



I am pro-Constitution, pro-government, as it was established under the Constitution, pro-free institutions, as they have been developed under and through the Constitution, pro-liberty, pro-freedom . . . and pro-everything else that has made us the free country we had grown to be in the first 130 years of our national existence.

In the mad thrusting of ourselves, with a batch of curative nostrums, into the turmoil and tragedy of today's world, we are like a physician called to treat a virulent case of smallpox, and whose treatment consists of getting into bed with his patient. That is not the way to cure smallpox.

J. Reuben Clark, Jr., in his lecture
"Our Dwindling Sovereignty," 1952

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.

Joshua Reuben Clark, Jr., was born on September 1, 1871, in the small farming town of Grantsville, Utah, a Mormon settlement thirty-five miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah. His father was a Union soldier in the Civil War who had come West to Salt Lake City. Young Reuben was the eldest of ten children and was raised in a rugged pioneer environment. Although he did not begin his formal education until he was ten years old, he was tutored at home by his mother.

He was anxious to learn, but the highest level of instruction available in Grantsville was the eighth grade. So, when he finished the eighth grade, he returned and repeated it twice more in an effort to learn all he could. At nineteen he left home and went to Salt Lake City, where he spent a year at the Latter-day Saint College. Then, in 1891, in order to sustain himself, and later to support his father, who had been called on a mission for the LDS Church to the Northern States, he discontinued school and went to work in the Deseret Museum as clerk for the curator.

In 1894 he entered the University of Utah. By 1898 he had completed all the requirements for both his high school diploma and his Bachelor of Science degree. He graduated first in his class after serving as studentbody president, managing editor of the student newspaper, secretary to the president of the university, and working at the Deseret Museum.

On September 14, 1898, J. Reuben Clark married Luacine Annetta Savage in

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Salt Lake City. For the next four years he held various positions around the state as a teacher and administrator at both the high school and college levels. In 1903 the Clarks, including two small children, moved to New York City, where Reuben entered law school at Columbia University. His first year's work was of such high quality that he was elected to the editorial board of the Columbia Law Review. By the end of his second year he was admitted to the New York Bar. During the summer of 1905 he was asked to assist Dr. James Brown Scott, a professor at the Columbia Law School, in compiling and annotating materials for a case book.

Dr. Scott was so impressed with his work that the following summer he asked Reuben to compile and annotate the major portion of two volumes of cases on equity jurisdiction. By this time Dr. Scott had been appointed Solicitor of the State Department. On his recommendation J. Reuben Clark was appointed Assistant Solicitor of the State Department by Elihu Root, Secretary of the State under President Theodore Roosevelt. Shortly thereafter he was also named an assistant professor of law at George Washington University, where he taught until 1908.

In July, 1910, under the administration of President William Howard Taft, Mr. Clark was appointed Solicitor of the State Department. During this period he wrote his "Memorandum on the Right to Protect Citizens in Foreign Countries by Landing Forces," which was later billed as the "classic authority on the subject." While Solicitor he was appointed to the International Relief Board of the American Red Cross and was made chairman of the Committee on Civil Warfare where he drafted procedures to handle insurrection, civil war, and revolution. He was appointed chairman of the American Preparatory Committee to represent the United States at the Third Hague Conference. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society, and was appointed as counsel for the United States before the Tribunal of Arbitration between the United States and Britain.

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He left the State Department in 1913 to open law offices in Washington D.C., specializing in municipal and international law. His clients included the Japanese Embassy, Philander C. Knox, the Cuban Legation, the Guatemalan Ministry, the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and J. P. Morgan & Company. Soon after this his firm expanded and opened offices in New York City and Salt Lake City.

During World War I, Mr. Clark was commissioned as a major in the Judge Advocate General's Officer Reserve Corps. There he assisted in the preparation of the original Selective Service Regulations. He was then assigned to active duty in the Attorney General's Office where he prepared "Emergency Legislation and War Powers of the President." The State Department spoke of it as a fine example of Major Clark's "matchless thoroughness and industry and . . . splendid ability." After the war he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for the "exceptionally meritorious and distinguished" services he rendered during the war. In 1928 he was appointed Under Secretary of State by Calvin Coolidge, during which time he published what is perhaps his best known government document, the *Clark Memorandum*, his memorandum on the Monroe Doctrine, which became one of the most important documents ever written on United States foreign relations. It was praised as a "monument of erudition to its author," a "classic commentary on the Monroe Doctrine," and a "masterly treatise."

On October 3, 1930, J. Reuben Clark was named by President Herbert Hoover as Ambassador of the United States of America to Mexico where he served until March 3, 1933. Of Ambassador Clark's work, President Hoover said: "Never have our relations been lifted to such a high point of confidence and cooperation, and there is no more important service in the

whole foreign relations of the United States than this."

In 1933, at age sixty-two, Mr. Clark's lifelong devotion to his church culminated in a new calling. Twenty-six years after graduating from law school, on April 6, he was sustained as second counselor to President Heber J. Grant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and embarked upon a new career in which he was to serve valiantly for twenty-eight years. He later served as counselor to later LDS Presidents George Albert Smith and David O. McKay.

Even with the strenuous demands of his new calling, he found time to continue to serve his country. He accepted several appointments under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, including organizer of the Foreign Bondholders Protective Council, Inc., delegate for the United States in the Seventh

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International Conference of American States at Montevideo, Uruguay, and member of the Commission of Experts on the Codification of International Law. Then, in rapid succession he was named Director of the Executive Committee, then Acting President, and then President of the Foreign Bondholders Protective Council, Inc. About that time he prepared a brief for the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate on the "Entry of the United States into the World Court," which was labeled as a "scholarly examination" and an "epochal brief."

In addition, during his twenty-eight years in the First Presidency of his church, he was named to the board of directors of many businesses; to government, political and private committees; government commissions; academic journal and educational boards. He also maintained a farm and ranch operation in Grantsville, his boyhood home.

He studied the life and teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ and authored several scholarly religious books. He was an inspirational leader and spoke forcefully and consistently on behalf of freedom, his country, the inspired Constitution, work, integrity, and chastity. He and his beloved wife, who died seventeen years before his passing, were the parents of four children.

After over sixty years of distinguished service to God and his fellowman, J. Reuben Clark, Jr. died October 6, 1961, in Salt Lake City at the age of ninety. It is appropriate to conclude with the observations of four men who worked closely with him and knew him well:

The Honorable Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State: "I never knew a man whose high character, sound judgement, and splendid ability won for him a more extraordinary position in the absolute confidence of those in charge of the department and of all with whom he was associated."

The Honorable Philander C. Knox, said to be one of America's greatest lawyers, who served as Attorney General, Secretary of State, and United States Senator: "I am doing him but justice in saying that for natural ability, integrity, loyalty, and industry, I have not in a long professional and public service met his superior and rarely his equal."

Albert E. Bowen, intimate friend and business associate: "He spends no time working on schemes of evasion. Having been surrounded with abundant opportunity for graft and acquisition, he has come through without the smell of fire

Having been surrounded with abundant opportunity for graft and acquisition, he has come through without the smell of fire upon his garments. No opprobrium has ever attached to his name.

upon his garments. No opprobrium has ever attached to his name. To him sham and pretense are an abomination."

Harold B. Lee, eleventh president of the church that Mr. Clark served so well:

"In the universal sweep of his great intellectual vision he has few equals and perhaps no superiors . . . Even those who violently disagree with his views are intrigued by his eloquence, his forth-

rightness, pure logic, and penetrating insight into the center and core of whatever subject he undertakes to expound."

