

Document 7: Washington DC newspaper

Source: *Part of an article written in The Daily National Intelligencer, a newspaper published in Washington, DC on April 19, 1850. Revised using ChatGPT for easier reading.*

I just wanted to share a few reasons why I think the Mormon state of Deseret should not be allowed to join the United States as a state.

First of all, they don't have enough people to become a state. They say they have about 20,000 people, but knowing how the Mormons tend to exaggerate, it's probably more like 10,000. Even if we say it's 15,000, most of them are foreigners who aren't even U.S. citizens yet. That's not a strong population for a new American state.

Also, the name "Deseret" is a big problem. It doesn't come from science or anything official—it comes from the strange words in the Mormon Bible. If Congress accepts that name, we could end up with rivers, mountains, towns, and cities all named after other made-up words from the Book of Mormon, like "Gid," "Sam," "Coriantumr," and "Anti-Nephi-Lehi," instead of using beautiful Native American names already here.

The Mormons say they are a religious group, led by church leaders like apostles, bishops, and priests. Even though they say they aren't asking for statehood as a religion, all the leaders in their government are also top leaders in their church. Giving this religious group political power could be dangerous in our system of government.

If we let them have their own state, who knows what kind of power they'll try to grab next? What crazy things will they try to do? History shows us that giving political power to a religious group is risky. Does anyone really think people who don't follow the Mormon religion would be treated fairly in the state of Deseret?

Even Christian groups with good reputations haven't been trusted with this kind of power. So why would we trust a group that's been accused of breaking serious laws and spreading bad behavior wherever they go?

Original

It was only my intention, in commencing this article, to present a few of the reasons why the Mormon state of deseret should not be admitted into the union. In the 1st place it does not contain the requisite number of inhabitants to entitle it to that distinction. The highest number they claim is about 20,000, and all who are in the least familiar with the exuberance of Mormon fancy will feel justified in the belief that 10,000 is nearer to the real number.... But, allowing 15,000 to be the actual population of the great Salt Lake valley, and composed as it no doubt is

of 2/3 of unnaturalized foreigners, we have but a sorry show for a new state of the Great American union!

The name deseret is liable to more weighty objections than are hinted at by your correspondent Franklin. The name, as he alleges there, is no reasonable ground for believing has any scientific origin; But, like most of those in vogue among this foolish people, has its origin in that jargon of nonsense called the Mormon Bible. And should this jumble of incongruities so far received the sanction of an American Congress as the adoption of this name would warrant, we should soon have the whole state of deseret flooded with such beautiful cognate means for her rivers, mountains, and valleys, her towns, counties, and cities should all be Should all be unfortunate to have them, as beautify the pages of the Book of Mormon; Among which I find gid guidoni samurai abish, coriantumr, shablam, Sam com, anti nephi Lehigh, to the exclusion of those beautiful names which the aboriginal inhabitants of the American continent have left behind them....

These people claim to be a religious sect, guided and directed by an Apostolic board, bishops, priest, etcetera, and, although they do not ask as a sect to be placed in this high political position, yet it will be observed that all the officers of their proposed state government are also high in office in the church period and i cannot but believe that the conferring of high political powers upon this sect would be a dangerous precedent to establish under our system of government period it would certainly be a new principle in legislation.... Grant them a state government, as one of the members of this union, and what arrogant pretensions will they not set? What assumptions of power will they not claim? What madness and folly will they not perpetrate?

The history of the world shows that no religious body can safely be trusted with political power. And as any 1/4 a moment believed that other sex will be allowed equal privilege political, religious, and social with the latter day Saints in the to be state of deseret? If sects the most pure and Christian are not to be trusted thus trusted, how shall we trust a sect which has been charged with the perpetration of the highest crimes known to our laws; A sect which has demoralized, by its evil and polluting touch, to an alarming extent, every community which has been brought within the influence of its contamination?

Original found at

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn83026172/1850-04-19/ed-1/?sp=3&q=deseret+state&r=0.192,0.538,0.406,0.236,0>