

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### GOVERNORS REVIVE REGIONAL ISSUE

The trail blazed by Gov. Bourke B. Hickenlooper in calling a conference of twelve mid-western governors, which convened at the Iowa capital early in March, has since been followed by action of state executives in other sections of the country. Under Governor Hickenlooper's leadership the conference at Des Moines considered principally the restrictions on manufacture of farm machinery, the scarcity of farm help occasioned by the draft boards sweeping young men from the farms, the impending food shortage, and other kindred matters of pressing importance to the people of their states. Although the Iowa meeting was a fore-runner of those later held in other regions, the conference here avoided touching upon partisan topics in their pronouncements. The plight of the midwestern farmer in loss of his man power and inadequate allotment of farm machinery, both of which were necessary to insure production of the increased crop required of him in the war emergency, had first place in all deliberations.

The conference in Des Moines was attended by eight governors of states of the midland region, namely: Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Iowa; Henry F. Schrickler, Indiana; Dwight H. Green, Illinois; Harry F. Kelly, Michigan; Dwight Griswold, Nebraska; Merrill Q. Sharpe, South Dakota; John W. Bricker, Ohio; Forrest S. Donnell, Missouri. Others present were Henry Holt, Lieutenant governor of North Dakota; State Senator C. I. Moyer, Kansas; and Ed Thye, Lieutenant governor, Minnesota.

Herbert Hoover, former president, was present by invitation and spoke on the food problem, and on the same occasion spoke to the joint convention of the Iowa

general assembly where he was introduced "Iowa's most distinguished native son." He drew from his own extensive experience as an administrator, lessons relative to food production and distribution and the importance of food in the post-war settlement of world problems.

Later in March seven western governors met in Salt Lake City and after preliminary discussion of topics pressing in that section for solution, arranged for another meeting in San Francisco with five additional governors of other western states. Then in April, nine governors of adjacent states met in Chicago with similar motive. But, with political significance, perhaps, a conference of governors and other representatives of numerous southeastern states met in Tallahassee, Florida. All followed the lead if not the pattern of the first meeting and ostensibly at least considered subjects peculiar to the region of those assembled and of present interest to those participating. While the subject announced for consideration by the southeastern executives was the south's perennial freight problem, actually in the meeting resentment of national administration activities in local fields quickly became the all absorbing topic discussed.

The executive of our neighboring state of Nebraska, Gov. Dwight Griswold, spoke vigorously to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in direct criticism of what he characterized as "the enforced strip-tease of state authority," while fully acknowledging the authority and validity of general basic Federal systems of social security, agricultural advancement and similar broad national aims in so far as they detract nothing from state and local responsibilities and authority.

Undoubtedly regional consciousness lurks in the background and quickened realization that home control of important functions of government and economic necessity is rapidly slipping away impels this movement of states. There has become vocal a desire to supervise at home the local phases of pressing problems, for now comes New York with creation of a State War Council.

Early in 1943 the Iowa General Assembly conferred added wartime powers upon the Hawkeye executive somewhat broad in character. Already in New York through its new War Council, of which Gov. Thos. E. Dewey is chairman, the state announces its responsibility for the enforcement of price ceilings through the state courts and other means at its command. This action is based upon the assumption that Federal control of prices has bogged down and is proving ineffective.

Unmistakably there is gathering a storm of protest and resistance against the encroachment of Federal entering of the realm of activities considered as reserved to the states. The pressing of the "poll tax" abolishment bill in congress, aside from actual merits of the proposed legislation, brings forward the issue of where Federal authority should end and that of the states begin. While the initial conference of midwestern governors avoided public discussion or pronouncement upon other than the immediate problems of their section, those participating were surcharged with the same resentment that occasioned expression by others over the ignoring of state governments by the Federal bureaus and other agencies. Out of this situation appears an almost spontaneous upheaval in the state governments in a wide-spread demand that congress recognize the rightful limitations of Federal activities, as again evidenced at the meeting of governors at Columbus, Ohio.

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#### OVER A CENTURY OF IOWA WEATHER

United States army officers at frontier posts in the Hawkeye state were making scientific recordings of Iowa weather for the weather bureau as early as 1824, according to Dr. John H. Haefner of the State University at Iowa City, disclosing that Iowa weather has been made "of record" for nearly 120 years.

The first fully equipped weather bureau station in the state was set up at Davenport in 1872; followed by others at Keokuk and Dubuque in 1873; Des Moines in 1887, and Sioux City in 1889.—*Nevada Evening Journal*.

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