Adam Samuel Bennion, Educator, Businessman and Apostle

John Andrew Braithwaite

Brigham Young University - Provo

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd

Part of the History Commons, and the Mormon Studies Commons

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/etd/4549

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
ADAM SAMUEL BENNION

EDUCATOR, BUSINESSMAN, AND APOSTLE

A Thesis
Presented to the
Department of History
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
John "A." Braithwaite

August 1965
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author sincerely wishes to acknowledge the help, the enthusiasm and the encouragement given to him by Dr. Russell B. Swensen who so willingly accepted the chairmanship of his committee and whose profound knowledge and suggestions were so immensely helpful. Also, to Dr. Eugene Campbell, Dr. Sterling G. Callahan, for their helpful suggestions and encouragement in writing the thesis.

To Mrs. Minerva Young Bennion, wife of the late Adam S. Bennion, who has helped and supported the author in this task. To Richard Y. Bennion and the other members of the Bennion family for their cooperation.

To Mr. Obert C. Tanner, J. Karl Wood, Paul Q. Callister, President Ernest L. Wilkinson, Mr. Richard Leader, Mr. Gus P. Backman, Elder Richard L. Evans and President Joseph Fielding Smith for their verbal explanations of much that wasn't heretofore written.

To the staff of the Brigham Young University Library, the LDS Church Historian's Office, University of Utah Library, and the Utah Power and Light Company, all of whom gave freely and openly of their resources and materials.

Finally, to my wife for her devotion and dedication in typing the thesis. To my parents whose sacrifices made possible the author's entire schooling and taught him there is value in learning--my love and appreciation.
This thesis, by John Andrew Braithwaite, is accepted in its present form by the Department of History of Brigham Young University as satisfying the thesis requirement for the degree of Master of Arts.

Russel B. Swensen  
Chairman, Advisory Committee

Sterling C. Callahan  
Member, Advisory Committee

Eugene E. Campbell  
Chairman, Major Department

Typed by Norma Braithwaite  
Alice Durrant
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ................................................................. ii
LIST OF TABLES ........................................................................... vi
INTRODUCTION ............................................................................. vii

CHAPTER

I. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND HOME LIFE .......................... 1

II. HIS EARLY SCHOOL TRAINING ............................................ 7

III. HIS CAREER IN EDUCATION .................................................. 10
    University of Utah
    LDS High School
    Marriage
    Columbia University
    Granite High School
    Professorship at University of Utah
    Superintendent of LDS Church Schools
    University of California
    Return to LDS School System
    Aspen Grove Summer Schools

IV. CAREER AS A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE .................................... 36
    Director of Personnel at UP&L
    Plans for UP&L Improvement
    Ogden Dispute
    Provo Dispute
    Negotiation of Labor Contract
    UP&L Vice President
    Board of Directors for Denver & Rio Grande

V. CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS .......................... 61
    Political Involvement
    Civic Service
    Chamber of Commerce
    Red Cross Work
    Salt Lake Library
    The Country Club
    Rotary Club
V.

CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS (continued...)

Law Enforcement Investigations
Miscellaneous
Cultural Activities and Participation
Achievements in Civic Education
Utah Public School Survey Commission
Brigham Young University
National Citizen's Commission
Intergovernmental Relationships
White House Conference on Education
Honored By His Alma Mater

VI.

APOSTLESHIP .................................................. 97

The Calling
The Acceptance
The Ordination
Deseret Sunday School Union
Church Board of Education
Mission Tours
European Mission Tour
East Central States Mission Tour
Stake and Ward Visits
His Death
The Funeral

VII.

FINAL EVALUATION OF HIS CAREER .................. 123

BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................................. 129

APPENDICES .................................................... 136
**LIST OF TABLES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Beginning and Terminal Dates for LDS Academies</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Annual Salaries of Seminary Teachers and High High School Teachers</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Average Cost Per Pupil Attending Mormon Seminaries</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Percentage of Secondary School Students in Different Types of Schools, State of Utah, 1890-1924</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Adam Samuel Bennion has established himself as one of the truly great men of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a devoted, dedicated, dynamic citizen of the United States in the twentieth century. He has been well described by one of his most trusted colleagues as "A brilliant educator, eloquent author, lecturer, master of the fine art of human relationships, and Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a native Utahan who has earned the acclaim of a whole people."¹

This study begins with a brief sketch of his ancestral descent and with a general discussion of the circumstances in which Adam S. Bennion was raised and educated. His career as a popular educator, an able business administrator, and a life long exponent of the doctrines and philosophy of Mormonism will be traced.

Definition of Terms

Church. --This term refers to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Elder. --This title is given to ordained members of the Melchizedek, or higher, Priesthood of the Church.

President. -- This title refers to a person, or one of three persons, in charge of various phases of Church or educational activity.

Apostle. -- A title given to one of twelve men who constitute the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

Stake. -- This is an organization of several congregations of Church members.

Ward. -- This refers to a specific congregation of Church members.

Commissioner. -- A title given to the dually authorized Administrator of Church Education Department, sometimes synonymously referred to as Superintendent.

Sources

The search for materials has occupied several hours per day for a period of months in research to gather the facts that provided the basis for this study. The most valuable sources of materials and the major portion of this research was conducted at Brigham Young University Library in Mr. Bennion's personal notes, papers and manuscripts.

Other important sources were found in Journal History and Manuscript Files of the Church Historian's Office of the LDS Church, the University of Utah Library and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Oral interviews were held with people who lived with him and who were intimately associated with him during his lifetime. Also, there are a few very important documents including his diaries in possession of his wife and family. Newspapers have provided some detail about his life and the contributions he
made regarding major public events during his lifetime. In addition to
these there are a variety of public documents that have been helpful.

Problem

Few men, in such a unique way, have exerted as much influence in so
many ways upon our Utah Society. An account of his career deserves to
be told. To relate and analyze the personal influences which were stimu-
lating about his career is the purpose of this thesis.

The essential problem is to evaluate the major influences which were
instrumental in shaping his ideas, his goals, and his achievements. Second-
ly, to set forth his achievements in education, business, civic and culture
affairs, and church work.

In order that the natural quality of this biography be maintained, the
greater portion of this study is set forth in broad chronological divisions;
however, when it was more coherent to tell it topically, this was
the chosen method in order to give full and complete attention to the various
facets of his life and works. This departure was made to provide for greater
unity in organization, understanding, and cohesiveness.
CHAPTER I

THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND HOME LIFE

To discover the origin of the name Bennion and those who bore it, the researcher must turn in his search to the shores of England. A study of the ancestry of the Bennion family begins in the early part of the sixteenth century "in the quiet rural districts of old England and Wales, beyond which time and place it now seems impossible to trace them". 1

The records of those times, and before, are imperfect and with the changes which the name has undergone seems to preclude the possibility of further ancestral investigation.

Harden Bennion, who writes of those early times says,

It seems to be customary among all nations that family names shall be taken from a stream, mountain, valley, or other natural object in the neighborhood of the family residence, and the Bennion name seems to be no exception to such custom. It originated from the Welsh Ap or Ab Enion, and comes from a stream named Enion, near Shrewbury in Shroshire,...although it is found as Ennion, Onion, Bennion, Benion, and Benyon, among the families whose ancestral history is found...in this part of England. 2

The first item to be found referring directly to the Bennion family is contained in the parish register of the Howarden Parrish, "The


2Ibid.
ancestral home of the family..."3 From that source we learn of the colorful personalities which distinguished themselves during the march of English history. In the town of Howarden, situated on the beautiful hills overlooking the valley of the River Dee, on Moor Lane, Samuel and John Bennion, founders of the Bennion family in Utah were born.4

Of their early life we have but little knowledge. We know that educational facilities were very meager in the community, and little opportunity was given to either to attend even the poor schools of that time. As they "toiled and struggled through life, with keen eyes, and clear minds, they took unto themselves a good practical education for everyday life. Both men were excellent penmen, both had a fair knowledge of mathematics, and both had an appreciation for good literature."5

When Samuel was about eleven years old, he went to Liverpool as an apprentice to his uncle, William Bennion, who was a baker and flour dealer. He worked until he was a journeyman. Later, in 1839, at the age of twenty-one he went into business for himself. Prior to this, he married Mary Bushnell on April 28, 1839 in the Saint Nicholas Church of Liverpool. It was during these years in Liverpool that he became acquainted with the "doctrines and tenets of 'Mormonism' through a meeting of John Taylor and Joseph Fielding".6 However, not until 1842, at the hands of Thomas

3Ibid.
5Ibid., p. 102.
6The meeting of the Mormon Elders occurred in 1840.
John Bennion followed his brother to Liverpool because of some accusation that he had been trapping and trespassing on the grounds of a nobleman. The fear of sudden prosecution probably accounts for the quick self exile to Liverpool. As a boy he was apprenticed as an iron moulder. He joined the Church after hearing the teachings of John Taylor. John Bennion married Ester Wainwright, and promptly set sail for the United States in 1842.

Samuel and Mary Bennion followed John to the shores of America. The two brothers were reunited with their father in Nauvoo, Illinois, on May 23, 1845. Indeed, they were among the first pioneers who trudged over mountain, plain, river, and stream to a "promised land." Evidence shows that,

The Bennion brothers were not included in the original pioneer company, but instead, they made a trip to Missouri for provisions. Upon their return, and after fitting out as best they possibly could, they began the toilsome march to the westward wilderness, being attached to Joseph Horne's Fifty, and the same being part of the Edward Hunter's Hundred.8

The arrival of the two Bennion brothers and their father to Utah was early enough in the season so as to make possible the adequate construction of a two story house.

This house was built on the southwest corner of the block situated diagonally across the street from the northeast

---

7 Samuel Bennion was baptized in the Mercer River on September 30, 1842.

8 Bennion, The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, VIII, p. 103.
corner of what is now known as Pioneer Square, in the south-western part of Salt Lake City and here they resided something over a year.9

The location of this house was near ninth south and eighth west.

Later, they moved to a site on Parley's Canyon Creek, near fifth east street. President Young, "wanted the lots occupied by the Bennion brothers and others adjoining them for a church farm, and at his request they vacated."10

The next move took toem to a point on the Jordan River near fourteen south. Here, in cooperation with Joseph Harker, they settled a third time. However, owing to the poor soil, they moved "over Jordan" for room and better pasturage to a site heretofore known as Taylorsville Fort. Here they lived a quiet life of raising sheep and farming. To follow them were their sons and grandsons, of whom Adam Samuel Bennion was one.

Adam S. Bennion was the son of Joseph Bushnell Bennion, son of Samuel Bennion and Mary Ann Sharp Bennion. He was only a year and a half old, when on May 25, 1888, his father died. This unfortunate development left Mary Ann Bennion a widow with five small children to rear and care for.

In the personal notes of Adam S. Bennion appears this single sentence describing the situation: "I do not remember my father due to the tenderness

9Ibid., p. 104.

10Ibid.
of my years, although my mother never let me forget that father was a wonderful man."\textsuperscript{11}

After the death of Joseph Bennion, the boys, in cooperation with the other members of the family cared for the farm, animals, and family needs. True to the resourceful Bennion tradition of energetic work the children were taught thrift, dependability, and dedication to work.

The economic background of the family was primarily agricultural, which included sheep,\textsuperscript{12} some cattle, a team of horses, and the family chickens. Joseph Bennion owned some 75 acres of land which they irrigated and cultivated in addition to the grazing ranges located in Rush Valley in the Southwestern part of the state of Utah.

The widowed Mary Ann Bennion, with the help of neighbors, close relatives, and her children cultivated the land and cared for the animals. They worked to make a living the best they could, most of which came from the farm. The sheep were sold shortly after his father's death because there was no member of the family who could be responsible to herd them so far away from home.

As a consequence, the economic future for the family was never secure, and at all times modest. The children, girls as well as the two boys, worked in the fields and cared for the animals.

\textsuperscript{11}Adam S. Bennion, \textit{Manuscripts}, Box \#3 (In the possession of Brigham Young University Archives. His Papers and files are also deposited here, unless, otherwise indicated.)

\textsuperscript{12}Joseph Bennion owned about 1200 sheep.
While working the soil on the farm was a major job and consumed most of the time for all concerned, the children were taught that variety in life was good. Again, from his notes appears this single, but very revealing key statement, "Mother taught us the values of good poetry, music, art, and encouraged us to participate in all of them."¹³ The effect of this declaration has a far-reaching implication in light of the kind of life that Adam S. Bennion chose to follow.

¹³A.S. Bennion, Notes. Box #3.
CHAPTER II

HIS EARLY SCHOOL TRAINING

According to the testimony of his sister Jennie, Adam was not a boy who appreciated, or liked the farm life. She said,

Ad was a bookworm ever since he was a little boy just learning to read. Even before he could read to himself, he would sit by the hour and listen to mother read to us after the evening chores and the days work was done.¹

His years of formal education began in 1893 in the Taylorsville public schools. While in elementary school he demonstrated well his intellectual capacities. His sister says, "He always won the spelling bees and he was always on a ball club."²

Upon graduation from the eighth grade in 1901, he was selected as valedictorian for Salt Lake County.³ He also mentioned in his diary that his favorite teachers were Georgiana Webster and D. W. Moffat. These two teachers strongly encouraged him to go directly to the University of Utah where he finished his high school training with honors.⁴ There is no mention

¹Interview with Mrs. Jennie Gerard, his eldest sister, July 19, 1964.
²Ibid.
³A.S. Bennion, Diary. p. 11, (In the possession of Mrs. Minerva Bennion, Salt Lake City, Utah.)
⁴Ibid.
of the course he studied while in high school except history, literature, and athletics.

By the time he reached school age he had learned to recite poetry, scripture, and to spell. He read the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the important works of the classical authors such as Shakespeare and Chaucer. He was impressed with the writings of great men and he systematically pursued a course of study to magnify his understanding of the things they said.5 He was delighted in his studies and was always ready to ask the question "why?" He was thoroughly disciplined in both his attitudes and methods.

At the suggestion of his mother, he began to study the piano at a very early age. At first, she taught him the basic fundamentals of the keyboard and a few simple familiar hymns and folk tunes. Adam was quick to learn how to play the piano. Because of his exuberant desire to play, his mother spent fifty dollars and bought him a new piano. It soon became evident that he should be sent to a trained teacher who could guide his talent with greater proficiency. When he was about six or seven he began to study with A. John Frame. "Brother Frame", as Adam always referred to him, encouraged him constantly to persist and master the technicalities of the piano. Brother Frame soon engaged Adam to play with a small orchestra which performed for dances and programs in the Taylorsville area. With this

5 He read the four tragedies of Shakespeare—Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello, and King Lear; also, he read the Divine Comedy by Dante and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.
encouragement, it wasn't long until Brother Frame advised him to go into Salt Lake City and pursue his studies with professionals who could give him greater aid and challenges. Challenges were exactly what Adam wanted. He was a young man who always wanted to be better than usual. He was very competitive. He pled with his mother and promised that he would work hard to help pay for the lessons himself. 6 His mother consented to the music lessons and he was promptly off to study with Evan Stephens. In due course he became a most proficient pianist. He continued to play in the dance band in Taylorsville. He played at school, in church, and in recitals. He became ward organist for both Priesthood Meeting and Sunday School.

Adam used his musical talent well. He began to teach other youngsters to play the piano before he was out of high school. He used his talent as a means to an end, that being, to help earn the money necessary for his tuition to college. He comments:

I played the piano for bands, choruses, and occasionally solo, as a means to support myself while attending school. 7

It is not known when he began playing with a band, but it must have been early because he started going to so many dances that his mother stopped him from playing except on weekends. 8 This love and dedication to music endured with him throughout his life. He had a favorite composition, "The Stars and Stripes Forever!" One might call it the "theme song."

---


7 A. S. Bennion, Notes. Box 3.

CHAPTER III

HIS CAREER IN EDUCATION

University of Utah

Largely because of geography, transportation facilities, and the encouragement of one of his teachers, D. W. Moffat, Adam enrolled in the University of Utah in the fall of 1901. He attended his high school years as a lower division student at the University. His sister recalls this event rather interestingly for us:

Mother sent me with Ad to carry the money for his fees. She didn't trust such a young boy with so much money. Later, I would drive him to State Street in the family buggy. There he took the bus, he walked two miles each way to the University and back. At night, I would meet him or else he would walk home with all his books and papers.¹

At the University he studied difficult and demanding courses:² Latin, Rhetoric, Math (Algebra-Geometry), American Literature, American History, Commerce, Transportation, German, English Composition, Psychology, Ethics, Ancient and European History, English Grammar, French, Constitutional Law, Logic, Ethical Literature, Philosophy, Geology, Epistemology, English Literature.

¹Interview with Mrs. Jennie Gerard, July 19, 1964.

²A.S. Bennion, Papers, Folder #9 University of Utah, Official Transcript of Credit, October 26, 1921.
By the time that his four years were up Adam had proven himself to be an able, perceptive, and productive scholar. Evidence of this is most clear when one examines his voluntary Bachelor's of Arts thesis entitled "Locke's Theory of Knowledge."\(^3\) Significant about this is the mere fact that the study was a voluntary demonstration of his ability to write.

He compiled a 3.89 cumulative grade point average while an undergraduate student. He became a member of Phi Kappa Phi,\(^4\) and Phi Delta Kappa\(^5\) scholastic Fraternities.

At the University of Utah, during his undergraduate years there are few records left describing his activities. He participated constantly in intramural sports. There is no evidence that he was a member of the varsity squad in any of these sports.

In his diary he wrote this terse little entry: "I entered the University of Utah in 1901 and graduated in 1908 with honors--made permanent class president of '08.\(^6\)

**LDS High School**

Upon completion of his undergraduate work at the University of Utah

---

\(^3\)Adam S. Bennion, "Loke's Theory of Knowledge." (unpublished Bachelor's Thesis, English Department, University of Utah, 1908).


\(^5\)Ibid.

\(^6\)A. S. Bennion, Diary.
he was counseled to continue his education without interuption. He intended to do this, although it required money which at the time he did not have. His distinguished record gave promise of scholarship but there didn't seem to be enough to finance both school and living expenses. Consequently, in order to fulfill his desire he accepted employment as an English teacher at the Latter-day Saint High School in Salt Lake City, and also, he taught music lessons on weekends and during the summer.

While at Latter-day Saint High School he budgeted both time and money and saved as much as he could of both. After three years of teaching and self-disciplined study in the liberal arts he resolved to return to the university. He sought the recommendations of men who knew him and his abilities. The school he decided to attend was Columbia University in New York City. He received his admission with honors and a W. D. Thompson Scholarship.

Marriage

During the course of events in the fall of 1911 he married Minerva Richards Young, a former student at Latter-day Saint High School,

7A. S. Bennion, Papers, Folder #9.
8A. S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box 3.
9See Appendix B "Widstoe Letter"
10Ibid.
11Daughter of Richard W. Young, Prominent Utah Lawyer and Brigadier General. See Appendix A.
although not one of his pupils. They were married on September 14, 1911, in the Salt Lake Temple. The marriage was an ideal one. They were a happy couple who found more and more happiness together. Throughout his life he treated his wife with the most gentlemanly manners. Often, Adam would leave his wife complimentary notes so as to please her.¹²

Columbia University

Promptly after their marriage, they left for New York on a meager budget and a strong determination to get a M.A. degree. Money was of prime essence and there wasn't any surplus to cover unexpected emergencies. During the course of the winter they had some unexpected illness which he said "threatened my school work," until his family helped them over the crisis.

They stayed in New York only one year;¹³ but, he was successful in achieving his M.A. degree. He studied with some of the best teachers available and among them were eminent instructors.¹⁴ Adam was extremely meticulous and methodical about his work and distinguished himself at Columbia.¹⁵

¹²"I love you and this isn't the gas man." (Scribbled on an old envelope) in possession of his wife.

¹³See Appendix B

¹⁴Men under whom he studied were Professors: Ayers, Matthews, Thorndike, Odell, and Fletcher.

¹⁵He received his Phi Beta nomination and election at Columbia.
The time spent in New York was rewarding to him because it had the net effect of solidifying his most troublesome question: "What field to pursue for a career?" Obviously literature was his choice. He was looked upon by his teachers and fellow students as a topflight academician.

The culture, newness, and bigness of New York fascinated him. He loved to take in all the cultural events that were reasonably priced and possible as far as his time would permit.

Granite High School

During the summer of 1912 he returned to Salt Lake and accepted a teaching assignment in English with the Granite School District and was assigned to Granite High School. During the year he achieved a reputation of being an outstanding teacher. This was apparent by the growth of his classes. His students loved his eloquence, his methods, and his approach to learning. They worked diligently for him and in his own papers he cites the reason: "The students enjoy studying when there is preparation and clarity of presentation." He was often heard to quote Woodrow Wilson who said, "Education is not a process of information, it is a process of preparation."

During that eventful year of 1912 the LDS Church launched a program to provide religious instruction for students attending school at Granite

16 Among the courses he took were: Chaucer, Development of English, Drama, Literature of the Romantic Period, Nineteenth Century Prose, and Comparative Literature.

17 A.S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #9.
High School. This program was called "Seminary" and Adam S. Bennion was intimately associated with the establishment of that first seminary in the Church.

In 1913, Adam was made principal of Granite High School. The influences which accounted for this appointment were, his fine success as a teacher, his excellent training, and his apparent, personable and facile way with people. Granite grew from 180 students in 1913 to 450 in 1917. An observation made by State Superintendent of Public Schools, E. G. Gowans, was kind enough to say of Dr. Bennion "You have the best high school in the State of Utah." Later, Gowans said, "He was undoubtly the most popular young administrator of the metropolitan Salt Lake area." There are unofficial testimonies that students lied about their addresses and locations so that they might register at Granite under Mr. Bennion.

His relationship with the students was one of "humanism" as he put it. He believed strongly that a teacher, or administrator, must be "an experimental artist." The brief but revealing statement about him that appears in the Granite High School Handbook says:

"Under Dr. Adam S. Bennion, who succeeded James E. Moss as principal, the school continued to grow and the activities expanded. Tennis was introduced and other forms of athletics were continued. A Club program was initiated by the establishment of the Ag Club and the Home Ec Club.

---

18 A. S. Bennion, Diary, l. 14.

19 Teacher and administrator were the same to him.

20 A. S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #9.
"Significant of the esprit de corps which Dr. Bennion encouraged, a school seal was designed by a senior student, and the "Song of the G' composed by the faculty member, was introduced as the school song." 21

This comment about his years at Granite seems to indicate his desire to not only educate academically; but also, socially, physically, and culturally orient the students to new and better things in life. At this point, there comes to the foreground some of his basic philosophy of life and education, that, "men should be broadly and liberally trained to appreciate the many new and good things in life." 22

His elevation as principal demanded that he further his education in a different area--that of educational administration. Hence, during the summer of 1914 he and his family packed their things again and were off to the University of Chicago. They went there because he felt it had the best department of school administration. 23

Upon his return to Granite there were instituted some immediate technical and specific accomplishments and beneficial changes. Among them were: (1) he upgraded the quality of the faculty by carefully screening new applicants and encouraging older teachers to return to college for further training, (2) he enlarged the curriculum of the school, by adding new courses, (3) he implemented new methods of teaching and strongly


22 Letter to Franklin S. Harris, October 10, 1926, (in Adam S. Bennion Papers, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, Box #7.)

23 Interview, Minerva Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.
encouraged experimentation as a means of learning, and (4) he rewarded and honored students and teachers alike who excelled in their efforts.\(^{24}\) His years at Granite were marked with success, continued growth, a high spirit of unity, and great personal popularity.

During the summer of 1915 Adam S. Bennion was selected to become a member of the General Board of the Deseret Sunday School. He was set apart by David O. McKay.

**Professorship at University of Utah**

The magnetism of his personality, the proficiency with which he operated, the depth and the breadth of his training and insight, won for him an Assistant Professorship of English at the University of Utah. Reluctantly, but excitedly, he accepted the appointment offered him by President John A. Widdsoe of the University. Now he could plant ideas of higher type, of greater concern to him, in the minds of students who would someday influence others.

"He was deeply concerned with provincialism, the closed mindedness, the bias and prejudice, of people. He wanted to open the human vista to the expanse of vision which he understood to include the use of the scientific method as a means to discover truth, the aquisition of a liberal attitude to perceive new ideas, new concepts, and new realizations of life. His problem arose in making people understand the possible and the probable so that they could work and find a better life. One like unto which he had found."\(^{25}\)

\(^{24}\)Interview with O.C. Tanner, July 27, 1964.

\(^{25}\)Ibid.
Here and now he could expose some of the evils of poor teaching and extole the virtues of the human mind, its sanctity, and its power. Adam S. Bennion worried his whole life about such problems as the inequality of man, his right to know and understand the truth and its consequences. He accepted the challenge that this professorship offered and went ahead to fulfill his obligations and objectives to broaden, deepen, and strengthen the values of people. At this point another of the fundamental questions can be raised: what were Adam S. Bennion's views that compelled him to fight so hard for human rights, freedom and love? Why did Bennion see the University as the place to launch his crusade of reform?

The following question was put to one of his close associates who was a fellow professor at the University: Basically, what was Adam S. Bennion's concern toward people? He answered:

I doubt that a question of that type could ever be answered. Adam S. Bennion was so brilliant, so big of intellect, so perceptive and sensitive to life that he could see the misery and the plight of men and he yearned to know what life meant and that it was to be enjoyed.26

The assignment of Adam at the University included classes in Grammar, Composition, Essay, Poetry, Drama, English Literature and Biography. The latter was his real forte. In addition to these classes he taught courses in Education and Society, History of Education, Philosophy of Education, and Educational Administration. The versatility of his abilities as a teacher are evidenced by the confidence of the

26Ibid.
University Administration to allow him to instruct in so many diverse fields. He had new ideas that were daring, creative, and functional. However, many of these ideas were in advance of his time. It will be seen later how this was so.

His objectives as they appear in his notes and papers about education and teachings were these: "to receive knowledge, to give new knowledge, to evaluate, to interpret, to give inspiration, to promote expression, to check evidence." He believed in these objectives and he used them as goals and measuring sticks. They were in effect his criteria for judging success or failure of students, according to their different abilities. There were very few who failed to achieve more and better than were they before they came into contact with Adam Bennion as their teacher.

His popularity at the University soared. Students loved his classes as they were provocative, challenging, reasonable, and meaningful.

Superintendent of LDS Church Schools

His tenure at the University of Utah was short. He had been there only two short years when another, more demanding, more difficult call came to him.

After a colorful and successful teaching experience in college, President Heber J. Grant of the LDS Church called him to become Superintendent of LDS Church Schools. The call came on June 9, 1919.28

27A.S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #8.
In the Salt Lake Tribune appeared this announcement:

Professor Adam S. Bennion, Associate Professor of English of the University of Utah, a member of the General Sunday School Board of the L.D.S. Church was yesterday named successor to Horace H. Cummings as superintendent of the Church schools. He will serve under the new Commission of Education established in church schools which is composed of David O. McKay, Stephen L. Richards, and Richard R. Lyman.29

At the age of thirty-three he was the chief administrator of all LDS Schools, except Brigham Young University, and he was the liaison officer between the University and the presiding authorities of the Church. Not long after receiving his appointment he felt the demanding need to finish his doctoral studies.30 At the commencement exercises of 1953 he made the following statement in reflection of his desire.

At that time (1920), I was Superintendent of the Church Schools. I came down here [BYU] with a master's degree, and I think I sat through a morning of the greatest embarrassment of my life because the men and women of this faculty were very well trained, as they are now, and many had their Ph.D's and I sat, presumably in a position of leadership.

As I sat through that morning program, I resolved that never again would I come to a B.Y.U. commencement without the higher degree. Within two months I had picked up the family, the wife and four children, and entered the University of California, where for two years I put in the most vigorous work I have ever done. I shall be grateful all the days of my life, that as I sat in one commencement program an idea was burned into my soul and on which I went to work.31

29Salt Lake Tribune, June 10, 1919.
30This was at the suggestion of Elders McKay and Widtsoe of the Council of the Twelve.
31Commencement Address, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, June 6, 1953.
He secured permission from the general authorities for a two year leave of absence during the years of 1921-23 so that he might conclude his academic training. With their blessing and permission he enrolled as a degree seeking candidate at the University of California in Berkeley in the graduate division of education. "He planned his school work so as to coincide well with his seminary work." 32

Under the tutorship of professor Charles Edward Pugh, Adam fulfilled the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in less than two years. His work was hard and taxing, but he budgeted his time and effort. 33 His major studies were concentrated in education administration and curriculum with a minor in English. He studied deeply in the fields of administration, methods, and philosophy. 34

His doctoral dissertation dealt with a teaching problem directly connected with the church seminary system. Specifically, it was entitled, "An Objective Determination of Materials for a Course of Study in Biblical Literature." 35


33 Interview with Mrs. Minerva Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.

34 The problem of philosophy was to play a great role in life especially in relation to the problem of determining what should be taught in seminary.

In his diary he wrote the following comment about the Ph.D. dissertation: "What a wee, up at 3 o’clock every morning writing Ph.D thesis. Th was a grind but fascination." 36

He finally got the six signatures necessary and submitted the thesis to the examination committee. His public examination was held in the library, room 309, December 17, 1923. He official verdict - passed with honors. 37 He was promptly offered a job at University of California by his major professor. He declined it and returned to Salt Lake City in time to spend Christmas with his family. His son, Dick said "that was the best Christmas gift we had - the doctor’s degree." 38

In his findings there was little or no measurable correlation to the ways that students acquired literary, religious, and moral values from Biblical instruction. This study was directly aimed at the improvement of religious education. The findings of the study indicate:

1. That to date no adequate determination of the relative literary value of various parts of the Bible has been made.

2. That Biblical materials are being used in current courses of study which cannot be defended from the point of view of permanent value of subject matter or of interest.

3. That certain parts of the Bible have been consistently preeminent in allusions made in literature from Anglo-Saxon days to the present.

36 A. S. Bennion, Diary, p. 319.

37 Ibid.

4. That certain other parts have had but little if any significance in that same literature.

5. That those parts of the Bible which have been most frequently referred to in literature are in the main the parts which rank highest in the judgments of modern ministers, Biblical scholars, high school English teachers and high school pupils.

The final rank order list of Biblical items as drawn up in this study indicates the relative value of various parts of the Bible on a basis of the two criteria, permanent value of subject matter and interest, for a course of study in Biblical literature for pupils of high school grade.39

While teaching summer school at Brigham Young University during the summer of 1922, Dr. Cyrus Mead of the University of California said,

There is no nobler representative of the Church than Adam S. Bennion, superintendent of your Church Schools. When Superintendent Bennion comes back, if we cannot keep him, he will make your schools, church, or secular, second to none in the United States.40

Hence, there is evidence to conclude that he distinguished himself at the University of California in an unusual way. The following press release appeared in the press at the conclusion of his examination:

Dr. Adam S. Bennion, superintendent of the Church Schools, has returned from Berkely, California, where he has taken the degree Doctor of Philosophy from the University of California. Dr. Bennion passed his examination last Monday.41

Indeed, according to his family, this was one of the high points of his life, as well as a most welcomed and appreciated Christmas.

39A. S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #1. University of California Graduate Division Programme of the Final Public Examination for The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Adam Samuel Bennion, p. 3 (mimeographed).

40Deseret News, July 6, 1923.

41Deseret News, December 17, 1923.
With the acquisition of his doctor's degree the Church authorities changed his title and upgraded the official power to become "Church Commissioner of Education."  

Return to LDS School System

In 1924, upon his return to Utah and his official duties as Church school commissioner, he became involved in one of the most difficult, demanding, and decisive conflicts in his life. During the years of his absence in California, the Church Commission had been executing it's decision and policy of "not to compete against the public high school" even though the church pioneered the high school movement in Utah. The following Table I indicates the dates of establishment of the various schools and dates for the same.

While it is true that Commissioner Bennion agreed in theory with the policy, there were some practical matters that resulted in a division of opinion involving himself, some of the church leaders, and residents

---

42 Interview, Richard Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.

43 A.S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #7.

44 This decision might very well be viewed as the crucial turning point in the great decision he was to make later in his life.

45 A.S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #1 (In possession of LDS Church Historians Office, Salt Lake City, Utah).

46 A.S. Bennion, Manuscripts, Box #1 (In possession of LDS Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah). "A Brief Summary of the Historical Background the Present State and the Possible Future Development of the Latter-day Saint Educational System." p. 3. (mimeographed). See Appendix C.
TABLE I
BEGINNING AND TERMINAL DATES FOR LDS ACADEMIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of School</th>
<th>Beginning Date</th>
<th>Terminal Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. B.Y. University</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. B.Y. College</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. L.D.S. College</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fielding Academy</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ricks Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Snow Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Oneida Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Snowflake Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. St. Johns Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Unitah Academy</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Cassia Academy</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Weber Academy</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Emery Academy</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Gila Academy</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Juarez Academy</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Murdock Academy</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. San Luiss Academy</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Summit Academy</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Big Horn Academy</td>
<td>1909</td>
<td>1924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Millard Academy</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Knight Academy</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Dixie Academy</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
of the communities, wherein these schools were located. Commissioner Ben-
nion writes:

There are complications at the present attached to all of these
institutions which have led us to hesitate in taking out com-
pletely the high school work offered.\textsuperscript{47}

There seems ample evidence to show that the reasons for slow movement
were: first, there was no public high school in the area, and if the church
school work were eliminated, the children in those areas would suffer greatly.
The Church did not want this to occur, as a matter of fact, it was completely
and precisely in opposition to philosophical position of the church concept
that "The glory of God is intelligence." Secondly, there were personal convic-
tions in the outlying areas, Ephraim, St. George, that the whole movement of
dissolving Church education in the academic sense was all wrong from the
beginning. Many leaders, of whom Adam S. Bennion was one, were outspoken
and concerned with the direction that events were taking. They realized that
it would be necessary for the Church to surrender these functions because of
the inevitable problem of separation of church and state within the framework
of our political government. Largely because of the cost to the Church plus
the increasing trend away from private schools. The church did not wish a
public battle for continued control of education in the arena of politics; there-
fore, they were following this piece-meal dissolvement policy.

As heretofore indicated, the establishment of seminary at Granite
High School provided an example for a solution to the whole problem. The

\textsuperscript{47}\textit{Ibid.}; p. 4
Church would withdraw from the responsibility, because it was clear that the Church "could not and ought not to compete." In substitution, the Church policy, as of 1921, was to establish seminaries for the religious, moral, and character education development of children which was not part of the public school curriculum. Yet, to the Church, this was the major concern in making their children Latter-day Saints.

During the Bennion absence, 1921-23, there was little advance toward the establishment of seminaries to replace the dissolved schools. Over this point of vacillation was where much of the controversy arose. Consequently, when Dr. Bennion returned he found discord by most everyone concerned. Ultimately, he was forced to take a stand on the issues, and as could be expected, it forced him to declare his position. Of course, there were many who were jubilant and then there were those who unleashed much emotional criticism, with some counter criticism in reply. Dr. Bennion's stand, was as it had been before; he advocated rapid replacement by seminary at the close of the schools. The first seminary was established in 1912. By 1920, there were twenty seminaries with an enrollment of some 2,980. With the commission's support, he formulated a vigorous policy by replacement of seminaries based upon academic competence, physical fitness, personal

---

48There was criticism of the dissolution of the academies without there being a readily suitable substitute to satisfy the needs of the people.

49Franklin S. Harris, Presidential Papers. (Letter from Adam S. Bennion, September 10, 1925.)
interest, social supervision, and an appreciation of the fine arts.\textsuperscript{50} It was not long until some of the more conservative forces applied some pressure upon the Education Department. Dr. Bennion's attitude was too liberal, too experimental, and too pragmatic for the idealism of those who opposed him.

One of the most important innovations of Dr. Bennion, which came during these years, was the organization of local stake boards of education. He encouraged the First Presidency to consider these stake boards as a means of helping to solve the educational problems at local church levels. These boards, as per his recommendations would govern the educational policy in that particular state within the broad outlines drawn by the General Church Board of Education. They would be the formal selectors in hiring teachers after the commission had interviewed them, found them worthy, capable, and sincere people.\textsuperscript{51}

One of the proposals which was turned down by the Church leadership was his plan for a wide and varied system of junior colleges.\textsuperscript{52} He was instrumental in having Snow College, Weber College, and Dixie College, transferred to the State of Utah, which in turn operated them on the recommended basis as Junior Colleges and local high schools combined. Reasons for his philosophy of junior colleges were:

A. One of the best reasons for junior colleges is that it is advantageous to have students live at home during the first years of their college work.

\textsuperscript{50}\textit{Deseret News}, December 28, 1927.

\textsuperscript{51}\textit{Ibid}.

\textsuperscript{52}\textit{Ibid}.
B. The standard high schools and the senior universities do not articulate. There is too much of a gap which is disastrous to a large percent of students. This mortality rate is very high. The junior colleges fills this gap.

C. The university attempts to educate students by university methods; they teach more akin to that of high school. A junior college does this.

D. The junior college is a good stopping point for students - terminal education.53

He was a consultant and supervisor of the college institute program, although he was not personally involved in the planning, the preparation, nor the establishment, as much as he was in the seminary program. However, it did come under his supervisory jurisdiction as Commissioner of Church Education.

Dr. Bennion was responsible for the building of the gymnasium at Weber and was given the charge of supervising the Deseret Gym in Salt Lake City.54

Aspen Grove Summer Schools

One of the most exciting, outstanding, and demonstrative acts of his decisions to broaden the base of the Church education came with commencement of summer school for seminary teachers who had been hired to teach in the newly expanded system.55 These seminars were held in Provo Canyon,

---


54 Deseret News, December 28, 1927.

55 See Appendix C.
at Aspen Grove, in the beautiful Wasatch Mountains.\textsuperscript{56} The conferences were carefully and methodically planned and executed so as to promote the greatest possible latitude for the study of the Gospel. Dr. Bennion, Dr. John A. Widtsoe, and Dr. Franklin S. Harris were responsible for the planning and then Dr. Bennion was the program administrator.

The curriculum at the "Alpine Summer School" consisted of formal classes in Theology, Literature, Church History, Teacher Training,\textsuperscript{57} Church Administration, and general discussion seminars.\textsuperscript{58} On the agenda for those summer sessions were discussions concerning topics that dealt with problem and methods of teaching, records and reports, courses of study, and a long list of questions dealing with doctrinal problems. Some outstanding examples of these questions posed for discussion were: Does the evolution theory reject God? What is meant by the six days of creation? Why should God give Adam two contradictory commandments? Who are the Sons of Perdition? What is sin against the Holy Ghost? What is the aim of religion? How do we know there is a hereafter?

In these seminars he invited many general authorities and qualified professionals to engage in discussions with the group. It included various very famous non-LDS theologians also; a Rabbi Levy from the Sinai Temple,

\textsuperscript{56}Northeast of Provo about 20 miles.

\textsuperscript{57}The whole summer program was a Teacher Training Institute; however, he held a course entitled that for the new teachers to instruct them in methods, psychology, and administrative problems.

\textsuperscript{58}See Appendix C.
was an example. "The purpose of the entire program was to broaden, deepen, and extend the insights of the teachers."  

Dr. Bennion brought his family with him to the Alpine Summer School so that they too might enjoy the mountains and the social associations. His own family members remember these summer sessions at Aspen Grove as some of the "high points in their lives." This seemed to be an ideal opportunity to be close to the family, to do his work, and to enjoy the freshness of nature which he loved so much, and rarely ever experienced because of the pressures of his work. This was an experience for Dr. Bennion to live with his family and at the same time be on duty with his responsibilities. Dr. Bennion wrote to Dr. Franklin S. Harris of BYU the following:

My experience this summer in the Alpine Summer School, was one of the unique experiences of my life. It re-enforces the thought that the first duty of a teacher is to know his students.

Dr. Bennion's objective was to get teachers together and outline the church program for academic study of the gospel. He continues in the same letter.

Our real function is to make Latter-day Saints... we must remind teachers that they are expected to live the gospel... a teacher should know his students. We must make an intelligent assignment and establish a foolproof system of

---

59 Letter to Franklin S. Harris, September 1, 1927.

60 Interview with Richard Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.

61 He was away from his family so much that this was a truly exciting experience for the children. Interview with Minerva Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.

62 Letter to Franklin S. Harris, September 1, 1927.
of follow-up. Our theology teaching should be scholarly and dynamic.  

By fall of 1927, the growth of seminary programs had tripled what it was when he assumed the duties as Church Commissioner of Education. There were 70 seminaries in operation that year with an enrollment of 11,569 students. The former criticism had been dissipated in Arizona and Southern Utah and there was strong support from local church leaders as well as many of the general authorities in Salt Lake City.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Bennion was very intent to carry out a teacher training program. His concern was to make sure that young teachers would have benefit of the best known techniques and methods. He strongly encouraged them to continue and intensify their own educations. Academic preparation was his constant concern. He told them, "The Lord never revealed anything to an unprepared mind." He charged them seriously with responsibility of inspiring and uplifting students to the fullest potential they possess.

To the teachers he stressed that they study in the fields of History, Literature, Science, Philosophy, Mathematics, and Religion. So eloquent and persuasive was he in his plea to those who attended the summer school that a great many of them followed his advice and accepted his challenge to continue their graduate studies. Among those who followed his advice to

63Ibid.
64Deseret News, December 28, 1927.
65A. S. Bennion, Diary, p. 34.
reach new academic heights were: J. Karl Wood, Sidney B. Sperry, Daryl Chase, Russell Swenson, and William E. Berrett. Each of these men testify to the profound, critical and dramatic impact he had upon them.

Dr. Russell Swenson says:

*He influenced me at the critical point in my life. It was he who, along with others, prompted me to go back to the University of Chicago and complete my graduate studies.*

Dr. Sidney Sperry says:

*It was the encouragement of Dr. Bennion and Dr. Widtsoe, that motivated me in those years to finish my work in the studies of Old Testament, Egyptology, and Ancient Languages.*

The Alpine Summer School was a tremendous success in 1926. All who attended were enlightened, encouraged, and invigorated with the new ideas they acquired. This successful attempt to mix religion, education, and social association assured that another session would be planned for 1927. The second session of 1927 was the most memorable.

However bright and successful all this might seem, there were forces of opposition already reacting. There was some containment, holding back, and restraint in allowing Dr. Bennion the freedom of decision in policy making that he desired. Perhaps his most perplexing problem was that he found it to be uncomfortable to raise questions which some of the General Authorities didn't want discussed publicly. He was not completely free

---

66 See Appendix. Part I, "List of Teachers."

67 Interview with Dr. Russell B. Swenson, June 22, 1965.

68 Interview with Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, July 6, 1965.
to do things the best he understood. The whole truth of what caused this under-current in a program that was so successful may never be known.

Sometime during the year 1926, he confided his difficulties to some of his associates. During the early spring or summer, the date is not known, he was approached by Mr. Daniel C. Green, Vice President and General Manager of Utah Power and Light Company with a standing offer to come to that firm if and whenever he desired. Dr. Bennion did not take the offer, or at that time even seriously consider the opportunity in light of the success he gained at the Alpine Summer School. But significant about the whole matter is that he did not reject the offer either. Hence, for a two year period, he harbored the thought of other possibilities.

He continued to work as diligently as ever in the Church Education Department. In fact, his most spectacular successes came during the years of 1925, 1926, and 1927.

Finally, at the close of the extremely successful 1927 Aspen Grove Institute, he decided that he must come to reckon with the conservative policy that hung over the department. This occurred in October, 1927. President Grant's reaction to his problem was non-committal. He told

---

69 He was under the direction of Church Commission, the Council of the Twelve, and the First Presidency.


71 Interview with Margaret Schofield, August 16, 1964.

72 His Diary mentions no specific date.
Superintendent Bennion, "You should do as your heart indicates."  
Superintendent Bennion then told President Grant of the offer at Utah Power and Light Company which was a much more lucrative position, as well as a chance to speak his own mind without embarrassing the Church. Thus, President Grant encouraged him to take the offer and released him honorably and with much praise. It is interesting to note that President Grant was a senior member of the board of directors of Utah Power and Light Company.  

---

73 Interview with Minerva Y. Bennion, July 3, 1965.  
74 Deseret News, December 28, 1927.  
75 Annual Reports of the Utah Power and Light, 1928.
CHAPTER IV

CAREER AS A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Director of Personnel at Utah Powere and Light Company

There was a two year interval between the initial and the second contact offer by Mr. D. C. Green, Vice President of Utah Power and Light Company,\(^1\) and the occasion which prompted Dr. Bennion to accept a position with the Company. He noted, "I accepted position [sic] with Utah Power and Light Company-Director of Personnel."\(^2\) In his diary is noted,

The opportunity at Utah Power and Light offered me a great increase in salary with complete freedom to continue in my association of part-time teaching and continued Church work.\(^3\)

On December 15, 1927, Dr. Bennion took the opportunity to make his decision public. In an address before the Ogden Kiwanis Club, at the Hotel Bigelow, he said:

This will probably be the last time I shall appear before you in my present position. It is only a few months when I shall

\(^{1}\)The title of Utah Power and Light Company will hereafter be cited as "UP&L" except as it appears in quotation from other sources.

\(^{2}\)A.S. Bennion, "Appointment Books" October 11, 1927, (Handwritten). In the possession of his wife, Mrs. Minerva Y. Bennion. These appointment books will hereafter be cited as his Diary for the years after 1928. There is one handwritten diary for the years 1919 to 1928 with nothing recorded before this time.

\(^{3}\)A.S. Bennion, Diary, p. 31.
the Church school service, and be a man of the business world.  

The newspaper commentary continued:

The announcement came as a suprise and was received with regret from Ogden people who had appreciated his valuable service as an educator and his cooperation with Weber College.

An important seminary co-worker offered this explanation as to why Dr. Bennion made this great decision.

I read the radio report of his speech to the Ogden Rotary Club when he said that he could be more free and useful in his religious interpretations if he were not tied up to a church position. I'm sure that is why he took the position as personel director of the Utah Power and Light Co. where he served so efficiently during so many years of his life.

The official Church announcement of the release of Dr. Bennion came on December 28, 1927. It said,

The First Presidency and the general board of education expresses the highest appreciation of Dr. Bennion's efficient administration of the Church Schools and other interests during his nine years in office.

President Grant stated that Superintendent Bennion leaves with full approval and blessing and with the best wishes in his new position, which is full of promise for the future.

In making the change after nine years as Superintendent of the department of education, Dr. Bennion makes the change with an expression of his gratitude for the privilege of having worked with the men and women associated in the field of Church education.

---


5. *Ibid*.

He is particularly grateful to the First Presidency, to members of the general board, and to those men who served as members of the commission of education...He is appreciative of their helpful counsel of their generous support, and of the freedom of thought which has been possible. Under their liberal administration.  

In the same article at the end appeared this brief explanation of his new duties,

His new position will be that of director of personnel with the Utah Power & Light Company, a new department created for the study and advancement of human relations.  

Adam S. Bennion assumed his new position effective February 1, 1928. During that year he worked hard learning the best methods and principles of business administration and management. This new position included the making of policy, drafting of new programs, and organization of new departments of the company.

As director of personnel he had been selected because of a three-fold need: first, he was a proven assessor of human character, ability and potential, as evidenced by his successful years at Granite High School and as Superintendent of Church Schools. Secondly, he was young and popular with a tremendous following of public support, which could only, in a final analysis, bring young able people to UP&L. Thirdly, he was a well respected LDS Church leader who had excellent rapport with the community. At this time, one of UP&L's greatest needs was to have a highly trained

7 *Deseret News*, December 15, 1927.

8 Ibid.

9 A.S. Bennion, Diary, p. 31.
Mormon in the executive branch of the company. The clientele was overwhelmingly Mormon, and yet, a majority of the officials were non-LDS. There may have been some Chamber of Commerce pressure upon UP&L to make this type of selection.\(^{10}\)

The problem of public relations "was of paramount importance to the company."\(^{11}\) Dr. Bennion's first instructions from the company officials were to study and recommend policies that would strengthen the position of the company in the public eye.

Dr. Bennion began by studying thoroughly the history of the organization and other power companies. He traveled widely to investigate subsidiary companies of UP&L observing the different methods of operation and policies concerning personnel. He sought the opinions of veteran company officials, experts from the universities, and business leaders over a wide area of the United States. Finally, in 1930, after some high level administrative shuffling within the UP&L Company George M. Gadsby had become President of the company, Dr. Bennion recommended that a complete re-orientation project be initiated to include the following: Management-Employee Relations Program, an Employee Information Plan, a Customer Service Program, and a Plan to Reward Excellence—both in quality and in longevity of service.\(^{12}\)

\(^{10}\)Interview with Miss Margaret Schofield, August 8, 1964.

\(^{11}\)Interview with Mr. Richard Leader, July 8, 1965. UP&L personnel official.

\(^{12}\)A.S. Bennion, Report to the President, (Unpublished manuscript in possession of UP&L Library. n.d.)
To implement these new policies in the company, Dr. Bennion resorted to the use of mass education and wide publicity. He was convinced that the best advertisement any company could have was to have satisfied employees who would give honest effort and creative imagination to their responsibilities. He also felt that the employees were in effect "a corps of salesmen." He constantly stressed this fact with managerial heads and field formen in the company supervisory meetings. It took some years to get the whole program in effective operation. During the years 1934, 1935, and 1936, annual reports were made to the Board of Directors and stockholders stating that the successes and failures of the experimental program. In a report written in 1940, Dr. Bennion wrote: "Men, materials, and money, are the sinews of business, but the most important of these is men:"

**Plans for UP&L Improvement**

The Management-Employee Relations Program proves that Dr. Bennion was a defender of employees. Some of the points Dr. Bennion stressed in his advocacy for a tight knit and well functioning company were: first, 

---

13 Interview with Margaret Schofield, August 8, 1964.


16 The Management-Employee Relations Program was the UP&L Company union.
better selection of employees. He used tests, interviews, records of past performance, and a cadet training period after being selected as a UP&L employee.

Secondly, he pleaded for company policies that would provide safety. He felt that the elimination of work hazards "represented sound economic procedure for a company."17 His concern was two-fold, not only for the economic benefit the company derived from not having to retrain another employee to replace an injured person, who would expect to return later; but also, he felt that physical fitness of a man was paramount to society by a healthy able-bodied individual rather than a cripple who needs the care and resources of other people.

Thirdly, he worked for a welfare program18 for employees. He believed that it was their right to share in the company's expansion and profits.19 He was successful in getting for the employees a group health insurance policy paid by the company. There is of unique significance, in that as it came in 1930, just at the height of the depression. It provided for both hospital payments and surgeons fees. Minor medical matters were the responsibility of the individual.

As a part of the welfare program for employees he urged the company to grant financial help to employees who desired to further educate themselves.

17 "Brief History", p. 339.

18 Ibid., p. 341.

The company often paid tuition for professional training in their field of labor. 20

Because of all these benefits, one can understand why the employees of UP&L were good advertising agents for the company; why they liked Dr. Bennion so well; and why this new relationship created between management and the employees a high degree of cooperation.

Besides the Management-Employee Relations Program, there was another employee program called "Employee [sic] Information Plan." 21 Dr. Bennion wrote the following explanation of this plan:

The purpose of the Employee [sic] Information Program for the season 1935-36 is to make us more fully aware of our problems in dealing with human nature and to equip us the better to do our work and to get along with people. As heretofore, the Employee [sic] Information Program is to be regarded as an opportunity, not as an obligation. The value of group discussions will lie in the fact that employees are challenged and helped to improve themselves. Interest in our own growth should be sufficient urge to lead us to respond to the opportunity.

As heretofore, the employees [sic] of the Company will be organized in groups of about twenty, each group to meet once a week, preferably during working hours, under the supervision of a group leader. Meetings of group leaders will be held in advance of the group meetings for the discussion materials, question and results secured to date. Group leaders are provided with a handbook containing all necessary outlines and materials. The groups will in general follow the outline given to group leaders. Each employee [sic] will receive a brief outline of the program.

The 'Case Method' will be used as a basis for group discussion. Experiences drawn from actual contact with

---

20 Interview with Mr. O.H. Ririe, July 19, 1965. Mr. Ririe was assistant to Dr. Bennion.

21 A.S. Bennion, Report to the President and the Board, n.d. Folder #831. (Typewritten)
customers will be used to develop fundamental principles of good service and "How to get along with people.

Special or emergency problems affecting Company welfare and requiring employee cooperation will be discussed in the regular groups as the time and needs develop.

The performance of group leaders will largely determine the degree of success achieved in these discussions. 'As with the leader, so with the group'.

To initiate the program and set up a suitable background, an official of the Company will meet with each division and department and outline the course and its problem. For example:

(a) The opportunities we have to make friends.
(b) The fundamentals of 'How to get along with people'.
(c) The requirements of 'keys' to satisfactory customer relations.
(d) The place of Company rules, regulations, rates, personalities, practices, departments, in E.I.P. discussions.
(e) How to capitalize on an analysis of actual cases of customer contact.22

Besides his duties in the field of personnel, Dr. Bennion was assigned the area of customer relations. He formed a new policy that proved to be popular with customers of UP&L. In an unpublished report written in 1940, he wrote:

The Customers Service Program, which is an attempt to sit down with our customers in a friendly visit and find out how we can better serve them, is a step to remedy the conditions above mentioned. In other words, we shall attempt to get from our customers, expressions of their attitude toward our policies and practices.

With this program we will cover the following five points in our service efforts to the people.

1. Extent of service
2. Adequacy
3. Value
4. Cost
5. Improvement

22 Ibid.
Some of the ideas advanced in the discussion were:
1. We are not to take the position that we are educating other departments or the public.
2. Though most of our visits will be with ladies of the homes, they will in most cases favorably influence their husbands. This will be so, because the wives can't help realizing, through our presentation, how time-releasing electric service is.
3. We must be good listeners.
4. We should become specialists in human understanding.

Scribe-O.H. Ririe^23

In a later discussion Dr. Bennion outlined some further details of the program. He said,

In any approach we must be concerned with at least three important things:

I. Appearance: clothes, person, etc.
II. Attitude: or spirit of the call, not cocky nor yet stupid, but with a feeling of humility in that we are trying to find the answer to the question.
III. Point of View: do not make sales approach. Try to find out why people feel unfriendly toward the Company. (Crying on shoulder approach) Approach to discuss their electric services and its advantages; whether we fulfilling our duty to our customers. A friendly discussion of service.^24

He told his employees, "Our job is to go out and sit down in a friendly visit to find out how we can better serve our customers. In meeting with the employees he used specific case studies for them to analyze. For instance:

**Case No. 12 - Collections**

A small theater which was passing through a slow season, became in arrears for electric service to a considerable amount, and was about to be forced out of business. Employee R in the credit department and the theater manager analyzed the situation

^23Ibid.

and decided that if the company would not push its claim and the business was put on a cash basis, it could continue to operate. Arrangements were made whereby current bills for service were paid semi-monthly, plus a small amount on the delinquent balance. The theater continued in business, the back account is paid in full, and the manager feels that this helpfulness on the part of the Company saved him from sustaining great loss.

Classify the factors that contributed to the successful handling of this case, under these three headings:
1. Doing a good job.
2. Attitude.
3. Facts.25

Case No. 25 - Service

Mrs. H called at the office to complain about a $4.50 charge for a new dolly for a washer. She objected to paying this because service man B who had called to investigate, had said that the old dolly should have lasted much longer than three years, and that it was evidently defective in the first place. Mrs. H said also that this was the third time she had come to the office to adjust this matter, and that she was tired of being put off with the statement: "We will look into the matter and see what can be done."

Her account was credited with $4.50, although the dolly replacement was made long after the guarantee period.

Analyze employe performance in this case.
1. Service man B
2. Office employes contacted by Mrs. H. on the two previous occasions?
3. Employe who finally disposed of the case?
4. Was the final adjustment fair to the Company?
5. How would you have handled the case from the beginning?26

One of the causative factors for the phenomenal growth of UP&L during the Gadsby-Bennion administration was this Customer Relations


26Ibid.
Policy. It is true UP&L had some reverses as Dr. Bennion wrote about it in a memorandum to the Board of Directors. He said,

Business as it has grown from the small neighborhood type to the bigger, more impersonal thing has lost that intimate relationship with the people which made for real success.

Such is separation of our own Company from its customers has led to misunderstandings of serious proportions. There have been many municipal plant elections in the past six or seven years, through which we have lost three towns (Bountiful, Delta, and Provo).

There are several centers of public ownership activities. Utah is one of these. The experiences and experiments of the early settlers of Utah wherein, cooperative effort and the United Order had a part, makes this a fertile field for municipal ownership promotion.

But, at the same time, he stated, "The growth rate, and our extension capabilities will be enlarged as fast as 'money, materials, and men' can create facilities and services."29

Ogden Dispute

The expansion movement had its dark hours as well as success for Utah Power and Light and Dr. Bennion. The first of these came in a dispute that arose in Ogden in 1932 over a city commission ordinance providing for revenue bonds to finance the construction of a municipal electric power plant. This was a threat to private ownership interests, so Utah Power and Light sought the support of interested citizen's which finally resulted

27 UP&L.

28 A.S. Bennion, Papers, Box #831. (typewritten.)

29 Ibid.
in a referendum election. Dr. Bennion, as head of the Customer Relations Program, was called upon to represent the company in presenting the UP&L side of the case to the people of Ogden. His responsibility was to make public the facts about costs, personnel, maintainence, and general service. He made many speeches in the Ogden area contending that it would cost more, that it would become a political football at certain times, and hence, the service would be impaired, and finally, that the problem of getting trained personnel takes years not a matter of days. The conflict resulted in a case before the Supreme Court of Utah and the legal battle was won by the city of Ogden.\(^{30}\) However, UP&L won the support of the community and procured the required number of signatures for a referendum election which UP&L won. The people of Ogden supported the idea of private enterprise as opposed to government owned and controlled utilities.

**Provo Dispute**

In December of 1932, a few months after the Ogden dispute, the Provo City Commission authorized a study to be made to find out if it would be feasible for Provo to move in the direction of building electric power facilities equal to the needs of the city, and to do it economically enough to warrant a change in the present system, whereby Provo purchased their power from UP&L. Mayor A. O. Smoot instructed the appointed investigators, who were a group of citizens, "to make a complete and thorough investigation

\(^{30}\)Ogden v UP&L, 79 Utah 61, 2nd. (1938)
of the situation."  

Dr. Bennion, who became assistant to the President, in 1934, was again assigned the public relations work in Provo and worked diligently to improve the image of UP&L in that area. There was much misunderstanding and contention about UP&L. Realizing this contention to be a threat to their business in the Provo vicinity Dr. Bennion recommended that an increase in services and facilities be made. Consequently, a new General Electric dynamo was installed, more people were hired and the company extended its service as far east as Vernal using the new power equipment. Dr. Bennion advised that these added facilities and increased personnel staff would then look better, while, at the same time bring more money and tax revenues to the City of Provo, which is what they wanted in the first place. During the succeeding three years at UP&L waited. On January 21, 1935, the committee report to the City Commission was filed stating that a public owned power facility could be built. It would reduce the rates to the

---

31 Minutes of the Provo City Commission, December 7, 1932. (filed in the City Recorder's Office.)


33 The Daily Herald, February 12, 1936.

34 UP&L Staff was increased from 63 to 131 people.

35 Annual Report of Provo City Power Plant, 1953. Current figures show an annual profit to Provo City in excess of $150,000 per annum.

36 Minutes of the Provo City Commission, January 23, 1935, (type-written filed in the City recorder's office.)

37 Ibid.
citizens, and bring into Provo additional income, while at the same time come under City supervision. Little was done by the City from January 1935 to July 1935. During the summer and fall of 1935 candidate for mayor, Mark Anderson, used the "power facility" as an issue in the campaign and was successful in defeating the incumbent Mayor, A.O. Smoot. After his election he pursued the issue by moving forward in the direction of building the facility.

On September 8, 1936, Commissioner McQuire proposed an ordinance

...authorizing the issuance of $850,000 Electric Revenue Bonds and the sale and delivery thereof to John Nuveen and Company.

Also a companion ordinance stated:

An ordinance authorizing the acceptance of the proposal by the Ulen Contracting Corporation, a corporation of the State of Delaware, with respect to the acquisition of an electric generating plant and electrical installation system by the City of Provo City, Utah.

These ordinances were seconded and passed unanimously by the commission.

Utah Power and Light Company wanted to force an immediate

38 It is true that additional income was received but it is inaccurate to assert that rates were reduced after Provo became a municipally owned power facility.


40 Provo City Ordinances, September 8, 1936, p. 79.

41 Ibid.

42 Commissioners, McQuire, Whitehead, and Mayor Anderson.
election\textsuperscript{43} of the issue to capitalize on the newness of the issues without a lot of propaganda and campaigning. In response to the call for an immediate election, Mayor Anderson called for an audit of the gross receipts of UP\&L. At the invitation of Mr. W. E. Fleetwood of the UP\&L Company, Mr. R. R. Carry of Salt Lake City conducted the audit and published the results which indicated that UP\&L had received $239,118.25 in receipts from Provo in 1935 for the consumption of 2,444,560 kilowatt hours of electricity.\textsuperscript{44} Mayor Anderson said, "I am glad to get them to admit this," meaning that the intake was about 100,000 dollars more than the cost of production.\textsuperscript{45}

Finally, on October 13, 1936, a referendum election on the proposed City ordinances was held. It was a large turn out of voters in a very close election. The results showed:\textsuperscript{46}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bonds</th>
<th>Contract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>2,841</td>
<td>2,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGAINST</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>2,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>119</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The day after the election was held and the results were known, attorneys for the UP\&L filed a

\textsuperscript{43}Revenue bonds require the approval of the voters. UP\&L Co. secured sufficient signatures on a referendum petition to require an immediate election.

\textsuperscript{44}\textit{The Daily Herald}, November 3, 1935.

\textsuperscript{45}\textit{Ibid}.

\textsuperscript{46}\textit{Ibid}.
...writ of prohibition and certiorari with the Utah State Supreme Court. A court restraining order was granted returnable on Oct. 31, at which time the city must show cause if a permanent injunction should be issued. 47

This first election, though successful for Provo, was bound in legal proceedings and the work of building was halted for some time. Finally, the Supreme Court of Utah upheld the city of Provo. 48 UP&L appealed the decision to the United States Supreme Court which in turn, upheld the lower court decision. 49

For a two year period of time the city of Provo and UP&L fought the problems on a legal basis. When the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court decision UP&L sought another referendum election with the people of Provo. They successfully campaigned and obtained sufficient signatures on a petition to require a second election to repeal the bond election.

On October 10, 1939, Mayor Anderson challenged Dr. Bennion, who spoke for UP&L, to a public debate on the pro's and con's on government competition in industry. 50 On October 29, 1939, The Daily Herald carried the article "Heavy Voter registration due to power issue." 51 Dr. Bennion came to Provo and made many addresses and was sponsored by the Young

47 Ibid.

48 Provo v UP&L, 94 Utah 203, (1938)

49 Provo v UP&L, 278 U.S. 2nd '11911, (1938)

50 The Daily Herald, October 10, 1939.

51 Ibid.
Voters Non-Partisan League and a Citizen's Committee made up of many prominent businessmen and professional people. 52

Many who had been his close friends and admirers within the circles of education and the Church now became his enemies. They were stunned at his defense of the Power Company. The Provo campaign actually developed into a personal campaign against Dr. Bennion, who went to Provo many times. 53 The debate was heated and emotional; he tried to show the citizens that the information they had received was grossly inaccurate. He argued that the Nuveen-Ulen Plant would not carry the service load required by Provo without a much higher expenditure than $850,000. 54 Many local citizens supported UP&L 55 and did not want another fiasco like the City Water Works. In the election the referendum to repeal the city ordinances 56 were defeated.

Proposition No. 1

An Initiated Ordinance asking the people of Provo to vote to repeal that certain Ordinance past by the voters of Provo City, Utah, October 13, 1935, which authorized the issuance of $850,000 Electric Revenue Bonds and the sale and delivery thereof to John Nuveen and Company.

52 Reed Smoot, George H. Brimhall and Walter Young.

53 Dr. Bennion and many of the UP&L employees spent much time speaking, debating, and contacting people in Provo. There were radio addresses, public debates, and house to house canvassing.

54 The Daily Herald, October 31, 1939.

55 Reed Smoot, George H. Brimhall, and Walter Young.

56 The Daily Herald, October 31, 1939.
Proposition No. 2

An Initiated Ordinance asking the people of Provo to vote to repeal that certain Ordinance past by the voters of Provo City, Utah, October 13, 1935, which authorized Provo City to enter into a contract with the Ulen Contracting Corporation for the construction of a municipal power plant and distribution system.

Proposition No. 3

An Initiated Ordinance asking the people of Provo to vote to grant the Utah Power and Light Company, a corporation, a franchise to maintain and operate an electric power distribution system within the limits of Provo City for a period of ten (10) years.\(^{57}\)

On November 7, 1939, the election was held and the results were as follows:\(^{58}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition No.</th>
<th>FOR</th>
<th>AGAINST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOR</td>
<td>2268</td>
<td>4757</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposition No. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR</th>
<th>AGAINST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2282</td>
<td>4730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposition No. 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR</th>
<th>AGAINST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2513</td>
<td>4618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The overwhelming vote against all three propositions plus the court reversals, left UP&L without any kind of recourse to save their business.

\(^{57}\)Ibid.  Official Ballot, Attested: by City Recorder K. G. Bench.

\(^{58}\)The Daily Herald, November 8, 1939.
in Provo City. They had increased the power capacity, extended their facilities, and had hired many extra people.\(^{59}\) Now they were faced with the problem of withdrawing much of this. Some personnel were withdrawn, the facilities were kept open and used to supply power to other surrounding areas that were still using UP&L services.

This was a failure of UP&L; and, it was a personal defeat for Dr. Bennion too.\(^{60}\) This was his first major defeat in his public life. He was not accustomed to losing his battles. Yet, he was to suffer another on an even larger scale within four years time.\(^{61}\)

**Negotiation of Labor Contract**

One of the most difficult tasks he performed while at UP&L, yet, at the same time, one of the most successful things he accomplished was to represent the company at the bargaining table with labor representatives.

He had been instrumental in organizing the UP&L employees under the Management-Employee Relations Program. The national unions pressed UP&L very hard for the inclusion of employees into the American Federation of Labor as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.\(^{62}\)

\(^{59}\)cf. p. 62, note 34.

\(^{60}\)Interview with Mr. O. H. Ririe, July 19, 1965. Mr. Ririe said that there was no reason for Dr. Bennion to have taken the defeat personally, because he wasn't any more responsible for the failure than any other company official.

\(^{61}\)This was the election campaign to be described later in the study.

\(^{62}\)Hereafter cited as I.E.B.W.
The first union agreement was signed with Local B-57 of I.B.E.W., an affiliate of the AF of L, on February 25, 1939. Adam S. Bennion was the chief negotiator for the power company and Mr. E.B. Carter represented the labor union. 63 Local B-57 ratified the agreement and filed it with the AF of L on March 1, 1939.

The present agreement which is now in force has been renewed from year to year since its beginning, with little changes except in wage schedules. It recognized the rights of employees to join, or not to join, any labor organization they may choose.

It provides that all employees, coming within the classifications covered by the agreement shall after one month’s continuous employment be required to pay their share in the cost of maintaining and operating the collective bargaining agency.

All employees, excepting management, supervisory officials with the right to hire and fire, and the secretarial group working under those mentioned above, are eligible members of Local No. B-57 of I.B.E.W.

The agreement recognizes the right of the management to exclusive control of all operations, supervision, the right to hire and fire, suspend or discharge for proper cause or to release employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons.

In general the agreement covered: general working rule, hours for working, overtime, holidays, vacations, sick leave, promotion, discharge

63 The official contract for the power company was signed by President George M. Gadsby, and for the labor union, President J. H. Bloomquist, signed.
Utah Power & Light Vice President

After the national elections of 1944, in which Dr. Bennion was a candidate for U.S. Senator he was invited to rejoin the UP&L Company. Not only was he rehired but was brought back to the company as an executive Vice President. In this number two spot of the company, Dr. Bennion would have responsibility for the personnel department, company relations, customer and employee relations, and would be stockholder liaison officer. All of these departments were consolidated into one department over which Dr. Bennion was appointed.

In the capacity of Vice President Dr. Bennion was called upon by the President of UP&L, Mr. Gadsby, to make many policy decisions. He was empowered to extend and build as fast as he could the working force of UP&L. Many former independent companies had since the Provo dispute become subsidiary departments. There was a pressing need for these employees to have the same benefits, to understand the same policies that had heretofore been an advantage of the older UP&L employees.

In 1945, when Dr. Bennion returned to the power company many other firms made bids for his services. He felt that inasmuch as Utah Power & Light wanted him to return, it was his duty to do so. There

---

were some opportunities however, that he did take in addition to the UP&L position. Among them were: Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad, Bennion's Boyd Park Jewelers, and the service of the Mormon Church.

With the return of Dr. Bennion to UP&L, he immediately organized a program to honor the workers of UP&L for their service. As has already been mentioned before, he believed very strongly in honoring and rewarding people who have been life-long and dedicated, devoted, and interested in performing high quality and outstanding service. This program took on the form of a social organization roughly similar to a college fraternity. It was known as the Veterans Club. 65

The club was limited to those with twenty or more years of service in UP&L or its predecessor companies. He stated, "The purpose of this association is to recognize outstanding service and to promote the extension of good fellowship among the employees." 66 Men and women were presented with service buttons for each five years of service from twenty to and including forty. 67

He formally organized it by writing a constitution and forming an administrative group of officers. They were to meet annually or at the

65 "UP&L Veterans Club, A. S. Bennion Papers; Folder 1131. (typewritten)

66 "Constitution and Bylaws of UP&L Veterans Club: A. S. Bennion, Papers, Folder 1131. (typewritten)

67 People who received 35 and 40 year pins also received $100.00 checks.
pleasure of the officers.\textsuperscript{68} It was an attempt to stimulate social association among employees of the company as well as give company rewards.

To reward the younger, but often times the most productive employees, he promised them rapid advancement, financial aid to further education and self-development.\textsuperscript{69} He was always careful to give words of encouragement to anyone who "went the second mile."

Adam S. Bennion's business life was full. With the advice and help of a special friend, Mr. Orval W. Adams, he and his son Richard Y. Bennion, pooled their financial resources and together they purchased the Boyd Park Jewelry Company.

It was not long until Dr. Bennion was thinking of retiring from the service of UP&L and he wanted to do some work that he had planned for a number of years, but, didn't have the time to accomplish. He was always interested in profitable and productive achievements. His great desire was to do some writing, a hobby that he hadn't worked at since 1935 and especially to assemble in book form, some of the great speeches he had given during the course of his lifetime.\textsuperscript{70}

The Jewelry store was incorporated on January 2, 1952,\textsuperscript{71} as Bennion's Boyd Park Jewelry Company. He was made president of the

\textsuperscript{68} The UP&L Company financed this association.

\textsuperscript{69} A. S. Bennion, Report to President, (In A. S. Bennion Papers, Folder 831.)

\textsuperscript{70} During the last year of his life he outlined his book, The Candle of the Lord.

\textsuperscript{71} Official Certificate of Incorporation from the Secretary of State, State of Utah.
corporation and his son was the general manager. Dr. Bennion's dream of a peaceful life as a jeweller and writing books was never to materialize.

Board of Directors for Denver & Rio Grande

In 1947, Dr. Bennion was approached by one of his old school friends, Wilson McCarthy,\textsuperscript{72} about the possibility of his being interested in an assignment with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The position that was offered him was on the Board of Directors of the newly incorporated company. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had become almost bankrupt when Wilson McCarthy came back West to assume the leadership of the ailing railroad. Stock in the company was at a critically low point.\textsuperscript{73} The pressing need for the railroad was a good efficient administration of business officials with insight and a competitive acumen for the transportation industry.

Dr. Bennion saw a good opportunity to insure his financial future by buying stock in the newly reorganized Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Company. He accepted the offer of Mr. McCarthy and from October, 1947 until his death in 1958, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Company.

Dr. Bennion's contributions to this company exhibited the same efficiency he gave to UP&L in the fields of personnel relationships and

\textsuperscript{72} Dr. Bennion first met Wilson McCarthy when they were students at Columbia University.

\textsuperscript{73} The price of Denver & Rio Grande stock in 1948 was $35.25 per share.
the ideas of constantly working toward better public relations by improving the quality and quantity of service.

Richard Y. Bennion said, "It was this opportunity that made Dad financially stable."
CHAPTER V
CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Political Involvement

In 1944, Republican political leaders\(^1\) sought to enlist the support of young, articulate, and progressive men. Mr. Alma Sonne said, "The only way Republicans can win at this time is to find men of unquestioned character, loyalty and wide community respect."\(^2\) This was particularly true in the Republican Party because it was the minority party. For many months\(^3\) men of the Republican Party canvassed the state seeking the support of men, whom they thought could defeat the incumbent Democratic Senator of Utah, the Honorable Elbert D. Thomas. Thomas was a powerful\(^4\) and influential man in Washington. To defeat him would require a popular, well educated, and dynamic candidate.

---

\(^1\)Among those who were official candidate seeking officers of the Republican State Committee members were G.T. Hansen, D.D. Moffatt, Alma Sonne, A.V. Christensen.

\(^2\)Paul Q. Callister, MSS. (In the files of Paul Q. Callister.)

\(^3\)The search for Republican candidates began immediately after the November election of 1943.

\(^4\)Senator Thomas was a member of the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate.
By the time late May had come, three self-announced candidates were seeking the Republican nomination. They were David J. Wilson, of Ogden, the former Republican State Chairman; Oscar W. Carlson, prominent Salt Lake attorney; and George H. Crow, a businessman from Salt Lake City.

For many years, good friends of Adam S. Bennion had encouraged him to run for many political offices. He always laughingly declined saying, "I'm not a politician; I'm an educator." Important Republican leaders in the Salt Lake area approached Dr. Bennion early in February of 1944 to see if he were available. Mr. Gadsby of Utah Power and Light Company, President J. Reuben Clark Jr., one of the First Presidency of the LDS Church, Albert E. Bowen, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the LDS Church, Orval W. Adams, Utah State National Bank executive, William "Bill" Jeffers of the Union Pacific Railroad, William J. O'Connor, prominent Utah Industrialist, and many others all encouraged Dr. Bennion to seek the nomination. At first Dr. Bennion declined, as he had done so many times before, saying, "I'm not a politician; I'm a businessman." Many other people throughout

---

5 Deseret News, June 5, 1944.

6 Interview with Mrs. Minerva Y. Bennion, June 22, 1965. His wife says he had considered seriously running for the State Legislature and on another occasion she says he was serious about Superintendent of Public Instruction.

7 Ibid.

8 Original contact on behalf of the Party came from G.T. Hansen and Alma Sonne.

9 Interview with Margaret Schofield, August 18, 1964.
the State of Utah began writing letters encouraging him to run when the rumor leaked out that he was considering the proposal. When he declined there was a feeling of regret and many letters came urging him to reconsider the decision. Dr. Bennion had most of the qualifications the leaders considered necessary. On May 31, 1944, he announced his candidacy to party leaders. The following day, June 1, 1944, he resigned from the UP&L and publicly announced he would become a candidate on the Republican ticket for United States Senator. In making the announcement he said, "I shall go into this campaign unpledged to the best interests of the people of the State of Utah." 

In a statement accepting the designation, Dr. Bennion listed the 'The speediest possible decisive victory and the establishment of international agency with sufficient power to enforce a continued peace,' as the two paramount issues confronting the nation today.

As other major concerns, he urged the restoration to 'us as individuals the control of our lives'; reestablishment of balances to safeguard the departments of government; recognition of mutual interest of labor and management; freeing the farmer of regimentation.' In conclusion, he urged 'the improvement of American education through the payment of such wages as shall attract to the school room the highest

---

10 Letter from Alma Sonne, April 11, 1944.

11 Letter from Franklin S. Harris, April 23, 1944. (In possession of Margaret Schofield.)

12 Letter from Franklin S. Harris, May 10, 1944. (In possession of Margaret Schofield.)

13 Cf. note #8.

14 Deseret News, June 1, 1944.

15 Ibid.
quality of leadership, and revitalized emphasis upon religion which shall stir America to a spiritual reawakening'.

On June 11, 1944, he opened his campaign headquarters in the Newhouse Hotel, room 411. The Salt Lake Tribune recorded the announcement as follows:

Dr. Adam S. Bennion, a candidate for the U.S. Senate nomination on the Republican ticket, Saturday opened headquarters in room 411, Newhouse Hotel.

Paul Q. Callister, manager of Associated Gas and Oil Company of Utah, will be in charge of the headquarters.

Mr. Bennion who resigned as Assistant to the President of the Utah Power and Light Company at the time of his candidacy is planning a comprehensive, state-wide campaign his committee announced.

Dr. Bennion resigned promptly from UP&L. He wanted all connections severed with the company during the campaign so that he could speak freely on any or all issues that would arise. He knew that any connection would bring fire from the opposition.

The most immediate concern was how to win the primary election with so many men in the race, and at the same time, not to split the party into fractions for the November election. Mr. Callister says, "He never campaigned against a person, but tried to state the things he would work for, if elected." In his platform he outlined the issues as he saw them:

---

16 Ibid.

17 Salt Lake Tribune, June 11, 1944.

18 F. L. Jensen, The Searchlight, Vol. V. No. 8, (Salt Lake City: F. L. Jensen, October 17, 1944.)

19 Interview with Paul A. Callister, July 29, 1964.

20 Bennion for Senator Campaign Committee Material (In possession of Mr. Paul Q. Callister.)
1. The speediest possible decisive victory.
2. The earliest practicable return home of our fighting men.
3. Provision for the aged, the needy, and the infirm...
4. Constructive educational legislation...
5. Labor Laws which will protect the laboring men...
6. The Just Treatment of industry.
7. The protection of Utah's basic businesses:
   a. Mining
   b. Sheep and Cattle
   c. Products of our Farms and Fields
   d. The Continued Operation of Plants
   e. Small Business Enterprises
   f. Professional Men

During the course of the month of June he hit hard at such issues as:

1. The reduction of bureaus and bureaucratic control,
2. The restoration of congress to full legislative responsibilities,
3. The freeing of judicial officers from political pressures,
4. The elimination of class and racial hatred,
5. The abolishing of rationing and the endless directives and reports,
6. The protection of American tax payers from playing Santa Claus in setting up the world W.P.A.,
7. The right of a few men to work and enjoy the fruits of their labors, protected by the constitutional form of government from competition and confiscation - that America shall remain the land of opportunity and achievement to all men, whether they be born in cabin or castle.21

Dr. Bennion traveled the entire state during the month of June renewing old acquaintances and seeking political support. On July 12, 1944, the primary election was held. The result was most encouraging. The Salt Lake Tribune read "BENNION, MAW, LEE IN LEAD."22 The commentary said: "With 366 out of the states 864 voting districts tabulated, Dr. Adam

22 Salt Lake Tribune, July 12, 1944.
S. Bennion was running ahead of his other three opponents for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination in the Utah nominating primary Tuesday. Talley for the vote:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bennion</td>
<td>9977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>2964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlson</td>
<td>1134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final vote tally indicated that Dr. Bennion won by a 2-1 majority.²³ One of the surprising aspects of the

...primary was the strength shown by Dr. Bennion in the race for the Republican nomination. He was a pre-primary favorite to win but few were predicting his margin would be so great.²⁴

With the primary over, the difficulty was to conduct a campaign based on issues. "Dr. Bennion refused to be pulled into a name-calling, mud-slinging campaign."²⁵ The popular tide of the times was very heavily weighted to the advantage of the Democratic Party, with a popular President of the United States, a powerful incumbent senator, a Democratic state administration, and the problems of the war coming to a close. The Democrats called for maintaining the national administration to cope with the war crisis and most people²⁶ were sympathetic to that reasoning, rather than changing administrations before the war was over.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Interview with Paul Q. Callister, July 29, 1964.

²⁶Interview with Dr. Frank Jonas, professor of Political Science, University of Utah, July 12, 1965.
Dr. Bennion began to campaign vigorously using the following points as his major campaign themes: alternating of parties in government is good, a new day dawns for America in economics, warned against the Woodrow Wilson errors, attacked the issue of Communism, called for labor, and constructive educational legislation, and protection of farmers and small businessmen.

As time passed an inevitable question arose about his affiliation with UP&L, in fact, it had already been an issue in the primary election. Senator Thomas asserted that Dr. Bennion was "dominated by the Utah Power and Light interests." He declared further, "this is the first time that power and light have taken over a political party."

In a formal statement Dr. Bennion hit back and denied the charges of Senator Thomas. Dr. Bennion denied that the power company had

---

27 Speech made in Salt Lake to the Womens Republican Club, September 12, 1944.

28 Speech made in Vernal, September 7, 1944.

29 Speech made in Ogden, October 7, 1944.

30 Formal News release reported in Deseret News, October 18, 1944.

31 Speech in Price, September 26, 1944.

32 Speech in Logan, October 21, 1944.

33 Speech in Ephraim, September 13, 1944.

34 Carlson pursued the utility charge against Dr. Bennion in the primary campaign.

35 Deseret News, October 18, 1944.

36 Ibid.
sponsored his campaign "in any way." Then in a "bare fisted"37 way

Dr. Bennion said,

...He asked for it—led the way with his chin—so here it
is... The Power Company has not put a dollar into this
campaign, nor will it, but since he is interested in sponsors,
perhaps he will explain his own. How far does he approve
of the land-grabbing tactics and how fully does he sanction
the Communist activities of Harry Bridges.38

Among the critics of Dr. Bennion none was more vociferous than

Mr. F. L. Jensen publisher of a bi-monthly circular, The Searchlight: A
Specialist in Neglected Truth.39 Interestingly, the attacks he made were
not directed at Dr. Bennion. Rather, they were against the men who were
members of his campaign committee: Orval Adams, Bill Jeffers, J. Reuben
Clark, Ezra Taft Benson, George M. Gadsby, Harold Bennett, Read
Stevens, Fred A. Carlson, and a host of others.40

It is interesting to note that editorially all three major Salt Lake
newspapers supported Adam S. Bennion in the election campaign.41 Dr.
Bennion was close according to O. N. Malmquist, Tribune Political analyst
whose polls showed.42

37Ibid.
38Ibid.
(Salt Lake City, by the author, October 13, 1944.)
40Ibid., p. 8.
41Deseret News, October 18, 1944; Salt Lake Tribune, September
7, 1944; Salt Lake Telegram, September 9, 1944.
42Salt Lake Tribune, October 28, 1944.
For President
Roosevelt ........ 54.6%
Dewey ......... 45.4%

For U.S. Senator
Thomas ........... 51%
Bennion .......... 49%

For Governor
Maw ............ 41%
Lee ............ 59%

Many independent Democrats, largely the more conservative ones, actively encouraged the election of Dr. Bennion. Many Republicans attacked Senator Thomas for his "leftist" articles in Communist approved and sponsored magazines. In fact, this was the issue which Mr. Callister, campaign manager for Dr. Bennion, felt to be the most important, and which he persistently pursued in his radio and public speeches on behalf of Dr. Bennion. Mr. Callister in a radio address of November 6, 1944, called upon Senator Thomas to explain his statement and position to the effect that "no punitive measures should be levied against Japanese war leaders."  

The election was a record-breaking turn-out of voters. As the results were tabulated it was apparent early in the evening that Dr. Bennion

---

43 Such important Democrats were: Burton W. Musser, and Wilson McCarthy.

44 Paul Q. Callister, Manuscript Radio Address, KSL Radio, November 6, 1944.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.
was not going to win. The published results of the election showed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas</th>
<th>Bennion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>147,408</td>
<td>100,139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perhaps, this statement is the best to answer the question - Why?

"He was the right man, at a wrong time. He was six years too soon."

Most political analysts expected Dr. Bennion to push Senator Thomas, as there was considerable dissatisfaction with his record in Washington with many national figures of the Democratic Party. However, the popular tide of the national election was to the Democrats; the war issues; and the advantage of being the incumbent easily carried Sen. Thomas to victory for the third term. On Wednesday morning Dr. Bennion conceded the election and wished his opponent well in the future.

This was the second popular rejection of Dr. Bennion at the polls in four years; once for the Utah Power and Light Company in the Provo Municipal election, and now for himself. There would never be another election for Adam S. Bennion. He had polled well in rural Utah, but Salt Lake City and Ogden voted heavily against him. In his notes he

47 *Salt Lake Tribune*. November 8, 1944.

48 Interview with Orval W. Adams, August 4, 1964.

49 Privately Democrats from Industrial East such as Senator Herbert Lehman D-NY. Senator Paul Douglas D-Ill., opposed the re-election of Senator Thomas. They were hoping for a primary contest in which they could publicly support another candidate. (This information comes from Papers of Wilson McCarthy in the files of Paul Q. Callister.)

50 *Salt Lake Tribune*. November 9, 1944.
wrote: "No more elections, ever!" 51

Civic Service

The period immediately after he became a business executive in 1928, shows another fascinating aspect of Dr. Bennion's life. By his own admission we find the key to understand what his attitude was "I want to be devoted to the three principles of Faith in God, Self-perfection and Service to others." 52 Mr. Gadsby at UP&L encouraged Dr. Bennion to join the Newcomen Society of England and North America. 53 Dr. Bennion did so in 1932.

Broadly, this British Society has as its traditions to increase an appreciation of American-British traditions and ideals in the Arts and Sciences, especially in that bond of sympathy for cultural and spiritual focus which are common to the two countries; and secondly, to serve as another link in the intimately friendly relations existing between Great Britian and the United States of America. 54

This was an especially pleasing experience for him as he was always at home in the environment of intellectual stimulation. There is no

51 A. S. Bennion, Papers, Folder #1139.

52 Adam S. Bennion, What It Means To Be A Mormon. (Salt Lake City: Deşeret Sunday School Union, 1917.) p. 25.

53 The Newcomen Society centers its work in the history of material civilization, the history of: Industry, Invention, Engineering, Transportation, the Utilities, Communication, Mining, Agriculture, Finance, Banking, Economics, Education, and the Law-these and correlated historical fields. In short, the background of those factors which are contributing to the progress of Mankind. Newcomen Society of America. "Facets of a Diamond Anniversary - In America!" (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1953.)

54 Ibid.
evidence that he ever gave a report to the society\textsuperscript{55} which seems rare in light of his excellent ability to do that kind of thing. He remained a member of the Newcomen Society the rest of his life.

**Chamber of Commerce**

As soon as he became director of personnel at Utah Power and Light he qualified to become a member of the Salt Lake City of Commerce. He joined March 1, 1928, one month after his appointment at UP&L.\textsuperscript{56} He was an active "super salesman for Salt Lake City."\textsuperscript{57} He served the Chamber of Commerce consistently all the time he was a member.\textsuperscript{58} In 1929, he was a member of the entertainment committee, which was responsible for sponsoring the appearance of such people as Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald. He was appropriately assigned a seat in the education committee in 1931. In 1932, at the height of the depression, he served as a member of the relief committee. He served as chairman of the legislative committee in 1935 which put him in close association with Utah legislators both at the state level and national

\textsuperscript{55}No entry in index as of 1953. (since that date no index compiled.) There was nothing in his papers that indicated he ever gave an address and he kept careful records of his important speeches.

\textsuperscript{56} Statistical Records of Chamber of Commerce.

\textsuperscript{57} Interview with Gus Backman, August 21, 1964.

\textsuperscript{58} He resigned June of 1944, when he ran for the Senate; rejoined in June 1945; resigned permanently in 1953 when he became an Apostle.
level. In 1939, he was elected for a two year term as a member of the board of governors, and re-elected in 1942 for two more years as member of the governing board. In 1948, he was a consultant to business firms who sought the aid of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Red Cross Work**

In September of 1938, Dr. Bennion accepted the responsibility of Salt Lake County chairman for the American Red Cross. He called for "every able bodied man to give of his blood freely and to contribute five dollars for every single man or head of a household. He further declared, "if you can't give blood we will take its value in dollars." 59 The first year he was successful in filling Utah's quota for both blood and money. Because of his success they pled for him to continue as chairman in 1939. That year the war broke out in Europe and he said, "Now America must preserve and collect all she can." So in 1939, the statistics indicated a record contribution of $67,000 plus 2,500 pints of blood. 60 He called for help "from wherever there is a heart or a hand to help." In 1940, he volunteered to continue his services and that year he raised in excess of $85,000 dollars and 4,000 pints of blood. 61 He was concerned and dedicated to the cause for which the Red Cross stood.

59 *Deseret News*, September 8, 1938.

60 Adam S. Bennion Papers, Folder 731, (typewritten summary).

During the dark years of the depression he served as the chairman of the Community Chest Drive for funds to help the poor and cleanup cities. He served in that capacity from 1929 until 1931. He was successful in never letting the number of dollars fall below the 1928 average. Usually, the chairmanship is rotated to another prominent citizen each year.

**Salt Lake Library**

The mayor of Salt Lake didn't pass up the opportunity to use the talents of Adam S. Bennion. In 1937, he nominated him to serve a six year term on the Salt Lake City Library Board. In recommending the appointment, Stephen L. Richards said, "There is no man in our city better qualified nor in better position to select the books our children shall read." Elder Richards remembered well how Dr. Bennion made efforts to build the libraries in the seminaries so that students could read and learn conveniently. So, during the war years of 1938-1944 he helped to select books, write the policies of the library and was instrumental in getting them to include musical scores and made the suggestion that recordings eventually be included.

---

62 The drive grossed more than $25,000 dollars for Utah every year.

63 Adam S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.
The Country Club

He patronized regularly the Salt Lake Country Club to play golf, tennis, handball, and softball. This association gave him the exercise he felt was so necessary for a healthy body and relaxation after a day of hard concentrated mental work. He served as its President in 1945 and had been a member of the board of directors since 1941. He used to take his boys out there often to engage in friendly competition. His sons were all very adept athletes - especially Richard, who was acclaimed over much of the West because of his skill and ability in tennis. His son tells us, "Dad was always interested in teaching us good sportsmanship and competition in athletics." 64

Rotary Club

Perhaps his finest social achievements came in the work he did as a member of the Salt Lake Rotary Club. He was made a member in 1938. 65 During 1940 he served as Chairman of Rotary Program Committee 66 and because of his position was an automatic member of the Rotary Administrative Council. Later in 1943, he was nominated and elected to the Rotary Advisory Board 67 and also again, in 1945. 68 Then on April 1, 1947, on the first

64 Interview with Richard Y. Bennion, July 22, 1964.
65 Adam S. Bennion, Diary, p. 63.
66 Ibid.
67 Ibid.
68 Ibid.
ballot he was elected President of Salt Lake Rotary Club.⁶⁹

Dr. Bennion felt deeply concerned about what role Rotary could play in the community and especially what it could do for youth that would be a beneficial and helpful step forward in educating and training young men and women for "useful, purposeful, and productive lives."⁷⁰ The answer to this question came on Tuesday, September 2, 1947.

At a regular business meeting. He outlined a project "to acquaint outstanding high school students with principles of Rotary. One boy from each of the 75 high schools in the State of Utah would be selected. The selectives were to be the houseguest of a Rotary member for a period of three days, to be invited to spend a day at a place of business which would be of interest and benefit to him in his chosen vocation; to be privileged to attend a church of his own choosing; to be entertained at a sports event occurring during his stay, and two of these young men would be chosen to appear before the group to give his reaction toward Rotary. Each one will have the opportunity to submit an essay on 'What it means to be an American'. The essays to be judged and the winner to be awarded a $1,000 University of Utah scholarship."⁷¹

The project met with whole-hearted approval of the membership.

The Youth Conference was scheduled November 8-11, 1947.⁷² And a committee was formed to work out the details. The whole program met with excellent acceptance among high school administrators who were apprised of the plan.⁷³

---

⁶⁹Term was July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1948.

⁷⁰Minutes of Rotary Meeting, September 2, 1947, p. 55.

⁷¹Ibid.

⁷²Ibid.

⁷³Letter from Leland E. Anderson, October 10, 1947. (In the A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.)
On Tuesday, November 11, 1947, Dr. John T. Walquist acted as moderator for the Rotary Meeting at which time the boys were introduced and entertained. Questions were directed to the boys which were "answered with alertness and keen perception." In turn, the boys were given the opportunity to ask questions of a panel or Rotarians. On the panel with Dr. Walquist were Governor Herbert B. Maw, Mayor Earl J. Glade, Mr. George Gadsby, Mr. William R. Wallace, Mr. Douglas D. Moffat, President A. Ray Olpin, Elder Stephen L. Richards, and Mr. John Lang. At the conclusion of the meeting the boys requested one final word in which they presented the Rotary Club with a resolution of appreciation signed by all seventy-one boys. The interesting thing about this was that no Rotarian knew anything about it. The resolution said that,

WHEREAS, the Rotary Club of Salt Lake City, Utah, has so graciously invited us as representatives of the youth of Utah to attend and participate in a Youth Conference conceived by your President, Dr. Adam S. Bennion, and promoted and directed by said Rotary Club, and

WHEREAS, during our attendance at such Youth Conference the various Rotary members have given so generously of their time, money, and hospitality, and have brought to our attention the opportunities and need for true American leadership among the youth of today--those who will be political leaders, statesmen of tomorrow, and,

WHEREAS, through the opportunities given to us to visit with and observe the leaders of various businesses and industries and the work carried on by them, we have had an opportunity to broaden our knowledge of and to reflect upon our vocational aims and desires, and,

74 Minutes of Rotary Meeting, November 11, 1947, p. 68.

75 Ibid.

76 Ibid.
WHEREAS, through the various meetings we have been privileged to attend we have been reminded of the moral consciousness and religious conviction that must at all times influence our everyday efforts and by such opportunities we have received great spiritual inspiration.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the undersigned representatives of the youth of Utah, representing the many high school students over the entire State of Utah, that we do hereby express our deepest appreciation to our hosts, the members of Rotary Club of Salt Lake City, for the wonderfully enjoyable and inspirational visit to Salt Lake City which we are just completing, we further resolve that as representatives of the youth of Utah we shall try to do our part to carry back to our various schools a portion of that inspiration which has been given to us and shall seek to foster and promote in all ways possible a consciousness of what it means to be true Americans.

We further express our fondest hopes that this Youth Conference which has thus been instituted will be continued each year that others who may be fortunate enough to take our places as leaders of various high schools may also have the opportunities to be guided and instructed by leading businessmen of this State to assume their responsibilities as leaders of the youth of America.

Dated this 11th day of November, 1947.

Signed

The program has continued to grow and develop ever since its inception. It extends to other cities throughout the United States. 77

Law Enforcement Investigations

Dr. Bennion was called upon by Mayor Earl J. Glade to investigate the police work of Salt Lake City. 78 He was to look into the problems and methods of correction, physical conditions, and the processing of minor violators. It is true that 'he was no legal authority; yet, Dr. Bennion was not

77 Interview with Mr. D. W. Williams, August 12, 1964.

78 A. S. Bennion, Papers, 741. No date is mentioned when the assignment was made nor carried out.
without a background that qualified him to do the work. He had studied some law at both the University of Utah⁷⁹ and the University of Chicago⁸⁰ and he was an expert in human relationships.

In line of his legal involvement in community affairs he was asked by State Senator Alonzo F. Hopkins to serve on a legislative subcommittee to study the facilities of the Penitentiary of the State of Utah. The study was made and Dr. Bennion wrote the report. Below is a brief outline of the findings and recommendations:⁸¹

As early as 1937 the Utah State Legislature recognized the inadequacy of the present State Prison, and authorized the purchase of a new site. If the inadequate was recognized twelve years ago when the inmates numbered 271, no argument is needed to convince the people of Utah that with 448 inmates at present the prison is now even more woefully inadequate. A visit to the prison at Sugar House will convince any citizen not only that present conditions are deplorable but also that to spend money in the rehabilitation of the institution would be folly.

At the new site at the point of the mountain two medium security cell buildings have been completed except for cell doors and controls, at a cost of $231,000. By December of this year, the unit containing the boiler room, the kitchen, the dining room, the auditorium, the school and the sewage treatment plant will be completed, at a cost of $798,000.

But even then, the new prison will not be ready for use. Two major jobs remain:

1. The construction of the administration building;
2. the construction of the maximum security cell building for housing the more dangerous prisoners.

Two courses of procedure are open:

⁷⁹Official Transcript, University of Utah, 1917.
⁸⁰A.S. Bennion, Papers, folder 9.
1. To build within the next year the Administration unit at an estimated cost of $50,000, leaving the construction of the maximum security cell building for the following year with the understanding that the Sugar House Prison would continue to house the more dangerous prisoners for another two years:

or

2. To build simultaneously within the next year, both the Administration unit and maximum security cell buildings at a total cost of $1,250,000, for both structures. In either case a further appropriation of $600,000 will have to be made to cover equipment, a general alarm and intercommunicating system and guard towers.

If course number one is followed, we shall not only have to tolerate conditions at the present prison for at least two years but we shall face the additional costs involved in the management of two prisons, one at Sugar House and one at the point of the mountain.

Your Committee is of the opinion that we already temporized too long -- through twelve tedious years.

We believe that the problem of adequately taking care of an increasing number of prisoners and of safeguarding the citizenry of this State against the menace of a war-produced crop of criminals justifies our recommendation that at the earliest possible date we complete the entire prison at the point of the mountain so that within a year we can abandon the Sugar House Penitentiary.

This recommendation grows out of developments of the last six months which demonstrate that the adequate care of the State's prisoners is an emergency of the first order.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of September, 1949.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Adam S. Bennion gave of his time and talents to charity organizations such as the Salvation Army and March of Dimes. He served on the Rocky Mountain regional board of directors for the Salvation Army.\(^{82}\)

\(^{82}\)A. S. Bennion, Diary, p. 19.
He served as a member of the board of directors of the Blue-Cross - Blue Shield Health Insurance Company from 1951-1955. He was concerned for the well being of people and he worked hard in this particular organization to make sure that a wide cross section of society could participate in health insurance. 83

_Cultural Activities and Participation_

Within the wide area of cultural activity Dr. Bennion was active all of his life. His own artistry in music, as has heretofore been mentioned, his love for poetry, prose, and narratives were the things he studied at the University, and his love of art were important. He participated in them as much as he could all the days of his life. He spoke often about the fine arts. 84 He said "Music is the accompaniement of life." 85 In his radio address of February 10, 1944 he said, "Young people should learn to play some instrument. Music is not difficult. Let's revive singing...gather around the piano in a family group and sing." 86

Dr. Bennion was a member and later (1945-54) the President of the Salt Lake Oratorio Society. In this position he worked hard to establish

83 A. S. Bennion, Papers, folder #1813.
84 "The Value of Art from the View Point of a Layman." Speech given in Springville, 1942.
85 February 10, 1944, KSL, "When Two Generations Meet."
86 Ibid.
the society on a firm basis. At its president, he was instrumental in having nationally famed singers\textsuperscript{87} and conductors\textsuperscript{88} come to Salt Lake City for special occasions, such as the annual rendition of Handel's "Messiah" at Christmas time. "He was very much concerned with maintaining these cultural traditions in Salt Lake City."\textsuperscript{89} Armont Willardsen has said, "It was the initiative work, foresight and planning of Dr. Bennion that helped to bring the Salt Lake Philharmonic Choir into existence."\textsuperscript{90} He was intimately associated with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir as a member of General Church Music Committee. He advised J. Spencer Cornwall on choir programming at times. He always encouraged the expansion of the repertoire.

During the dark days of World War II he in the company with others, were successful in getting the Utah Symphony Orchestra reorganized.\textsuperscript{91} More over, it was Dr. Bennion, F.E. Smith and Dr. LeRoy Robertson who were assigned the task of securing a permanent conductor. The final result was that maestro Maurice Abravenel came to the Utah Symphony from the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

\textsuperscript{87}Nadine Connor, George London, Lillian Chooskossian.
\textsuperscript{88}Dr. Thor Johnson, Conductor of Cincinnali Sympohny Orchestra.
\textsuperscript{89}Interview with Jack Thomas, July 22, 1965.
\textsuperscript{90}Interview with Armont Willardsen (August 12, 1964). Willardsen is conductor of Salt Lake Philharmonic Choir and one of the original founders.
\textsuperscript{91}F.E. Smith, Loren Wheelwright, George M. Gadsby, LeRoy Robertson, Gail Plummer, \textit{et.al.}
Achievements in Civic Education

Dr. Bennion's life as an educator, has already been explained, as far as it referred to his career as a teacher and school administrator. However, the question can be raised; did he ever leave the field of education, in spite of his decision to become a business executive? In the field of business, his responsibility was personnel, employee training, and human relationships.

After 1928, when he left the school system of the LDS Church, he was not directly connected with a formal educational institution in any official capacity until in 1938, when, President Heber J. Grant recalled him to the Church school service as a member of the Church Board of Education. From that time on, Dr. Bennion served as a consultant to the Church in its educational policies. He remained a member of the board the rest of his life. "His reputation still lingered strong in the minds of school officials everywhere as one of the best educators in the State." President George Thomas of the University of Utah retired in 1942 and the regents went about the task to find a successor. Dr. Bennion's name was proposed, and a lengthy discussion took place among the Board of Regents.

---

92 See chapter three, passim.
93 A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.
95 Minutes of the Board of Regents, University of Utah, April 11, 1942, m.p. (in files of the office of the President of the University of Utah).
Regents over a possible appointment. One issue they debated centered around
the suspicions some of them had as to whether or not he would accept. Some
felt that he was no longer interested in education per se, in light of the decision
he made in 1928. 96 A resolution was made and seconded to "Offer to Dr.
Adam S. Bennion the position as President of the University of Utah." 97
The vote was taken - result - a tie vote, six for the appointment, six against
the offer. 98 During the course of discussion the board became hopelessly
decklocked and so the offer was never made. LeRoy E. Cowles was appointed
interim President until a successor was found.

Governor J. Bracken Lee immediately after assuming the office of
Governor of Utah, nominated Dr. Bennion to serve as a member of the Board
of Regents 99 for the University of Utah from 1949 to 1953. As a regent, he
also served as a member of the executive committee of the Board. 100 There
is no evidence that he was instrumental in working for any particular facet
of University expansion; except, he was constantly concerned about the
improvement of the quality of teaching and the training of the professors.
He said, "We consider it a discouraging practice, tending toward mediocrity..." 101

96 This particular decision proved to be a critical turning point in his
life on many occasions. On most occasions it was seemingly to his detriment.
97 Minutes of the Board of Regents, University of Utah, May 23, 1942.
98 Ibid.
99 Appointed Dr. Bennion on April 7, 1949.
101 A. S. Bennion. MSS, Box 5.
The University of Utah Alumni Association elected Adam S. Bennion as President of that association during the years 1953, 1954, and 1955. That particular office made him an *ex officio* position on the Board of Regents. He continued to serve in that capacity even after his regular term had expired.

Upon completion of his term as Regent on the University of Utah Board, an interesting event occurred. The evidence of this is recorded in a letter to Dr. Bennion from President Ernest L. Wilkinson of BYU, who said,

> I recall you telling me last Friday that you had some doubt whether the Governor would reappoint you to the University of Utah Board, but you never let me in on the secret (if you knew it) that you were going to be a member of U.S.A.C. Board.

> I suppose this is the first time in the history of the state that one person has been a member of all three boards of trustees.\(^{102}\)

The Governor's intention was to switch Dr. Bennion from the University of Utah to the Utah State Agricultural College\(^ {103}\) Board of Trustees and in return take Mr. Thorp B. Issacson from the USAC Board and appoint him to the Board of Regents of the University of Utah. Before these gubernatorial appointments, or changes, were announced, the Board of Trustees of the USAC under Mr. Issacson's leadership, offered the position of President of the Utah State Agricultural College to Dr. Bennion,\(^ {104}\) with unanimous approval. In his diary he merely says, "I declined position of President of Utah State Agricultural College."\(^ {105}\) Later, in April, after the declension

---

102 Letter from Ernest L. Wilkinson, March 9, 1953.

103 Hereafter cited as USAC.


of Dr. Bennion was public, the Governor proceeded with his original plans and appointed him to the USAC Board of Trustees. By July 1, 1953, Dr. Bennion was a member of all three Boards of Trustees of Utah's three major universities.

_Utah Public School Survey Commission_

On September 21, 1951, the Utah Public School Survey Commission was organized under "legislative mandate." 106

The Utah Legislative Council selected the members of the Public School Survey Commission from lists submitted by county commissioners, chambers of commerce, legislators, state and local boards of education, the Utah Education Association, Utah Farm Bureau, State Congress of Parent-Teacher Assn., labor organizations and the public at large. Sixty members were selected from 685 nominees submitted.

The Public School Survey Commission was organized. A chairman and executive committee were selected and authorized to proceed in formulating plans for the survey. 107

Dr. Adam S. Bennion was appointed chairman of the commission and was given his instructions and the "full powers of the legislative act to examine, any and all books, records, buildings, grounds, pupils, teachers, other employees, and agents within the public elementary and secondary school system." 108 A method was adopted for the study. The work was outlined and assigned to the members of the Commission.


107 Ibid., p. 9.

108 Ibid.
One of Dr. Bennion's chief concerns in the legislative study of Utah Public Schools was the quality of teaching in some of the academic subjects such as Mathematics, English, and History. In a letter, Dr. Ernest L. Wilkinson, sheds some interesting light on the subject, as he answers one of Dr. Bennion's chief questions. Dr. Wilkinson said:

When you were kind enough to have me at the Newcomer Society you confided to me that one of the things you wanted to investigate was type of training in history that high school students in this sic were receiving.

In talking to Dr. Reed Morrill of this institution on yesterday, who for several years was a prominent member of the state staff of public instruction, I was informed that the field of history was probably the more neglected than any other subjects; that generally this subject was relegated to athletic coaches who had no special training in that field to teach.

I pass this on to you merely by way of suggestion as to where you may obtain some information on this subject. 109

In the official report nothing was printed specifically about history nor mathematics; although there was a general statement under the caption: "Methods of Instruction."110

Finally, on February 19, 1953, before the time limit imposed by the legislature ran out, Dr. Bennion appeared before a joint session of the legislature to report the Commission's findings.111 Many people noted the value of the work. One letter said, May I congratulate you on the fine presentation and quality of the report before the legislature last Tuesday."112

---

109 Ibid., p. 31.
110 Ibid.
111 Ibid., p. 190.
Brigham Young University

In the spring of 1953, Brigham Young University bestowed an Honorary Doctorate of Letters Degree upon Adam S. Bennion. During that year he was called upon to head an investigating team to look into the problems of the Brigham Young University College of Education.

The purpose of the survey was:

...to make an appraisal and present recommendations concerning the rapid expansion of the University, the unusual demand for teacher trained in the College...seemed to warrant a re-evaluation of the organization policies, and curriculum of this division of the University at this time. The faculty of BYU faced the problem of adjusting its teacher preparation program to the new demands of the rapidly changing position of America in the world.

In this race of education vs disaster, the teacher training philosophy and methods of the stagecoach period are no longer adequate. The amount of knowledge and skills, the attitudes, values, and loyalties demand a new streamlined program.

The committee completed the assignment during the summer and submitted the report with recommendations to President Ernest L. Wilkinson on September 1, 1953. The basic conclusions facing BYU and the College of Education

...are due partly to the nature of the institution, partly to the process of rapid development, and partly to a changing educational philosophy brought about by the new role the United States is playing in world affairs. Each of these facts has created a conflict in the administration, organization and curriculum that has not been fully resolved.

---

113 See Appendix D.

114 Report to the President of Brigham Young University on the College of Education by the Committee Appointed to Investigate, September 1, 1953. (In A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.)

115 Ibid., p. 3.
The problems of immediate concern are: bigness, rapid expansion, delegation of responsibility, well defined personnel policy, the conflict in voluntary service and adequate compensation for scientific research.\textsuperscript{116}

The two most important recommendations were: first, that the college be reorganized quickly with new administrative leadership. Secondly, to settle the issue of compensation for academic work as opposed to voluntary services of the Church.

**National Citizen's Commission**

On November 5, 1953, Dr. Adam S. Bennion was named to a national education post.\textsuperscript{117} The *Deseret News* in an editorial on the above mentioned date said,

The National Citizen's Commission for Public Schools cited Dr. Adam S. Bennion's work with the Utah Public School Survey Commission in naming him to the national group. This work was outstanding indeed, but no more so than the life-time of service Dr. Bennion has given to education in Utah. As federal aid to education continues to be urged from many quarters, it is good to know that this Utahn's steady persuasive voice will be heard in defense of freedom and states rights and responsibilities, and in a position where its influence will be felt nationally.\textsuperscript{118}

The National Citizen's Commission for the Public Schools has as its' goal

"...to make the best education available to every American child on completely equal terms."\textsuperscript{119}


\textsuperscript{117} *Deseret News*, November 5, 1953.

\textsuperscript{118} National Citizen's Commission for the Public Schools, "Basic Principles," September 8, 1954, m.p. (In the files of Adam S. Bennion, folder 1812).

\textsuperscript{119} *Ibid.*
While a member of this commission, Dr. Bennion worked diligently to advance the idea of local autonomy of American schools and his primary concern dealt with the area of public finance. As a member of the commission, he was instrumental in the writing of a very provocative report on "How Education Can Be Financed in the Decade Ahead."\textsuperscript{120} He was selected as spokesman and moderator for the group on the occasion of the Fifth Annual Citizen's Assembly in San Francisco, March 9, 1954. He cited the following factors as being of "grave importance to America."

1. The increase in the number of school-age children.

2. The increase in productivity of United States.

3. The amount of education expenditures that will be appropriate for each child of school age.\textsuperscript{121}

Later, on June 9, 1956, the commission was reorganized and was known as "The National Citizen's Council for Better Schools."\textsuperscript{122} He was retained as a member of the reorganized commission. Dr. Bennion proved to be an articulate leader in the movement for local control of public schools. He contended that America needs "reformation at the local level, rather than, formation at the federal level."\textsuperscript{123} He felt it was time that he wrote


\textsuperscript{121} National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools, Fifth Annual Dinner, (San Francisco, California, March 19, 1954).

\textsuperscript{122} A.S. Bennion, Papers, folder 1812.

\textsuperscript{123} \textit{Ibid.}
his own statement on the issue of federal aid to education. 124

**Intergovernmental Relationships**

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established a commission on "Intergovernmental Relationships" with Mr. Meyer Kestnbaum as chairman. The purpose of the commission was "to survey the whole field of governmental inter-relations among the various agencies and commissions." 125 President Eisenhower, at the suggestion of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, and the members of the Utah delegation in Congress, appointed Dr. Adam S. Bennion as chairman of the sub-committee on "Federal Responsibility in the Field of Education. The official news release read:

Elder Adam S. Bennion, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles was named to head an important study group on federal aid to education.

Announcement of Elder Bennion's appointment was made by Meyer Kestnbaum, Chairman of President Eisenhower's 25 man Commission on Intergovernmental Relationships.

This committee, which is composed of 10 people will be one of the most important federal committees of the Commission. It touches just about everybody. The only committee of comparable interest is the one of federal highway aid.

The prime purpose of Dr. Bennion's committee is to study the entire field of federal responsibility in education in naming its final recommendations to the President.

The education committee will hold its meetings in Washington.

The work will not be new to Dr. Bennion. He was chairman of the Utah Public School Survey Commission which made an intensive study of Utah's public school system. 126

---

124 See Appendix E.

125 *Deseret News*, June 18, 1954.

126 Ibid.
The task of the committee was three-fold:

1. To study the allocation of powers and responsibilities in the field of education, and to define what the proper role of the Federal Government should be in this field in relation to the States and their political subdivisions.
2. To study and report whether there is justification for Federal grants-in-aid, to various educational programs which now receive Federal Aid, whether Federal Control in those activities should be limited.
3. To study and report whether there are other activities in the field of education to which Federal Aid should be extended.\(^\text{127}\)

In a letter, dated, October 19, 1954, Dr. Bennion submitted the report to Mr. Kestnbaum. He said:

Your Study Committee on Federal Responsibility in the Field of Education presents herewith its report.

The Committee was appointed in June 1954, and held 5 meetings for a total of 11 days between June 28 and October 19. It attempted to cover in its studies, deliberations, and recommendations as large an area in this field as was possible in the available time. The Committee and its staff consulted with and received advice from Federal agencies and many private associations, civic groups, and individuals in the field of educational administration and finance. These organizations and individuals represent a wide variety of preparation of this study. In view, however, of the time available to us, the Committee suggests that further extensive and intensive studies be undertaken to explore more adequately the grave problems confronting American education, and the role which the Federal Government should assume.\(^\text{128}\)

The report listed in summary a 13 point analysis of principles, conclusions, and recommendations. The basic answers were clear as far as the three-fold


\(^{128}\) Letter from Adam S. Bennion, Chm. Study Committee on Federal Responsibility in the Field of Education. (Washington, D.C.: October 19, 1954). (In the files of Adam S. Bennion, folder 1812.)
task was concerned, which had been outlined for them by the President.

To the proposition of the allocation of power and responsibility the committee said:

Educational responsibility rests initially with parent, but is shared with the community, the State, and the Nation. It cannot be allocated to any one level of government, but should be undertaken at the lowest level capable of its satisfactory performance. The presumption must be that the responsibility remains within the lesser unit until there is clear demonstration of the necessity of its transfer from one to another.\textsuperscript{129}

To the second request they stated:

It is our opinion, however, that the appropriation of relatively small sums of Federal Aid for school construction...may delay rather than advance school construction. Schools have been a state and local responsibility and by long standing and firmly embedded tradition. They should remain so.\textsuperscript{130}

And to the final question of their task they said:

The program is within the sphere of responsibility of the states and school districts and the parents, and should be carried by them. It is not a Federal responsibility. Federal participation should be gradually tapered off, as state and local communities demonstrate their ability to assume the cost, and as economic conditions warrant.\textsuperscript{131}

The only areas where the committee felt there might be some justification for federal aid was in areas where there was mass migration and the local conditions were not equal to cope with the task. In these isolated cases, some federal aid would be expected so as not to pose a threat to "...the Republic and to the welfare of the Nation in peace and war."\textsuperscript{132}

\textsuperscript{129} Study Committee Report... p. 6.
\textsuperscript{130} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{131} Ibid., p. 10.
\textsuperscript{132} Ibid., p. 5.
A part of this report dealt with the school lunch program. The committee commenting on this issue said:

The program is within the sphere of responsibility of the states and school districts and the parents and should be carried by them. It is not a Federal responsibility. 133

That comment brought some caustic criticism from columnist Drew Pearson who said:

The Commission, which is supposed to improve government efficiency, has taken a strong stand through its subcommittee on education against spending federal money for the school lunch.

Through acknowledging that 'the school lunch program is beneficial to the health and welfare of school children.' The report concludes: ' (the program) is not a Federal responsibility. Federal participation should be tapered off.' 134

White House Conference On Education

In a letter from Clinton Pace we find that Governor J. Bracken Lee appointed Dr. Bennion to represent Utah at the White House Conference on Education. 135 Dr. Bennion was on this occasion selected as chairman of the group which had its topic "What Should Our Schools Accomplish."

A fourteen point summary was drawn up and given 136 to the Conference. 137

133 Ibid., p. 28.
134 A.S. Bennion, Papers, folder 1810.
135 Letter from Clint Pace, May 12, 1955. (In the files of A.S. Bennion.)
After his appearance at the White House Conference he was requested to speak many times all over the nation on the problem of Federal aid to education. Perhaps the most dynamic, or one might even say, explosive occasions occurred when Dr. Bennion appeared before the National Association of Manufacturers at the 60th Congress of American Industry. On that occasion he talked of the White House Conference on Education and then he took a firm stand against federal action in the field of education.\textsuperscript{138} He summarized his remarks that day to simply state that if there be "cases of extreme need in the few states which can prove dire need, unavailable resources, full use of borrowing capacity, a disposition to sacrifice for the education they want, then some federal aid might be granted on a temporary basis."\textsuperscript{139}

\textbf{Honored By His Alma Mater}

Because of the great respect and the dedicated efforts, for the work of Dr. Bennion had done throughout his life-time for the University of Utah, the State of Utah, and the United States in the field of education, he was nominated to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree in the June commencement of 1957. Here is the citation as read by one of Dr. Bennion's close friends, Professor Obert C. Tanner.

\textsuperscript{138} Address to the National Association of Manufacturers. A. S. Bennion Papers, 1845.

\textsuperscript{139} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 7.
Mr. President, I have the honor to present Dr. Adam Sharp (sic) Bennion, gifted speaker and careful interpreter of the highest values in American life—values related to our homes, our schools, the business community, and our reverence for the Highest. In recognition of His inspiration to young people to become best, His encouragement to parents for homes to be the finest, His labors for our schools to be democratic, His crusade for businessmen to be free, yet responsible, His devotion to the tradition of prophetic religion.

Teacher, author, administrator, and ambassador of good will toward every man: I have the honor to present Dr. Adam Sharp (sic) Bennion for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

President A. Ray Olpin said in response to Professor Tanner's remarks:

In recognition of lifelong service to his people and his alma mater, for his leadership as educator, in industry, and in interpreting the meaning of responsible American citizenship to his generation, and for his constant devotion to high ideals as student, teacher, churchman, administrator, president of the Alumni Association, and regent, THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH with authority given by law confers upon ADAM SHARP (sic) BENNION the degree of Doctor of Laws with all the Rights, Privileges, and Honors there unto appertaining.

---

140 O.C. Tanner, "Commencement Exercises of the University of Utah", June 10, 1957. n.p. (In the files of A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.)

141 Ibid.
CHAPTER VI

THE APOSTLESHIP

The Calling

The apex of Adam S. Bennion's life occurred on a rainy morning of April 6, 1953. During the early morning hours - sometime between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. - the phone rang in their house on Herbert Street. Sister Bennion answered the phone and the other party asked for Dr. Bennion. It was Miss Claire Middlemiss communicating an appointment that President David O. McKay wished to meet with Dr. Bennion at 9 A.M. in his office in the Church Office Building on South Temple Street.\(^1\)

For a long time many people had held hopes that someday Adam S. Bennion would become one of the General Authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The question that President McKay asked Dr. Bennion that morning was, "Will you accept an assignment to fill the vacancy in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, created by the death of Dr. John A. Widstoe?"\(^2\) President McKay reported: "The answer to my question came not at first in words, but through the brilliance of his smile, his watered

\(^1\)Interview with Mrs. Minerva Bennion, July 22, 1964.

\(^2\)A.S. Bennion, Diary, April 6, 1953, n.p.
eyes, and a nod of his head. Then he said, 'I'll do anything I can to magnify this calling. I appreciate the confidence\textsuperscript{3} and will give my whole life and effort to you and the service of the Church!'\textsuperscript{4}

\textbf{The Acceptance}

At the beginning of the morning session of the 132rd Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, President J. Reuben Clark Jr., Second Counselor to President McKay, arose and read the proposals for the sustaining of the General Authorities of the Church. As members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, he read the following names in order of seniority:\textsuperscript{5}

Joseph Fielding Smith
Albert E. Bowen
Harold B. Lee
Spencer W. Kimball
Ezra Taft Benson
Mark E. Peterson
Mathew Cowley

\textsuperscript{3}That statement of "appreciation of confidence" meant much more to Adam S. Bennion than just a mere acknowledgement of words. It was the restoration of Adam S. Bennion's dream that he had not been wrong when he made that critical decision to leave the Church Schools in 1928.


\textsuperscript{5}Church. \textit{Conference Report}, (Salt Lake City, LDS Church, April 4, 5, & 6, 1953.) p. 102.
After the sustaining vote of the general Church membership Elder Spencer W. Kimball was called upon to speak. Following Brother Kimball, Elder George Q. Morris, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve spoke. Then President McKay arose and said, "Elder Adam S. Bennion, whom you have sustained this morning as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, will now address us." As custom dictated, he was now to address the membership of the Church. He said in deep humility:

No man who has not been through this experience can appreciate what it means. I am honored but humbled. For years I have been going up and down the land preaching, but in the hour of this greatest call I have no preaching. With your faith and prayers and with the sustaining influence of our Father in heaven, I should like to give you in a few brief minutes my personal witness.

President McKay has been an ideal to me all my life, and I love him. Thirty-eight years ago I was called to the membership of the General Board of the Sunday Schools at the instance of President McKay and President Stephen L. Richards. During those years I have sat at their feet to admire them to marvel at their strength, to glory in their service. President Clark I have always regarded as one of the strongest men in America. These men who constitute the General Authorities of the Church I have known and have worked with, and I have honor and sustain them all. The members of the Twelve, and

---


the Assistants, and the Presiding Bishopric, and all others
called these high positions - I love them. I can only hope
in my heart that they will find it in theirs to sustain me as
I sustain them.

I love this Church and its people. In the fall of 1847 my
grandfather came across the plains and lived in a log cabin
such as is in the southeast corner of this block. For a
quarter of a century now it has been my privilege to bring
men from all parts of the country to this block, and in
tribute to our pioneers I always take them to one spot. If
you'll go yonder to the southeast corner and stand with one
eye on their abode, the log cabin, and the other turned a
little to the northwest, you will realize that while they lived
in a log cabin they dreamed dreams of a temple. A hundred
years ago this summer they laid the foundation. The men
who came from New York marvel as they turn from the log
cabin and hint of poverty to the temple that took 40 years
to build and required four million dollars that they did not
have. They were real people.

I love this country. I love its inspired Constitution and
its great free institutions. If I have a text for the twenty years,
it has been the preservation of all that we cherish in the name
of freedom. It is my hope that the things that are our benedic-
tion may be passed on to our children. This country has been
wonderful to me as has this Church.

I have said I love this Church and its people. I love the
Lord. My life is anchored to the testimony that I know that
God lives and that Jesus is the Christ. I glory in my
membership in the Church which was instituted through
revelation, and I testify to you today that the Prophet Joseph
Smith, and all of his successors, men of God, have been in-
spired to build this great institution.

President McKay, in the love I bear you, I give you my life
and my service and with your sustaining benediction I'll go
where you want me to go; I give my best attempt to do what
you and He would have me do.

God bless you all. If my assignment may in some part be
with these grand young people such as are here from Brigham
Young University today, it will be a glorious privilege to
bear witness to a new generation of the glories of the gospel
as they have blessed me at every turn of my life. I pray the
blessings of God upon us all, and I dedicate myself to His
service, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
In this address, Elder Bennion,\(^8\) pledged for the opportunity to work with the youth of the Church. And work with them, he would. His whole life had been dedicated to their well being in education, in the daily work-a-day world, and in spiritual affairs.\(^9\) The very next day, and succeeding days thereafter, Elder Bennion received hundreds of letters, the world over, congratulating him of his appointment. One in particular is worth citation:\(^10\)

Edmonton, Canada

April 7, 1953

Dr. Adam S. Bennion
47 E, South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Brother Bennion:

At ten o'clock yesterday morning I was far back in the Canadian Rockies, six thousand feet above sea level, in a camp where we are drilling for oil. During Sunday I was able to get part of the Conference on a small battery radio set, but on Monday the signals were very indistinct. However, imagine my joy when, with the radio pressed against my ear, I heard the voice of President Clark as he presented the names of the General Authorities of the Church, and when your name was mentioned as the new Apostle I fairly shouted for joy.

I know you will have thousands of letters and telegrams and that you will, of course, be unable to answer all of them, May I say just

---

\(^8\) Dr. Bennion preferred to be called "Elder" after he was made an Apostle, just as he had appreciated the recognition being referred to as Dr. (doctor) before.

\(^9\) Elder Bennion went over the whole state, in fact throughout western America, marrying young people, blessing them, and ordaining them to the Priesthood. After he became an Apostle he would only marry when they went to the temple.

\(^10\) Letter from Hugh B. Brown, April 7, 1953, (in possession of Margaret Schofield, former secretary to Adam S. Bennion.)
here that this letter needs no answer, but I cannot refrain from writing to extend my congratulations and assure you of my support. Zina shares my feelings in that a better choice could not have been made.

Ever since I first met you at the B.Y.U. Summer School in 1919, I have felt that your place was among the general authorities of the Church, and each time there has been a vacancy I have secretly nominated you for the position. You will have the love and confidence, admiration and support of all the Church. With the blessings of our heavenly Father, and with your unusual training and background, you will add to your already enviable record as a special messenger to the youth of the Church.

I have always believed that the decisions of the First Presidency are prompted by the inspiration and revelation of the Lord. That faith has been strengthened by your appointment.

Zina joins in extending love and blessings to you and Minerva.

Cordially and faithfully yours,

/s/ Hugh

The Ordination

On Thursday morning, April 9, 1953, Adam S. Bennion made his way to the Salt Lake Temple, a place he had been many times before, but this occasion was new, and indeed different. In an upper room of the Temple in solemn assembly, of the Council of the Twelve and First Presidency of the LDS Church, those "both old and new"\(^{11}\) were welcomed to the meeting by President McKay's radiant smile. One of the most important, if not the most important, item on the agenda that morning was the ordination of Adam S. Bennion, to become the 70th Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Before the ordination, President McKay talked straight at Elder Bennion and charged him with the responsibility that he had requested in

\(^{11}\) *Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.* (Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Office, April 9, 1953.) p. 11.
Conference on Monday - that of working with the Youth of the Church.  
Then in all of the solemnity and serenity of both Temple and Prophet, David O. McKay, with his counselors laid their hands upon Adam Samuel Bennion and ordained him to the Council of the Twelve Apostles, as a new witness "to bear testimony to the reality of Jesus Christ." Adam S. Bennion had acquired another, even higher, plane of life, than that of a school teacher, administrator, and businessman. Now he was "a fisher of men."

Deseret Sunday School Union

Elder Bennion had been closely associated with the Church all of his life. He had been a member of the Deseret Sunday School Union since 1915, when at 29 he was called to the General Board of the Sunday School by Superintendent David O. McKay. For over forty years he had been engaged in the work of the Sunday Schools of the Church, teaching, writing, and preaching. He wrote the first teacher training manual for the Sunday School. He traveled the length and breadth of the Church giving

13 A.S. Bennion, Diary, April 9, 1953, n. p.
14 Matthew 4:19.
15 Most of the important church associations of Adam S. Bennion were closely related with David O. Mckay. e.g. Commissioner of Education, Sunday School General Board, and last the Apostleship.
teacher training classes. He wrote many lessons for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, Independence Day, and Pioneer Day.  

He sought many times in his later years to get released from the Sunday School General Board. They would not release him. Supt. George R. Hill once said, "We need Adam S. Bennion now, just as much as President McKay needed him in 1915." So, until the day he was ordained an apostle he remained a member of the Board. After his elevation to the Council of the Twelve, he with Elder Richard L. Evans were the advisors from the General Authorities to that auxiliary organization.

Church Board of Education

In 1938, President Heber J. Grant recalled Adam S. Bennion as a member of the Church Board of Education when it was consolidated into one body with the Church. All of Elder Bennion's life he was seriously concerned about the religious activity of the young people, particularly those who go away home to college. As a member of the Board of Education, these problems were regularly analyzed with regard to Brigham Young University. In 1950, Dr. Bennion suggested to Elder Henry D. Moyle, that a study should be made to ascertain the facts, relative to church attendance of college students. Later, in 1951, both Brother Moyle, and Dr. Bennion suggested this to President Ernest L. Wilkinson of the BYU. Dr. Bennion


was alarmed at the number who, when they go away to college, quit
going to Church. He felt something should be done about this if it was
at all possible.

At the request of Elder Moyle and Elder Bennion, Dr. Wilkinson
instructed President Antone K. Romney, President of the Provo Stake, and
a member of the BYU Faculty to conduct a survey and make a study to
report back to the Brethren. Dr. Romney, along with Dr. West Belnap,
and Prof. Roy Doxey, spent two years making the study. They found a
significant differential in the ratio of students who attended church at home
and the ratio of students who attended church at BYU. The report was
filed with President Wilkinson who in turn directed it to Elder Bennion and
Elder Moyle on September 1, 1953.

During the course of a meeting held in Dr. Bennion's office in
Salt Lake, he offered the suggestions that perhaps some form of a modified
stake-ward system could be used on the BYU campus. President Wilkinson,
the committee members, and Elder Moyle all agreed. The committees had
asked for the extension and organizing of more campus branches. With
the united concurrence of those at the meeting Elder Bennion and Elder
Moyle took over the administrative work of the project from there on.

---

of the BYU Stake. Provo, Utah, 1956. p. 3. (typewritten in possession
of BYU Archives.)

20 Report of Committee on Religious Activity at BYU, by Antone K.
Romney, et al., (A. S. Bennion, MSS, Box 6), p. 3.

21 Ibid.
Finally, in 1955,

...the First Presidency of the Church decided to establish a stake of Zion at Brigham Young University. In December the Brethren announced that the (sic) intended organization of Brigham Young University Stake. On January 8, 1956, Elder Henry D. Moyle and Brother Adam S. Bennion, having been appointed by the First Presidency to organize and establish a stake at this institution, come to this campus and called together the student body in the first conference of a new Brigham Young University Stake. Twelve bishops were called and twelve high-councilmen, mostly from the faculty, but including some people from the community. These brethren were set apart as bishops of wards or as high councilmen, of the stake. I was called as President with Daniel Bushnell as first counselor and Joseph T. Bently as second.22

This organization of stakes and wards organization was then rapidly extended to most of the other Utah Colleges. Also, where there was a large number of LDS students at other universities they were organized into wards which met at the Institute Buildings.23

When Elder Bennion became an Apostle, he was made a member of the Executive Committee for: the Board of the Unified Church School System. He was a close confidant of many of the faculty members and administration officials at BYU. When problems arose he was usually the one to hear about them from both sides.24

22 Ibid., p. 3.
23 Examples of this movement are the student wards at UCLA and USC in Los Angeles.
Mission Tours

During the time that Adam S. Bennion was a member of the Council of the Twelve he made three comprehensive tours of twelve of the missions of the Church. He toured the Northwestern States including Alaska, the ten European Missions, and lastly the East Central States Mission.  

In 1956, just following the organization of the BYU Stake with Elder Henry D. Moyle, Elder Bennion was assigned to make a tour of the Northwestern States Mission, which included Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. There is no written report in his files on this tour; consequently little is known about where he went and what he did, except the Journal History of the Church records that he dedicated the chapel of the Hillsboro Ward in Portland, Oregon. We can be sure that there were the regular district conferences and missionary meetings held. These were required according to the assignment from the First Presidency of the Church. There is no mention exactly as to the date which the tour started or finished. Although, we can accurately say that the tour occurred between January 8, 1956 and April 16, 1956. 

On his way home from the Northwestern States he was sent to visit the Fresno Stake Conference. Most of the specifics we have of the tour

---

25 A.S. Bennion, MMS, Box 1. (In possession of the LDS Church Historian's Office.)

26 A.S. Bennion, Papers, Folder 1878.
come from what he said in that conference. He made one very interesting remark in light of what was to happen upon his return to Salt Lake City. He said:

If I ever go to Europe it isn't Paris I want to see, it isn't Berlin I want to see, I want to stand in the Holy Places long enough to get the feel of things. 27

Little did he realize that one month later he would be given an chance to go to Europe. He did see Paris, Berlin and stand in those Holy Places.

European Mission Tour

The European Mission tour was assigned to him the regular Temple session of April 16, 1956, and later, on April 18, 1956, it was publicly announced that he would spend the summer in Europe. The tour began April 22, leaving the Salt Lake airport flying direct to London where he toured first the British Mission. 28

On that European tour he traveled 31,000 miles; spoke to a total of 32,000 people; heard 1,056 missionaries bear their testimonies and he interviewed personally each of those missionaries. 29 He talked with countless others and interviewed many members for Church positions in their respective missions. In the preface to his report, he wrote:

27 Ibid.

28 Report to the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve by Adam S. Bennion, September 24, 1956. (In possession of the LDS Church Historian's Office.)

29 Ibid., p. 1.
"...these five months have been the most enriching of my life."\textsuperscript{30} The report was lengthy and complete. The first item he noted to the Brethren was his concern over the statistics. During the first six months the missions were well on their way to equal or surpass the records they had achieved the entire proceeding year.\textsuperscript{31}

One of Elder Bennion's more serious notations was answering the question, "What happens to some of the converts?" He listed the causes which contribute to the inactivity of new members as being directly related to

...the missionaries, who paint too bright a picture of perfection which isn't subsequently found by the convert; branch administration, where converts are asked to work too soon; ...the converts themselves, who lack moral virtue; ...older members, who engaged in fault-finding, backbiting, and who are jealous; ...some miscellaneous causes such as Church standards too high, illness, poor places of worship, etc.\textsuperscript{32}

However, on the bright side of the statistics he called their attention to the trend of decreasing percentage of inactivity. In the reports of 79 of 93 branches reporting the following was the result:\textsuperscript{33}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{30}Ibid.
  \item \textsuperscript{31}See Appendix, F.
  \item \textsuperscript{32}Report..., pp. 2-3.
  \item \textsuperscript{33}Ibid.
\end{itemize}
One of the most far-reaching facets of his report came with his recommendation concerning the training of missionaries before their calls and after they arrive in the mission field. He said by way of recommendation that,

...there should be a more searching inquiry into fitness; he (the elder) should be more experienced with ordinances; should have a better knowledge of such documents as: The Ten Commandments, The Beatitudes, The Articles of Faith; and lastly, there should be a more general study of foreign languages. 34

He commended the work of the lady missionaries, the translators, and the help of public officials in making the trip a success. He noted that "There is a crying need for more missionaries throughout Europe." 35 Also, he commended the mission presidents and their wives for their "generous service and diligent help to the missionary cause." He "discovered a great need for a common understanding on many matters. So vital seemed the need...that I took it upon myself to call the mission presidents together." 36

---

34 Ibid.
35 Ibid., p. 5.
36 Ibid.
He visited each of the temples or temple sites in Europe and briefly stated the following:

The work at the Swiss Temple is an inspiration. The visit to the London Temple (under construction) was an intriguing experience. The temple site in Sweden is one of the beauty spots of Europe. It has tremendous possibilities. The idea of temple work is most singular.\textsuperscript{33}

Many times the theme of the youth has emerged in this study. And it did on two occasions on this European Mission tour. First, "the youth conferences that were held were some of the most enlightening parts of our visit."\textsuperscript{34} And then, he wrote a strong recommendation for the establishment of a Church School for Europe.

The following considerations lead me to commend to your attention the idea of building a residence school of junior college grade for Europe:

1. Presently throughout Europe, unless a youth has qualified for specialized university training, he is essentially through with formal education by the time he is fifteen. All over we met both boys and girls at that age already out in apprenticeships or in regular employment. There is practically no such thing as popular collegiate training for the masses. These young people seem too immature and scantily trained to face the world and its problems.

2. Then, too, there seems to be no adequate provision for the socialization of the next generation such as there is in our country.

At the outset, it should be pointed out that there will be serious difficulties encountered. The people of Europe have little money. It would be hard for them to pay for such education. At first, at least, the Church would of necessity have to meet most of the costs. Travel to a center would pose difficulties.

\textsuperscript{33}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 14.

\textsuperscript{34}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 17.
I am not unmindful of moral problems which would arise. But we have faced that difficulty before - it may well be a potent reason for doing something to combat social trends.

And of course there is the language difficulty. But this tour has impressed me with the thought that we ought to do more with language both abroad and at home.

There is no reason why young people should not learn at least two or three languages. This difficulty might easily be turned into an advantage.

On the positive side, I can see many great values in establishing a Church School: It would raise the general status of future generations for our converts; It could provide opportunity for choice young people to meet other desirable youths; It could, along with the temples, provide ground for more of our converts to stay in Europe; It could provide an adequate religious training to buttress academic study; It would be concrete evidence to the people of Europe that we believe "The glory of God is intelligence;" It would help to provide sorely needed leadership in our branches.

Fortunately, from among our missionaries, with the necessary additional academic training, we have potential strength for a faculty.

From inquiries made -- with no commitments involved -- it is clear to me that governmental approval could easily be obtained; that youths would be eager to attend and that parents would be enthusiastic. Our experience in Hawaii and New Zealand could well teach us what to guard against.

Taking the long view, we might give consideration to possible use of presently established military bases -- when and if our forces are to be withdrawn from Europe.

There are ideal locations available in Sweden, in Central Europe or in England. For such an introductory experiment, perhaps a location in Central Europe might be best. A modest beginning, with dormitory facilities, and with liberal assistance in the way of scholarships and provision for work on or off the campus, to assist children of parents of limited means to realize the great potential of opening other windows of the world.

I am gathering basic data on European Education, particularly as affecting school requirements, professional standards and the possibility of eventual governmental approval and assistance.

In my judgment a school could become a great instrument for good. I am aware, also, of the careful inquiry that needs to be made. I commend the idea to your consideration.35

35 Ibid., p. 16.
He commended the work of LDS Servicemen in Europe. He noted, "I was proud of the men who in the services are holding fast to the gospel and living up to its teachings." Elder Bennion dedicated a Serviceman's Chapel in Heidelberg, Germany. Also, he met with a group of seven hundred and forty service personnel and their families in a meeting at Berchtesgaten where Adolph Hitler planned the demise of democracy.

On that tour of the European Missions he fulfilled the full measure of his dream which he expressed at the Fresno Stake Conference. He left Europe in late August and traveled to Palestine, Jordan, Greece, and other Middle east countries. There he stood in those, "Holy places" and caught the spirit which prompted him to say, "Nobody can ever come away the same man." He noted the tension in that part of the world:

Close up inquiries, convince me that we may well bid our time before moving into this disputed area until some of the highly explosive questions may have been settled. There's dynamite in the situation.

In relation to his feeling about the Middle East he commented upon the tremendous recovery that has been made from World War II. He carefully described the situation in the divided city of Berlin:

A visit to Berlin shows how great the destruction was, but city after city not only has cleared away the rubble—it has made itself a modern progressive metropolis. Everywhere people are courageous. They don't whine about the loss.

---

36 Ibid., p. 18.
37 Ibid., p. 20.
38 Ibid., p. 20.
We are not depressed -- except in Berlin -- we were inspired and heartened. 39

In summation of the whole tour he laid before the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve his humble thanks for the opportunity. He felt that there was inherent inspiration in his assignment.

When you've dreamed of doing something all your life -- and then the dream not only comes true, but transcends your most cherished aspirations -- when that happens it does things to your soul.

The countries are beautiful -- each in its own way -- seemed we were going through a perpetual park. We loved and thrilled to all of them. Everything that Van Dyke mentions is there -- landscapes, castles, palaces, rises (sic), mountains, magnificent scenery at it's best and a scent of historical achievement everywhere. Kings and conquests -- queens and quadrilles -- wealth and wisdom -- power and poverty -- all chronicled in their time.

But to us, our most cherished memories are the kind faces of thousands of earnest and inspired people -- the uplifted and uplifting testimonies of volunteer servants of the Savior of Mankind. Kindness and graciousness and thoughtfulness were heaped upon us until our cups have run over. 40

Eastern Central States Mission Tour

After the European tour the Brethren were very satisfied with the work he did and the report that he submitted. He returned to his regular duties of visiting stake conferences, performing temple marriages, and the routine items on his agenda, which included many committee meetings and many hours spent for counseling individual church members by the thousands.

39 Ibid., p. 21.

40 Ibid.
who came to him for advice. The pace he kept was one few men in the 
prime of their lives could equal, to say nothing of his seventy-one years. 

In the spring, on May 5, 1957, to May 19, 1957, he fulfilled his 
third mission assignment in three years. This time he went to the East 
Central States. This tour was much more brief than the European, however 
there weren't as many missions to cover. There was of this tour an itinerary 
of his travels.

While in the East Central States Mission he enjoyed a special 
experience—a trip to Cane Creek, Tennessee, where on August 10, 1884, 
Elders Gibbs and Barry were slain for preaching the Gospel. This is an 
interesting event in the history of persecution of the Mormons in early 
Church history.

Three chapels were dedicated; one at Louisville, another at Tom-
pkinsville, and the last one at Bowling Green. He said, "They are attract-
ive, comodius, and serviceable." He again held conferences for the servicemen at Fort Campbell, 
Kentucky, Stewart Air Force Base near Nashville, and the Millington Naval 
Air Base at Memphis, Tennessee. He took time out to go to the National 
Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

---

41 Report on East Central States Mission Tour to the Council of the Twelve and President Joseph Fielding Smith by Adam S. Bennion, May 19, 1957.
42 See Appendix F.
44 Ibid., pp. 2-3.
The people of the South, "...as I found them in this mission, are remarkable--so hospitable, so responsive and so genuine. This was an experience I shall never forget." 45

By way of recommendations he listed five areas of needed improvement:

1. Air conditioning for chapels in the South.
2. Provision for more visual aids by the General Auxiliary Boards of the missions.
3. More attention to the missionary approach and training.
4. Advocated a study of that particular mission to ascertain if some of the territory could not more profitably attached to some other mission.
5. The relocation of the mission headquarters from Louisville to Nashville which is more centrally located. 46

He noted also that President M. Ross Richards of the East Central States "travels more than 50,000 miles a year. He is keeping a killing pace." 47

He kept minutes of all the meetings along with photographs, maps, and letters that were written to him about the tour. 48

Stake and Ward Visits

One of the routine responsibilities of any member of the General Authorities of the Church is the visitations to stakes and wards throughout the Church. The primary purpose is to check the progress of growth and

---

45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
47 Ibid.
48 A.S. Bennion, Papers, Folder.
note the areas of weakness in which the ward or stake needs to be strengthened. Whenever a stake was to be organized, or reorganized, this was the exclusive responsibility of a member of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. In some cases Assistants to the Twelve helped out when there were too many conference on any one weekend.

The first official stake conference visit Elder Bennion ever made was to the University Stake, in Salt Lake City with Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, on April 25 and 26, 1953. After that weekend, excepting the time he was in Washington as a member of the White House Conference on Education, the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations and the tours of the Church missions, Elder Bennion attended a stake conference somewhere in the Church until the week before his death. An accounting of these as he recorded in his diary, shows that there were one hundred and fifty-five stake visits made during the time that he was an Apostle.

He dedicated nine war chapels during his life as a General Authority. The first was the Emmett First and Second Ward of the Wieser Stake; then he dedicated the Kingman Ward in the Las Vegas Stake; the Provo Fifth and Eighth Ward of the Provo Stake, the Hillsboro Ward in the Portland Stake, and the branch chapels at Tompkinsville, Louisville, and Bowling Green in the East Central States Missions, and then the servicemen's center in Hiedelberg, Germany and the chapel in London.

49 Deseret News, "Church Section," April 17, 1953.

50 A. S. Bennion, Diary, passim.

51 Journal History, June 14, 1953, pp. 5-6.
During the week nights whenever possible, he was asked many times to address MIA firesides. This was one of his great loves. He did it as often as time and circumstance would permit. One theme he often used the concept of eternal marriage. This subject, after he became an Apostle, caused him some trouble. He could no longer perform marriages for those young people who were non-members of the Church or even members who were married outside the Temple. For those young people who could not qualify for temple recommends he was bound. He could not help them as he had done before. He realized however, that as a member of the General Authorities of the Church he could not represent the General Authorities of the Church by performing marriages that were against the doctrine and practice advised by the Church.52

Elder Bennion was a member of the Church Historical Sites Committee. In this capacity he was responsible for the acquisition of property and its restoration that played a part in the development of the Mormon history. Other committees on which he served were the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for the Unified Church School System, the Church Finance Committee and the Missionary Committee. He was most concerned about the role of the Church in the field of missionary labor, particularly after the great European Mission Tour.53

52 Interview with Mrs. Minerva Bennion, July 8, 1965.

53 Interview with Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, July 9, 1965.
Finally, much of his time was spent being the counselor, confidant, and adviser to people. Most of the time, when he was in Salt Lake City was spent in this regard.

He came to the Apostleship late in his life; but, it was the fulfillment of his life's dream. He proved to be one of the most popular members of the Council of the Twelve in the history of the Church.54

**His Death**

At seventy-one, Adam Samuel Bennion, having spent a life of devoted service to his Church, his country, and to his fellowmen, died of a cerebral hemorrhage. The attack occurred on February 5, 1958, in the early evening sometime about 8 P.M. after returning to his home from a full day in the office. By 9 P.M. he was in the LDS Hospital under medical care. He struggled for five days in his fight for life; but to no avail. He died in the evening of February 11, 1958.

The newspapers lauded his life and made extensive summaries of all he had done during his life. The best account of all that was published came from the man Adam S. Bennion loved and idolized. David O. McKay, with his counselors concurring, wrote the official statement of the First Presidency which summaries all. He said:

In the passing of Elder Adam Sharp (sic) Bennion the community, the state, the Church have suffered a heavy and peculiar loss.

---

54 Ibid.
Rarely, indeed, has a man garnered so rich a heritage of accomplishments in so many fields of vital endeavor, as was gathered together by this great man. His intense energy and enthusiasm, his sterling qualities of character, his high hopes and aspirations, his lofty ideals, his pure patriotism, his deep faith, his loyal devotion add a hallowing luster to his achievements.

In the field of education he held a high place, at one time he was head of the school system of the Church. In the field of business and finance he moved among men of power, skill, and vision.

In no work did his great ability show forth more clearly than his work among the youth of the Church and the land. Thousands have been led to better ways of life; they will call his blessed.

Endowed by his creator with a brilliant gift of oratory he gave all that had been given to him, that he might persuade to better ways and lead to the higher life, his fellowmen, irrespective of race, creed, or color.

Called to the Apostleship late in life, he brought to his Church work a wealth of experience, full devotion, a simple faith in God, in our Savior and the restored Gospel, on which he lavished his full gifts. His joy was his work, ie knew no bounds. In all these he performed a great service.

May the Lord bless and comfort his loved ones in their bereavement.

/s/ David O. McKay
Stephen L. Richards
J. Reuben Clark, Jr.,55

The Funeral

The deceased was honored by the attendance of the First Presidency of the Church, members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, other members of the General Authorities, dignitaries from the city, the state, and the Nation were at his funeral. These, with the thousands of other friends who loved, respected and appreciated Adam S. Bennion paid their last respects to his family.

Friday, February 14, 1958, the funeral was held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle at 12:15 P.M.\textsuperscript{56} The tabernacle was filled to capacity and there were many more who lingered on the grounds at Temple Square and in the Salt Lake Cemetary where interment took place.

Eulogies were made by the thousands, but three stand out as prime examples of his contributions as they impressed those with whom he came into contact. Dr. Gerrit de Jong, Jr., a former student said:

Forty-one years ago Adam S. Bennion walked into my life. I can still see him. There stood, the embodiment of all that I had ever dreamed of becoming, a scholar, a gentleman, a churchman, a powerful persuasive public speaker, an influence for all that is good in life. Right then and there he kindled in my innermost soul an unquenchable fire and enthusiasm. I resolved that day to study relentlessly and to go academically as far as my talents and mental equipment would permit; to give my church and country a full measure of loyalty and service.

I can still feel his spirit. What a teacher he was in every contact he made!\textsuperscript{57}

Elder Hugh B. Brown, who succeeded him in the Council of the Twelve said:

All if (sic) us who attended the classes taught by Adam S. Bennion... were inspired by the man who kindled minds while imparting knowledge.

That this inspiration was effective, is evidenced by the fact that from the many classes which he taught at various times and places, have come leaders in Church and state, including congressmen, governors, senators, as well as bishops, presidents of stakes and members of the General Authorities.\textsuperscript{58}

\textsuperscript{56}See Appendix, "Funeral Program."

\textsuperscript{57}"He Touched More Hearts," \textit{Instructor}, Vol. 93, April, 1958, p. 106.

\textsuperscript{58}\textit{Ibid.}
And Gus Backman, of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote:

No one can measure the effect of his constant stressing upon business people of the need for fair dealings with employees and customers, their the business people's responsibilities as community leaders, and with the need for practicing in our daily lives the old fashioned virtues of thrift and honesty. 59

Elder Harold B. Lee of the Council of the Twelve, speaking in the funeral said, "He was a kind courageous teacher. He was ageless, he never lost his zest for youth." 60

President David O. McKay in making his verbal salute said:

Elder Adam S. Bennion was a man who forgot himself for others and won immortality. He was superior in service, a true and devoted husband and father, and faithful in every single assignment and duty as an apostle.
He was tolerant and recognized the right of conscience in others. 61

Finally, at the graveside, in the Salt Lake Cemetery, Elder Richard L. Evans, the trusted friend, student, and fellow Apostle, who sat at his side for five years, dedicated the grave. Before so doing he made this statement:

The events of this man's life, prove that he was, is now, and forever shall be, 'A Candle of the Lord.' 62

---

59 Ibid.
60 A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 1, (In possession of Church Historian's Office).
61 Ibid.
62 Richard L. Evans, Funeral Summary in the A.S. Bennion, MSS Box 1 (In the possession of LDS Church Historians Office).
CHAPTER VII

FINAL EVALUATION OF HIS CAREER

The evaluation of Adam Samuel Bennion in summary shows that he was one of the most active, devoted, and loyal men of his generation in all of the fields of endeavor in which he was engaged.

In the field of education he was a brilliant student with a determination to be the best. He achieved high honors in scholarship and was invited to become a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa. Adam S. Bennion held degrees from three fine universities: University of Utah, Columbia University, and the University of California. Throughout his life in many ways he proved to be a superb teacher and administrator. At the age of thirty-three he was Commissioner of LDS Church Education, later, a professor of English at the University of Utah. During the late 1940's and early 1950's he was a member of all three boards of trustees for the three Utah universities. On two later occasions he honored the call of the President of the United States to serve as an advisor and investigator in the field of education. With all of this he never failed to hold high the standards of academic excellence, freedom of intellectual thought, and the virtue of knowledge.

In 1928, he made a far-reaching decision—to leave the field of education and achieve a career in the business world. In his
business career he worked with men of enterprise, vision, and ability. The mark he carved in the business world indicated that he was an expert in personnel administration and in the field of human relationships he was rated among the highest. He was a skilled negotiator with both management and labor. He was an articulate spokesman for his company. In business he was honest, fair, and thrifty.

Adam S. Bennion was a devout and patriotic American. He accepted the responsibilities as a loyal citizen and ran as a Republican candidate for the United States Senate. He was, in the field of social affairs, oriented to the liberal tradition; yet, when it affected financial matters he was a conservative. His love of the United States was uppermost of his life.

Other civic and social responsibilities which he shouldered were President of the Salt Lake Rotary Club, which, under his leadership established the tradition of the statewide youth conferences held all over America in different areas. To his credit must be added the help he rendered in the organization of the Utah Symphony Orchestra, the improvement and continuance of the Salt Lake Oratorical Society. As a member of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce he served on the Board of Governors. Along with this he was an active sportsman who worked for the extension and improvement of facilities for men and women to have recreation and friendly competition which was so important to him.
Of all the achievements Adam S. Bennion made during his lifetime, none were more far-reaching or more important than those he attained in the service of his Church. As a young man he served as a Sunday School teacher, and a member of the MIA Superintendency. He served the Deseret Sunday School Union as a member of its board for forty years. As a young man, he served as Church Commissioner of Education. In 1953, he became the 70th Apostle of the LDS Church. He traveled the length and breadth of the Church to the stakes, missions and wards ministering in various ways to the people.

One of Adam S. Bennion's chief contributions was his writing. Ironically, he did most of his published writings during the years he served on the General Sunday School Union Board and in the LDS Department of Education from 1915 to 1935. The only exception is the organization of the format for the book *The Candle of the Lord* just before his death. Among his writings were: *What It Means to Be a Mormon* (1916), *Fundamental Problems in Teaching Religion* (1920), *Appreciation of the Book of Mormon* (1920), *Facing Life* (1930), and in collaboration with Obert C. Tanner, *Problems of Youth* (1931), and *Looking in on Greatness* (1932). During the years he was at UP&L he wanted to write but could never find the time. He wrote many articles for magazines and some for professional journals. He was almost always the penman for the governmental reports which were published by committees of which he was a member. He wrote many
book reviews and did some literary criticism on an intermitant basis
during his life.

One of the finest of all his endeavors that he left the world was
his brilliant oratory. "Few other men of our time have even come close
to his ability and performance as a public speaker."¹ The volume,
The Candle of the Lord, a collection of his most famous speeches,
records in print what he so eloquently spoke. He gave thousands of
public addresses to all kinds of groups and people, from professional
men to students, from rich men to the poor, from the ill to the healthy,
and from the believers to the sceptical—all of whom listened.

In 1950, he stood at the pulpit of the Baccalaureate Services,
in Stadium Bowl, on the University of Utah campus and delivered one
of the finest and "most significant commencement addresses of the
year."² The speech was not long, only about fifteen minutes; but it
was well organized and poetically written. It was spiritual, yet full
of realism. It was emotional yet objective.

Back in the dark days of World War II, he accepted an invitation
of KSL Radio to give a series of talks on a weekly basis, "to inspire
and lift the spirits of people from the depression of the war."³
On this occasion he gave the world one of those maxims which are so

²Deseret News.
³A.S. Bennion, MSS, Box 3.
characteristic of his speaking. He said, "When two generations meet—yesterday shakes hands with tomorrow through the doorway of today— and civilization is in the making." As he addressed the radio audience he said, "These are wonderful days in which to live. As a matter of fact, I would choose them against any other."^{4}

Adam S. Bennion had a system for preparing a speech. First, was the outline, then came the facts, the analogies, the comparisons, the object lessons, finally, his conclusion and a challenge which called for action. His method of delivery was unique and all his own. He would show his salty sense of humor even in profound discourses. He was "a master craftsman at public speaking."^{5}

Dr. Adam S. Bennion in a conversation with Elder Richard L. Evans, said, "I hope I have done something, or left something, that is worthwhile."^{6} Elder Evans in conversation with this author made this statement: "Everything he Adam S. Bennion did was enduring, uncommon, and worthwhile."^{7} He further described and characterized Dr. Bennion as a man with "a salty, terse, and spicy sense of humor. He was alert witty, and very perceptive."^{8} During the course of conversation Elder

^{4}Ibid.

^{5}During the course of his life-time, his themes for his speeches fit largely into four categories: first, patriotism or Americanism as he synonymously referred to it, secondly, the value of fine arts, in all the various forms, thirdly, character education, and lastly, he was keenly aware of the moral and spiritual framework of the human soul.

^{6}Interview with Richard L. Evans, July 12, 1965.

^{7}Ibid.

^{8}Ibid.
Evans asked Elder Bennion in the Temple (Salt Lake), "Why don't you write so that I can read your notes? The reply came back with a quick light laugh and smile. 'Because if I did you would know what I'm thinking about.'"

In light of his abilities, one might raise the following questions: what would have happened and what would have been the consequences if Dr. Bennion had remained solely in education? Also, was he an opportunist because he changed? As one looks in retrospect, it is hard to conceive that one man did so much that was so significant in so many fields of endeavor in such a short span of time. He was a superb educator, an honest business executive, a cultured civic leader, and a loyal, devoted, and dedicated Apostle to his Church and his fellowmen.

---

9Ibid.
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Public Documents


Books


Bennion, Adam S. *Fundamental Problems In Teaching Religion*. Salt Lake City, Utah: General Boards of Auxiliary Organization, 1921.

Bennion, Adam S. *Principles of Teaching*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Sunday School Union, 1928.


**Articles and Periodicals**


**Reports**

"Report to President Joseph Fielding Smith and the Council of the Twelve, "of Visit to the East Central States Mission." MSS. giving an account of the tour of the East Central States Mission, at LDS Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Report of the 1956 Tour of the European Missions." A report to the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve, giving an account of the present conditions of the ten European Missions. MSS. at LDS Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Report to the President of Brigham Young University." MSS. giving an
account of the investigation of the College of Education at BYU, Brigham Young University Archives, Provo, Utah.

"Report of Committee on Religious Activity at BYU." MSS. giving an account of the findings of the committee appointed to study the religious activity of students on and off campus, Brigham Young University Archives, Provo, Utah.

"Report by Antone K. Romney on BYU Stake." MSS. giving an account of the role and work done by Adam S. Bennion, and Henry D. Moyle in the organization of the BYU Stake, Brigham Young University Archives, Provo, Utah.

"Report to Senator Hopkins." MSS. giving an account of the findings of the committee appointed to study the problems at the State Prison, Brigham Young University Archives Bennion Papers, folder 1444.

Unpublished Materials

Bennion, Adam S. Diary (Handwritten account from 1920 to 1957.)

Bennion, Adam S. Manuscript Collection (A collection of unpublished manuscripts and papers in the possession of Brigham Young University Archives.)

Bennion, Adam S. Papers (A collection of typed, mimeographed and lithographed papers in the files of Adam S. Bennion in possession of the Brigham Young University Archives.)


Brigham Young University. Minutes of the Board of Trustees. 1919-1958. (Typewritten)

Brigham Young University. Minutes of the Executive Committee 1919-1958. (Typewritten)

Harris, Franklin S. Presidential Papers. In possession of Brigham Young University Archives.

Harris, Franklin S. Diary. (Typewritten in possession of the Brigham Young University Archives.)

Provo, City Commission. Minutes of the Provo City Commission. 1935-1942. (Typewritten in Provo City Recorder's Office.)

Provo, City Commission. Ordinances of the Provo City Commission. 1935-1942. (Typewritten in the possession of the Provo City Recorder's Office.)

Salt Lake Rotary Club. Minutes of the Rotary Club of Salt Lake City. 1947-1953. (Typewritten and in the possession of the Rotary Secretary's Officer, Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City.)

University of Utah. Minutes of the Board of Regents. 1940-1958. (Lithographed and in the possession of the President of the University of Utah.)

Letters

Anderson, Leland E. Letter to Adam S. Bennion, October 10, 1947. (MSS, Adam S. Bennion.)

Bennion, Adam S. Letters to Franklin S. Harris, September 10, 1925; October 10, 1926, and September 1, 1927. (BYU Archives.)

Bennion, Adam S. Letter to Alonzo F. Hopkins, September 2, 1949. (MMS, Box 5, Brigham Young University.)


Thomas, George. Letter of Recommendation, December 22, 1921. (In the Adam S. Bennion Papers, folder # 9.)

Widstoe, John A. Letter of Recommendation, December 23, 1921. (In the Adam S. Bennion Papers, folder # 9.)
Wilkinson, Ernest L. Letter to Adam S. Bennion, February 5, 1953. (In the Adam S. Bennion, MSS, Box 5.)

Wood, J. Karl. Letter to John A. Braithwaite, July 20, 1965

Interviews

Interview with Mr. Orval W. Adams, Director of Zion's First National Bank, Salt Lake City, August 4, 1964.

Interview with Mr. Gus Backman, Executive Secretary of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, August 21, 1964.

Interview with Mrs. Minerva Bennion, wife of the late Adam S. Bennion, July 22, 1964, and July 8, 1965.

Interview with Mr. Richard Y. Bennion, son of the late Adam S. Bennion, July 22, 1964, and July 27, 1964.

Interview with Mr. Paul Q. Callister, campaign manager for Adam S. Bennion, July 29, 1964.

Interview with Elder Richard L. Evans, Member of the Council of the Twelve, July 12, 1965.

Interview with Mrs. Jennie Gerard, eldest sister of the late Adam S. Bennion, July 19, 1964.


Interview with Elder Thorpe B. Issacson, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve, July 19, 1965.

Interview with Mr. Richard Leader, personnel official of Utah Power and Light Company, July 8, 1965.

Interview with Mr. O. H. Ririe, former assistant to Dr. Adam S. Bennion, July 19, 1964.

Interview with Miss Margaret Schofield, secretary to Adam S. Bennion while at UP & L, August 16, 1964.

Interview with President Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, July 9, 1965.
Interview with Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Professor at BYU and former employee of Adam S. Bennion, July 6, 1964.

Interview with Dr. Russell B. Swenson, Professor at BYU and former employee in the department of education with Dr. Bennion, June 22, 1965.

Interview with Mr. O.C. Tanner, friend and co-author of two books with Dr. Bennion, July 27, 1964.

Interview with Mr. Jack Thomas, Coordinator of the Salt Lake Oratorical Society, July 31, 1964.

Interview with Mr. D.W. Williams, President of the Salt Lake Rotary Club, August 12, 1964.
APPENDICES
APPENDIX A

GENEALOGY OF ADAM S. BENNION

FAMILY GROUPS
THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH BUSNELL BENNION

AND MARY ANN SHARP

BORN: February 14, 1850
  Taylorsville, Utah
  January 21, 1856
  Salt Lake City, Utah

MARRIED: December 23, 1872
  Salt Lake City, Utah

DIED: May 25, 1888
  Taylorsville, Utah
  May 24, 1934
  Taylorsville, Utah

PARENTS: Samuel Bennion and
  Mary Bushnell
  Adam Sharp and
  Janet Cook

CHILDREN:

1. Jeanette Bennion
   Born, 18 December 1873 at Vernon, Utah
   Married, John Thomas Gerrard, 27 Oct. 1898 in
   Salt Lake City, Utah

2. Mary Bennion
   Born, 6 September 1875, at Vernon, Utah
   Died, 7 January 1876 at Vernon, Utah

3. Joseph Bennion
   Born, 5 December 1877 at Vernon, Utah
   Died, 13 October 1891 at Taylorsville, Utah

4. Maud Bennion
   Born, 4 April 1879 at Vernon, Utah
   Died, 17 August 1882, Taylorsville, Utah

5. Minnie Bennion
   Born, 9 Aug 1881 at Taylorsville, Utah
   Married, Henry Harker, Jr., no date available.

6. Effie Bennion
   Born, 7 June 1884 at Taylorsville, Utah
   Married, Jamey Paxton, 22 June 1910.
   Died, 5 January 1948, at Taylorsville, Utah
7. Adam Samuel Bennion
   Born, 2 December, 1886, at Taylorsville, Utah
   Married, Minerva Richards Young, 14 September 1911
   Died, 11 February 1958 at Salt Lake City, Utah
THE FAMILY OF ADAM SAMUEL BENNION AND MINERVA RICHARDS YOUNG

BORN: 2 December 1886 16 April 1891
Taylorsville, Utah Salt Lake City, Utah

MARRIED: 14 September 1911
Salt Lake City, Utah

DIED: 11 February 1958
Salt Lake City, Utah

PARENTS: Joseph Bushnell Bennion Richard Whitehead Young
Mary Ann Sharp Minerva E. Richards

CHILDREN:

1. Phyllis Young Bennion
   Born, 14 December 1912 at Salt Lake City, Utah
   Married, Ralph Nelson Stohl, 8 January 1935

2. Adam Young Bennion
   Born, 18 November 1914 at Salt Lake City, Utah
   Married, Jessie Knight Mangum, 4 December 1937

3. Richard Young Bennion
   Born, 27 March 1918 at Salt Lake City, Utah
   Married, Lucile Jenséh, 10 January 1939

4. Marian Young Bennion
   Born, 22 July 1921 at Salt Lake City, Utah
   Married, William Wallace Rogers, 17 March 1947

5. Edmund Young Bennion
   Born, 10 September 1923 at Salt Lake City, Utah
   Married, Bette Jean Lusty, 6 September 1944
APPENDIX B

LETTERS OF

JOHN A. WIDSTOE AND GEORGE THOMAS
Dr. J. A. Widtsoe, Dec. 22, 1921.

1. Supt. Bennion's character is blameless. His personality is unusually fine. His great success as a teacher and leader of young men is evidence both of his excellent character and splendid personality.

2. Supt. Bennion, as I found him when he served on the Faculty of the University of Utah, is a scholar of a high order. He possesses a fine intellect, is industrious and devoted to scholarly interests. The work he has done leads me to believe that he will carry on original work with very great success.

Supt. Bennion is, of course, an unusual candidate for a W.D. Thompson scholarship.

(Signed) John A. Widtsoe,

Former Pres. Utah Agri. College,

Former Pres. University of Utah.

47 E. So. Temple St.,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

December 28, 1921.
Dr. George Thomas, Dec. 22, 1921.

1. Excellent.

2. Scholarship good as far as he has gone.

He impresses me strongly as a person who could do very good research work. I know of no one in the state who promises better in an educational way than Mr. A. S. Bennion.

(Signed) George Thomas

Pres. University of Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah.

December 28, 1921.
APPENDIX C

SEMINARY TEACHERS, CHARTS, AND

PROBLEMS FOR SEMINAR

DISCUSSION
These are the teachers hired by Adam S. Bennion and who attended the Alpine Summer Institutes.

E. Ray Gardner
George C. Ensign
C. J. Jensen
W. W. Richards
R. W. Green
Cecil McGavin
James DeBry
Wayne H. Redd
Abel S. Rich
Margaret Gardner
N. L. Williams
Gustive O. Larson
L. M. Norberg
Silas L. Cheney
Milton Moody
F. W. McGhie
Newton E. Noyes
Elwood B. Allred
Roy A. Welker
J. E. Fisher
Daryl Chase
J. Lyman Smith
J. M. Whittaker
K. K. Klacker
E. C. Dalby
D. S. Adams
Leroy Whitehead
Floyd G. Eyre
Ruel L. Jensen
D. D. Lamph
Carger E. Grant
Enoch Jorgensen
Russell Swenson
Fred M. Fowler
A. B. Anderson
V. C. Anderson
E. J. Passey
L. R. Robinson
A. Eldon Rex
Joseph S. Fish

Harold W. Lawrence
Owen Romney
R. Lee Kenner
M. D. Clayson
Hyrum P. Johnes
Heber D. Clark
S. H. Mecham
Newell K. Young
A. H. Anderson
Ernest Bramwell
Don M. Rees
Elijah M. Hicken
Ernest Frandsen
George A. Smith
John F. Oleson
Samuel D. Moore Jr.
Sidney B. Sperry
Jesse A. Washburn
Alvah H. Fitzgerald
Herald R. Clark
Cecil Merkeley
George H. Curry
William E. Berrett
Alvert E. Sells
Jesse L. Roberts
R. S. Holbrook
Wm. C. Smith
J. Karl Wood
M. W. Smith
L. E. Eggertsen
Ober C. Tanner
Wm. T. Tew
George S. Tanner
Ernest Clark
Robert H. Sainsbury
LeRoi Bentley
Jacob N. Lybbert
D. A. Broadbent
TABLE II

ANNUAL SALARIES OF SEMINARY TEACHERS AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>2100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph showing annual salaries from 1924 to 1939.
TABLE III

AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL ATTENDING MORMON SEMINARIES
## TABLE IV

PERCENTAGE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOLS, STATE OF UTAH, 1890-1924 (a)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>In Public High Schools</th>
<th>In Mormon Academies</th>
<th>In Other Church Schools</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1889-90</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>487*</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894-95</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-00</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>1286</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>2739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904-05</td>
<td>1732</td>
<td>2395</td>
<td>301*</td>
<td>4428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-10</td>
<td>3616</td>
<td>3802</td>
<td>341*</td>
<td>7759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td>9997*</td>
<td>3569</td>
<td>376*</td>
<td>13942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919-20</td>
<td>17514</td>
<td>2999</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>20974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>21336</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>23693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Table compiled from Reports of the Commissioner of Education, 1890-1924, Reports of the Mormon Church Commissioner of Education, and Biennial Reports of the Territorial Superintendents of Utah, 1890-1924. In some instances there was considerable discrepancy in the data and therefore some interpolation was necessary. The figures shown, therefore, in this table are approximate only.

*Estimated.
Doctrinal Problems

1. Which theory should be taught to students of the seminary in regard to the question of the progression of God, Christ and the Holy Ghost, the eternal progression of the Diety with God the Father the greatest, Christ next and the Holy Ghost last, or that the Trinity are all of the same glory?

2. Isn't there a beginning?

3. What is meant by six days of creation?

4. Does the evolution theory reject God?

5. Why should God give Adam two contradictory commandments?

6. Was it possible to get two of each kind of animal life into an ark which measured only 300 x 50 cubits?

7. Can we accept as a literal fact that Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt?

8. Which tribes were replaced by the two sons of Joseph?

9. Who are the Sons of Perdition?

10. What is sin against the Holy Ghost?

11. What is the aim of religion?

12. Will we know each other in the spirit world?

13. What does it mean to talk in tongues?

14. What are the proofs that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God?

15. How do we know there is a Hereafter?

16. What really is the unpardonable sin?

17. Is there a "Destroying Angel?"

18. The question of eternal progress within a glory or of going from a lower to a high glory.
19. Question as to the nature of the elements that will go to make up the resurrected

20. Have there been any men in this Church who have acted as bishops without counsellors and were literal descendants of Aaron?

21. How were the revelations of the Doctrine and Covenants made known to the Prophet Joseph?

22. According to church doctrine where do the negroes come from?

23. Who is greater, Cain or Satan, in regards to power?

24. How could Christ be a God before gaining a resurrected body?

25. A couple are married in the temple, the man breaks his covenant, dishonors his marriage contract, while the woman remains faithful, what will be her lot? How can she enjoy the celestial kingdom if she loses her husband? Will she be given to another man?

26. The necessity for the atonement?

27. What are the activities of paradise at the present time?

28. What reason is there to believe that we chose our earthly parentage?

29. If polygamy is a true principle why is it not practiced today?

30. Are the youth of Zion as a whole growing worse or better?

31. Why is Lucifer called the Son of the Morning?

32. What evidence is there for the statement that Christ was married?

33. Manifesto. God's law vs. the law of the land.

34. How literal will the gathering of the Ten Tribes be?
SEMINARY PROBLEMS

Problems in Methods of Teaching

1. How shall a teacher cope with students who are asking questions on doctrine, but who are not particularly anxious about the result only to see if the teacher's point of view is different from a bishop's or someone else's in the stake who is prominent?

2. Are there any charts or maps that have been made and accepted by the Department of Education which will lead a teacher in the discussion of the Book of Mormon? Especially does this have reference to a guide in the geography of the Book of Mormon.

3. Difficulty in having pupils secure text books.

4. Is it advisable to use supervised study?

5. How to get through preparation on the part of pupils.

6. Difficulty attached to covering all the material outlined for each day caused by short seminary periods made necessary because the building is long distance from high school.

7. Lack of religious reading.

8. How much preparation can be expected of students outside of class?

9. How to get boys to attend Mutual

10. What to give students who are always ahead of the class.

11. How to divide the time of a 60 minute period for best results.

12. Methods of discipline for a talkative set of 9th grade pupils.

13. How to bring about desirable changes in the life habits, attitudes and thinking of some few.
HONORARY DOCTOR'S DEGREES

ADAM SAMUEL BENNION
Doctor of Letters-------Salt Lake City

President Wilkinson:

I have the honor to present to you, Adam Samuel Bennion, brilliant educator, eloquent author and lecturer, master of the fine art of human relationships, and Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; a native Utahn who has earned the acclaim of a whole people.

Without deviation from a faith in God and man, he has moved upward in the educational and business world with ever-increasing favor.

A product of rural Utah, he learned early in life the meaning of toil as the youngest of five children left to a mother who was widowed when he was but a year and a half old. From his contact with the soil and through diligent application, he acquired such learning that he can walk with kings, but he has never lost the common touch.

Always his heart has been in the field of education. Scarcely out of his teens he became a teacher and his hand never has been lifted from the guiding reins of that great profession. Between the dates of obtaining degrees of Bachelor of Arts at the University of Utah, Master of Arts at Columbia University, and Doctor of Philosophy at the University of California, he served as instructor in English Department at Granite High School, principal of that institution, assistant professor of English at the University of Utah, and professor of education at Brigham Young University.

In 1919, at the age of 33 years, he became the Commissioner of Education for the Church Schools, serving with distinction over that vast school system for a period of eight years. Those who were privileged to be his students or who served under him as teachers felt the warmth of his personality and the genius of his teaching art.

In 1927, eager for further achievement, he accepted an invitation to enter the field of business in the capacity of a public relations advisor. As an executive for the Utah Power and Light Company, he has contributed meritorious service in bringing business and the public into closer understanding.
As a public speaker, he has been in demand across the country, having spoken to groups in every state of the Union. In his business career he has risen to the position of Vice-President of his Company.

Living in a period of strife and conflict of ideologies, his voice has been lifted courageously for the American way of life, for the preservation of individual freedom and initiative, and for the solution of society's ills by individual righteousness and self effort.

Upon the problems of his time he has lifted a voice of persuasion and power, and the magic of his words has been carried to countless thousands of teachers and pupils in his seven published works---Fundamental Problems in Teaching, On Becoming a Teacher, Gleanings, Facing Life, Problems of Youth (in collaboration), Looking in on Greatness (in collaboration) and When Two Generations Meet.

His fine family, a devoted wife, and five children all of whom are college graduates, is not the least of his achievements.

Civic organizations and public betterment programs have felt the strength of his support and the wisdom of his guidance, for through past years he has served as chairman of the Salt Lake County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Community Chest drive, member of the Board of Governors of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, President of the Rotary Club, and Vice-Chairman of the Utah Symphony Orchestra organization. During the late war he served as a member of the Wage Stabilization Board of the Rocky Mountain Region, and within the past 18 month period he has distinguished himself and rendered unusual service to the cause of education as chairman of sixty civic minded citizens who together constituted the Public School Survey Commission to make a survey of the elementary and secondary schools of the State of Utah, and as chairman of a committee to investigate and evaluate certain conditions at the Utah State Agricultural College.

At the present time Dr. Bennion, among other activities, is serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Denver and Rio Grande Western Railway; President of the Salt Lake Oratorio Society; member of the Board of Regents of the University of Utah; and member of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee of Brigham Young University.

In all his life he has been a follower of the Master, and a superb teacher of the Master's way of life.

As a culminating honor in his long teaching career, he recently was chosen of the Lord as a special witness to teach His people the principles of life.
Author, superlative teacher of men, and emissary of the Most High Good, he is deserving of the highest honors among good men. Upon this man of integrity, sincerity, humility, religious faith, and complete devotion to God and man, I recommend that Brigham Young University confer the degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.
APPENDIX E

PAPER ON ADAM S. BENNION'S BELIEFS

ON FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION
THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Under our constitutional government, each of the levels of government has a definite role to play in the life of the individual and in the security of the state. Each level of government is an integral part of the force of democratic organization and not a separate and unrelated entity. Education is a state responsibility, the administration of which ordinarily is delegated to local communities. The security of the American way of life rests in the improvement of this method of educational administration to the state or federal level. As a matter of fact, all the arguments relating to the control of education by the federal government are equally applicable to each of the forty-eight states.

On the other hand it seems to me that there has been a failure at the local level, or at least an unwillingness to eliminate the spirit of separatism which prevails in many communities. This should be done in the interest of the common good. For example, the board of education, the board of health, the boards of welfare, recreation or housing not only must be on speaking terms at the local level but coordination is essential if the most effective working relationship be developed and the greatest efficiency result from the spending of the tax dollar. The compartments in social organization are not independent entities operating in the interest of themselves. The goal should be community service.

It is my judgment that the question to be discussed should be answered in terms of the aims of education in this country. My experience in Germany and Europe generally indicated that the centralized ministry of education so characteristic of Europe can provide for a reasonable degree of intellectual freedom when the ministry is in the hands of men with good design, but in the hands of those with evil design it can very well change the ideology of a whole people in a short time. The one primary aim of education in Germany under Hitler was the creation of the national socialist political human being.

The aim and spirit of education in the United States, I think, can be expressed in the following manner:

1. To provide the kind and amount of education that will develop the individual to the highest point of his potentiality or withing the limit of his ability. This should mean not only mass education—that is, the education of all the children of all the people—but it means the identification of the particular talent to the highest degree.
2. To provide for the national security.

The government of the United States should have a very deep concern for both of these general aims. The identification of the manpower needs for the chemists, physicists, teachers, engineers or personnel in other areas can be ascertained best for the nation as a whole by the federal government. One way to secure more personnel in these areas is for development of a series of federal scholarships. These best could be developed if they were a partnership developed between the federal government and the states.

The federal government naturally is concerned with the national security. It invests in airports, in civilian defense, in power plants and so on, there is every reason to believe that the federal government has an equal responsibility in the case of education.

The United States Supreme Court acts as a national policy-determining body for education in our country. When it appears that a given local or state policy is in conflict with those factors that contribute to the national security, the Supreme Court rules on the matter. The Congress and Executive Branch, also, should be concerned with those educational matters that relate to the national security. For example, under selective service during the war the equivalent of sixty combat divisions were not inducted because of the illiteracy. Ultimately, the program designed to remedy this state was developed.

I think this covers the first three (sic) questions as far as I can answer them. (sic)

4. I think federal aid at this time is needed to help finance the school building program. I believe also that there should be grants in aid, perhaps to be matched by the states, to provide scholarships for many who could be recruited areas revealing manpower shortages.

5. I think the whole grant in aid program should be intensively studied. For example, with the rehabilitation grant came a tremendous increase in personnel in the several states. Important as the rehabilitation program is, had it not been for the liberal use of federal funds, state staffs would never have been expanded as they have been. I think the federal government should stay out of any phase of operation.

6. I do not think that any honestly devised formula for the application of state aid to elementary and secondary schools ever will be adopted on any thing but a political basis. That is to say, each of the forty-eight states will want a share. Such
funds should be applicable to public schools only and distributing within the states should be left to the state.

7. Federal aid should be extended to higher education on a scholarship or fellowship basis and it should be available to all institutions.

8. I think federal aid should be extended to public libraries, but only after states have demonstrated that they have made every effort to provide adequate funds for libraries. In many states, there has not been a serious concern about the libraries and very little expended thereon.
APPENDIX F

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS
ITINERARY OF EAST CENTRAL STATES MISSION TOUR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>KIND OF MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. May 6</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. May 6</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. May 7</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. May 8</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thr. May 9</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thr. May 9</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. May 10</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. May 10</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. May 11</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 12</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 12</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. May 13</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. May 14</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. May 15</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. May 15</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thr. May 16</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Serviceman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. May 17</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. May 17</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. May 18</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 19</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. May 19</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 Meetings
FUNERAL SERVICE FOR ELDER ADAM SAMUEL BENNION

Held in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, Friday, February 14, 1958, 12:14 P.M.

Prayer at the Larkin Mortuary       Dr. Hyrum Bergstrom
Prelude & Postlude                  Dr. Frank W. Asper
Conducting the Services            Pres. J. Reuben Clark
Singing                           Tabernacle Choir Group
       "Abide With Me, Tis Even Tide."
Prayer                           Elder Orval W. Adams
Speaker                          Elder Harold B. Lee
Duet                             J. Stuart & Clara
       "In The Garden."  McMaster
Speaker                        President David O. McKay
Singing                         Tabernacle Choir Group
Prayer                           Elder Marion D. Hanks
Dedication at Grave             Elder Richard L. Evans

Pallbearers
Sterling W. Sill                   Wendell J. Ashton
S. Dilworth Young                  Obert C. Tanner
Gorden B. Hinckley                Sterling McMurrin
ADAM SAMUEL BENNION

EDUCATOR, BUSINESSMAN, AND APOSTLE

An Abstract of

A Thesis

Presented to the

Department of History

Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

John A. Braithwaite

August 1965
ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to provide a biography of Adam Samuel Bennion. Special emphasis has been given to his contributions in the fields of education, business, civic affairs, and Church responsibilities.

Adam S. Bennion was born in 1886 in Taylorsville, Utah. He became active in educational and Church activities early in his life. He attended Taylorsville public schools, the University of Utah, Columbia University in New Yourk and graduated from the University of California with his Ph.D. degree. He served as Superintendent of the LDS Church Schools and was instrumental in the establishment of the LDS seminary program for high schools. At the age of seventeen, he was appointed to the Deserēt Sūndāy Scool Union General Board.

In 1938, he made a decision to leave the field of education to assume a position as a business executive with the Utah Power and Light Company. While an employee of the power company he served as director of personnel, assistant to the president, and in 1945, he became an executive Vice President of UP&L. His accomplishments at UP&L were largely in the fields of employee and public relations. He was involved in some public power company disputes which resulted both good and bad; although neither was directly his complete responsibility.
At the urging of many friends and prominent Utah Republican leaders he accepted the Republican nomination to run as a candidate for the office of United States Senator. The election results indicated that Dr. Bennion's opponent won the election. It was his first and last political campaign.

Besides the areas of politics, he was a strong participator in civic and cultural affairs. Among the many civic contributions which he made were the following: member of various boards of directors for both private companies and a variety of civic organizations; he distinguished himself as a regent and trustee of all three major Utah Universities; he was active in the promotion of many varied cultural institutions; and also, was called upon twice by the President of the United States to fulfill appointments in the field of education.

In 1953, during the one hundred twenty-third annual conference of the LDS Church he was sustained as the seventieth Apostle. Adam S. Bennion was ordained to serve in that capacity at the hands of David O. McKay, J. Reuben Clark, and Stephen L. Richards. Among his church assignments were: membership on the education committee, the missionary committee, the finance committee, and the historical sites committee.

In summary, he lived a full, eventful and active life of service to education, to business, and to his church until his death in 1958.