

Organization of the Assembly

When all the election returns were counted, Democrats were jubilant. Not only had they retained the Governorship and captured all major state offices and six of seven Congressional seats, but they also had won control of both the Iowa House of Representatives and the Iowa Senate for the first time in 30 years.

Not since 1935, had they controlled both chambers and then only by thin margins. This time the margins were almost unbelievable—34 to 25 in the Senate and 101 to 23 in the House. They actually held a 35 to 24 margin in the Senate when the election was over. But, upon being elected Lieutenant Governor, Senator Robert D. Fulton, 35, of Waterloo, resigned as Senator with two years of his four-year term remaining. Republicans came back from the disastrous defeat of November 3 to win Fulton's seat in a special election in Black Hawk County on November 24, 1964. So Democrats settled for a 34-25 margin in the Senate.

The overwhelming statewide victory was largely a tribute to the popularity of Governor Hughes. By piling up a 429,479-vote margin, he had made it easy for other Democrats to win.

Virtually all of the 25 new seats, which were added to the legislature by the Reapportionment Act passed in the special session of 1964, were captured by the Democrats. They also took all but 23 of the 79 seats held by Republicans in the 1963 House. So there were 101 Democrats and 23 Republicans in the House, 34 Democrats and 25 Republicans in the Senate, when the 61st General Assembly convened on January 11, 1965.

For the second consecutive session, there was a significant drop in the number of farmers among the members. Due largely to reapportionment, a greater variety of occupations was represented than at any time in years. A total of 55 distinct occupations were chronicled among the 183 legislators in 1965 compared to only 33 by the 1963 legislators. Those, listing themselves as farmers or in closely related occupations, totaled 68 in 1965, compared to 75 among 158 legislators in 1963, and 85 in 1961. But farmers still held more seats than any other group. Lawyers were second, as usual. There were 25 of them, including one lawyer-businessman, among the 1965 legislators, compared to 21 in 1963, 22 in 1961, 24 in 1959, and 28 in 1957. This table shows the occupations listed by the 1965 legislators:

Occupation	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Farmer	10	20	3	10	43
Lawyer	1	14	6	4	25

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 429

Farmer-Businessman	2	8	1	3	14
Insurance	2	6	0	1	9
Teacher	0	6	0	0	6
Executive	2	0	1	1	4
Farmer-Realtor	2	0	0	2	4
Real Estate	0	4	0	0	4
Contractor	0	2	1	1	4
Homemaker	0	4	0	0	4
Retired Farmer	1	1	1	0	3
Businessman	0	1	1	1	3
Real Estate-Insurance	0	1	0	2	3
Manufacturer	0	2	1	0	3
Implement Dealer	1	1	0	0	2
Electrician	0	1	0	1	2
Laborer	0	2	0	0	2
Railway Express Agt.	0	2	0	0	2
Salesman	0	2	0	0	2
Retired Oilman	0	2	0	0	2
Telephone Employee..	0	2	0	0	2
Clothier	0	1	1	0	2
Publisher	0	2	0	0	2
Educator	0	1	0	1	2
Labor Organizer	0	1	0	1	2
Banker	0	0	2	0	2
Lawyer-Insurance	0	0	2	0	2
Farm Manager	1	0	0	0	1
Retired Farmer-					
Teacher	1	0	0	0	1
Outdoor Advertiser ..	0	1	0	0	1
Retired Railroader.....	0	1	0	0	1
Investments	0	1	0	0	1
Technician	0	1	0	0	1
Retired Educator	0	1	0	0	1
Farmer-Teacher	0	1	0	0	1
Poultryman	0	1	0	0	1

Chiropractor	0	1	0	0	1
Retired Mailman	0	1	0	0	1
Claims Supervisor	0	1	0	0	1
Tool Grinder	0	1	0	0	1
Oil Jobber	0	1	0	0	1
Retired Businessman..	0	1	0	0	1
Railroad Clerk	0	1	0	0	1
Beef Butcher	0	1	0	0	1
Retired Auto Dealer..	0	0	0	1	1
Social Worker	0	0	0	1	1
Ingredients Buyer	0	0	0	1	1
Assembler	0	0	0	1	1
Grain Elevatorman	0	0	0	1	1
Auctioneer- Insurance	0	0	0	1	1
Pharmacist	0	0	1	0	1
Auto Dealer	0	0	1	0	1
Veterinarian	0	0	1	0	1
Banker-Farmer	0	0	1	0	1
Auctioneer	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	23	101	25	34	183

More new legislators were elected in 1964 than at any time in Iowa's history. Exactly 100 of the 183 members were elected for the first time, compared to only 31 in 1962. The turnover rate between 1963 and 1965 soared to a new high of 54.64 per cent, compared to 19.62 per cent between 1961 and 1963, and 29.7 per cent between 1959 and 1961. It had reached 32.9 per cent between 1953 and 1955 and again between 1955 and 1957. This table shows which session each 1965 legislator was serving:

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 431

Session	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
First	2	78	2	18	100
Second	6	12	4	1	23
Third	4	3	6	3	16
Fourth	4	3	2	5	14
Fifth	5	2	2	3	12
Sixth	0	0	3	2	5
Seventh	1	0	1	1	3
Eighth	0	1	1	0	2
Ninth	0	2	1	1	4
Tenth	1	0	2	0	3
Eleventh	0	0	0	0	0
Twelfth	0	0	0	0	0
Thirteenth	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	23	101	25	34	183

The member serving his thirteenth session was none other than Leo Elthon, 66, of Fertile, a Republican, a former Governor, and a former Lieutenant Governor, who had returned to his first love, the Iowa Senate, in 1963. Unfortunately, Senator Elthon, a lumber company executive, suffered a heart attack shortly before the session opened and he was unable to attend regularly.

Runner-up in length of service was another Republican, Representative Arthur C. Hanson, 73, of Inwood, a retired farmer, and a former Speaker of the House. He was serving his tenth session.

Longevity honors among Democrats went to a trio who had identical records—each serving his ninth session. They were Senator George E.

O'Malley, 59, a Des Moines lawyer; and Representatives Casey Loss, 60, an Algona farmer, and Arnold Utzig, 71, of Dubuque, a retired merchant. Representative Loss resigned his seat at the session's end to accept an appointment from Governor Hughes to the Iowa Board of Regents.

From the standpoint of age, the honors were divided as follows:

Oldest legislator: Representative Eldon M. Morgan, 74, an Oskaloosa Democrat who was retired and serving his first term.

Youngest legislator: Representative James H. Jackson, 25, of Waterloo, a Democrat and a school teacher, serving his first term. He and Representative Willie Stevenson Glanton, 42, of Des Moines, a Democrat and a housewife, were the first Negroes elected to the Iowa legislature.

Oldest and youngest House Republicans: Representatives Hanson and Charles E. Grassley, 31, a New Hartford farmer, serving his fourth term. Oldest and youngest House Democrats: Representatives Morgan and Jackson.

Oldest and youngest Senate Republicans: Senators J. Henry Lucken, 68, a retired farmer from Le Mars, and Tom Riley, 36, a Cedar Rapids lawyer, serving their tenth and third terms respectively. Oldest and youngest Senate Democrats: Senators Howard Tabor, 70, a Baldwin farmer, and Alan Shirley, 27, a Perry lawyer, respectively serving their fourth and first sessions.

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 433

Here is the age-range of the 1965 legislators:

Age Range	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
21-25	0	1	0	0	1
26-30	0	12	0	2	14
31-35	2	12	0	1	15
36-40	0	10	5	5	20
41-45	5	13	4	11	33
46-50	4	9	5	3	21
51-55	0	16	3	6	25
56-60	2	11	4	4	21
61-65	7	6	2	0	15
66-70	2	7	2	2	13
71-75	1	4	0	0	5
Totals	23	101	25	34	183

With so many new members, it was not surprising that the average age was younger than in recent sessions. The average age of the 183 lawmakers was 48.7 years — a drop of more than four years from 1963 and 1961, of about two years from 1959 and of about three years from 1957. This table shows the average age of legislators who served in the last five sessions:

Year	House			Senate			Both Chambers		
	Rep.	Dem.	Both	Rep.	Dem.	Both	Rep.	Dem.	Both
1965	53.4	47.0	48.2	49.9	46.5	48.0	51.4	46.9	48.7
1963	52.9	50.9	52.4	55.2	48.2	53.5	53.7	50.1	52.7
1961	51.8	52.3	52.0	55.8	50.1	54.1	53.0	51.6	52.6
1959	50.4	59.5	50.1	54.1	48.1	52.1	51.7	49.6	50.8
1957	52.7	50.0	51.9	53.6	57.5	50.6	53.0	49.0	51.0

Educationally, 71.04 per cent of the 183 legis-

lators listed themselves as either having college degrees or having taken some work beyond high school. This compared with 71.5 per cent in 1963. Of the 183 members, 177 held high school diplomas and 130 of these had training beyond high school. Six had only a grade school education. Of the 158 legislators who served in 1963, 153 possessed high school diplomas and 113 of that number had taken training beyond high school. In 1961 these figures were 151 and 110; in 1959 — 150 and 111; in 1957 — 143 and 116. The educational background of 1965 legislators follows:

	<i>College or Beyond H.S.</i>		<i>High School</i>		<i>Grade School</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Senate	22	23	3	10	0	1	59
House	16	69	7	27	0	5	124
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	38	92	10	37	0	6	183

A survey of the 1965 legislature showed that 83 of the 183 members had served their country in uniform, compared to 68 of 158 in 1963, 71 of 158 in 1961, and 78 of 158 in 1959. The number of 1965 legislators who had seen service follows:

<i>Served In</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
World War I	2	9	1	2	14
World War II	7	18*	10	16	51
Korea or since	0	15	2	1	18
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	42	13	19	83

*Five of these 18 also served in Korea

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 435

A significant difference between the 1965 legislators and their predecessors was in religious background. Methodists usually had dominated, having 46 of the 158 members in 1963, 50 in 1961 and 41 in 1959, with Presbyterians usually in second place. But Catholics were more numerous in 1965 with 51 while Methodists had only 39.

Denomination	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Catholic	1	37	1	12	51
Methodist	8	16	7	8	39
Presbyterian	7	7	5	2	21
Lutheran	2	11	3	3	19
Congregational	0	5	3	0	8
Baptist	1	3	1	2	7
Protestant	0	4	1	2	7
Christian	0	5	0	0	5
Unaffiliated	0	5	0	0	5
United Ch. of Christ	1	1	0	1	3
Ref. Ch. America.....	1	1	1	0	3
Reorganized L. D. S.	0	2	0	0	2
Episcopal	0	0	1	1	2
Evangelical U. B.	1	1	0	0	2
United Presbyterian..	1	0	0	1	2
Community	0	0	1	0	1
Church of Christ	0	1	0	0	1
Unitarian-Universalist	0	0	0	1	1
Christian Reformed ..	0	0	0	1	1
Hebrew	0	1	0	0	1
Church of the Breth.	0	1	0	0	1
Gospel Mission	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	23	101	25	34	183

As might be expected in any Iowa legislature since the turn of the century, more members were native-born Iowans than otherwise. All but 30 of the 183 legislators were born in Iowa, a higher percentage than in 1963 when all but 28 of 158 members were native born. As in the past, one or more members were born in a foreign land.

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Iowa	19	83	21	30	153
Illinois	1	5	1	1	8
Minnesota	0	2	0	1	3
New York	1	2	0	0	3
Missouri	0	2	1	0	3
Arkansas	0	1	1	0	2
Michigan	0	1	0	1	2
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
Kansas	1	0	0	0	1
Oklahoma	0	1	0	0	1
Colorado	0	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	1	0	0	1
Washington	0	1	0	0	1
China	0	1	0	0	1
Montana	0	0	1	0	1
Tennessee	0	0	0	1	1
Totals.....	23	101	25	34	183

The biggest difference between the 1965 legislators and their immediate predecessors was two-fold: 1. Democrats were in control of both Senate and House. 2. For the first time since the early days of statehood new members outnumbered those with previous service.