

Document 1: Elijah Morse Speech Part 1

Source: Part of a speech made by Elijah Adams Morse, a Congressman from Massachusetts on December 12, 1893 in response to a bill to admit Utah as a state. Revised using ChatGPT for easier reading.

But, says the gentleman from Texas, and others who support this bill, the Mormon Church has changed and stopped practicing polygamy. Well, even if that's true, I think they should have to *prove* they've really changed by doing good things for many more years. And they should wait until the non-Mormon, Protestant Christian people in that area—and others who don't support Mormonism—can join with another territory or somehow become the majority, so they can control the government of the new state. If that doesn't happen, I'm afraid that once Utah becomes a state, the leader of the Mormon Church—the next person after Joe Smith and Brigham Young—will claim to have a new message from God and bring polygamy back.

Mr. Speaker, I don't trust the honesty or truthfulness of the Mormon leaders who now say they've changed their views on polygamy. Unless the information I have is wrong, terrible crimes that happen in the “endowment house” are still going on in secret. Polygamy has only been stopped for now, not forever. And the unfair treatment, exclusion, and abuse of non-Mormons—especially Christian teachers who go there—still continues.

Original

But, says the gentleman from Texas and say the supporters of this bill, the Mormon Church has changed, has abandoned polygamy. Well, if they have, I propose for one that they shall “do works meet for repentance” for a term of years longer, and until the Gentile Protestant Christian element of that territory and the opponents of Mormonism, either by uniting with some other territory or otherwise, shall become a majority, and be able to control the legislature of the new state which is to be formed. Otherwise, I'm fearful that when the state shall be fairly inside the Union, the president of the Mormon Church, the successor of Joe Smith and Brigham Young, will have another revelation, reestablishing ... polygamy.

Mr. speaker I have no confidence in either the honesty or the sincerity of the recent professed change of sentiment on the part of the Mormon leaders regarding the subject of polygamy. Unless my information is faulty, the damnable crimes of the endowment house are still perpetrated in secret, polygamy has only been temporarily abandoned, and the persecution, ostracism, and bad treatment of Gentiles, especially of Christian teachers sent among them, continues.

Original found on page 174-175 at

<https://www.congress.gov/bound-congressional-record/1893/12/12/26/house-section/article/170-188?s=6&r=26>