

**INTERVIEW WITH MORMON APOSTLE
LEGRAND RICHARDS CONCERNING THE
1978 NEGRO "REVELATION"**

Interviewed by Wesley P. Walters at the LDS Church Office Building, Salt Lake City, Utah on 16 August 1978. Bold face parenthetical notes are supplied by the compiler.

Recently, Spencer W. Kimball, the current Mormon Prophet rocked the Mormon [and non-Mormon] world with the news release that the Mormon church was abandoning its long held denial of the Mormon priesthood to those of Black African ancestry. The news release mentioned a "revelation" from God as the source of this change.

Because there has not been a published text of the "revelation" supposedly given to President Kimball where a "thus saith the Lord" might be recorded; much street level speculation has occurred about the circumstances surrounding the bringing forth this very dramatic change.

However, recently Mormon Apostle LeGrand Richards had an interview with Wesley Walters in which many of the specific details surrounding the change in this policy were made crystal clear. When Wesley Walters shared this information with me, I immediately saw the great significance to Mormon and non-Mormon alike. Therefore, the following is a transcript of the portion of this interview pertaining to the Negro "revelation."

WALTERS: On this revelation, of the priesthood to the Negro, I've heard all kinds of stories: I've heard that Christ appeared to the apostles; I've heard that Joseph Smith appeared; and then I heard another story that Spencer Kimball had had a concern about this for some time, and simply shared it with the apostles, and they decided that this was the right time to move in that direction. Now, are any of those stories true, or are they all?

RICHARDS: Well, the last one is pretty true, and I might tell you what provoked it in a way. Down in Brazil, there is so much Negro blood in the population there that it's hard to get leaders that don't have Negro blood in them. We just built a temple down there. It's going to be dedicated in October. All those

