the discussion be continued next Sunday as the time was up. The next Sunday because of Stake Quarterly conference, etc., this subject was not pursued.

In the discussion with Dr. Foll last night after his talk first referred to above he stated that President McKay stated that President Joseph Fielding's Smith's book, "Man, His Origin and Destiny" was only one man's opinion and was not the doctrine of the Church and pounding the desk with his fist said "you can quote me on that."

Dr. Foll also said that he ^{has} prophesized that in the next 25 years his position and that of his group would be completely vindicated and that President Joseph Fielding Smith's book and ideas would be considered one of the great errors of our times.

