

Organization of the Assembly

The hands on the big clock over the massive double doors at the rear of the high-ceilinged chamber pointed to approximately one minute after 10 a.m. on January 14 when Representative Henry C. Nelson, Forest City Republican and the 1961 Speaker, called the 1963 House to order. Three minutes later Lieutenant Governor William L. Mooty, Grundy Center Republican, followed suit in the Senate across the rotunda and the 60th General Assembly was open for business.

There was plenty of first day business, too, for a change — business concerning committee secrecy and the vote canvass for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. But it had to await the business of selecting temporary and permanent officers.

In the House, former Speaker Nelson was elected to stay in the chair until his successor was chosen. Once members took the oath, Representative Elmer H. Vermeer of Pella, who only one month previously had been a candidate for the office himself, nominated Representative Robert W. Naden of Webster City, to be the 1963 Speaker. Representative Ray C. Cunningham of Ames seconded the motion and, in the usual display of bi-

partisan harmony, Representative Raymond Eveland of Kelley, the Democratic leader, moved that Representative Naden be declared elected unanimously. The same spirit prevailed in the unanimous election of Representative Marvin W. Smith of Paullina as Speaker Pro Tempore.

The new Speaker, a 41-year-old manufacturer starting his fifth term, told House members he knew of their "determined desire to attack the problems that lie before us and to come up with equitable solutions during the next 100 days."

Substantial property tax relief, he continued, "is not only a desire, but a must" to create a climate for economic growth in Iowa. He also emphasized the necessity for helping "local schools meet the challenge of providing a sound education for our youth." Significantly, he added:

"I believe that to do this we must provide a more substantial portion of the cost of education without further disrupting local authority."

He called for "adequate" appropriations "for state institutions of higher learning and board of control institutions" and said funds must be provided to implement the Kerr-Mills medical care for the aged bill passed in 1961.

In the Senate, Senator Clifford M. Vance of Mount Pleasant was elected unanimously as President Pro Tempore on motion of Senator Robert R. Rigler of New Hampton, the Republican leader. This accomplished, Lieutenant Governor

Mooty, who three days later was to succeed himself upon completing his first term, told the Senate he hoped members would give special attention to the state's tax structure with particular emphasis on the twin needs of property tax relief and increased state aid for schools. The solution, he cautioned, would not come easy but "it must be far-sighted."

"The people do not want additional taxes," he warned. "They want taxes collected on a more equitable basis. May I point out that the future of Iowa depends on the strength and stability of the property owner. It is essential that efforts charting the course of legislation be planned in advance."

Mooty took note of the controversial liquor-by-the-drink issue, saying many Iowans "are ready to accept it and our incoming governor has indicated his desire for such legislation." He gave his assurance that "the question will be thoroughly explored along with proposals to tighten the present liquor law. This question will be brought out to the floor for discussion."

Mooty concluded by saying arrangements had been made with Speaker Naden to hold regular meetings to discuss the progress of legislation, that Democratic leaders would be called into these conferences "at various times" and that their results would be conveyed to the Governor "for his counsel."

Formalities aside, first controversial business was brought up momentarily in the House and then swiftly put aside for 48 hours by a "gentleman's agreement." It revolved around the secrecy issue — whether to open House committee meetings to newsmen and whether to change the rules to force open voting by members. Representative David M. Stanley of Muscatine led the fight and was named chairman of a committee to report two days later. Stanley reminded House members that the Senate had opened its committee meetings in 1961. It was an ill-fated fight, however, for the House voted 61 to 43 against ending secrecy when the Stanley committee reported on January 16.

Other first day business was the official canvass of the 1962 general election vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Until this year, it had taken place on the fourth day of the session — just prior to the inauguration ceremonies. But the 1961 legislature decreed it should be moved up to the opening day in 1963.

While election of 1963 officers was merely perfunctory, the reason, as usual, was because these matters had been threshed out in advance at pre-session party caucuses.

Republicans had caucused in Des Moines on December 10, 1962, Democrats on December 15. House and Senate Republicans had caucused separately and, as usual, the House caucus furnished the excitement.

Four members were avowed candidates for Speaker, a position which pays double the \$30 daily salary of individual members and which carries with it the right to dole out important committee chairmanships and assignments. They were: Representatives Naden, Vermeer, William E. Darrington of Persia and George L. Paul of Brooklyn.

Representative Nelson, who presided, declared 40 votes would be needed for a simple majority when a nose count showed 77 of 79 elected Republicans present — all except Representatives Roy J. Smith of Spirit Lake, and LeRoy Chalupa of Pleasant Plain. The latter had sent a proxy vote, however, and the caucus agreed to accept it. The voting went for three ballots — with two write-in votes for Representative A. L. Mensing of Lowden — before Representative Naden was nominated. The vote:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>1st Ballot</i>	<i>2nd Ballot</i>	<i>3rd Ballot</i>
Naden	32	34	40
Vermeer	29	32	38
Paul	9	10	0
Darrington	8	0	0
Mensing	0	2	0
	—	—	—
Totals.....	78	78	78

Almost as spirited a battle was waged over the party's choice for Speaker Pro Tempore. Repre-

representatives Marvin W. Smith and Darrington, along with Elmer H. Den Herder of Sioux Center, were the favorites. Representatives Mensing, Vermeer, James E. Briles of Corning and Wayne Shaw of Charles City, received write-in votes. Representative Chalupa had sent no proxy for this contest so there were 77 votes cast with 39 needed for a majority. The vote:

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>1st Ballot</i>	<i>2nd Ballot</i>
Smith	38	44
Darrington	26	30
Den Herder	11	*
Mensing	1	1
Vermeer	1	0
Briles	0	1
Shaw	0	1
	—	—
Totals.....	77	77

*Withdrew

Republicans then elected their leader, agreeing in advance that the runnerup automatically would become his assistant. Representative Chalupa had sent a proxy for this race so, again, 40 votes were needed for victory. Representative John L. Mowry of Marshalltown received 46 votes to win on the only ballot and Representative John Camp of Bryant got 18 to become assistant leader. Representative Mensing received 13 votes for third place and Lester L. Kluever of Atlantic got the other vote.

Senate Republicans closed their caucus to news-

men, as usual. When it was over they announced that Senator Rigler, a 39-year-old banker serving his fifth term, had beaten Senator Vance for floor leader and that the latter, a 60-year-old attorney, serving his fourth session, had been chosen President Pro Tempore over Senators J. T. Dykhouse of Rock Rapids, D. C. Nolan of Iowa City, and Irving D. Long of Manchester, who held the office in 1961.

Democrats, in the minority in both chambers, didn't bother to nominate candidates for Speaker, President Pro Tempore or Speaker Pro Tempore, when they met five days after Republicans had departed the Capital City. Their main business was to elect their own leaders and it was House Democrats who came up with the big surprise.

Representative Scott Swisher of Iowa City, the leader in 1959 and 1961, had announced ahead of the meeting he would not be a candidate to succeed himself. So the door was wide open. Representative Merle W. Hagedorn, 51-year-old Royal farmer and former leader, appeared to be the favorite until the ballots were counted. They showed Representative Raymond Eveland, 42-year-old Kelley farmer, to be the winner, 13 to 10, with six elected Democrats absent or not voting.

Senate Democrats wasted little time reelecting Senator Andrew G. Frommelt, 41, Dubuque insurance man, as their leader. Senator C. Joseph Coleman, 39, Clare farmer, was named his assistant.

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Although Democrats were in the minority, a familiar role for them, Republicans had been unable to regain their marked superiority of 10 years earlier when they held all save seven legislative seats. This table shows the division in membership, beginning in 1953:

Year	House		Senate		Total	
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
1953.....	105	3	46	4	151	7
1955.....	89	19	44	6	133	25
1957.....	72	36	40	10	112	46
1959.....	60	48	33	17	93	65
1961.....	78	30	35	15	113	45
1963.....	79	29	38	12	117	41

Once they were organized, each chamber sent a delegation to notify the other it was ready for business and both sent delegations to give the Governor the same tidings. Then, for perhaps the first time in the state's history, both the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor announced committee assignments on the opening day of the session.

Finally, both chambers made plans to meet jointly to hear retiring Governor Erbe deliver his swan song address on January 15 and to listen to the inaugural recommendations of newly-elected Governor Harold E. Hughes on January 17.

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