

Dallin, calling his article “one of the most timely and objective treatments of the subject for popular consumption which I have seen.” He complimented Dallin on “countering some of the more extreme misunderstandings of the Supreme Court which have all too often been rife among Church members.”



One morning in late 1963, Dallin delayed going into work so he could attend a school event with his son Lloyd. “This morning I visited his class,” Dallin wrote to family that day. “When the teacher asked him to introduce me to the class, he said, ‘This is Brother Oaks.’ I almost choked to keep from laughing.”

To Lloyd, his father may have been “Brother Oaks” in public, but to most members of the Chicago South Stake, he was President Oaks. Next to his family responsibilities, Dallin may have felt more satisfaction in his stake responsibilities than in any other facet of his life.

“This service in the stake presidency,” he reflected, “was a period of great growth in faith, spirituality, and experience in Church administration . . . with all of its challenges in interviewing, counseling, planning, speaking, and leading. I learned a great deal from my fellow workers and had many choice spiritual and social experiences.”

Once, Dallin opposed the stake president’s proposal on where a new stake center should be built. In response, the stake president asked that they pray about the matter and discuss it the next week. “Almost perfunctorily,” Dallin wrote, “I prayed about the subject, and immediately received a strong impression that I was wrong, that I was standing in the way of the Lord’s will, and that I should remove myself from opposition to it. This was one of the most surprising and most vivid revelations I have ever received in my life. Needless to say, I promptly gave my approval to the proposed construction. The wisdom of constructing the stake center at that location was soon evident, even to me. My

reasons to the contrary turned out to be shortsighted, and I was soon grateful to have been restrained by the Spirit from relying on them."

In preparing the many talks he had to give, Dallin learned to pray and jot down the thoughts that came to mind. "This happened so many times," he wrote, that "it became commonplace, and I would not begin to prepare a talk until I had this experience to direct me." Once the inspiration did not come before he left for a meeting where he was to speak. "I began my drive, feeling vulnerable, but trusting in the Lord," he wrote. As he approached his destination many miles from his home, the inspiration came: Speak about your experiences in Chicago's criminal courts.

"I was surprised to receive this impression," he recorded, "since I had always avoided building my talks around personal experiences, preferring a less personal doctrinal or practical theme. I had never referred to these experiences in a public meeting, but now I had a strong impression that I could do so, and several examples came to mind."

Trusting in the inspiration, he wove his personal experiences into a gospel-centered talk and mentioned seeing young shoplifters prosecuted. "Afterwards," he wrote, "a mother thanked me tearfully for being the means of answering her prayer. She told me that their teenage boy had been involved in shoplifting and that they had not been able to communicate with him on the wrongfulness of this practice. On learning that I was to be the speaker that Sunday evening, she had prayed fervently that I would say something to help their son with this problem. The boy was in the meeting, and I had spoken directly on that subject. . . . I have no doubt whatever that the Lord had used me as His instrument to answer her prayers. I was grateful I had heard and heeded His prompting."