

# *THEY LIE IN WAIT TO DECEIVE*

by Robert L. & Rosemary Brown

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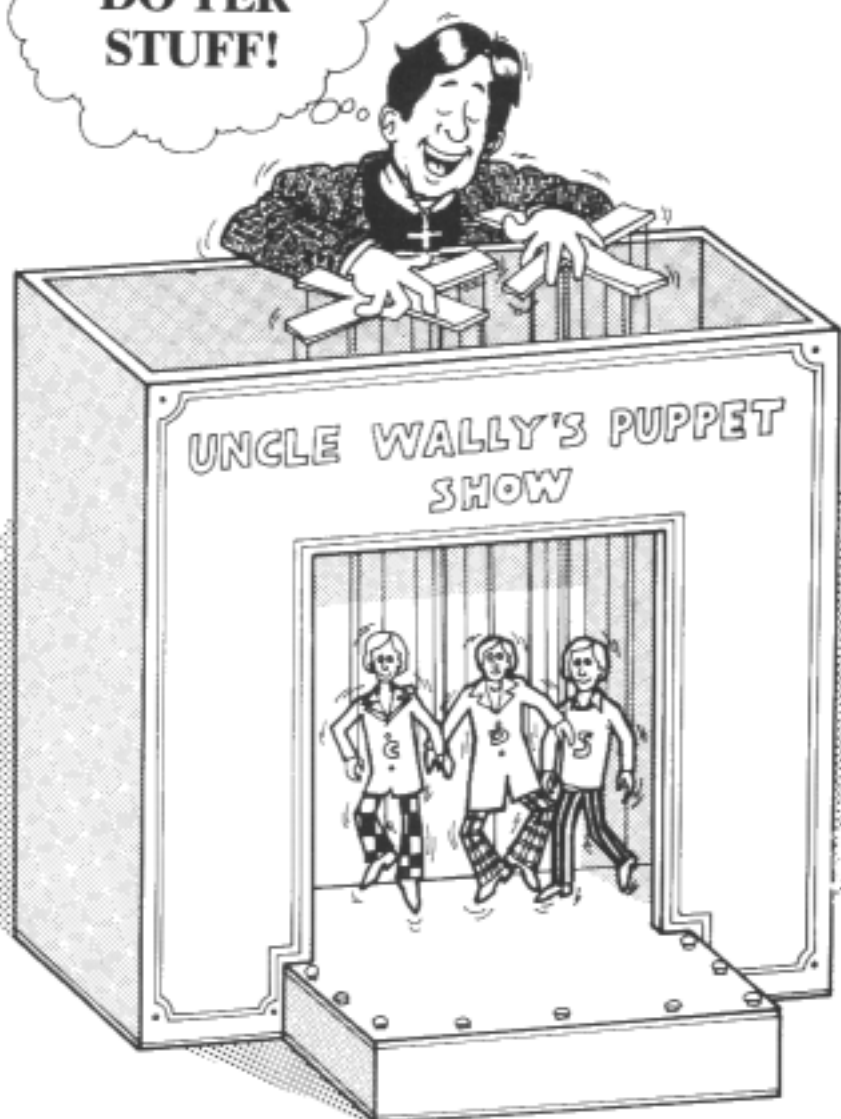
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CHAPTER FOUR

**MARTIN, DAVIS, COWDREY & SCALES**  
**LECTURE ON MORMONISM**  
**USING COMMON TACTICS OF DECEIT**  
— FEAR AND PREJUDICE —

**OK, BOYS!  
DO YER  
STUFF!**



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## OBJECTIVES

- To prove that Walter R. Martin and/or the Christian Research Institute financed, encouraged, and guided Cowdrey, Davis, Scales in their research project — **WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?**
  - To prove that Walter Martin is willing to base his whole Spaulding theory on the outcome of the handwriting experts (see p. 162). He admits that “there’s no evidence” that Sidney Rigdon stole Spaulding’s manuscript from the publishing house and gave it to Joseph Smith. “It’s an argument” only. **DYNAMITE!**
  - To prove that Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, and Howard Davis often make statements in their lectures about the Mormon Church that are **not** true and which spread fear and prejudice, such as:
    - “our lives are definitely in danger . . .”
    - “Henry Silver was frightened (by the Mormons) into withdrawing from the handwriting case . . . but we’re not afraid . . .”
    - “I kind of expected he (Doulder) would go negative on the thing because there have been so many death threats (by the Mormons).”
  - To prove that Walter Martin again falsely claims to be a “descendant of Brigham Young” in his lectures. Martin states, “although I am a descendant of Brigham Young, and Brigham is probably spinning in his grave right now.” (Considering all of Walter Martin’s false claims, he is probably right.)
  - To prove that Walter Martin thinks big where offerings are concerned — **he has buckets by the doors!**
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CHAPTER FOUR  
**MARTIN, DAVIS, COWDREY & SCALES**  
**LECTURE ON MORMONISM**  
**USING COMMON TACTICS OF DECEIT**  
 — FEAR AND PREJUDICE —

The tactic used most often with the most success among the uninformed, is **fear** and **prejudice**. Almost without exception, every lecture you will hear from Walter Martin, Howard Davis, Wayne Cowdrey, or Donald Scales (and numerous other professional anti-Mormon lecturers we have heard) have scare stories about “the Mormons” coming after them. It almost borders on the paranoid. We have heard audiences gasp at the **supposed** threat they face with the Mormons. It is this tactic that will wake up any apathetic audience to sit on the edge of their chairs and listen to every word the speaker says. This is obviously the tactic used in the early days of the LDS Church to incite mobs to violence. To illustrate, we will present portions of **one** tape by Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales. It was recorded in a Sunday Bible Class, Melodyland Fellowship Center, Anaheim, California, 10 July 1977, entitled “Spaulding Manuscript.” It was a commercial tape on sale to the public by the Christian Research Institute. Before we go into the tape, however, read the following scare statements below (from the tape) and imagine you were in the audience. You can see how they encourage fear and prejudice against the Mormon Church. The only thing missing here is Martin’s dynamic presentation and the audience reaction.

1. “It’s a pleasure to find Christian gentlemen, without great resources, and very lowly, in a **large mob of hostile people standing up for the gospel.**” (Who is the large mob of hostile people?)
2. Referring to Henry Silver, one of the handwriting experts: “His heart started to act up — his doctor has testified to this — and then **on top of it, comes the Mormon Church, and that was enough to throw an 86-year-old man into mortal fear . . .**”
3. Wayne Cowdrey comments about the withdrawal of Henry Silver: “Mr. Silver didn’t want to give at that time an official opinion to the Mormon Church. After we left the place, the Church, as we sat in the airport eating some ice cream he said, “Wayne, if I would have given a cut-and-dried opinion right there, **I don’t believe we would have made it out of there alive.**”
4. “And I’m going to do everything in my power and hope you will, too, to see that they (the three researchers) don’t get pushed into the background, to see that the evidence doesn’t get buried, and

that the Mormon Church is not allowed to buy everything in sight. And that it can't buy frightened, old men. They're not going to frighten us, but they have frightened Mr. Silver . . ."

5. Talking about the three researchers: "But I am going to stay with them and back them and stand against this evil, because if **they're snuffed out** in terms of presenting the truth . . ." (Notice the clever choice of words.)
6. Howard Davis comments about Henry Silver: "Also, he talked about his life. I said, **'I'm laying my life on the line.'** And he indicated, yes, he realizes he's laying his life on the line also, and **he wants out.'**"
7. "We hope to get Mr. Kaye back in there again, the Lord willing, this time to send Wayne possibly. **Fearless brother. I'd go myself, but I know I wouldn't get out.'**"
8. "You say, well, you're overdoing this threat business. I am? **I'd hate to count the number of times I've been threatened.'**"
9. "**Mr. Kaye has received several threats already, but he hasn't backed down one bit.'**"
10. Referring to another lecture, Walter Martin said that a man got up and asked the audience to pray for him (Walter Martin): "He said, I mean pray for protection. He said **I just came back from Salt Lake and was speaking to a leading Mormon in the area and he said, and I quote him, (I can't use the language he used, but he questioned my legitimate parentage), 'If that blank-of-a-blank ever comes back to Salt Lake, we'll blow his head off.'**"
11. Howard Davis adds: "**The other night Don and I got a call about 1:30 in the morning and this man said he was in a bar and he overheard a Mexican and a black man talking that they were going to shoot Mr. Cowdrey and myself . . . another man was giving these two money in the bar to shoot us with a high-powered rifle . . . I'm dead serious about this . . . But our lives are definitely in danger . . . Please don't think we're afraid . . . We are not afraid . . . trying to fight a multi-billion dollar organization that is trying to take over the economy of the United States — and they're right on time — and we are operating with very, very limited funds.'**"
12. "I want to urge you to pray for these three men . . . I know we don't have the resources of the Mormon church . . . So if you want to help, just don't split this morning, do something about it.

Write a check out to MORMON FUND and drop it in those buckets at the doors. . . . If you really believe in what we're trying to accomplish and you really care about the souls of Mormons, and you really want to put money where it's going to do some good, that's your opportunity. . . . Praise God for these three men that have given so much of their time and their effort, and have **laid their lives on the line** in order to bring this material to the public.

All of the above statements were part of one lecture. Doesn't it just send chills down your spine? (I'll bet it increased the offerings that day.) Those emotionally laden words along with a highly emotional presentation are the techniques of deception. Learn to recognize them for what they are. Instead of being caught up in the emotional rhetoric, ask for chapter and verse. Ask what proof there is and check it out. If the proof is ambiguous — "Somebody told me, I can't remember who; a man called me, I forget his name; a leading Mormon, no name available, etc." then you have no reason to believe it. **Deception thrives on ignorance.**

Here are portions of the tape of 10 July, 1977, which need clarification. Some of the newspaper illustrations were used before, but they are presented here again to refresh your memory. The transcription of the whole tape can be read at the end of this chapter — it was too good to place in the Appendix.

Walter Martin — "The great controversy concerning the Spaulding Manuscript has broken out in the press across the United States, and right now we are embroiled in the midst of some of the most devious deception — trickery — and outright lying that has ever been done in any newspaper by anybody. Sample: "Handwriting expert unsure about the Book of Mormon manuscript." Naturally, the *Salt Lake City Tribune* owned by the Mormons would say that."

This lecture was given by Walter Martin after the three handwriting experts, Silver, Kaye, and Doulder, had given their 1st preliminary reports. These reports were made from the study of photocopies, **not the originals**. All three of the experts stated that in order to make a final decision they must see the original documents. This is why they insisted on seeing the section of the Book of Mormon by the unknown scribe in the LDS Archives in Salt Lake City, and why two of the three went to Oberlin, Ohio, to study Spaulding's manuscript. They are handwriting experts; they know enough to examine the originals. There was no "deception, trickery, and outright lying" involved, **unless it was done by the three researchers or Walter Martin**. The experts wanted to view the originals before they gave a final opinion. As Henry Silver said, "**Other considerations than handwriting must be examined — ink and paper stock, for example.**" The article referred to by Martin was in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 29, 1977. Other newspapers that reported Silver's statements were the *Mesa Tribune* and *L.A.*

*Times*. Notice that the dates on these newspaper articles are **after** Silver's trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 28, 1977.

But Silver, who said he had not read the article, added it could have misrepresented his findings. He said a Los Angeles Times story incorrectly reported he believed Spaulding wrote part of the book.

"I cannot give a definite conclusion by comparing photocopies to other photocopies," he said. "I never saw anything proven to be Spaulding's handwriting."

Silver said handwriting experts must study paper and ink as well as handwriting. He said he could not determine whether Spaulding wrote parts of the Book of Mormon unless he could compare Spaulding's handwriting with the 12 Book of Mormon pages he studied. Those pages are among 140 held by the church.

*Salt Lake Tribune*  
June 29, 1977

Silver said he still cannot vouch with finality that the handwriting he examined is actually Spaulding's until he sees authenticated examples of other writing by Spaulding.

*Mesa Tribune*  
June 29, 1977

§ R The Salt Lake Tribune, Wednesday, June 29, 1977

## Handwriting Expert Unsure About Book

— Mr. Silver said he was convinced photocopies he had seen earlier matched copies of the original Book of Mormon he was shown.

"I am convinced the photocopies from the church (obtained by Mr. Cowdrey and Howard A. Davis and Donald Scales, both of Torrance, Calif., the other researchers) check with the originals I have seen today.

"But I must see original Spaulding writings to say definitely whether he wrote those 12 pages under controversy."

Challenged are 12 pages of "First Nephi," part of the 523-page Book of Mormon.

Mr. Silver said other considerations than handwriting must be examined — ink and paper stock, for example. And he said that it is impossible without having originals of Spaulding's writing and the original pages of the Book of Mormon side by side.

Mr. Cowdrey said samples of Spaulding's writings are available at Oberline College in Ohio. He said he and the other researchers, none of them Mormons, will obtain them, bring them to church headquarters and have one of the handwriting experts examine the two originals together.

A Los Angeles handwriting expert who examined original pages of the Book of Mormon at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints archives Tuesday said he cannot give a definite opinion on whether they were written by a Congregationalist minister and author until he compares them with the originals of the minister's handwriting.

"I cannot definitely come to a conclusion by comparing photocopies with originals," said Henry Silver.

Mr. Silver said the Times writer, Mr. Chandler, "completely misrepresented" him, when the writer contacted him he did not know he was comparing Spaulding's writing with the Book of Mormon. "I didn't know what I was going to Utah for when I talked with Chandler," he said.



Walter Martin attributes the deception, trickery, and outright lying to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, being **owned by the Mormons**. This statement is another typical Martin innuendo that has **absolutely no truth** to it. The *Salt Lake Tribune* IS NOT OWNED BY THE MORMONS! It is a fact that the *Salt Lake Tribune* is owned by the Kearns family, who are **practicing Catholics**. In January, 1984, the *Salt Lake Tribune* was contacted to see what, if any, relationship existed between the *Tribune* and the LDS Church. Jerry O'Brien, Assistant to the Publisher, was very surprised that anyone would make the statement that the *Tribune* was owned by the Mormons. He had never heard of Walter Martin. He gave a statement over the telephone to be included in this book in answer to Walter Martin's charges:

"The *Salt Lake Tribune* is neither owned, or controlled, by the Mormon Church. Its stockholders include heirs of the late Senator Thomas Kearns and John F. Fitzpatrick, long time publisher of the newspaper, and the Kearns Tribune Employee Stockownership Trust."

*Direct quote from Jerry O'Brien  
Assistant to the Publisher*

Several pages taken from a *Salt Lake Tribune* handbook and the book, THE FIRST 100 YEARS, a history of the *Salt Lake Tribune*, 1871-1971, were sent to us from the *Salt Lake Tribune*. They can be read in the Appendix, p. 438. They tell a little about the *Tribune* and its acquisition by the late U.S. Senator Thomas Kearns. Walter Martin should be more careful with his statements. The *Salt Lake Tribune* just might not be very happy with him spreading rumors that the newspaper is "owned by the Mormon Church." **It might not sit well with their stockholders who think they own it.**

Walter Martin — "Here's a church knowing what they've got and now lying to cover it up. Of course, that's a beautiful lawsuit for the Mormons unless I'm telling the truth, and I am willing to wager legally of course, that I am telling the truth and they're (not?) telling the truth. And we're going to find out."

Martin likes to back up his sayings with a threat of a lawsuit. It is a fact that the LDS Church didn't cover up or try to hide anything. Notice in the articles that follow that Wayne Cowdrey's **initial** statement to the press was that church officials were "very honest and cooperative":

Asked how long this would take, Mr. Cowdrey said he was not sure. "weeks?" he was asked. "I'd say not that long," he replied.

He identified himself as a "research student" but declined to identify the college or university. He said he had been a Mormon "and I love the Mormon people."

"But if this (the Book of Mormon) is a fraud, I think it should be known. We are trying to arrive at the truth," said the Californian, a man in his early 30s.

Mr. Silver, on the other hand, is 86, and was as willing to talk as Mr. Cowdrey at first was not. The younger man said nothing the first few minutes of a press conference held, ironically, in front of an oil painting of the Angel Moroni delivering the golden plates to Joseph Smith.

Later, however, Mr. Cowdrey said he was "surprised" by the church reception Tuesday. "Church officials were very honest about the whole thing and very cooperative."

He and Mr. Silver both said the investigation of the authenticity was "50 per cent concluded."



*Salt Lake Tribune*  
June 29, 1977

Wayne L. Cowdrey, 31, of Orange, one of the researchers; accompanied Silver to Salt Lake City Tuesday. Cowdrey said that Mormon officials were "very cooperative" in letting them examine the manuscript pages.

*L.A. Times*  
6/30

Walter Martin — “I was supposed to debate the doctor in Portland, Oregon, and not Missouri. The doctor declined. I said I would be happy to appear and told them, one of the pastors in the area, to set up the meetings, and the doctor doesn’t want any part of it. I think he’s very wise. I wouldn’t want any part of it either, because if you put documents up ten feet square and show people what it actually says, you’ve got to believe your own eyes. Mormons left this building last time I spoke on the subject. They left here saying, there must be something to it. Others were saying, it can’t be. Another one said he wouldn’t dare say what he says publicly unless it was true. You know something, they’re right. I wouldn’t dare say it unless it was true. Got a dozen lawsuits based on just the evidence we submitted this morning. It isn’t true? Why isn’t (hasn’t) the Mormon Church countersued me? I sued them in order to get this into the court, but I was never countersued. Why? You countersue somebody when he’s wrong. I wasn’t countersued. Then you have to prove it.”

As usual there is no name attached to the Doctor in Portland that was going to debate him. Martin is a specialist in generalities. Statements without basis in fact are given only for emotional appeal.

Martin is talking again in terms of lawsuits. He speaks of a suit in order to “get this into the court.” At the time of this lecture he had a lawsuit against the LDS Church which was pending. Suffice it to say here that Martin **lost** this case, **lost his appeal**, and was **ordered by the court to pay the court fees**. That is one lawsuit he won’t be bragging about. The court case is mentioned in the *L.A. Times* article of June 30, 1977, below: (Complete article on p. 66-67).

The Christian Research Institute, an organization in Anaheim headed by Walter Martin, a defender of conservative Christianity against various cults and so-called “new” religions, is paying for the handwriting investigations.

Arrington, a professor at Brigham Young University, said the questioned 12 pages, which Mormons believe were copies by “an unidentified scribe,” is “First Nephi, chapter four, verse 20, through chapter 12, verse eight.”

Mormon spokesmen, since the new challenge to the Book of Mormon surfaced in the press last week, have asserted that the researchers are biased against the Mormon Church and that the handwriting study has been largely financed by an organization set up to discredit non-Mormon, non-Christian religions.

Martin, an author-lecturer who is a professor at Meloyland School of Theology in Anaheim as well as head of the Christian Research Institute, several years ago filed an \$11 million libel, slander and defamation of character suit against the Mormon Church in Orange County Superior Court.

The suit, still pending, alleges that while Martin was delivering a lecture he was interrupted by a Mormon official who accused him of deceiving people and distorting Mormon doctrine.

*L.A. Times  
June 30, 1977*

Walter Martin — “The Mormons are circulating the rumor that these three men are all ex-Mormons and that they’re out to get the Church. That’s the Mormons on his block told him this, right? Wayne Cowdrey is a former Mormon. Howard Davis is not, neither is Don Scales. Wayne is the only ex-Mormon — the other two are not Mormons. I have never been a Mormon, although I am a descendant of Brigham Young, and Brigham is probably spinning in his grave right now.”

Wayne Cowdrey was a Mormon just long enough to be able to say he is a **former Mormon** — **One month** according to a *Mesa Tribune* article of June 29, 1977 (see complete article on p. 23-24):

Wayne Cowdrey, one of the researchers, said he plans to bring the Spaulding manuscript here to allow handwriting experts to compare it with the original Book of Mormon pages. He said he didn't know if Silver would be one of the experts.

Cowdrey, who left the Mormon church in 1976 a month after being baptized a member, said, "I'm trying to arrive at the truth. I'm not here to grind axes. I was a Mormon once and I love the Mormon people."

But, he said, "If this is a fraud everyone should know." Cowdrey said he left the church because "Spaulding is the author of the Book of Mormon."

Arrington said the handwriting appearing on the 12 pages in the church archives also appears on the headings of the pages which precede them.

*Mesa Tribune*  
June 29, 1977

Wayne Cowdrey dropped out of the Church shortly after baptism, requested excommunication, and had his name removed from the records of the Church within 6 months of his baptism. There are some interesting affidavits in Chapter 2 from the wife of one of the LDS missionaries who “converted” him and also a Mormon in Orange California who tried to fellowship him. **It is obvious to this author that Wayne Cowdrey joined the LDS Church for reasons other than spiritual conversion. (Some people would call that hypocrisy.)**

Walter Martin is proud to state he is a descendant of Brigham Young. He is **not** a descendant of Brigham Young, any more than Wayne Cowdrey is a descendant of Oliver Cowdery. Deception again! **FOR THEM TO HAVE TO RESORT TO SO MUCH DECEPTION, THEY MUST HAVE AN AWFULLY WEAK CASE AGAINST THE MORMON CHURCH.**

Walter Martin — “It’s a pleasure to find Christian gentlemen without great resources and very lowly in a large mob of hostile people standing up for the gospel. I’m glad Wayne Cowdrey, who bears the name of one of Joseph Smith’s scribes, Don Scales and Howard Davis, are willing to carry the ball for the Christian Church. My plea is that we get on the line with them and make sure that the information gets known. If the Mormons want to hold on to their faith, nobody objects to that, but if they want to tell us it came from heaven via an angel and through Joseph Smith, I think it’s about time that the Spaulding manuscript came out in the open for everybody to see.”

Walter Martin is suggesting that there is a “large mob of hostile people” out there. Of course, he is suggesting that the large mob of hostile people is the Mormon Church and that our four “Christian” gentlemen, Davis, Cowdrey, Scales, and Walter Martin are the few people standing up for the gospel. Who sounds hostile to you? Does anything about either the three researchers or Walter Martin remind you of Christian virtues? **Keep in mind the Savior’s admonition, “By their fruits ye shall know them.”**

Yes, we will stick to our faith. We will stick with the angel Moroni, the prophet Joseph Smith and the other prophets called by God to lead His Church, the Book of Mormon and our personal testimony by the Gift and Power of the Holy Ghost that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been restored with all the blessings and authority it had anciently.

**As for Martin’s statement, “. . . I think it’s about time that the Spaulding manuscript came out in the open for everybody to see,” we couldn’t agree with him more. It is included word for word in the Appendix of this book, beginning on p. 392.**

This next quote consists of answers given by Walter Martin to questions from the audience. He didn’t repeat the questions in the microphone so they are inaudible. However, you could hear his replies.

REPLY — “Well, if the 12 pages are right in the middle of the manuscript, right? And it refers to some of the characters in the front and in the back, right? Guess who wrote it? Yeah, ah, so, now it’s beginning to get through (in Chinese accent).”

REPLY — “No, he said an angel gave it to him. That’s the first time Spaulding’s ever been called an angel.” (audience laughter)

REPLY — “No, not Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon it’s believed was around the publishing house at the time. There’s no evidence that you can link it together. It’s an argument. The only thing that’s important if you can remember this it will be everything — your handwriting can send you to prison. Think about that. Your handwriting can send you to prison. If any one of these experts gets up on a witness stand and testifies that your handwriting is on the bottom of a check, you’re going to the pokie, 2 1/2 - 5. Or, as the kids say today, into the slammer. Now that’s how important it is. It’s like a fingerprint. Once the experts are agreed — that’s it. Spaulding left us 12 pages of fingerprints, and their testimony is sufficient enough.”

Walter Martin is sure twisting up the facts of the matter. In the first reply, Martin is trying to explain away one of the very strong points that the LDS Church has to defend the “unknown scribe” portion of the Book of Mormon. The two pages that appear **just before** the 12 pages of the unidentified scribe, and the page that appears **just after** (in I Nephi) were written by a **known scribe** (Oliver Cowdery). However, the headings to those pages were written by the “unknown scribe.” This could only mean one thing — that the pages were already transcribed by the known scribe (in 1828) so that the “unknown scribe” (also in 1828) could then read the contents and write the appropriate headings. Remember, Spaulding died in 1816 and translation of the Book of Mormon began in 1828 — twelve years **after** Spaulding’s death. There is no way the “unknown scribe” could be Spaulding.

In the second reply, the question from the audience must have been referring to Joseph Smith obtaining the plates of the Book of Mormon from the angel Moroni. Martin, true to the showman that he is, is trying to impress his audience with his cleverness and wit by referring to Spaulding as an angel. **Respect for the sacred appears to be another Christian virtue lacking in Martin.**

In the third reply, Martin is killing the Rigdon caper (see Chapter 8) because he is positive he will be able to convince his readers and listeners that **all three** handwriting experts will support his side of the story. He is so positive, in fact, that he was willing here to admit that Sidney Rigdon is only **believed** to have been around the publishing house to steal Spaulding’s manuscript; and there’s really **no evidence that can link it together**; and it’s an **argument** only. It is significant that, “After extensive research,” Walter Martin has held to the Spaulding theory for 25 years, according to his FOREWORD in WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON? (see p. 92, second paragraph). **Does that mean that for 25 years, before the handwriting analysis, Walter Martin admits to spinning his wheels chasing after a theory that has no evidence and is an argument only? What a waste of time!** Walter Martin is willing to wager on the **only thing that’s important**, that **will be everything** — the handwriting analysis. And that ended up fizzling out before their very eyes. Martin, Davis, Cowdrey, & Scales are **left with nothing but**

**baseless claims** in their efforts to discredit Mormonism!

Walter Martin — “Spaulding was a Congregationalist minister who liked to write religious novels in biblical language. We already know he wrote one called Manuscript Story. It’s out in Oberlin, Ohio. We also know that his friends and relatives all heard him read his manuscripts. He wrote another one called Manuscript Found. That was the one that became the basis for the Book of Mormon. The Mormons deny this. The only way to prove it is to get hold of Solomon Spaulding’s handwriting and to contrast it with the Book of Mormon manuscripts. Howard Davis did that. Thank God he did it. It’s not Davis’ opinion. Mr. Silver’s opinion, Mr. Kaye’s opinion, Mr. Doulder’s opinion, and it will be an official opinion.”

Walter Martin claims above that the **“only way to prove it”** is to compare the handwriting. We’ll go along with that! “Kaye’s opinion, Mr. Silver’s opinion, Mr. Doulder’s opinion” were all **preliminary opinions** based on **photo copies** alone and **before** examination of any originals. Now that 2 out of 3 handwriting experts state that the Book of Mormon **wasn’t** written by Spaulding, are Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales going to make a public retraction of their statements? Wouldn’t that be the honorable, honest thing to do?

Walter Martin — “However, one thing has emerged from the controversy so far. The Mormon Church is very concerned about the 12 pages of documents in the vault in Salt Lake. Concerned enough to do something very unusual which will be shown from a newspaper. I wish that we had the time to go into all of the material and all of the detail connected with this. This much I can tell you, the three handwriting experts have not altered their basic opinion. They still maintain that exhibits A and B are Solomon Spauldings. One was taken from Oberlin, Ohio, that other one was taken from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Mormon Church has not refuted this, they have not tried to answer this, they have just denied it. Well, a denial is not a refutation.”

In the first place, the LDS Church is **not** concerned about the 12 pages of the Book of Mormon in the vault in Salt Lake — Martin and the three researchers are.

Martin states that “the three handwriting experts have not altered their basic opinion.” **This is not true.** Silver altered his right in the beginning and **Walter Martin would have known that.** Silver quit Martin and the researchers **before** this tape was made. Martin made this tape on July 10, 1977. Silver quit the project because of their deception right after he saw the originals at Salt Lake. They worked with him; they knew he was upset with them at least a week **before**

Martin's tape was made. According to Silver's affidavit (see p. 12), they even made a special trip to see him to try to get him to change his mind about quitting their handwriting project. In fact, later on into the tape, Martin and Davis will make the statement that the Mormon Church **scared Silver into changing his mind**. What, then, do they mean when they say, "The Three handwriting experts have not altered their basic opinion?" (Oh, what tangled webs we weave when first we practice to deceive!)

Martin also says that the "LDS Church has not refuted this, they have not tried to answer this, etc." Just for the record, the LDS Church did issue a rebuttal after they tried to make a big deal out of it. In **WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?** by the three researchers, Appendix 5 of their book, pp. 221 - 230, entitled "A REVIEW OF DEAN JESSEE'S CRITIQUE." The very first paragraph reads:

"On August 20, 1977, after the news broke concerning our discovery of Spalding's handwriting in the original Book of Mormon, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued a press release and a report concerning our find. Its first paragraph read, "Conclusive evidence refuting charges by three California anti-Mormon researchers concerning the origin of the Book of Mormon has been released by a historian for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

Two articles in the *L.A. Times*, August 20, 1977, and September 24, 1977, mention the refutation. Dean Jessee's full refutation to the three researchers is given in full in Chapter 1 of this book, beginning on p. 43.



## WRITING ANALYSIS CHALLENGED

# Mormons Reply in Text Author Dispute

BY JOHN DART  
Times Religion Writer

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made its most detailed response Friday to claims that part of the original Book of Mormon manuscript is in the handwriting of a novelist, not a scribe for church founder Joseph Smith.

The dispute surfaced in June when three Southern California handwriting analysts said the handwriting of the so-called "unknown scribe" working with Smith in 1829 was the same as that of minister-turned-novelist Solomon Spaulding, who died in 1818.

One of the three handwriting experts, 86-year-old Henry Silver, has since removed himself from the controversy, claiming he was misquoted in the press.

The two other experts, William

Kaye and Howard C. Douider, are currently making more detailed analyses of manuscript copies from Ohio's Oberlin College.

Although church officials say they do not intend to commission handwriting analysts of their own, they did release Friday an article accompanied by photocopies of some of the handwriting in question.

Church spokesman L. Don LeFevre called the materials "conclusive evidence refuting (the) charges."

Dean C. Jessee, senior research historian for the church's historical department, released for public evaluation a column-by-column comparison of individual letters and words from the penmanship of the "unknown scribe" and Spaulding.

A third column of letters and words is from a photograph of a page in the church's Doctrine and Covenants. At

the top of the page appears the line "Rec'd June 15th 1831."

Jessee, described as having 13 years of experience in handwriting identification of early Mormon documents, said flatly that the same handwriting characteristics that identify the Book of Mormon clerk also are present in the Doctrine and Covenants manuscript.

To the lay eye, the examples selected by Jessee look quite similar. And both seem dissimilar to samples from a known Spaulding manuscript.

Jessee noted similar misspellings in the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants—"shal" (for shall) and "uppon" (for upon).

"The personal pronoun 'I' is frequently written with a small 'i' by the Book of Mormon writer, a peculiarity that never occurs with Spaulding," Jessee wrote in his article.

"Unlike the Book of Mormon scribe, Spaulding uses the ampersand (&) almost exclusively in the place of 'and,'" Jessee said.

The three handwriting experts were hired months ago in connection with a book on the subject to be published next month by an evangelical Protestant publishing house in Anaheim. Walter Martin, a critic of the Mormon Church and author of "Kingdom of the Cults," paid the fees of two of the three handwriting analysts.

The forthcoming book is by Howard A. Davis, Donald Scales and Wayne L. Cowdrey, none of whom is now a Mormon. In it they challenge the authenticity of the Book of Mormon, said by the church to have been translated by Smith from gold plates buried in a hill not far from his Manchester, N.Y., home.

Church officials allowed the handwriting experts to examine the original pages in Salt Lake City and provided Kaye and Doulder with photocopies of the 12 pages and the dated Doctrine and Covenants page.

Kaye said he and Doulder were working independently on their current studies and had not exchanged opinions after looking at the fuller and better-quality photocopies. Kaye said his report, delayed by other work, would not be ready for another couple of weeks. He declined comment on Jessee's analysis.

But those reports were also based on copies, rather than original documents. Silver later backed out of the case, saying he had been misquoted by the press and that information he submitted had been "misused."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has not employed handwriting experts of its own in the case. But in August, church officials released what they called "conclusive evidence" rebutting the researchers' charges. Church historian Dean C. Jessee issued photocopy samples of documents along with detailed comparisons of letters of the alphabet.

Melvin A. Jensen, communications coordinator for the Southern California area of the Mormon Church, said Friday that the difference between the opinions of Doulder and Kaye did not surprise him.

"When I observed them separately studying the original documents in the church archives in Salt Lake City," he said, "I noted that they used different equipment, techniques and methods. Handwriting analysis is not an exact science. It is a subjective study and can be influenced by personal attitudes."

Jensen also said Doulder's "emphasis on the dissimilarities agrees exactly" with the church's view that Spaulding could not have written any portion of the Book of Mormon.

"Our church continues to take the firm position that this attack on the authenticity of the Book of Mormon is a preposterous unsupported effort that was destined to fail as surely as other similar attacks have failed in the past 145 years," Jensen declared.

*L.A. Times*  
Aug. 20, 1977

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Russell Chandler

*L.A. Times*

September 24, 1977

Howard Davis — “The first letter states that it is Spaulding’s handwriting, however, legally to prove it, so he wouldn’t be sued, Mr. Silver has to look at the original documents because no court will accept it without them. He did go to Salt Lake, he looked at the original document, and he looked at the copy which we had given him, or they had given him, and he said they’re the same. Meaning this was the genuine representation of the document. Then he was supposed to go to Oberlin and check it with Spaulding’s manuscript. But he became ill, he couldn’t go into court, he had to postpone or put aside his commitments. His heart started to act up — his doctor has testified to this — and then on top of it, comes the Mormon Church, and that was enough to throw an 86-year-old man into mortal fear, and now he doesn’t deny what he said, not a bit. He simply says I don’t want to say anything else. What changed his mind? Here is my definite opinion and now I don’t want to get involved. Something happened — common sense would say that.”

Did you see how cleverly Davis inserts the reason for Silver quitting the project — it was from “mortal fear” of the Mormon church. **Pure deception!** Did you remember that on Silver’s affidavit on p. 20 in chapter 1 he testifies that he has NEVER RECEIVED ANY THREATS FROM THE MORMON CHURCH. Doulder, the second handwriting expert to testify that Spaulding did NOT write the pages in the Book of Mormon, changed his mind without any threats from the Mormon Church either. **Both charges mentioned in the sentences above are answered in the *L.A. Times*, September 24, 1977. Here are the excerpts from about the middle of the article (subtitles are ours):**

**SILVER QUIT BECAUSE HE WAS MISQUOTED  
BY THE PRESS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED  
TO THE THREE RESEARCHERS  
HAD BEEN “MISUSED”**

“But those reports were also based on copies, rather than original documents. Silver later backed out of the case, saying he had been misquoted by the press and that information he submitted had been ‘misused.’ ”

**DOULDER SAYS HE WASN’T THREATENED**

“Davis,” saying he had been told ‘not to say anything now’ about Doulder’s report, added: ‘I kind of expected he (Doulder) would go negative on the thing because there have been so many death threats.’ ”

"Asked if his life had been threatened during his investigation of the Mormon manuscripts, Doulder replied 'Not at all.' "

This should give the reader a good idea of how valid all their other statements are about the threats received by the Mormon Church. Falsehoods and innuendos are what keeps them going. This is such an important point that we will show the *L.A. Times* article again so you can read Doulder's own words.

## Expert Changes View on Book of Mormon Now Says Disputed Pages Were Written by 'Different Authors'

BY RUSSELL CHANDLER

Times Staff Writer

A handwriting expert, who now disagrees with two other analysts and his own earlier opinion, said Friday certain disputed pages in the Book of Mormon and a novel by a 19th-century minister-novelist were written by "different authors."

The four-page finding of Howard Doulder, submitted Sept. 15 but made known only Friday, appears to throw doubt upon the claims of three Southern California researchers who hired the handwriting experts.

The researchers say Mormon Church founder Joseph Smith incorporated 12 pages from a novel by the Rev. Solomon Spalding into a book said to have been translated from golden plates in the late 1820s and considered sacred by the world's 3.4 million Mormons.

Doulder, of Garden Grove, said that his first report, in which he tentatively assigned both manuscripts to Spalding's hand, was based on similarities found in an examination of only photocopies of the original documents.

"I now attribute these similarities to the writing style of that century," he said in the final report.

Doulder, formerly supervisor of the U.S. Treasury Department's Crime Laboratory in Chicago, said he had twice examined originals of the Spalding novel in the Oberlin College library and the Book of Mormon pages, assigned by Mormons to an "unknown scribe," at Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City.

"I have found writing and letter dissimilarity that are unexplainable and are not attributed to individual writing variation of the same writer," Doulder told *The Times*, quoting from his report to researchers Wayne Cowdrey, 31, of Orange and Donald Scales, 27, and Howard A. Davis, 33, both of Torrance.

The two other handwriting analysts, William Kaye and Henry Silver, both of the Los Angeles area, released reports earlier in the controversy in which they said that the 12 pages of "First Nephi" in the Book of Mormon were penned by Spalding. Spalding died in 1816, 10 years before the Mormon Church founder said he discovered the book written in Egyptian hieroglyphics on tablets buried in a hillside.

But those reports were also based on copies, rather than original documents. Silver later backed out of the case, saying he had been misquoted



ANOTHER LOOK—Howard Doulder at his Garden Grove

home. *Times* photo by Steve Rice

by the press and that information he submitted had been "misused."

Kaye, after examining the original documents at Oberlin and Salt Lake, reported Sept. 7 that a comparison "shows unquestionably" that the materials were "executed by the same person."

Doulder said he personally submitted his final report to researcher Cowdrey on Sept. 15.

But Cowdrey, in a phone interview Friday, said he had not seen Doulder's report. He and Davis both deferred comment to Gretchen Passantino, secretary to Walter Martin, head of the Christian Research Institute. Martin helped finance the handwriting investigation.

The Anaheim-based institute is involved in defending conservative Christianity against what it considers cults and followers of the occult.

Miss Passantino said the researchers' book, "Who Really Wrote the Book of Mormon?" would be off the press in about three weeks and would include Doulder's second report.

"Though the handwriting analysis is an integral part of the book," she said, "their theory isn't made or broken by the handwriting."

Davis, saying he had been told "not to say anything now" about Doulder's report, added: "I kind of expected he (Doulder) would go negative on the thing because there have been so many death threats."

Asked if his life had been threatened during his investigation of the Mormon manuscripts, Doulder replied: "Not at all."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has not employed handwriting experts of its own in the case. But in August, church officials

released what they called "conclusive evidence" rebutting the researchers' charges. Church historian Dean C. Jesse issued photocopy samples of documents along with detailed comparisons of letters of the alphabet.

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"When I observed them separately studying the original documents in the church archives in Salt Lake City," he said, "I noted that they used different equipment, techniques and methods. Handwriting analysis is not an exact science. It is a subjective study and can be influenced by personal attitudes."

Jensen also said Doulder's "emphasis on the dissimilarities agrees exactly" with the church's view that Spalding could not have written any portion of the Book of Mormon.

"Our church continues to take the firm position that this attack on the authenticity of the Book of Mormon is a preposterous unsupported effort that was destined to fail as surely as other similar attacks have failed in the past 145 years," Jensen declared.

Doulder told *The Times* he thought further analysis of the 12 disputed pages, comparing them to examples of writing by persons known to the church at the time the Book of Mormon was written, might clear up the controversy.

"I would really like to examine those pages and attempt to resolve who really did write them," he said. "It's going to bother me until I find out."

Wayne Cowdrey — “The originals are laminated. They can be held up on one end like a popsicle stick. Now, after the examination was over, Mr. Silver told me that ‘a judge, if he wants to can use photocopies to give a final opinion — it’s up to the judge.’ Mr. Silver didn’t want to give at that time, an official opinion to the Mormon Church. After we left the place, the Church, as we sat in the airport eating some ice cream he said, ‘Wayne, if I would have given a cut-and-dried opinion right there, I don’t believe we would have made it out of there alive.’ ”

Remember Cowdrey’s **initial** statements to the press earlier in this chapter (p. 125) about “Church officials were very honest about the whole thing and very cooperative.” He didn’t mention any death threats then!

Cowdrey states that Silver told him that “A judge can use photocopies to give a final opinion — it’s up to the judge.” **Deception is not always easy to follow because it changes all the time. Cowdrey and Davis need to coordinate their stories so they can keep them straight. On p. 161, Howard Davis stated on the tape that “The first letter states that it is Spaulding’s handwriting, however, legally to prove it, so he wouldn’t be sued, Mr. Silver has to look at the original documents because no court will accept it without them.” So, Cowdrey says Silver doesn’t have to see the originals; Davis and Henry Silver say he does.** Silver clearly explained several times why he wanted to view the originals.

Cowdrey says that Silver told him he really didn’t have to view the originals — he just didn’t want to give an official opinion to the Mormon Church then. What are Cowdrey’s motives for deception here? The motive that Cowdrey claims is a death threat by the Mormon Church that he needs to work in somehow and that statement leads right into it. Cowdrey depicts Silver as stalling so he can get away from the Church — “Wayne, if I would have given a cut-and-dried opinion right there, I don’t believe we would have made it out of there alive.” **If you will remember, Silver and Doulder both said that they have never received any threats from the Mormon Church.** Cowdrey made this statement in front of the Melodyland audience. This author understands that it is a very large auditorium. Can you imagine the fear and prejudice Cowdrey, Davis, Scales, and Walter Martin are generating against the Mormon Church? They try to impress their listeners that the Mormons run around trying to kill people like the Gestapo or KGB. **It is this author’s opinion that the true Christianity of Jesus Christ would do Martin, Davis, Cowdrey, and Scales a world of good!**

Walter Martin — “I’m glad I had a very small part in somehow or other advancing the Spaulding theory and holding to it knowing that it was true, and not being able to prove it until I live to see Howard Davis prove it, and Wayne Cowdrey prove it, and Don Scales prove it. And I’m going to do everything in my power and hope you will, too, to see that they don’t get pushed into the background, to see that the

evidence doesn't get buried, and that the Mormon Church is not allowed to buy everything in sight. And that it can't buy frightened, old men. They're not going to frighten us, but they have frightened Mr. Silver. Let's pray for Mr. Silver, that the holy spirit will administer to him . . ."

Walter Martin is glad to have played a part in the Spaulding theory. According to the back cover of WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON? he is the one that started the ball rolling by showing Davis his research. Walter Martin not only started the ball rolling, but **according to Cowdrey, he financed most of the research project.** (*Salt Lake Tribune*, July 9, 1977) The other information in the book was a rehash from old anti-Mormon books and wouldn't have cost much.

Again, the Mormon Church didn't "frighten" Henry Silver. He quit because of the deception by Davis, Cowdrey, and Scales.

Walter Martin asked the audience to pray for Mr. Silver, "that the Holy Spirit will administer to him . . ." Their prayers were answered — **Mr. Silver was guided by the Holy Spirit when he detected their deception and quit!**

*Salt Lake Tribune*

Saturday, July 9, 1977

## Handwriting Expert Quits Book of Mormon Case

By Clark Lebb  
Tribune Staff Writer

One of three Los Angeles handwriting experts hired to check authenticity of the Book of Mormon has withdrawn from the assignment.

In a telephone interview Friday, Henry Silver, properly 67-year-old expert who usually favors Hughes while the "Mormon Will" said he "let up."

"I'm out of it," he said. "I don't want any part of it."

He said he decided to withdraw after published reports that he agreed 12 pages of the Book of Mormon were written by a 19th Century novelist, Solomon Spaulding, who died more than 18 years before Joseph Smith said to have received revelations from God through golden plates.

"That is not true," Mr. Silver said. "I have had some representatives that I would not say that without examining the original in hand of Solomon Spaulding, not just the photographs provided by three Latter-day researchers."

### Three Others

Mr. Silver examined original pages of the Book of Mormon in a trip June 24 to the archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. He announced there that what he saw "indicated in his mind that photographs he had of the same pages were authentic copies. . . . I would be unable to see original handwriting in time to reach further conclusions."

"I'm out of it," he said. "I don't want any part of it."

He said he decided to withdraw after published reports that he agreed 12 pages of the Book of Mormon were written by a 19th Century novelist, Solomon Spaulding, who died more than 18 years before Joseph Smith said to have received revelations from God through golden plates.

Mr. Silver said Friday the lead of that article, Walter Martin, "has a vendetta against the church."

He made it clear that factor also played a role in his decision to withdraw.

It originally was planned that Mr. Silver would travel to Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, where original Spaulding handwriting is available.

But he said Friday he cannot make the trip because his physician has ordered him not to. He said he was hospitalized for a possible heart ailment shortly before his trip to Salt Lake City in June and that the journey here affected his health adversely.

He misrepresented he was provided Spaulding in Los Angeles. Mr. Silver refused

"I'm out of it."

He said again he has been misrepresented in the press. "The stories indicate I have said the handwriting in the Book of Mormon matches Spaulding's. I have never said that. I made it with only photographs of Spaulding's handwriting."

Another handwriting expert, William Kaye, North Hollywood, Calif., Thursday examined the Book of Mormon original pages at the church archives here, accompanied by one of Mormonism's long-time critics, Jerome Tanner, a Salt Lake City anti-Mormon publisher.

Mr. Kaye, who examined Spaulding original in Ontario, said he could give no opinion until he examined all 12 pages. He saw one Thursday of the Book of Mormon, 126. He also agreed to provide photographs.

Walter Martin — "Now this is what these guys are up against, and I want to put to rest one of the myths the Mormon Church is circulating. They stated that Christian Research Institute and that Walter Martin were financing this work. That is absolutely an unmitigated lie! Christian Research Institute hasn't paid one dime toward this work."

Actually, it was one of Walter Martin's own boys, Wayne Cowdrey, who said that "Expenses for the research project were being paid by the Christian Research Institute, Anaheim, California." Who is lying? Wayne Cowdrey says expenses

were paid by Christian Research Institute; Walter Martin says that statement is an "unmitigated lie." Someone is lying! So, what else is new!

He was accompanied by one of the three researchers, Wayne L. Cowdrey, Orange, Calif., who said expenses for the research project were being paid by the Christian Research Institute, Anaheim, Calif.

*Salt Lake Tribune*  
July 9, 1977

The three handwriting experts were hired months ago in connection with a book on the subject to be published next month by an evangelical Protestant publishing house in Anaheim. Walter Martin, a critic of the Mormon Church and author of "Kingdom of the Cults," paid the fees of two of the three handwriting analysis.

*L.A. Times*  
8/20

Walter Martin — "I was not involved in this. I did not discover the documents, I had no part in their research whatsoever. But I am going to stay with them and back them and stand against this evil, because if they're snuffed out in terms of presenting the truth, nobody is going to be able to present the truth any more."

Martin says he was "not involved in this." In what way? He wrote the Preface to their book, they dedicated their book to him, he was involved financially, he shared his research, he encouraged them. He said he "didn't discover the documents." The three researchers "didn't discover the documents" either. **This author has copies of most of the material from the old anti-Mormon books that Davis, Cowdrey, and Scales used to make their book with. Most of the sources they quote for their material were taken from these old books and simply listed independently.**

Martin's use of the term "snuffed out" seems to be consistent with his other language, doesn't it. All put together, it makes a good emotional appeal.

Walter Martin — "I'll tell you something. If I can do just a little bit to undo the great harm to the Mormon people, that Joseph and Brigham have done, I thank God for the opportunity. And when the Mormon Church says that I have a vendetta against the Mormon people, that's an outright perversion of the facts and of the **truth**. No one has been more eager or spent more time, traveled more or spoken more, or written more to try and evangelize Mormons than I have in the last 25 years. So I care about them. I care enough to be willing enough to let them hate me just so they might find out the **truth**. When they find out the **truth**, they love you. I've had Mormons get up and shriek at me and yell at me and say all kinds of things to me, and then



I've gotten letters from those same Mormons after they found out the **truth** and how they do love you and how they love Jesus. That's what really counts. There is no vendetta against the Mormon people — we love them for Jesus' sake. And hundreds of them are coming to Christ every day, as a result of these disclosures. We thank God for that!"

Walter Martin claims the Mormon Church says "that I have a vendetta against the Mormon people. That's an outright perversion of the facts and of the truth." It sure is! It was **Henry Silver** that claimed that Martin had a vendetta against the "church."

Mr. Silver said Friday the head of that institute, Walter Martin, "has a vendetta against the church."

He made it clear that factor also played a role in his decision to withdraw.

*Salt Lake Tribune*  
July 9, 1977

It looks like Martin is the one perverting the facts and the truth. I wonder who Walter Martin is talking about when he keeps saying "the Mormon Church" says this or that? Is it one Mormon, a general authority in Salt Lake, or who? The **Mormon Church** doesn't say anything any more than the **Catholic Church** or **Methodist Church** or whatever. **People** say things. Who in the Mormon Church is he quoting? Next time you hear Martin talking in generalities, surprise him and ask him who said it, or who did it — ask him for a name. You will upset him, but press for details. Then, check it out.

**Martin wants his listeners to know his better qualities. In the quote above, he mentioned "truth" four times. This author is impressed!**

Walter Martin — "I would like to ask the question publicly. What pressure was put on Mr. Silver between the first report and the second report. Something, because he now doesn't want to discuss it at all."

Is Walter Martin saying that something happened to Silver between the first report and the second? Is he suggesting that there may be a difference of opinion between the two reports? How would he know? On p. 182 of **WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?** there is a "second" report (the phony one according to Silver — Chapter 1) that agrees with his first preliminary report. Where is the problem Martin is referring to? **He forgot he was unaware of any problem earlier on this same tape (see p. 130) in which he stated that "the three handwriting experts have not altered their basic opinion."** This author believes that Martin knew all along that Silver reversed his opinion, quit the project, and

refused to make a “second” report. This is what he is referring to. He obviously knows more than he is letting on.

The only pressure that was ever put on Mr. Silver was put on him by Cowdrey. Silver quit because he was misquoted, tricked, and he was fed up with it all. The true story of the handwriting experts is told in Chapter 1 of this book. Notice the signed affidavit by Silver of the telephone conversation he had with this author. If Mr. Silver was afraid of the Mormons, why did he recommend to that couple that sought his counsel to go ahead and “join the LDS Church”? That sounds like he has quite a high opinion of the Mormons. Mr. Silver is a wonderful old man that loves the truth and despises a lie. Incidentally, Mr. Silver is not a Mormon.

Walter Martin — “Howard, Wayne and Don, people are waiting here to hear what happened in Salt Lake with Mr. Kaye, the second handwriting expert. They’re waiting to hear what’s happened to you — mysterious telephone calls, all kinds of goodies are in store for us.”

**Those “goodies” are Martin’s bread and butter and he knows it!** He uses such “goodies” to full advantage when spreading deceit about the Mormon church. His audience can be assured of plenty of threats and scare stories. Notice how many there are in just this lecture alone.

Howard Davis speaking of Silver — “Also, he talked about his life. I said, ‘I’m laying my life on the line.’ And he indicated yes, he realizes he’s laying his life on the line also, and he wants out. He’s also disturbed about the adverse publicity in the newspapers, etc., etc., etc., and so we really need your prayers.”

Silver **never** made the statement “I’m laying my life on the line,” or anything like it. **Mr. Silver told this author, that if he was a younger man, he would give Davis, Cowdrey, and Scales a chance to prove their statements in a court of law.** And yes, he was very disturbed about being misrepresented in the news media by none other than the three researchers.

Walter Martin — “I think it is very important that you grasp what Wayne is saying right at this point. Mr. Kaye is a world-famed authority on handwriting. He went to Salt Lake to look at the same document that Mr. Silver did. When he got there, they didn’t show him the document, they showed him another one, and they lied to him. Point blank, outright, so Mr. Kaye refused to discuss it with them any further, and left. We hope to get Mr. Kaye back in there again, the Lord willing, this time to send Wayne possibly. Fearless Brother. I’d go myself but I know I wouldn’t get out.

Or, if we send a black man in there, he will get out. So we’re going to be looking for a good, black clergyman who can go in there, and have no problem whatsoever. But that is how desperate it has become.

You switch documents on an expert and make a fool of yourself, because the expert had five copies of the original documents in his briefcase and he knew they gave him the wrong documents. That's a very important point. Also, he's checked with Mr. Silver hasn't he, on the original document."

Again, there is absolutely **no** evidence that they can come up with to support a claim that Kaye had documents switched on him. Jerald Tanner, who accompanied Kaye, said he was positive there wasn't any switch (see p. 31). Martin, Davis, Cowdrey, and Scales are the ones making up that story. If you hear them say that, ask them for proof. If enough people ask Martin, Davis, Cowdrey, or Scales for proof, pretty soon they will be forced to tell the truth.

Here come the threats by the Mormon Church again. Martin considers himself such a threat to the Mormon Church that he wouldn't go to the LDS Archives because he is afraid he wouldn't get out. **He has a tremendous ego!** Cowdrey is painted as the "Fearless Brother," bless his heart. He's not afraid of the big, bad Mormon Church that is just waiting to "snuff" him out. Besides, they would never do that to a "decendant of Oliver Cowdery!"

Walter Martin — "You say, well, you're overdoing this threat business. I am? I'd hate to count the number of times I've been threatened. The last time I spoke in Salt Lake City, we had 1,500 to 1,800 people. Two known apostles of the Mormon Church were present . . . Mr. Kaye has received several threats already, but he hasn't backed down one bit. I think that's about as clear as you can make it."

In answer to Martin's charge that Mr. Kaye "has received several threats already," he has never claimed that his life had been threatened. Silver and Doulder say they haven't been threatened. Why should Kaye? Deception again.

It is this author's opinion that the threat stories are used to create a sense of fear in the audience which brings in more money. We have heard anti-Mormon lectures where it was claimed that planes have been sabotaged, people shot at, death threats given, and anything else they can think up. It tends to wake up an apathetic audience into recognizing the "threat" of the Mormon Church for which they should make large donations of money to try to stop. After all, this is how Martin and other professional anti-Mormons make their living. The Lord was very wise when he commanded against preaching for hire. If preaching is not lucrative, it will be done for the Love of God and not for love of money. Consider these scriptures (emphasis ours):

#### I PETER 5:2

(by Peter, the Apostle)

2. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight

thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind . . .**

ACTS 20:34  
(by Paul, the Apostle)

34. **Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.**

When the Lord's church was restored in these latter days, it was given the same gospel, ordinances, and charges as anciently. Among the charges given was that preaching for hire was priestcraft, and is an abomination unto the Lord, and was not to be a part of his church then or now. Consider the following scriptures from the Book of Mormon.

2 NEPHI 26:29

29. He commandeth that there shall be no priestcrafts; for, behold, priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.

MOSIAH 18:18, 24

18. And it came to pass that Alma, having authority from God, ordained priests . . .
24. **And he also commanded them that the priests whom he had ordained should labor with their own hands for their support.**

Does it sound to you like Walter Martin is seeking the welfare of Zion? Does it sound to you like Walter Martin has set himself up as a light unto the world? — he said himself that he is a teacher of “Comparative Religions,” **which means that he can tell you what’s wrong with almost anybody’s religion.** Mary Jane Popp, in the introduction to her show mentioned six books authored by Walter Martin, “none of which, I might add, is very flattering to any of the above religions.” He is a professional anti-Mormon, anti-Jehovah’s Witness, anti-Herbert Armstrong, etc. **This is the way he makes his living.** Those engaged in priestcraft “preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may **get gain and praise of the world;** but they seek not the welfare of Zion.”

Walter Martin makes his living preaching against the religions of his choice; the Mormon church is operated with an **unpaid ministry.** Now, which one do you think has the most reason to deceive?

Walter Martin — “After I’d lectured on the cults in general — not Mormonism — a man got up and said we ought to pray for Brother Martin, and I said, ‘I need all the help I can get. Please pray for me.’ He said, ‘I mean pray for protection.’ He said, ‘I just came back from

Salt Lake and was speaking to a leading Mormon in the area and he said, and I quote him, (I can't use the language he used, but he questioned my legitimate parentage), 'If that blank-of-a-blank ever comes back to Salt Lake, we'll blow his head off.' I don't believe it will happen. I believe God, the Holy Spirit, can protect us if we're doing what we're supposed to be doing for God.' "

First of all, no "leading Mormon" would make that statement. Notice the generality — no name! **Walter Martin, contrary to what he would like you to believe, is absolutely no threat to the Mormon Church.** The LDS Church is one of the fastest growing churches in America today. Actually, wild claims that come from people like Walter Martin in some cases actually **help** the LDS Church because it stirs honest people to investigate it. When they find out the truth about the LDS Church, many join it. The problem is with those who accept everything they read and hear, don't investigate, and become prejudiced and fearful based on Martin's propaganda. To these people, we would like to add that to every argument there has **always** been two sides. If someone had a disagreement with you, took you to court, and the judge refused to hear your side — would you feel that a fair decision could be reached? Of course not! Would you like your side to be presented to the judge for you by your **accusers**? Why not? Would they be biased against you? If they were biased against you, do you think that would affect what they said about you? The answers to these questions are obvious and should be kept in mind when reading or listening to any "anti" material, whether it be against the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, Jews, etc., etc. It is the premise of the LDS Church that truth should be taught prayerfully and with an open mind. Our missionaries preach the gospel without criticizing your church or your beliefs. They simply ask you to rely on prayer to know whether what they are preaching is true. **Test them!**

Howard Davis — "The other night Don and I got a call about 1:30 in the morning and this man said he was in a bar and he overheard a Mexican and a black man talking that they were going to shoot Mr. Cowdrey and myself. And later on he called again about a half hour later. I assume it was the same man. The voice sounded different, but he said that another man was giving these two men money in the bar to shoot us with a high-powered rifle, and when you get calls like that at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, it does kind of get to you. I'm dead serious about this, although I shouldn't use that word. Dead serious to sin. But our lives are definitely in danger and we do covet your prayers, not for our own sake, but for the sake of the project which relates to people, which relates to a person and that person is Jesus Christ who wants to save those people. And so it's not for us. Please don't think we're afraid. If we were afraid, we would not be taking the public, worldwide stand that we're taking that Solomon Spaulding is the author and that those 12 pages in Utah are in his handwriting. We

are not afraid . . . We do earnestly covet your prayers for protection and for guidance, because anybody that has lived with us through this project — Walter can tell you this — the tension is unbearable . . . trying to fight a multi-billion dollar organization that is trying to take over the economy of the United States — and they're right on time — and we are operating with very, very limited funds. And a lot of Christians don't seem to really realize this. We're not after money. We're not after material things. We are after the **truth** so the truth can be presented to people so that they can be converted to Christ — that is our goal. We have spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars. We have borrowed money for this project, and we've made to date \$50 apiece actually. We spent our gas, our time, money, effort, phone calls, all the rest of it up until just a short time ago on the phone calls, so that we could promote this project so that the truth could be made known."

Howard Davis says he is feeling unbearable tension because he is "trying to fight a multi-billion dollar organization that is trying to take over the economy of the United States — and they're right on time . . ." This is a favorite deceptive tactic of Walter Martin, and Howard Davis apparently feels that what is good enough for Walter Martin is good enough for him, too. In Martin's lectures and books he greatly exaggerates the scope and wealth of the Mormon Church. He exaggerates so as to impress his listeners that "the Mormons are all around you; they're closing in and if you aren't careful, they're going to get you!" It's true the Lord has blessed His church with prosperity (the kind Walter Martin hopes his listeners will bless him with), but it is an absolute falsehood to state that it is trying to take over the economy of the United States. The LDS Church has its own welfare program (which works) to take care of its members that are in need of help; we hope the United States economy can take care of everybody else!

So, a man called and said there were some men in a bar talking that they were going to shoot Cowdrey and Davis. Then he called a half-hour later to say that money had been paid to carry out the deed. Why on earth didn't this man call the police? He had plenty of time (over a half hour), and he apparently had the presence of mind to look up a name in the phone book. The police would have been the logical ones to call first, then Davis. Here is just another threat tactic to try to impress his listeners **that his project must really be important to have the whole Mormon church after him.** He must really need the threat stories because he said above that they aren't making any money on all the work they did. They have spent "hundreds of dollars, borrowed money, spent for gas, phone calls, etc.," and if you are really concerned for their safety you will improve their "very, very limited funds," which will somehow stop the Mormon church from trying to "snuff them out." From here to the end of the tape is their appeal for money. **There should at least be one more threat from the Mormon Church to help bring it in.**

Walter Martin — “I want to urge you to pray for these three men. As I said, they made \$50 apiece out of this so far, and any monies they do make out of the publication of their book goes back into more research in the world of the cult and the occult. I certainly haven’t made any money from it. I know the Christian Research Institute hasn’t, but a lot of money has been given and expended, and it has come from the Lord’s people. Now some of you people are probably sitting there saying, “Well, he’s going to take an offering.” No, I’m not. The only offering will be the offering taken for our regular Bible class when the ushers come in. But if you would like to participate in this and help us to make more of this information available, to do more research, to get more data, I know we don’t have the resources of the Mormon Church in the bank, but we do have the cattle on a thousand hills, and we do have the faith of the church. So, if you want to help, just don’t split this morning, do something about it. Write a check out to Mormon Fund and drop it in those buckets at the doors. Nobody’s going to ask you for it — it will just be there. If you really believe in what we’re trying to accomplish and you really care about the souls of Mormons, and you really want to put money where it’s going to do some good, that’s your opportunity. It’s not being given to anything but research material on this particular aspect and development of the Mormon religion. Be in prayer. Praise God for these three men that have given so much of their time and their effort, and have laid their lives on the line in order to bring this material to the public.”

There it is — I knew there had to be one more threat from the Mormon Church — these poor boys have “laid their lives on the line in order to bring this material to the public.” It must be a worthy cause!

Most protestant churches pass the **plate** to collect offerings. Evidently Martin isn’t satisfied with a plate — **he wants them to fill the buckets!**

## SUMMARY

Walter Martin and the three researchers say they have received many threats from the Mormon Church. These false stories are designed to impress their listening audience with the seriousness and importance of their project; **they have no basis in fact and are given for emotional appeal.**

Two out of three of the handwriting experts they hired claim that Spaulding is **not** the author of the Book of Mormon pages by the “unknown scribe.” This will not help their theory at all, or their ailing pocketbook.

Walter Martin says he is afraid to go to the LDS Church Archives in Salt Lake City, Utah. If I had told as many lies about the Mormon Church as he has, I wouldn't feel good about going there either.

## THE COMPLETE LECTURE

10 July, 1977

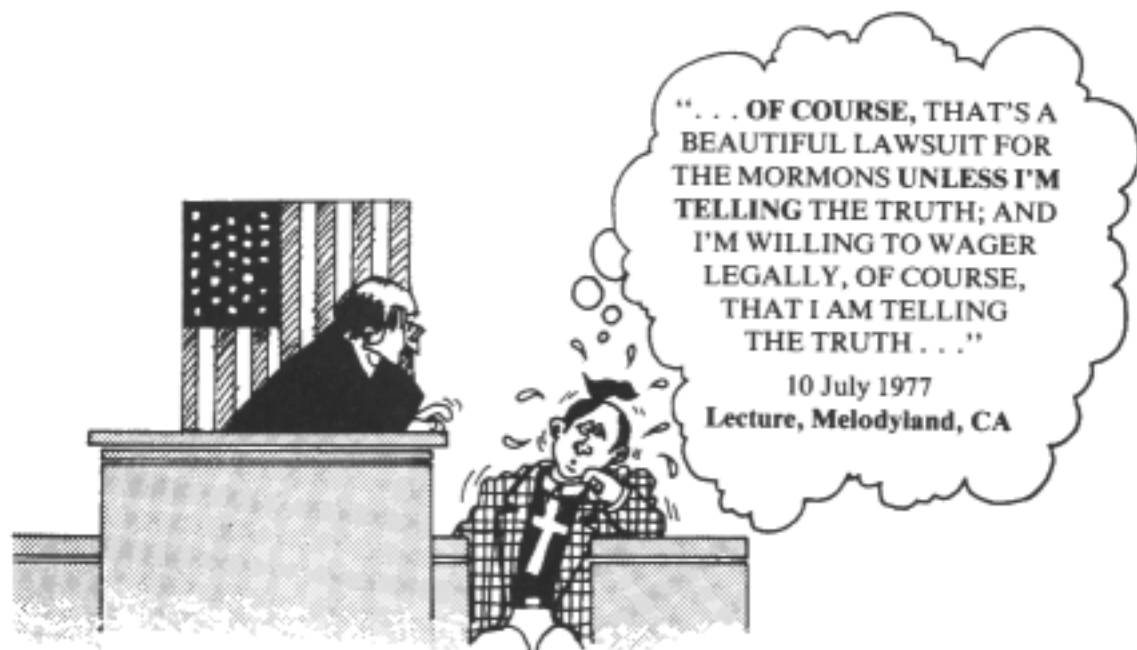
### “Spaulding Manuscript”

The complete lecture of Walter Martin and the “three researchers” will now be presented. You will be able to see the total picture. Imagine you are in the audience listening to this lecture; you will hear deception at its best! The more obvious deception has been marked. ♦ **Notice how many marks there are.** The only things that are missing are Martin's dynamic power of delivery (he is a real showman), and the audience reaction. According to Walter Martin's resume, April 1982, attendance is usually around 700.

Walter Martin frequently tells his listeners of his “love for the Mormon people” and offers that for an excuse for his attacks on the Mormon Church. **Just who does he think he's kidding!** His statements wouldn't impress any knowledgeable Mormon! The only people he could impress are those who know very little or nothing about the LDS Church. To them, he can have a real heyday. He can have his fun and make a living at it at the same time.

You can readily see why this author, those who have worked hard on this book, and other LDS members who value their membership in the LDS Church, don't care to have these men interpret our religion. **If they can lie like this about the LDS Church, could you trust what they would say about anybody else's religion?** Think about it!





## AFFIDAVIT

IN RE:

Tape Recording  
Melodyland Fellowship Center  
Anaheim, California  
10 July, 1977  
"Spaulding Manuscript"

I have listened to the tape recording of the "Spaulding Manuscript," 10 July, 1977, by Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Donald Scales. I affirm that the transcription of that tape that follows is accurate.

Scott Norman Woodfield, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Computer Science  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona

STATE OF Arizona  
COUNTY OF Maricopa SS:

On this 26<sup>th</sup> day of Jan., 1984, before me appeared Scott N. Woodfield to me personally known, and who signed the foregoing letter in my presence.

My Commission Expires



Notary Public

Sunday Bible Class, Melodyland Fellowship Center, Anaheim, California, 10 July, 1977, "Spaulding Manuscript." Those participating are: Walter Martin, Wayne Cowdrey, Howard Davis, and Don Scales.

(Walter Martin) Good morning everybody. Praise the Lord. We're glad that you're here and let's begin by having a word of prayer:

"Our Father, Eternal God, we ask the blessing of thy Holy Spirit upon us this morning as we seek to understand better thy word and thy will. Lord, we pray that thou will bind all the forces of darkness. We are agreed together here that the Lord, Jesus Christ, shall be exalted and that everything may redound to thine honor and glory. Father, cleanse us of our sins; forgive us the ways in which we have failed thee. And, by the power of thy Spirit, teach us of thyself — that we may know thee in a richer and deeper way, and go forth to proclaim the wonders of thy redeeming grace. Through Jesus Christ, with praise and thanksgiving, we ask it, Amen.

The great controversy concerning the Spaulding Manuscript has broken out in the press across the United States, and right now we are embroiled in the midst of some of the most devious deception, trickery, and outright lying that had ever been done in any newspaper by anybody. Sample, "Handwriting expert unsure about the Book of Mormon manuscript." Naturally, the *Salt Lake City Tribune* owned by the Mormons would say that. (audience laughter) A Los Angeles handwriting expert who examined an original page of the Book of Mormon at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived Tuesday and said he cannot give a definite opinion as to whether they were written by a Congregationalist minister and author until he compares them with the originals of the minister's handwriting. Quote: "I cannot definitely come to a conclusion by comparing photocopies with originals," said Henry Silver, who has received considerable attention in handwriting cases. The most notable being the examination of the purported Howard Hughes Mormon Will. He said he is still convinced it was written by Hughes."

Now, I didn't go into the whole article, but the handwriting expert is unsure about the book. The letter from the handwriting expert. Ok, are you ready? This will be in the newspapers, too. "Report on my examination and comparison of certain photocopies of handwritten pages previously presented to me with an original document, composing several original pages bearing original handwriting claimed to be part of a Mormon manuscript that became part of the Book of Mormon. Said examination done at Mormon Church Office Building in Salt Lake City." He goes on to state the original document composed the original pages of original handwriting part of the Mormon manuscript which was written on both sides of the document. He goes on in detail going over this particular material. Now, this particular letter from Mr. Silver indicates that he has seen it, the

material that he used, and he is categorically stating in the letter that the material which he received, which he saw, the material he cannot come to definite conclusions on until he sees the actual document in Oberlin, Illinois. I think that's very fair. Mr. Silver is a fair man. What's so fascinating about it, however, is that Mr. Silver just resigned from the case after a three hour conversation with a Mormon public relations man. Has Mr. Silver changed the original opinion he gave in a letter to us? Do you have a copy of that letter with you, Howard? Could you give me that one, please?

Mr. Silver's original letter is quite different from this letter. This letter says he simply examined the material. His original letter indicates that there was considerable difference in his mind of opinion regarding the Mormon manuscripts. Why we're concerned about it is that something has happened. We don't quite know what. Mr. Silver begins by saying this is the material. Mr. Silver ends by saying, I'm not gonna become involved in the case any more. And then Mr. Silver states that I, Walter Martin, have a personal vendetta against the Mormon people, reproduced in the *Salt Lake City Tribune*. Mr. Silver says he never said it. The *Salt Lake City Tribune* says he did. It's interesting. Mr. Silver, at 86 years of age, has been quite literally frightened out of his wits by something or someone, and now is withdrawing! (audience mumbling) But, before the Mormons got to Mr. Silver, this is what Mr. Silver said: "Four photocopies of parts of the manuscript bearing the questioned handwriting of the deceased known as Solomon Spaulding, exhibit B photocopies of 12 pages of manuscript known to have been written around 1810 by the person known as Solomon Spaulding; photocopies of two pages of a letter — Spaulding to a friend; photocopy of a deed, January 11, 1811, bearing the known handwriting including the known signature of the person deceased known as Solomon Spaulding. In comparing the said questioned handwriting in exhibit A with the known handwriting in exhibit B, I find the following." There follows then after that, eight specific points identifying the Book of Mormon manuscript in Salt Lake with the Oberlin Manuscript.

He concludes, "Owing to the predominating number of definite similarities pointed out under the preceding 8 points between the said questioned handwriting in exhibit A and the said known handwriting in exhibit B, it is my definite opinion that all the questioned handwriting in exhibit A were written by the same writer known as Solomon Spaulding, who wrote his known handwriting in exhibit B." Henry Silver, handwriting expert, examined questioned documents, notarized in the state of California.

I would like to ask the question publicly, what pressure was put on Mr. Silver between the first report and the second report? Something, because he now doesn't want to discuss it at all. However, Mr. Kaye, and Mr. Doulder do, the other two experts. Mr. Kaye went to Salt Lake City, and you're gonna have a report on that from the three young gentlemen who are connected with it, and Mr.

Doulder is going to Salt Lake City, so we are in the midst of a handwriting controversy, which to me is tremendously interesting because the man who stated, when employed by the Mormons that the Mormon will of Howard Hughes was genuine, also stated that Solomon Spaulding's handwriting was in the original documents in Salt Lake City. Then, after a visit from the Mormons, suddenly he doesn't deny his position, he just simply backs off from it — doesn't wish to discuss it. I think that's cause for some consideration, and also for some serious prayer for Mr. Silver because he's an old man and I think he's terrified. These young gentlemen spoke with him, so they're gonna talk about that a little bit later on.

However, one thing has emerged from the controversy so far. The Mormon Church is very concerned about the 12 pages of documents in the vault in Salt Lake. Concerned enough to do something very unusual which will be shown from a newspaper. I wish that we had the time to go into all of the material and all of the tale connected with this. This much I can tell you, the three handwriting experts have not altered their basic opinion. They still maintain that exhibits A and B are Solomon Spaulding. One was taken from Oberlin, Illinois, er, Ohio, the other one was taken from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Mormon Church has not refuted this, they have not tried to answer this, they have just denied it. Well, a denial is not a refutation. I can deny anything that I want to. But, if you ask me to prove it's wrong, that's a different ball park. I've got to prove it. They're denying, but they're not proving. And if I were them, I'd be very concerned. As *Time* magazine pointed out, the whole Mormon religion rests on the validity of the Book of Mormon, and Joseph Smith.

◆ If Smith lied, and all the evidence now says he did, if the documents were Solomon Spaulding, and they most certainly are, then the only possible conclusion is that there was no Angel Moroni, there were no golden plates, there was no vision. There was only Joseph in quest for a quick buck, and he has made an awful lot of money for himself and for the Mormon religion; and they have been deceived by it.

◆ This is called the Book of Mormon. Somebody gave it to me and they crossed out the Book of Mormon and they said, "The Book of Solomon Spaulding." That's true. (audience laughter and applause)

Why are we concerned? I'll tell you why I'm concerned. I'm not concerned to be right. I'm concerned that if they can bury this and buy it and frighten people out of it, then nobody is safe with any information any more, any place. And I say it publicly. The Mormon Church has more power than the president of the United States, and I'll prove it to you.

Richard Nixon was ordered to produce documents and tapes which brought about the Watergate collapse. Nixon went through the courts and inevitably had to produce as the President of the United States, the Chief Executive Officer of

our country. He obeyed a court order; he was forced to.

In my case with the Mormons in the state of California, the Superior Court of Orange County ordered the Mormon Church under penalty — direct penalty — to produce documents and answer questions addressed to them by my attorneys. The Mormon Church ignored and refused to obey that court order for more than 3 weeks, and then entered court again and had it set aside by some peculiar power nobody understands. Now, if I defied the courts of California on a speeding ticket, you better believe they're coming for me. If I defy a court order, you better believe they're gonna penalize me. The Mormon Church did it and they got away with it. The president of the United States did it and they impeached him. Who has more power? Somebody with a lot of money and a lot of position manipulates. Mr. Silver is a classic illustration.

◆ So, I am here to say, and they're going to say, the documents haven't changed. No handwriting expert has contradicted these three men, and I think you'll be surprised to find out some of the other things that have happened since these young men have taken on a massive organizational structure and system. They don't have the money; certainly don't have the opportunities that the Mormon Church does to present documents. But now they have made a valiant attempt to tell the public and the Mormon people the truth. I was not involved in this. I did not discover the documents, I had no part in their research whatsoever. But I am going to stay with them and back them and stand against this evil, because if they're snuffed out in terms of presenting the truth, nobody's gonna be able to present the truth any more. And no church, no individual, no person, no citizen, in the United States is above the laws of the United States. The Christians had better be praying about it because you might not think it's important right now, but later on as time progresses, it will be virtually impossible in the light of activities like this to get anything published, to get any information out, to tell the truth about anything, because if money and power and position can shut you up on a religious issue in violation of the Constitution, it can shut you up any place. And, therefore, it's important. And if Christians don't think it's important enough to stand with these guys, then they're gonna stand before the Lord for it. That's what we're supposed to be doing. We're supposed to be standing up. Where do you stand? That's the question. Do you stand with the Lord against evil? Or, do you say, "Well, let's not rock the boat. I mean, why get involved with this? Let's just love everybody and be positive and preach Jesus. God will take care of everything." Hypocrite! God never said that! God said, put up a good fight for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Not the Latter-day Saints. (audience laughter and applause) Their faith came from Solomon Spaulding via Joseph Smith and into multiple confusion. But the faith of the church is to bring people to Christ. Do we care about the Mormon people so that they know the truth and come to the Lord, Jesus? Do we? Well, that's the name of the game — to get to them. Now, the only way we can do it is by standing with these fellows.

◆ It's a pleasure to find Christian gentlemen without great resources and very lonely in a large mob of hostile people standing up for the gospel. I'm glad Wayne Cowdrey, who bears the name of one of Joseph Smith's scribes, Don Scales and Howard Davis, are willing to carry the ball for the Christian Church. My plea is that we get on the line with them and make sure that the information gets known. If the Mormons wanna hang onto their faith, nobody objects to that; but if they want to tell us that it came from heaven via an angel and through Joseph Smith, I think it's about time the Spaulding manuscript came out in the open for everybody to see. Pray for *Time Magazine* — they're gonna be under tremendous pressure. Pray for *Christianity Today*. All the might of the Mormon conglomerate empire and all the angels that can be played, will be played. But greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world. (audience applause)

I'm glad I had a very small part in somehow or other advancing the Spaulding theory and holding to it knowing that it was true, and not being able to prove it until I live to see Howard Davis prove it, and Wayne Cowdrey prove it, and Don Scales prove it. ◆ And I would do everything in my power and hope you will, too, to see that they don't get pushed into the background, that the evidence doesn't get buried, and that the Mormon Church is not allowed to buy everything in sight. And when it can't buy frightened, old men. ◆ They're not gonna frighten us, but they have frightened Mr. Silver. Let's pray for Mr. Silver, that the Holy Spirit will minister to him, bring him to the Lord Jesus Christ, and let him say what's happening, because the man desperately needs it. At 86 with a bad heart, you desperately need Jesus. You need him all the time.

Howard, Wayne, and Don, people are waiting here to hear what happened in Salt Lake with Mr. Kaye, the second handwriting expert. They're waiting to hear what's happened to you — mysterious telephone calls, all kinds of goodies are in store for us. It's a pleasure, welcome will you, Howard Davis, Wayne Cowdrey, and Don Scales. (enthusiastic audience applause)

(Don Scales): Well, we're going to begin by having Mr. Cowdrey relate his experience in Salt Lake City and you're going to find out what the press hasn't reported as to the reason why Mr. Silver would not give a cut-and-dried opinion and Wayne's going to tell you his very words probably on the airplane when they were coming back, and you're going to experience possibly some of the tension that, uh, Mr. Cowdrey and Mr. Silver experienced as Wayne relates his, uh, experiences at Utah with you, so I'm going to ask Wayne to, uh, relate that trip to you.

(Wayne Cowdrey): All right, first of all I'd like to thank everyone for the ovation. Now, at the time I was with Mr. Silver, as I was right behind him over the original documents of the unidentified scribe that was laminated, I pulled out a photocopy that was printed by the Mormon Church, and I made sure that Mr. Arrington knew exactly what it is that I wanted, and they agreed fully the original documents that was laminated of the unidentified scribe was put out. (audience

laughter) Not that way, but, it was brought out into the open. Now, Mr. Silver has identified the copy that was presented to him as genuine because I watched it. The originals are laminated. They can be held up on one end like a popsickle stick. Now, after the examination was over, Mr. Silver told me that a judge, if he wants to can use photocopies to give a final opinion — it's up to the judge. Mr. Silver didn't want to give at that time, an official opinion to the Mormon Church. And, after we left the place, the Church, as we sat in the airport eating some ice cream, he said, "Wayne, if I would have given a cut-and-dried opinion right there, I don't believe we would have made it out of there alive." (audience reaction)

But, I could understand at the time. I was, he was watching me as I was having a big debate with the Mormon press. They were all standing around like it was a big sword battle. In fact, the whole hallway and everything was perfectly packed. You couldn't get in or out of there. As I tried to explain to the Mormon people that we were trying to uncover the truth and his first attempt by Mr. Spaulding, the Manuscript Story, and the Book of Mormon by Solomon Spaulding (audience laughter), that there were hundreds of parallels between the two. And the Mormon press didn't seem to believe it.

Just the other day at the airport, after Mr. Kaye made his trip back, he said that they did not show him any laminated originals of the unidentified scribe. They showed him an old paper, some old documents that was, evidently, it was sprayed and putting it into a plastic cover of some sort, and said this was it. Which, of course, it didn't surprise me at all. I'm sorry that I wasn't there. If I hadn't been there with Mr. Silver the first time, they would have tried something probably more drastic than that. So, I have to wait now and see what the final conclusion is going to happen.

Now, as you know, the *Daily Breeze* printed the story. The *Daily Breeze* covers the areas of Hawthorne and San Pedro, Englewood, and parts of Southwest Los Angeles. I mean, it's a photocopy. It says, "Researchers of the Mormon Cry Trickery," and it's on the front page.

(Walter Martin): I think it is very important that you grasp what Wayne is saying right at this point. Mr. Kaye is a world famed authority on handwriting. He went to Salt Lake to look at the same document Mr. Silver did. When he got there, they didn't show him the document, they showed him another one, and they lied to him. Point blank, outright, so Mr. Kaye refused to discuss it with them any further, and left. We hope to get Mr. Kaye back in there again, the Lord willing, this time we'll send Wayne . . . possibly. (audience laughter) Fearless Brother. (audience laughter) I'd go myself, but I know I wouldn't get out! (audience laughter and applause)

Or, if we send a black man in there, he will get out. (audience laughter) So we're gonna be looking for a good, black clergyman who can go in there, and have no problem whatsoever. But, this is how desperate (audience laughter) this is, how

desperate it has become. You switch documents on an expert and make a fool of yourself, because the expert had five copies of the original documents in his briefcase and he knew they gave them the wrong documents. That's a very important point. Also, he's checked with Mr. Silver hasn't he, on the original document?

(Wayne Cowdrey): Yes, he has. He has checked with Mr. Silver to make sure that they weren't laminated because he wasn't sure if the originals were laminated, and Mr. Schmidt has made the statement that the original handwriting document was never laminated, and it's in their own printings that they were.

(Walter Martin): So, what happens is, one of their spokesmen says, "The original documents we had were never laminated." Indeed, then why are you printing in your publications that the documents were laminated when you described them in your own publications? What we have to see is this, and I hope we can, that you are gonna run square into people putting documents in front of you and saying this is it. And lying through their teeth. Somebody says, Do you have to say that? Yes! (audience laughter) Because if we can endure Watergate when people lied under oath, and we got excited about it; how much more so when we're talking about things which affect the souls of 3.8 million people.

◆ **Here's a church knowing what they've got and now lying to cover it up. Of course, that's a beautiful lawsuit for the Mormons unless I'm telling the truth, and I am willing to wager legally, of course, that I am telling the truth and they're not telling the truth. And we're gonna find out.**

Howard, do you have any comments to make on all of this material? Why don't you tell them some of the things that happened to you boys on the telephone since you became famous in *Time Magazine*. That was a good picture of you in *Time Magazine*.

(Howard Davis): Thank you. (audience laughter) Referring to the shot of Moroni, right?

(Walter Martin): Yes.

◆ (Howard Davis): The other night Don and I got a call about 1:30 in the morning and this man said he was in a bar and he overheard a Mexican and a black man talking that they were going to shoot Mr. Cowdrey and myself. And later on he called again about a half hour later — we, I assume it was the same man — the voice sounded different — but he said that, uh, another man was giving these two money in the bar to shoot us with a high-powered rifle, and when you get calls like that at two or three o'clock in the morning, it does kind of get to you (audience laughter). And I'm dead serious about this, although I shouldn't use that word (audience laughter). Dead to sin. But, uh, our lives are definitely in danger and we do covet your prayers, not for our own sake but for the sake of the project which relates to people, which relates to a person and that person is Jesus Christ who



wants to save those people. And so it's not for us. Please don't think that we are afraid. If we were afraid, we would not be taking the public, uh, worldwide stand that we're taking that Solomon Spaulding is the author and that those 12 pages in Utah are in his handwriting. We are not afraid. We have spent hundreds of hours in this project. We have continually revolved that question in our minds, and we were willing to sacrifice our lives if necessary so that Christ, His truth, and the truth of history should be brought out to the public, and so please we do earnestly covet your prayers for protection and for guidance, because anybody that has lived with us through this project. Walter can tell you this, the tension is unbearable. Forty-two calls in one day not counting the thirty-some calls that I had to make. That's just one day. And constantly things are changing all of the time and you've got people calling, you've got questions, you've got letters of inquiry, you've got all sorts of things, and you're trying to fight a multi-billion dollar organization that is trying to take over the economy of the United States. And they're right on time; and we are operating with very, very limited funds. And a lot of Christians don't seem to really realize this. We're not after money. We're not after material things. We are after the truth so the truth can be presented to people so that they can be converted to Christ — that is our goal. We have spent hundreds and hundreds of dollars. We have borrowed money for this project, and we've made to date \$50 apiece actually. We spent our gas, our time, money, effort, phone calls, all the rest of it up until just a short time ago on the phone calls. So that we could promote this project so that the truth could be made known.

Uh, I talked to Mr. Silver in the presence of two witnesses, Mr. Scales and Miss Scott yesterday. And, uh, he definitely is afraid. He's 86 years old, he's taking nitroglycerin for his heart, and a Mormon spokesman as Mr. Martin brought out, Mr. Jensen, spoke with him for over three hours and he made the statement to Wayne, "I'm not God." Now, what does that tell you? Also, he talked about his life. You know, I said, "I'm laying my life on the line." And he indicated, yes, he realizes he's laying his life on the line also, and he wants out. He's also disturbed about the adverse publicity in the newspapers, etc., etc., etc. And, so, we really need your prayers. We feel that Mr. Kaye and Mr. Doulder, both being a little younger — Mr. Kaye is in his 70's so he's a spring chicken compared to Mr. Silver. And, of course, Mr. Doulder, he is a teenager, a teeny bopper. He's about 48 years old (audience laughter). And we feel that they are — did I say 49? (audience laughter) That hit close to home. But, we feel that through the power of Christ, that they will take a continued firm stand with us in this endeavor.

But, please understand the responsibility that we face and that we sense, and the tremendous tension daily. We continually pray about this, but still we're human beings, and you know, it's just like a few against the many. We realize in the Bible it talks about the weaknesses of man, God's power is made strong through these individuals and so forth. But when you're experiencing that, when you're going through it, the tension is unbearable and unbelievable at times. And we know it is going to get worse. The project is just now being made known to the public. It's

just now hitting magazines and newspapers and it laid to rest for a day or two and then all of a sudden another story breaks.

◆ But, I wanta firmly say that Mr. Kaye was deliberately deceived when he was there. Do you know why? Because those scholars now know and realize what's happening and I firmly believe in my heart that they realize that that is the handwriting of Solomon Spaulding;◆ even the spelling errors are the same in both productions. Any fool can see that after about 2 hours of study. And the predominate number of not only similarities, but outright duplications are overwhelming. I've studied handwriting for 18 years, and I'm telling you it's just overwhelming as you look at that. We've spend hundreds of hours looking at that material over and over and over again. And they're starting to come to the point where we were at one time, and they're starting to see all of this. And now, they're changing documents. Mr. Kaye couldn't even put his arm on the table. They said, "Oh, don't, don't break the paper off." And what Wayne saw and Mr. Plowman saw were documents that you couldn't even hardly bend they were so thickly laminated. You see, so they switched documents on us — they're desperate.

(Walter Martin)◆ Just so you'll know they switched documents, this is Mr. Silver's report on what the documents he saw looked like. Both sides had been covered with a film of lamination, lamination. Lamination, too (audience laughter). That's all over the place now. "Owing to the lamination, I stated, to those who witnessed my examination, I could not give an opinion as to the age of the ink used or the age of the paper stock used for the original pages of the Mormon manuscript, owing to the film of lamination covering, but that I could give an opinion of the original handwriting which was clear to be seen." Now, lamination, the Mormons in their own publications have described these documents as, in very great detail, "and they're laminated and they are very clearly distinguishable — those 12 pages." And, uh, now they're saying there's no lamination at all.

Here's Mr. Silver, was inside, and he says they're laminated and he looked at them under a microscope. So, I think Mr. Silver, after 50 some years, ought to know lamination when he sees it. Now this is what these guys are up against, and I want to put to rest one of the myths the Mormon Church is circulating. They stated that Christian Research Institute and that Walter Martin was financing this work.◆ That is an absolute, unmitigated lie. Christian Research Institute hasn't paid one dime toward this work, and Walter Martin has been financed in all of it by the contributions of the Lord's people. And, I'm happy to say, we are up to date on everything right now, except the expenses these fellows have had in going back and forth, and also the material for Mr. Kaye who went to Salt Lake City.

All I can say is, we are living in a historic moment. Our Christian brothers who lived in the 1830's and 40's would have given their eye teeth to know what we know right now.◆ To have Spaulding's handwriting in 12 pages of the original Book of Mormon, would have killed the whole Mormon cult back then.

◆ Today, multi-millions of dollars, political power, economic pressure can be brought to bear on anybody, even old men, in order to frighten them or to cajol them into accomplishing what is the will of the Mormon Church. There is no vendetta against the Mormon people — we love them for Jesus' sake. And hundreds of them are coming to Christ every day, as a result of these disclosures. We thank God for that. But there has to be on our part, what the Apostle Paul says, "Cling to what is good, and hate what is evil." It is evil to say God gave you something when you've got the documents and the handwriting of the man that gave it. That's exactly what we're up against.

I want to urge you to pray for these three men. As I said, they made \$50 apiece out of this so far, and any monies they do make out of the publication of their book goes back into more research in the world of the cult and the occult. I certainly haven't made any money on it. I know the Christian Research Institute hasn't, but a lot of money has been given and expended, and has come from the Lord's people.

Now, some of you people are probably sitting there saying, "Well, he's going to take an offering." No, I'm not. Cheer up. The only offering will be the offering taken for our regular Bible class when the ushers come in. But, if you would like to participate in this and help us to make more of this information available, to do more research, to get more data, I know we don't have the resources of the Mormon Church in the bank, but we do have the cattle on a thousand hills, and we do have the faith of the church. So, if you want to help, just don't split this morning, do something about it. Write a check out to Mormon Fund and drop it in those buckets at the doors. Nobody's going to ask you for it — it will just be there.

If you really believe in what we're trying to accomplish and you really care about the souls of Mormons, and you really want to put money where it's going to do some good, that's your opportunity. It's not being given to anything but research material on this particular aspect and development of the Mormon religion. Be in prayer. Praise God for these three men that have given so much of their time and their effort, and have laid their lives on the line in order to bring this material to the public. I praise God for them, and I salute them (enthusiastic audience applause).

(Walter Martin): Yes. (Apparently the meeting is now opened up to questions from the audience. You can't hear their questions on the tape, only Martin's responses) (Ans.) The Mormons are circulating the rumor that these three men are all ex-Mormons and that they're out to get the Church. That's the Mormons on his block told him this, right? Wayne Cowdrey is a former Mormon. Howard Davis is not, neither is Don Scales. You gentlemen care to stand up and just say that publicly so nobody will have any problem with it. (muffled — they probably stood up and restated it) (audience laughter) Wayne is the only ex-Mormon, the other two are not Mormons. I have never been a Mormon,◆ although I am a

descendant of Brigham Young, and Brigham is probably spinning in his grave right now (audience laughter).

I'll tell you something. If I can do just a little bit to undo the great harm to the Mormon people, that Joseph and Brigham have done, I thank God for the opportunity. And, when the Mormon Church says that I have a vendetta against the people, that's an outright perversion of the facts and of the truth. No one has been more eager or spent more time, traveled more, or spoken more, or written more to try to evangelize Mormons than I have, in the last twenty-five years. So, I care about them. I care enough to be willing to let them hate me just so they may find out the truth. When they find out the truth they love you. I've had Mormons get up and shriek at me and yell at me and say all kinds of things to me, and then I've got letters from those same Mormons after they found out the truth and how they do love you. How they love Jesus. That's what really counts. Yes, somebody here . . . somebody here have their hand up?

(Question on what became of the golden plates.) (Ans.) The Angel Moroni took them back again according to the Mormons. However, we have found out since that time that the angel's name was Spaulding (audience laughter). I don't think you or anybody else realizes the full impact of what's going on. You're living through a moment of history which is absolutely spectacular. It isn't a question of whether the documents are genuine — they're genuine. It isn't a question of whether or not it's Spaulding's handwriting — it is! The experts say so. The question is whether or not the Mormon Church is going to be allowed to snuff it out. That's the question. And if that goes, no documents are safe from that time on. If money, position, and power can do it — nobody's safe with the documents.

(Question on the background of Spaulding) (Ans.) Solomon Spaulding was a Congregationalist minister who liked to write religious novels in biblical language. We already know he wrote one called *Manuscript Story*. It's out in Oberlin, Ohio. We also know that his friends and relatives all heard him read his manuscripts. He wrote another one called *Manuscript Found*. That was the one that became the basis for the Book of Mormon. The Mormons deny this. The only way to prove it is to get hold of Solomon Spaulding's handwriting and to contrast it with the Book of Mormon manuscripts. Howard Davis did that. Thank God he did it. It's not Davis's opinion. Mr. Silver's opinion, Mr. Kaye's opinion, Mr. Doulder's opinion, and it will be an official opinion. But what I want you to hear is this, "Handwriting expert unsure about book." That's the *Salt Lake City Tribune*. And here's Mr. Silver, the handwriting expert they're talking about. "Owing to the predominating number of definite similarities pointed out under the preceding eight points between the said questioned handwriting in exhibit A and the said known handwriting in exhibit B, it is my definite opinion that all the questioned handwritings in exhibit A were written by the same writer known as Solomon Spaulding, who wrote his known handwriting in exhibit B." Henry Silver. That's

the man that's been scared to the place where he pulls out, but he's never backed up on what I just said. That's there, it's in the record.

We're going to have Mr. Kaye and Mr. Doulder, just as soon as possible, and we have expenses to get them to Salt Lake and expenses to get them back (audience laughter), alive. They're expenses to get the job done.

You say, well, you're overdoing this threat business. I am? I'd hate to count the number of times I've been threatened. The last time I spoke in Salt Lake City, we had 1500 to 1800 people. Two known apostles of the Mormon Church were present, and I provided a stack of documents outside through Jerald and Sandra Tanner and Jerry and Marion Bodene — free — to any Mormon who wanted to take them, and to compare them to the files of the Mormon Church. Those documents were gone in 15 minutes and not by one person, by Mormons. They wanted to check it. When I came back from Salt Lake City, I was speaking to the National Association of Evangelicals here in Orange County, and after I'd lectured on the cults in general, not Mormonism, a man got up and said we ought to pray for Brother Martin, and I said, "I need all the help I can get. Please pray for me." He said, "I mean prayer," he said, "for protection." He said, "I just came back from Salt Lake and was speaking to a leading Mormon in the area," and he said, and I quote him; I can't use the language he used, but he questioned my legitimate parentage — uh (audience laughter). "If that blank-of-a-blank ever comes back to Salt Lake, we'll blow his head off." I don't believe it will happen, I believe God, the Holy Spirit, can protect us if we're doing what we're supposed to be doing for God. And I intend to speak in Salt Lake in 1978 as evidence of that, God willing.

But the fact remains. That poor man was scared to death in the vaults by the people's attitude. And strangely enough, he just backs out of the whole thing, he doesn't want to get involved, after three hours with the Mormon public relations man.

I think it was very neatly explained by these gentlemen by pointing out that in Doctrine and Covenants, I believe, it mentions the fact that they were so poor in the beginning, that they didn't even have enough money at times to buy paper. Yeah. (muffled comment by one of the three researchers) So that would explain why they would use the paper, they didn't have any money. And so they used the sections of Spaulding they had and wrote around it. The foolish part was keeping it, that was a no-no. That was a very bad mistake. You should have gotten rid of Solomon's 12 pages, because right now they have risen from the ashes to haunt them.

Yeah. (Question from the floor.) I was supposed to debate a doctor in Portland, Oregon, not Missouri. The doctor declined. I said I would be happy to appear and told them, one of the pastors in the area, to set up the meetings, and the doctor doesn't want any part of it. I think he's very wise. I wouldn't want any

part of it either, because if you put documents up ten feet square and show people what it actually said, you've got to believe your own eyes. Mormons left this building last time I spoke on the subject; they left here saying, there must be something to this. Others were saying, it can't be true. Another one said, "He wouldn't dare say what he says publicly unless it was true." You know something, they're right. I wouldn't dare say it unless it was true. Got a dozen lawsuits based on just the evidence we submitted this morning. It isn't true. Why isn't the Mormon Church countersuing me? I sued them in order to get this into the court, but I was never countersued. Why? You countersue somebody when he's wrong. I wasn't countersued. Then you have to prove it.

Yes. (Question) (Ans.) the Mormons claim that the handwriting is different on the headings, but they wouldn't let Mr. Silver and Mr. Kaye look at them, so I think it's pretty suspect. Howard?

(muffled, Howard Davis speaks on some point)

(Walter Martin): The first letter states that it is Spaulding's handwriting; however, legally to prove it, so he wouldn't be sued, Mr. Silver has to look at the original documents because no court will accept it without them. He did go to Salt Lake, he looked at the original document, and he looked at the copy which we had given him, or they had given him, and he said they're the same. Meaning that this was the genuine representation of the document. Then he was supposed to go to Oberlin and check it with Spaulding's manuscript. But he became ill, he couldn't go into court, he had to postpone or put aside his commitments. His heart started to act up — his doctor has testified to this — and then on top of it, comes the Mormon Church, and that was enough to throw an 86-year-old man into mortal fear, and now he doesn't deny what he said, not a bit. He simply says I don't want to say anything else. What changed his mind? Here is my definite opinion and now I don't want to get involved. Something happened; common sense would tell you that.

(muffled comment by Howard Davis)

(Question) (Ans.) Well, Mr. Kaye's not dropping out, Mr. Doulder's not dropping out, and we are not going to stop. We are going to continue.

I'd like to go on answering your questions, but the ushers are here and they have to get back into the main auditorium. As the Lord has prospered you, we would ask that you support the Bible class. Will the ushers come forward.

You had a question over here. Yeah? (Question) (Martin repeats the question) What's to prevent the Mormons from getting to the two remaining handwriting experts? They've already called Mr. Kaye and they didn't get to him, and Mr. Doulder has been on his honeymoon — they couldn't get to him (audience laughter). He is coming back — teeny bopper though he is (audience laughter).

(Question) (Ans.) Mr. Kaye has received several threats already, but he hasn't

backed down one bit. I think that's about as clear as you can make it.

Yes? (Question) (Ans.) Well, if the 12 pages are right in the middle of the manuscript right. And it refers to some of the characters in the front and in the back right? Guess who wrote it? Yea, uh, so, now it's beginning to get through (in oriental accent).

Yes? (Question) No, he said an angel gave it to him. ♦ That's the first time Spaulding's ever been called an angel (audience laughter).

Yes? (Question) No, not Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon it's believed was around the publishing house at the time. There's no evidence that you can link it together. It's an argument. The only thing that's important, if you can remember this — it will be everything, your handwriting can send you to prison. Think about that. Your handwriting can send you to prison. If any one of these experts gets up on a witness stand and testifies that your handwriting is on the bottom of a check, you're going to the pokey, 2 1/2 to 5. Or, as the kids say today, into the slammer. Now, that's how important it is. It's like a fingerprint. Once the experts are agreed — that's it. Spaulding left us 12 pages of fingerprints, and their testimony is sufficient enough. We can get a hundred more who aren't going to spend their time fighting among themselves. It's too easy.

Yes, sir? (Question) He claimed the Angel Moroni provided him with the Urim and Thummim from the Old Testament because he was translating from golden plates written in reformed Egyptian hieroglyphics, and he couldn't read it. So, by using the Urim and Thummim, they were translated for him into English so he could write it down, or so he could dictate it and it could be written down. That is the story. The problem with Joseph is, that there is no language known as reformed Egyptian, number 1; and, number 2, what's Spaulding doing in the middle of your manuscript? (Question) Yes, they did use, they were means of God communicating with men. I don't know how they worked, all I know that's what they were.

(Question) A publication is coming out, "WHO REALLY WROTE THE BOOK OF MORMON?" These young men wrote it, it's coming out in I believe 6 weeks, 4 to 6 weeks. You'll be able to get it in the bookstore here. Thoroughly documented with all of the stuff up to date, but we have not made appeals generally for support, we have simply confined it to trying to get the job done without, you know, going out soliciting and we're not. We're just asking God to provide and he has, right to this moment.

Yeah? (Question — sounds like something about more handwriting experts coming on the scene) I hope there are. I hope there are some very good independent handwriting experts who are willing to go and check the documents. I have a suspicion they'll have a hard time getting at the regular documents. ♦ If they lied to Kaye about the documents, they're certainly not going to tell the truth to

somebody else. Unless, of course, they have enough money and prestige to buy handwriting experts, and that's possible also, but we don't know yet.

Yes. (Question) You'll be able to see the twelve original documents — copies of them — which Mr. Silver has said are the documents, they will be in the book. We're going to try and get Mr. Kaye back in there again. We hope that the force of the press will compel the Mormon Church to tell the truth. Oh, the truth itself is destructive.

Yeah. (Question) Why did somebody not accompany Mr. Silver when the Mormons came? He never told us. If he had, we would have had somebody there. Mr. Silver is accustomed to doing business with people who are honorable and do not use some of the tactics which the Mormon Church has used in the past, and probably is still using today. He's a frightened old man — something frightened him. Or someone.

Yeah. (Question) B.H. Roberts, yeah. He never checked the handwriting of the unidentified scribe with Solomon Spaulding — nobody in the history of Mormonism ever did until Howard Davis checked it. And God showed him it; thank God he showed it to him, that's all I can say!

(Question) The copies of Silver's letters, Kaye, Doulder, all will be in the book, documented, plus their backgrounds. Who they are. You could fill a small book with their qualifications.

(Question) They have a Kimball collection which has a lot of this material in it. But the twelve pages are there, yeah, and in Spaulding's handwriting. That's what's upset them. All of a sudden Joseph is a false prophet.

Yes? (Question) The Mormon Church has announced historically from its very inception that it intends to gain political and economic control in the United States — that's one of their announced goals. They've been at it a long time. They have an empire now which gives them 3 million dollars per day. Multiply that out and figure all the days they've been collecting it. You're in the multiple billions. They make Howard Hughes' estate look like chicken feed. Chicken feed! Three million dollars a day for 365 days, you've exceeded his estate already in one year. The interesting thing is Mr. Silver says it's Howard Hughes' handwriting and that made the Mormons ecstatically happy. Now, when we quote his letter it makes them unhappy because the same man said it's Spaulding — oh, it's a bad one!

I'd like to go on answering questions about this. Your questions are going to be answered in the book in great detail with documentation and photocopies, but be in prayer about it because it's tremendously important that Christians stand together, because if we don't, we're never going to be able to accomplish what needs to be done — namely, that the Mormon people come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's pray:



“Father, bless us now as we open thy word. Speak to us that we may understand perfectly thy will and have the courage to go out and perform it. Remember the words of thy servant, Moses, “Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come to me.” Lord, we’ll be on your side for the sake of the Mormon people. We will be on your side for the sake of the gospel and truth. We’ll be on your side because there is no other side. To whom shall we go, oh, Lord. Thou alone hath the words of eternal life. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Open your Bibles, if you will — I’ll take questions next week — but open your Bibles to the gospel according to St. Matthew . . .

And so he begins his regular Sunday School class.