

The following statement is on deposit in Special Collections at the B. Y.U. library. As to the accuracy of Joseph Fielding Smith's attitude, I can verify that he tells this story, because I have heard Brother Smith relate this. Richard L. Anderson.

**STATEMENT CONCERNING THE PURPORTED ORDINATION
OF JOHN W. WOOLLEY**

The interview that you want a record of took place on the train between Calgary and Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

In 1935 each member of the bishopric received a complimentary copy of the Truth Magazine. This periodical was published by the Fundamentalist organization. At the time Joseph W. Musser was the editor. Being interested in the magazine, I took a subscription and have the first ten or twelve years of it.

In about 1944 I was asked by the stake president to interview Owen LeBaron^{*****}, whose fellowship was then in question because of his association with these organizations. While traveling on the train, I noticed another passenger, Brother John A. Widtsoe, and told him where I was going and why. I then asked if he knew anything about the fundamentalist movement. He said, "I will tell you of an experience I had some years ago. While in President Joseph F. Smith's office in Salt Lake City, John W. Woolley came into the President's office and asked if he could have a few weeks off from his work in the temple in order that he could visit with his Brother Sam who was then president of the mission in the South sea Islands. I believe it was Samoa. Brother Woolley was a worker then in the Salt Lake Temple. President Smith gave him the time off that he wanted, and just as Brother Woolley was about to leave the pResident said, "John it has been brought to my attention that you have been performing plural marriages in the Salt Lake Temple, is that correct?" Brother Woolley, he said, rather hung his head and answered, "Yes, President Smith I have." President Smith then looked directly at Brother Woolley and said, "Did President Taylor ordain you and others to carry on plural marriage independent of the Church? Brother Woolley answered, "President Smith I have lied to others about this, but I cannot lie to you as President of the Church, No he did not."

I asked Brother Widtsoe if I wrote this interview up in my notebook if he would sign it, to which he replied he would be glad to. In fact, he said, "I will do better than that. When I go back to Salt Lake City I will look up dates and more of the circumstances and write you a letter about it."

I never received this letter from Brother Widtsoe, and because of conditions and circumstances I never followed it through. Some years later after moving to Provo with my family, and being in Salt lake I met Brother Widtsoe's secretary on the street, she being a young lady I knew in Calgary, and she told me that Brother Widtsoe was at home with an illness from which he was not expected to recover. Naturally, I thought of this letter that he was going to send me, but because of his illness I did not attempt to get in touch with Brother Widtsoe.

But on June 21, 1953, I wrote President Joseph Fielding SMith telling him about the above mentioned interview, and on June 22, 1953, I received an answer from Joseph Fielding Smith in which he states: "What you have said about the interview with Brother Woolley is absolutely correct because I was there myself."

Thus, we have the witness of two apostles that John W. Woolley was not ordained by President John Taylor to carry on plural marriage independent of the Church.

April 13, 1964 (Date)

signed Lloyd Ririe (1084 North Fifth West, Provo)

Signed in the presence of : LaMar E. Garrard and Richard L. Anderson.