

“News of the Church,” *Ensign*, Mar 1992, 74–80

Church’s Stand against Gambling

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The Church has issued a statement reaffirming its longstanding opposition to gambling. The statement, which is from the Council of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, is as follows:

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opposes gambling in its various forms. Experience has clearly shown gambling to be harmful to the human spirit, financially destructive of individuals and families, and detrimental to the moral climate of communities. The attitude of the Church on this matter has been consistent and clear over a period of more than a century. Starting with President Brigham Young and affirmed most recently by President Ezra Taft Benson, Latter-day Saint leaders have denounced gambling as an evil that ‘tends to break down the moral and spiritual strength of the people.’

“Utah now faces renewed and vigorous attempts to legalize gambling, including a state-operated lottery, charitable gambling and pari-mutuel betting. We regard these efforts as a moral issue and unalterably oppose such proposals on grounds of private and public morality, as well as a threat to the cultivation and maintenance of strong family and community values.”