PALIMPSEST



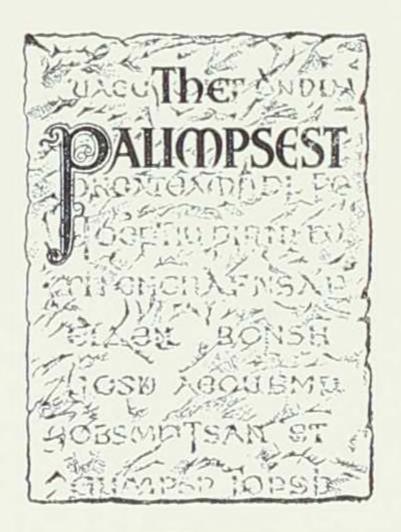
A LEGISLATOR AND HIS CONSTITUENTS

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The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been crased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the

task of those who write history.

Contents

THE 55TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOWA

Frank T. Nye

The 1952 Election	1
Composition of the Assembly	3
Organization of the Assembly	9
Messages of the Governor	16
Major Legislation	25
Significance of Work	35
Biennial Appropriations	44

Cover

Front—Rep. Gus Kuester (seated, hands folded) tests Cass County pulse in a grass roots conference with Lyman Netz (seated) and (left to right) Louis Riedman, Ben Johnson, Clarence Rabe, and Paul Breeling in Netz's garage.

Back—Top: Senate. Bottom: House of Representatives.

Photos courtesy Des Moines Register

Author

Frank T. Nye is Associate Editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette. He has covered every session of the General Assembly since 1935.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT IOWA CITY IOWA UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

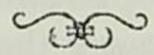
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THE PALIMPSEST

Edited by William J. Petersen

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The 1952 Election

As in every year, Americans prepared themselves during the campaign to answer some momentous questions at the polls in November. The big question was whether the Republicans or the Democrats had the best answers to such vital issues as the stalemate in Korea, Communists in government, corruption in high office, inflation, reduction in taxes, and a balanced budget. Another big question was whether Dwight D. Eisenhower, a military career man lacking political background, could, with his "great crusade" designed "to return government to the people," defeat a high-principled politician, Adlai E. Stevenson.

Always audible, above the heated debates on the farm problem, labor, and capital, was the chant "it's time for a change." Emphasis was placed on the "twenty long years" of Democratic rule.

Paradoxically, the identical words — "it's time for a change" — were being hurled back at Republicans by Democrats in the campaign for the Iowa Statehouse, held by Republicans since 1939.

Moreover, Iowa Democrats were using many of the same arguments advanced by Republicans seeking to capture the White House: that Republicans in the Statehouse were building up a state bureaucracy, were indifferent to the people, and were guilty of deficit spending.

It was on such issues that an unprecedented number of Iowans voted on November 4, 1952. When the ballots were counted they showed that Iowa Republicans had endorsed Eisenhower by a wide margin, but had won the Statehouse by a narrower margin. Eisenhower defeated Stevenson 33,938,285 to 27,312,217 votes nationally, each man getting more votes than any previous winner or loser in our history. Iowa's vote was:

Office	Republican		Democrat		
President	Eisenhower	808,906	Stevenson	451,513	
Governor	Beardsley	638,388	Loveless	587,671	
Lt. Gov.	Elthon	677,905	Allen	483,370	
Sec. of State	Synhorst	717,599	Kelleher	446,828	
Auditor	Akers	720,584	Weddle	435,387	
Treasurer	Abrahamson	713,081	Heimes	4.39,079	
Sec. of Agriculture	Spry	659,073	Gillette	514,708	
Atty. General	Larson	717,941	Claassen	461,090	

Two amendments to the Iowa constitution were also approved in 1952. Both dealt with the order of succession, in case the governor dies or vacates his office, and both were readily approved.

Republicans were uniformly victorious in gaining local and county offices and sent an overwhelming majority to the General Assembly.

FRANK T. NYE

Composition of the Assembly

Every session of the Iowa General Assembly resembles previous sessions in one respect — its composition. From the beginning farmers and lawyers have had much more to say in formulating and adopting laws than those in other walks of life.

The 1952 election brought no change. An analysis of the composition of the 55th General Assembly showed it to be almost a carbon copy of the previous session. The number of farmers was 53, the same as in 1951; the number of lawyers was 28, compared with 27 in 1951. Nor was this the whole story, for at least 25 other members earned livelihoods through a combination of farming and some other business, or were retired farmers. Of the 158 members, most were either farmers, lawyers, or some related combination. The following shows the occupations of 121 members:

		Major Business			
Agriculture		Groups		Lawyers	
Farmers	53	Publisher-Editors	7	Lawyers	28
Retired farmers	4	Merchants	6	Lawyer-farmer	2
Farmer-stockmen	3	Insurance men	3	Lawyer-farmer-	
Farmer-livestock	3	Hardware dealers	3	businessman	1
Farm managers	2	Hatchery-produce	3		
		Manufacturers	3		
	-		-		_
Solely Agriculture	65		25		31

The remaining 37 legislators fell into a variety of occupational categories. Two were merchantfarmers, two retired farmer-businessmen, two active farmer-businessmen, and two insurance menrealtors. Others included a banker-farmer, relief director, oilman, soil conservation agent, retired county auditor, insurance man-farm manager, businessman, drainage engineer, wholesale fuel dealer, farmer-radio commentator, broker-farm manager, housewife, restaurant owner, labor organization business representative, lumbermanbanker, druggist, farmer-implement dealer, grocer, food store proprietor, realtor, banker, dentist, and a banker-insurance man. Among the members who had retired from active business life were a former educator, store manager, businessman, publisher-printer, and railroad yardmaster. One simply listed himself as "semi-retired."

All 53 of the farmer members were Republicans — 40 in the House and 13 in the Senate. Likewise, all 16 of the House lawyers and 9 of the

Senate's 12 lawyers were Republicans.

Occupations pegged, statisticians looked for other interesting facts about the legislators. They found only one woman, Mrs. Gladys S. Nelson of Newton, compared with three women in 1951. They found that the combined experience of the members, as listed below, showed a turnover of slightly more than 27 per cent of the membership since the 1951 session:

Sessions	House	Senate	Total
First	31	12	43
Second	32	5	37
Third	19	8	27
Fourth	13	5	18
Fifth	5	4	9
Sixth	4	3	7
Seventh	1	5	6
Eighth	0	3	3
Ninth	1	3	4
Tenth	1	1	2
Thirteenth	0	1	1
Fourteenth	1	0	1

The statisticians also found the average age of legislators to be 53 years, the same as in 1951. Ages ranged from 25-year-old Representative John M. Peters, a Fort Dodge lawyer, to 76-year-old Representative A. S. Bloedel, a Tabor hardware merchant, both Republicans. The youngest Democrat was 31-year-old Representative Andrew G. Frommelt, while the oldest was Arnold Utzig, both of Dubuque.

The age-range table follows.

Age	Number of	Age	Number of
Range	Legislators	Range	Legislators
21-25	1	51-55	22
26-30	4	56-60	36
31-35	8	61-65	28
36-40	10	66-70	11
41-45	7	71-75	6
46-50	24	76-80	1

Republican Representative Arch W. McFarlane of Waterloo again took honors for having the longest service record, although he was only sixty-seven years of age. A wholesale fuel dealer, first elected to the 36th General Assembly that met in 1915, McFarlane had served in thirteen regular and six extra sessions up to the 55th, which made his fourteenth. Except for six sessions he had served continuously. Twice — in 1919 and 1921 — he served as Speaker of the House. During two of the sessions when he was not a member of the General Assembly — 1929 and 1931 — he was Iowa's lieutenant governor and presided over the Senate.

Dean of the 1953 Senate and second to McFarlane in length of service was Senator Frank C. Byers, sixty-nine, a Republican lawyer of Cedar Rapids. Not including the 55th General Assembly, which marked his thirteenth regular session, Byers had served in twelve regular and four extra sessions since his first election in 1928. His service began in the 43rd General Assembly on the House side, and he has been a member of the legislature ever since, giving him a continuous service record outranking McFarlane's. Following the spring recess, the 55th General Assembly honored McFarlane and Byers at a memorable joint convention in the House chamber.

Among House Democrats the longest service record up to the 55th belonged to Representative

Robert C. Reilly, a Dubuque merchant, whose time in both House and Senate totaled six regular and two extra sessions. On the Senate side, Senator Utzig, who also had served in both houses, had the longest service record with five regular and two extra sessions up to the 55th.

The educational background of the General Assembly, as submitted by the legislators, follows:

	College	High School	Grade School
Senate	40	8	2
House	77	22	9
	_		_
	117	30	11

Broken down politically:

Republican	112	29	10
Democrat	5	1	1

Let us consider the two chambers separately.

The Senate

Iowa's Senators total 50 in number, and each is elected to a four-year term unless he is filling a vacancy. Terms are staggered so that if there are no vacancies there will be alternately 29 holdovers at one session and 21 at the next. The 1953 Senate was composed of 46 Republicans and 4 Democrats, all men. The honor of being the youngest Republican Senator went to 32-year-old Ted D. Clark of Mystic, who was 45 days younger than a fellow Republican, W. C. Stuart of Chariton.

Oldest Republican Senator was 75-year-old William Linnevold of Decorah. Thomas J. Dailey of Burlington was the youngest Democrat (38), while Arnold Utzig (59) was the oldest. Up to now no vacancies have occurred in Senate ranks.

The House

Iowa's 108 House members are elected for a two-year term. The people named 105 Republicans and 3 Democrats to the 55th General Assembly, including one Republican woman. As has been pointed out, A. S. Bloedel (76) and John M. Peters (25) were the oldest and youngest House Republicans. Oldest House Democrat was L. A. Falvey of Albia (51) and the youngest was Andrew G. Frommelt (31).

No vacancies occurred by death or any other reason during the session, but there were five after adjournment up to the time The Palimpsest went to press. Earl C. Ryan of Des Moines died shortly after the session ended. Dwight W. Meyer of Odebolt resigned to accept an appointment as Iowa director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office, while Max M. Soeth of Estherville resigned to go with the same office. Carroll L. Brown of Oskaloosa resigned to accept a position as weight inspector for the Iowa Highway Commission. Clifford M. Strawman of Anamosa resigned to accept an appointment to the Board of Education.

FRANK T. NYE

Organization of the Assembly

Iowa Republicans scored an overwhelming victory for vacancies in the General Assembly in 1952. The victory was so decisive, in fact, that political reporters could find no evidence that either party ever had gained such domination of the General Assembly. The Eisenhower landslide had dealt a staggering blow to the Democratic party in Iowa.

In the House the Republicans won 105 of the 108 seats at stake. In the Senate the Republicans won all of the seats up for election except one. However, their margin of seats in the Senate was 46 to 4, because three of the holdover Senators were Democrats. With such huge majorities there was no doubt which party would organize the 55th General Assembly. The real fight, then, was to be found within Republican ranks at their caucuses, with official election in all cases only a mere formality after the session opened.

Anticipating the possibility that they would again control the House in 1953, Republican members of the 54th General Assembly had authorized Floor Leader Dewey E. Goode of Bloomfield to call an earlier-than-usual caucus preceding the opening of the 55th General Assembly. They rea-

soned that if they did win control again, an early caucus would enable them to nominate a candidate for Speaker who, in turn, would have ample time to name his committees within a day or so after being formally elected, thus getting the session off to a running start.

Normally House Republicans do not caucus until the Saturday before the Monday on which the session begins. Consequently, when Republican members caucused on December 15, 1952, at the Kirkwood Hotel in Des Moines, it marked a departure from tradition. Several members had announced their candidacies for the speakership—a post where the salary had been doubled from \$2,000 to \$4,000 by the 1951 legislature to begin in 1953—prior to the caucus and, indeed, a few already had been campaigning for it.

The usual warm contest was in prospect when the caucus got under way, but no one anticipated the intense battle that ensued before the 1951 Speaker — William S. Lynes of Waverly — was nominated on the seventh ballot for a second term. Lynes won by a single vote over Lawrence Putney of Gladbrook, speaker pro tempore in 1951.

Among the factors that figured in the selection of a nominee (geography, personal friendships, and hope of good committee appointments) was the issue slated to become the most widely discussed of the session — whether the sale of yellow oleomargarine should be permitted in Iowa.

All 105 Republicans were present for the caucus except A. S. Bloedel of Tabor and Robert Carlson of Sioux City. Another member, W. Oliver Turner of Corning, was tardy and missed the first three ballots but cast his vote on the last four.

In the balloting with Lynes and Putney were Arthur C. Hanson of Inwood, George L. Paul of Brooklyn, Guy G. Butler of Rolfe, Ernest Kosek of Cedar Rapids, and Fred Schwengel of Davenport. Butler and Kosek withdrew after the third ballot, Paul and Schwengel followed suit after the fourth. In announcing his withdrawal, Kosek added a touch of humor when it was sorely needed to ease the tense situation by saying: "I am releasing Linn County's vote." This was in reference to the fact that he had received only two votes on the third ballot which were presumed to be those of Linn County's other member, Emil Novak of Fairfax, and his own.

On the fifth ballot Putney led Lynes 44 to 38 while Hanson received 21 votes. On the next ballot Putney picked up five and Lynes four of Hanson's votes, leaving the tally: Putney 49, Lynes 42, and Hanson 12. At this point Hanson announced his withdrawal, thus setting the stage for the dramatic seventh ballot with Putney needing only three votes to win, while Lynes needed ten.

When the ballots were counted the result was: Lynes 52, Putney 51. The seven ballots for speaker follow:

Candidate			B_{i}	allot I	Vo.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lynes	21	25	28	32	38	42	52
Putney	21	26	29	34	44	49	51
Hanson	25	27	26	26	31	12	
Paul	15	11	6	5	_	_	_
Schwengel	6	7	8	6	_	_	_
Butler	7	3	3		_		_
Kosek	7	3	2		_	-	

The silence that prevailed upon the announcement of the final vote was broken finally by the defeated candidate, Putney, who moved that Lynes's nomination be made unanimous.

"Let's close ranks," Putney said in an emotion-filled voice. "Let's have a good, solid legislative session. I'm happy with the contest today. There is no hard feeling. There were no unkind words. Best of luck to you, Bill."

After Putney's motion was adopted the winning candidate, a fifty-nine-year-old drainage engineer who came to the legislature in 1947 for the specific purpose of modernizing Iowa's antiquated drainage laws, took the floor. He accepted renomination modestly and almost unbelievingly. After observing that he was "very much surprised" to win when he thought he was beaten, Lynes concluded: "I feel very happy and proud about the confidence you people have placed in me.

. . Now let's get together for the good of the people of Iowa. You are the board of directors."

Lynes said he realized that with such an over-

whelming majority of Republicans in the House there was an opportunity for factionalism to develop in the ranks. He hoped all members would guard against factionalism and he asked each one to list his committee preferences at once so he could name his committees.

Once the speakership race was determined, the caucus turned its attention to the nomination of a speaker pro tempore. Two ballots were necessary before the honor went to Vern Lisle of Clarinda. Lisle received 67 votes on the second ballot to 18 for Henry N. Stevens of Scranton, 15 for Schwengel, and 3 for Paul M. Walter of Union. First ballot results were: Lisle 42, Stevens 30, Schwengel 22, and Walter 9.

The next matter of business was the election of a majority floor leader. With 99 of the 103 members present participating, Representative Dewey Goode won a second ballot victory over Lawrence Putney and Dwight W. Meyer of Odebolt. Goode received 67 votes to 19 for Meyer and 13 for Putney.

Unlike House Republicans, the Senate Republicans waited to caucus until Saturday, January 10, two days prior to the opening of the session. As usual their caucus was closed to the press, but word leaked out of a spirited contest for majority floor leader with Ralph W. Zastrow of Charles City nosing out J. T. Dykhouse of Rock Rapids by a vote of 23 to 19.

Stanley L. Hart of Keokuk was nominated president pro tempore.

Republicans, of course, already had the presiding officer of the Senate by virtue of the election of a former senator, Leo Elthon of Fertile, as lieutenant governor. He presides over the Senate

without vote except in case of a tie.

With no chance whatever of winning any office, House and Senate Democrats did not bother to contest for a single one. They did get together on the Sunday prior to the opening of the session, but reporters were in the dark as to whether they actually designated minority floor leaders. As the session wore on it seemed that each of the three Democratic House members acted in that capacity on different occasions, while the Senate chore seemed to be that of George E. O'Malley of Des Moines.

Formal election of the Republican nominees came on January 12, 1953. But that was not the only noteworthy matter that took place on opening day. At 10 a.m. the House was called to order for what is believed to be the first time in its history by a first term member and one of such tender years, politically speaking — Paul Parker of Des Moines. This honor customarily falls to the senior member from Polk County, but because of the illness of that member — Earl C. Ryan of Des Moines — it fell to the thirty-one-year-old Parker who discharged it with dignity.

After the opening prayer, A. C. Hanson of

Lyon was elected temporary speaker on the motion of Lawrence Putney. Shortly thereafter, A. L. Mensing of Lowden nominated William Lynes for Speaker. His motion was seconded by Carl H. Ringgenberg of Ames for the Republicans, and by Robert C. Reilly of Dubuque for the Democrats, who also proposed that a unanimous ballot be cast. The motion prevailed, and Lynes became the fifth man in Iowa history to hold the speakership twice. Upon accepting the gavel, Speaker Lynes thanked the members for again according him the honor of being their leader.

Across the rotunda Lieutenant Governor William N. Nicholas called the Senate to order at 10 a.m. — since he would hold the office until the inauguration of his successor, Lieutenant Governor-elect Leo Elthon, on January 15. Senator Stanley L. Hart was named president pro tempore by unanimous vote after his nomination by Republican Floor Leader Ralph Zastrow, there being no other nominations. Hart accepted, saying he was "deeply touched and humbly grateful." A. C. Gustafson of Des Moines, veteran of many sessions, was named chief clerk of the House, and Carroll Lane of Carroll, a former House member, was renamed secretary of the Senate.

On January 19, Speaker Lynes and Lieutenant Governor Elthon announced their committees and the 55th General Assembly got down to business.

FRANK T. NYE

Messages of the Governor

For the second time in three years Governor Beardsley went before the legislature to deliver three messages: a review of state government during the previous two years; his program for the next two years; and his budget recommendations for the biennium starting July 1, 1953. In each address he hammered hard on the general theme that Iowa must continue to live within its income and must "cut the pattern to fit our sleth"

must "cut the pattern to fit our cloth."

In reviewing his second term, Governor Beards-ley asserted that the state government had lived within its income despite inflation and heavy demands for additional services. In his other messages the Governor reiterated that the state could live within its income during the forthcoming biennium, and he insisted it could be done without increasing the sales or income tax or levying any new taxes. The Governor, significantly, expressed no opposition to increases in other taxes. Reporters immediately surmised that he was not opposed to increasing existing taxes such as those on gasoline, cigarets or beer, provided the state legislature needed additional revenue.

Governor Beardsley next asked the legislature to give serious consideration to (1) educational

television; (2) bringing the state's labor laws into conformity with the federal laws and the 1952 Republican state platform; (3) reapportioning the legislature in accordance with the constitution; (4) creating a legislative research department.

Urging these recommendations called for courage; the Governor simply could have avoided them.

The three messages are reviewed here in the sequence of their presentation.

Second Term Review

The Governor made his first appearance on the second day of the session before a joint convention of House and Senate. After congratulating "old colleagues" as well as new members on their elections, he expressed confidence that they would "maintain with distinction the high traditions of the Iowa General Assembly."

Launching into his speech, the Governor then observed that "uncontrolled inflationary forces which have run riot through our economy have, during the past two years, made the problems of government difficult, in the same proportion and in the same manner, in which the problems of the citizenry generally have been made difficult." Despite this serious obstacle, he reported that "the state government has been able to carry forward the business of the state within the bounds established for it by the Fifty-fourth General Assem-

bly," and that all problems were met "within the limits of the funds provided" so that state finances were in "sound condition" with a "balanced budget" that left untouched "the stabilizing reserve which was so wisely created by the Fifty-third General Assembly." This was a reference to the \$30,000,000 "rainy day" fund set aside in 1949.

Governor Beardsley next outlined the following

specific accomplishments:

1. Various departments had made "great progress" both in quality of service and improvement in efficiency, due in several instances to the "fine and efficient" quarters provided in the newly completed state office building.

2. Services of the Department of Health and the Board of Social Welfare had been carried for-

ward "in a satisfactory way."

3. The Tax Commission had changed its methods of operation by adding modern office equipment to improve its services to the people.

4. The General Hospital plan inaugurated six years before was meeting with continued success.

- 5. The Board of Education and the administrators of the institutions of higher learning had made "pronounced progress" while smaller institutions under the Board had "augmented their programs and made advancement of benefit to the citizenry."
- 6. Iowa elementary teachers and administrators had made "definite progress" in meeting mod-

ern educational requirements throughout the state.

- 7. There had been more highway construction than ever before in Iowa history.
- 8. The expanded Iowa Highway Patrol had helped make progress in the field of highway safety.
- 9. Cooperation of all law enforcement agencies enabled work in this field to attain a high level.
- 10. Iowa had continued "to pace the nation" in conservation work.
- 11. Teamwork in Council Bluffs, Dubuque, and all along the Missouri and Mississippi prevented loss of life and kept property damage at a minimum during two raging floods.

The Governor closed with an expression of confidence in the "judgment and wisdom" of the General Assembly to solve the problems coming before them and welcomed the legislators' counsel, help, and cooperation.

Inaugural Message

Two days later — on January 15 — Governor Beardsley completed his second term and started his third by taking the oath before a joint convention of the Assembly and a House chamber crowded with interested onlookers. In his message the Governor expressed "humility and sincere appreciation" upon assuming the "further responsibility" as Governor. He also expressed his gratitude to Iowans for the confidence "which

they have reposed in the leadership of my administration" and assured all citizens of his desire "to serve the best interests of all the people of Iowa to the very best of my ability."

The Governor first paid tribute to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, under whose "peerless leadership" he predicted "our nation will be able to resolve every problem which confronts us to-day," to the end "that free men everywhere can once more pursue the pathways of peace."

He pointed to the need for "close cooperation" between the legislative and executive departments in meeting modern problems and declared that there should be only one standard of measurement in dealing with these problems — the standard of "what is best for Iowa."

Governor Beardsley's recommendations fell into fourteen specific fields.

Taxation, Finance and Budget — Our policy is no deficit spending and the maintenance of sound budgetary programs. We must seek every means of continuing and expanding all essential services of government "without the necessity of any new taxes or increases in sales or income taxes."

ROADS — Despite greater gains than ever before in all phases of our road program, further acceleration of construction and improvement will require additional funds. It is sound policy for highway users to pay for highway improvements.

That very day he had sent telegrams to governors of other states where legislatures were meeting, urging them to memorialize Congress to return to the states taxes now levied against road users that were being diverted to other uses. A study completed by a special citizens' committee on toll roads for Iowa had been filed with the legislature.

EDUCATION — We must continue to provide adequate funds for productive research. Inflation has made it necessary to restore the formula for state aid to schools. Serious consideration should be given to applying for educational television channels before July 1, 1953.

Mental Health — The professional staffs at all mental health institutions and the two children's mental schools must be expanded.

AGRICULTURE — Marketing of farm products must be facilitated. Maintenance and use of our precious resources in the soil must be restudied in the light of tremendous strides of science.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH — We must continue to promote the growth and development of industry.

Highway Safety and Safety Education — Every step to advance safety's cause, including the establishment of an inspection service for motor vehicles, merits serious consideration.

Conservation — We must complete the program of developing watersheds which will add to the fertility and abundant production of our soil while conserving it for generations yet unborn.

Labor — A revision of the labor laws in line with the principles set out in the Republican platform of 1952 is necessary to put them in conformity with federal labor laws.

LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT — Our constitution provides that legislative representation should be reapportioned at periodic intervals. With the 1950 census figures now available the legislature should carry out this responsibility.

REORGANIZATION — The legislature should study government reorganization in order to solve the problems of administrative efficiency.

Public Utility Commission — The special citizens' committee report on the need of a state public utility commission deserves legislative study.

STATE RETIREMENT PROGRAM — The report of the committee set up to study the Old Age Survivors and Insurance Program for public employees of Iowa is before the legislature. The interests of all who have paid into the system should be conserved, and the system made financially stable.

Legislature should seriously consider creating a Legislative Research Department in order to speed up the work of future legislatures.

In conclusion, the Governor said: "We cannot measure up to the challenge of this hour unless we have targets for our tomorrows — targets based on the hard realities of today, upon a vision of bet-

ter days to come; and upon a faith that by work-ing together we can reach those goals."

The Budget Message

The Governor appeared the third time on February 6 to deliver the all-important budget message in which he recommended the funds needed to operate the government for the two-year period beginning July 1, 1953. He repeated his Inaugural Message plea to confine government spending to funds available without increasing the sales or income taxes, or levying new taxes. The Governor declared this to be "a major responsibility" of the legislature and that "in discharging this responsibility we will be rendering the greatest service to the people of our state."

The stress of inflation made it difficult "to measure the impact of certain economic forces on the income of our state government," the Governor commented, adding hopefully that "the fiscal policies of the new administration in Washington will be conducive to stability and sound progress." Since inflationary forces were tending to soften, it was imperative that we exercise "extreme caution" during the next two years.

The Governor noted declining farm prices despite continued high costs of operations. Nevertheless, he continued, while keeping these things in mind it was essential to provide "for necessary and important functions of government as liberally as we can. . . ." This was the premise, he ex-

plained, on which he approached the difficult

budget problem.

Governor Beardsley declared no capital appropriations were needed in buildings and facilities "at the seat of government," but he recommended that the legislature "carefully canvass the situation with the Board of Control, Board of Education, and Conservation Commission" to determine their needs.

The budget provided for salary increases ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 annually in 52 statutory positions, the Governor noted, and for the first time in recent Iowa history it included recommendations for amounts necessary to pay positions indicated for each department under the various salary brackets of the State Classification and Compensation plan.

In closing he said Iowa has "no colossal debt" and levies no property tax — that field having been left to local government. "It is highly desirable," he added, "that this sound and fortunate situation be maintained in the future."

FRANK T. NYE

A NEW TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS



Feiler Studio Photo

Chief Justice W. A. Smith of the Iowa Supreme Court administers the oath to Gov. William S. Beardsley before a joint session in the House chamber. Note picture of President Harry S. Truman in background.



Des Moines Register Photo

The oath completed, a happy governor waves his greetings before stepping to the microphone to deliver his third inaugural address. Speaker William S. Lynes in background.

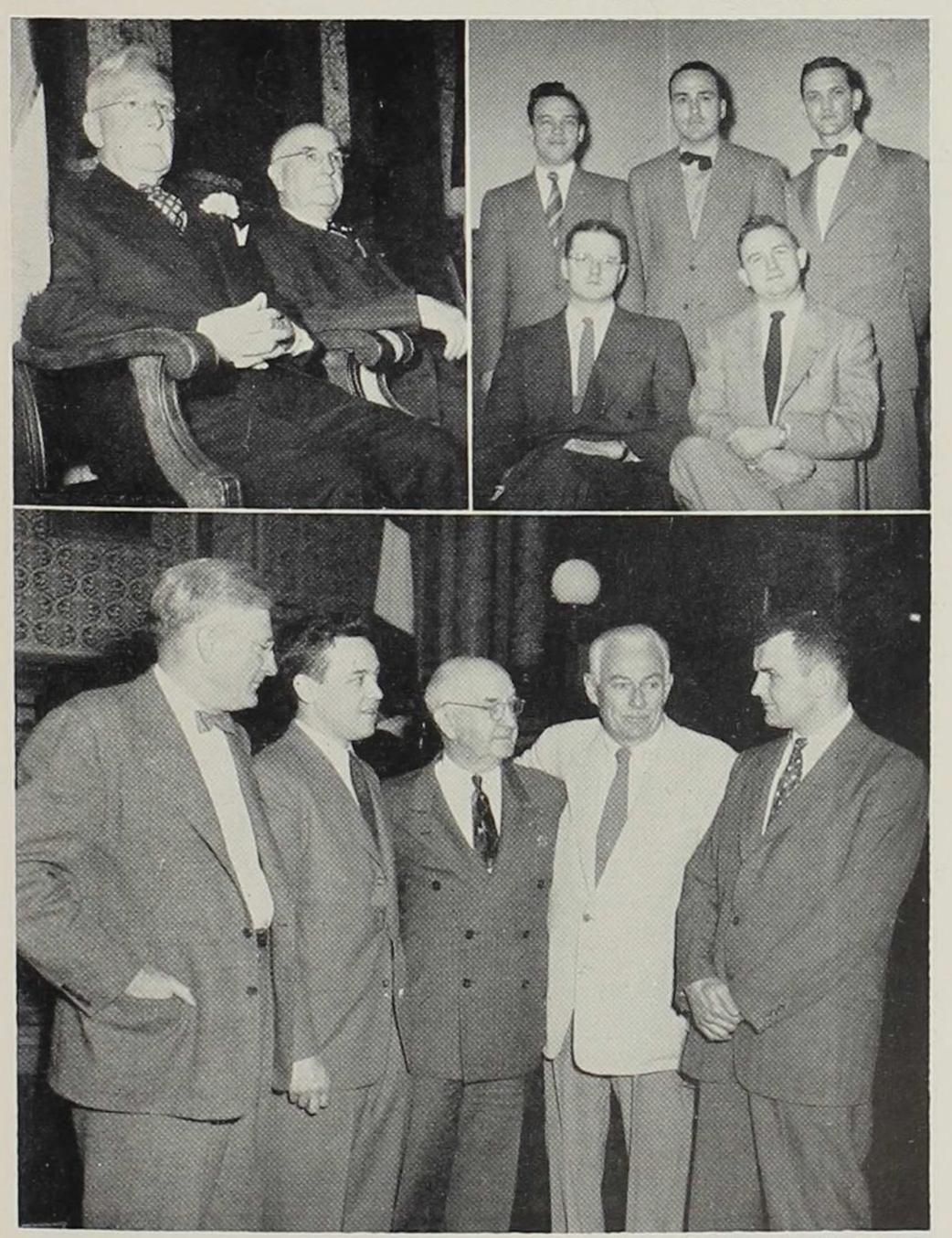
THE ASSEMBLY GOES TO WORK



Des Moines Register Photo

With pictures of the new President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, installed in legislative chambers, the governor inaugurated and committee assignments completed, the 55th General Assembly got down to business. Speaker Lynes (above) presided over the House.

AGE . . . YOUTH . . . POLITICAL HEREDITY



Cedar Rapids Gazette Photos

Experience and youthful enthusiasm are found in every legislature. Upper left: A joint session honors Senator Frank C. Byers and Rep. Arch W. McFarlane for long service. Upper right: All these House members were under 30 years of age—left to right, seated: John M. Peters and Jack Schroeder; standing: David O. Shaff, Paul Cooksey and Mahlon N. Brown. Below: Rep. McFarlane (center) served with the fathers of these present-day House members, left to right: W. L. Mooty, David O. Shaff, L. A. Falvey and Paul Parker.

LEADERS OF THE HOUSE . . .



Cedar Rapids Gazette Photos

Above: Over the years five men have been elected to the House speakership twice; three of them served together in the 55th—left to right: Gus Kuester, Speaker Wm. S. Lynes and Arch W. McFarlane. Lower left: House officers were Speaker Lynes and Speaker Pro Tempore Vern Lisle, shown with Rep. Dewey E. Goode (standing), the Republican floor leader. Lower right: Speaker Lynes ponders a decision.

. . . AND OF THE SENATE





Upper left: Dean of the Senate, Frank C. Byers, and Lt. Gov. Leo Elthon. Upper right: Lt. Gov. Elthon raps for order. Center: Senator Ralph W. Zastrow, the Republican floor leader, President Pro Tempore Stanley L. Hart and Senator George E. O'Malley, the Democratic floor leader, confer with Lt. Gov. Elthon (seated, right).







Cedar Rapids Gazette Photos

Lower left: Lt. Gov. Elthon with Republican leaders and secretarial staff. Lower right: Senate Democrats caucus—left to right: Thomas J. Dailey, George E. O'Malley, Leon N. Miller and Arnold Utzig.

WHEN AND WHERE DO WE MEET?



Courtesy Iowa Daily Press Association

Reps. Lawrence Putney (center) and R. O. Burrows, Sr., of Belle Plaine, check House bulletin board as the sergeant-at-arms chalks up times and places of committee meetings.

WHEN IN DOUBT — ASK GUS



Courtesy Iowa Daily Press Association

A. C. Gustafson (left) veteran chief clerk of the House, answers questions of (left to right) Reps. Wayne W. Ballhagen, Charles R. Burtch and Martin E. Sar.

THE ASSEMBLY IS ENTERTAINED



Des Moines Register Photo

Cedar Rapids Gazette Photo

Above: Among the many organizations to entertain the assembly was the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. President E. Howard Hill (left) of the Farm Bureau talks things over with Speaker Lynes and Lt. Gov. Elthon, Below: Debate is often entertaining as well as serious. Senator J. Kendall Lynes (left) explains a point while Senator Carl T. Anderson listens. Sometimes debate continues off the floor (see right) where (top) Senator DeVere Watson takes issue with Senator Lynes; (center) Rep. L. Dee Mallonee lectures Rep. Fred Schwengel, and (bottom) Rep. George Paul discusses oleo with Rep. Gladys Nelson.

LEGISLATORS FROM FIFTEEN.

36th District (Clayton)

40th District (Fayette, Allamakee) 42nd District (Ho rd.)



Senator Art J. Johnson and Rep. Leighton W. Abel



Senator George L. Scott, Reps. Elmer A. Hoth and Grant Lauer



Senator William Intern John Brockmeyer Ind H Sers 10

22nd District (Clinton)

20th District (Louisa, Muscatine) 10th District Henry



Reps. William N. Judd and David O. Shaff, Senator Erwin Schoening

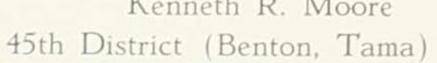


Rep. W. C. Hendrix, Senator Herman B. Lord, Rep. Kenneth R. Moore



Rep. Raym Carl T Harry 23rd District (C

26th District (Linn)





Senator Frank C. Byers, Reps. Emil Novak and Ernest Kosek



Reps. Lawrence Putney and R. O. Burrows, Sr., Senator Harry E. Weichman



Reps. Clifford Charles F. Hinc F. Elijah, Rep.

. . IOWA SENATORIAL DISTRICTS

(How: Winneshiek) 25th District (Iowa, Johnson)

21st District (Scott)



evold, Reps. Hillman H.



Rep. Fred Voigtmann, Senator D. C. Nolan and Rev. G. M. Ludwig



Senator Philip T. Hedin, Reps. Jack Schroeder and Fred Schwengel

(nry, Washington) 12th District (Keokuk, Poweshiek)

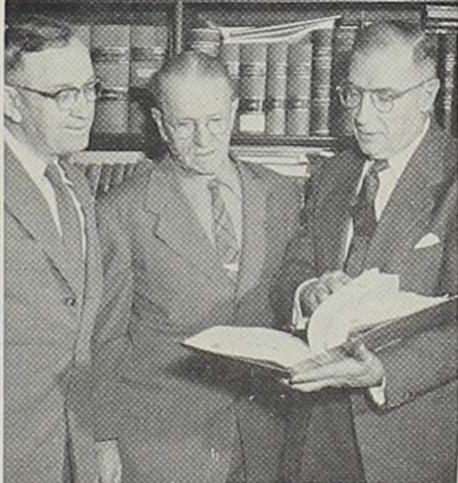
13th District (Wapello)



Cornick, Senator derson, Rep. Ramseyer



Rep. George L. Paul, Senator W. C. Molison, Rep. Mahlon N. Brown



Reps. Frank Pedrick and Otto Armstrong, Senator Elmer Bekman

Jackson, Jones) 33rd District (Buchanan, Delaware)

35th District (Dubuque)



trawman and , Senator Earl . Mensing



Senator Don Risk, Reps. L. O. Weston and Glenn E. Robinson



Rep. Andrew G. Frommelt, Senator Arnold Utzig, Rep. Robert C. Reilly

All pictures Cedar Rapids Gazette Photos except 13th District Photo courtesy Ottumwa Courier

LEGISLATO RS FROM FIFTEEN IOWA SENATORIAL

36th District Clayton)

40th District (Fayette,

Allamakee)

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Howard Winneshiek)

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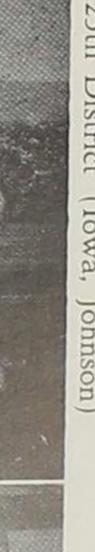
(Iowa, DISTRICT Johnson)

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21st

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(Scott)





Senator William John Brockmeyer and Sersland

William Linnevold, Reps. ockmeyer and Hillman H.

Senator

Rep. Leighton

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Senator (Elmer A.

George Hoth a

Scott, Grant

Reps. Lauer

and

22nd

District

(Clinton)

20th

District

(Louisa,

Muscatine)

10th

District (Henry, Washington)



Rep. Fred Voigtmann, Nolan and Rev. G.

12th

District

(Keokuk,

Poweshiek)

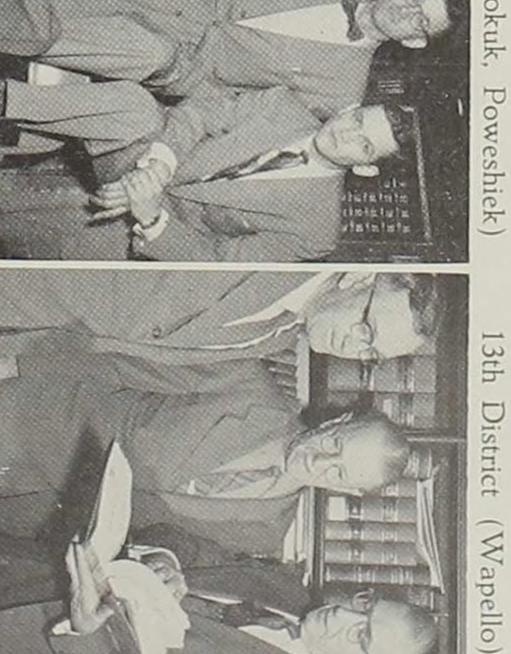
13th

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, Senator D. C M. Ludwig



Senator Jack Philip T. He Schroeder an Schwengel Hedin, Reps. and Fred



Reps. Frank Pedrick and Otto Armstrong, Senator Elmer Bekman 35th District (Dubuque)



Reps. William N. Judd and David O. Shaff, Senator Erwin Schoening

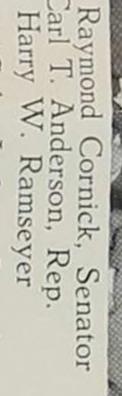
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District (Linn)

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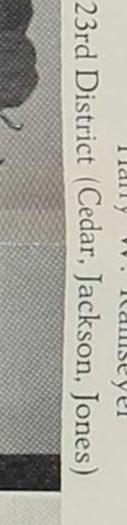
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Paul, Senator Mahlon N. I

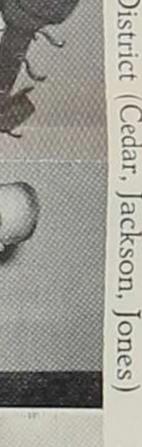
Brown

W. C.



33rd District (Buchanan,

Delaware)



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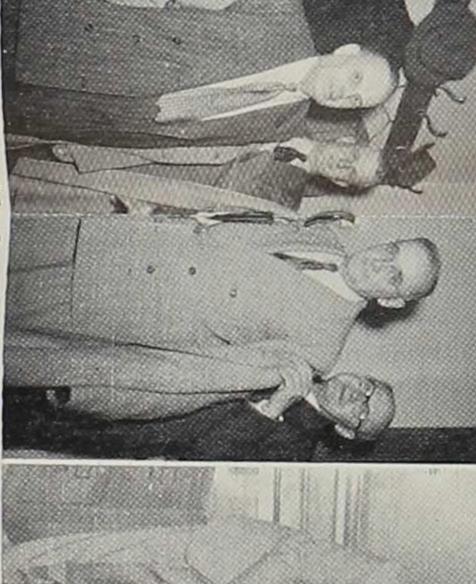
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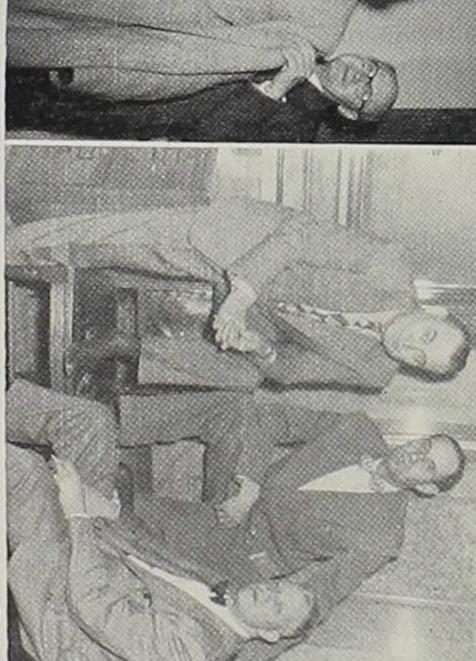
and R. C. Harry E.

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Weichman



Strawman and ffe, Senator Earl L. Mensing



Senator Don Weston and Don Risk, Glenn Reps. L. O. E. Robinson

Rep. Ara-Senator Ara-Robert Andrew Arnold hert C Hrommelt, Utzig, Rep. Reilly

All pictures Cedar Rapids Gazette Photos pt 13th District Photo

ASKED

Des Moines Register Photo after the prayer which is offered immediately pening First thing on the agenda of each House is the

THE HOUSE LISTENS . . . AND VOTES



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⊙ ⊙Carlson	O Huisman	⊗ € Mooty	@ Ryan	© OWalter
© Christiansen	@@Jones	O Morris	⊗ ⊘Sar	O@Watson
OCcoksey	⊙ OJudd .	Nelson G.S.	O Scheerer	© © Wolss
O Cornick	OOKerr	O Nelson H.F.	© OSchroeder	© CWeston
O Darrington	○ ○Klemesrud	O Nicholson	○ OSchwengel	O Whitney
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Courtesy Iowa Official Register

Above: The House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole to conduct a public hearing on a bill. Below: House members register votes on an electric machine which makes it possible to take a complete roll call in a matter of seconds. Members manipulate a green (for "yea") or a red (for "nay") button on their desks to flash their approval or disapproval in green or red lights on this board at the front of the House.

IT'S TIME FOR AWARDS!





Des Moines Register Photo

Above: Holding sterling silver gifts from House colleagues are (left to right) Speaker Pro Tempore Vern Lisle, Speaker Wm. S. Lynes, and Republican Floor Leader Dewey E. Goode. Below: President B. G. Thrailkill (center) of the Des Moines Press and Radio Club presents the organization's distinguished service awards for the session to Rep. Gus Kuester (left) and Senator DeVere Watson.

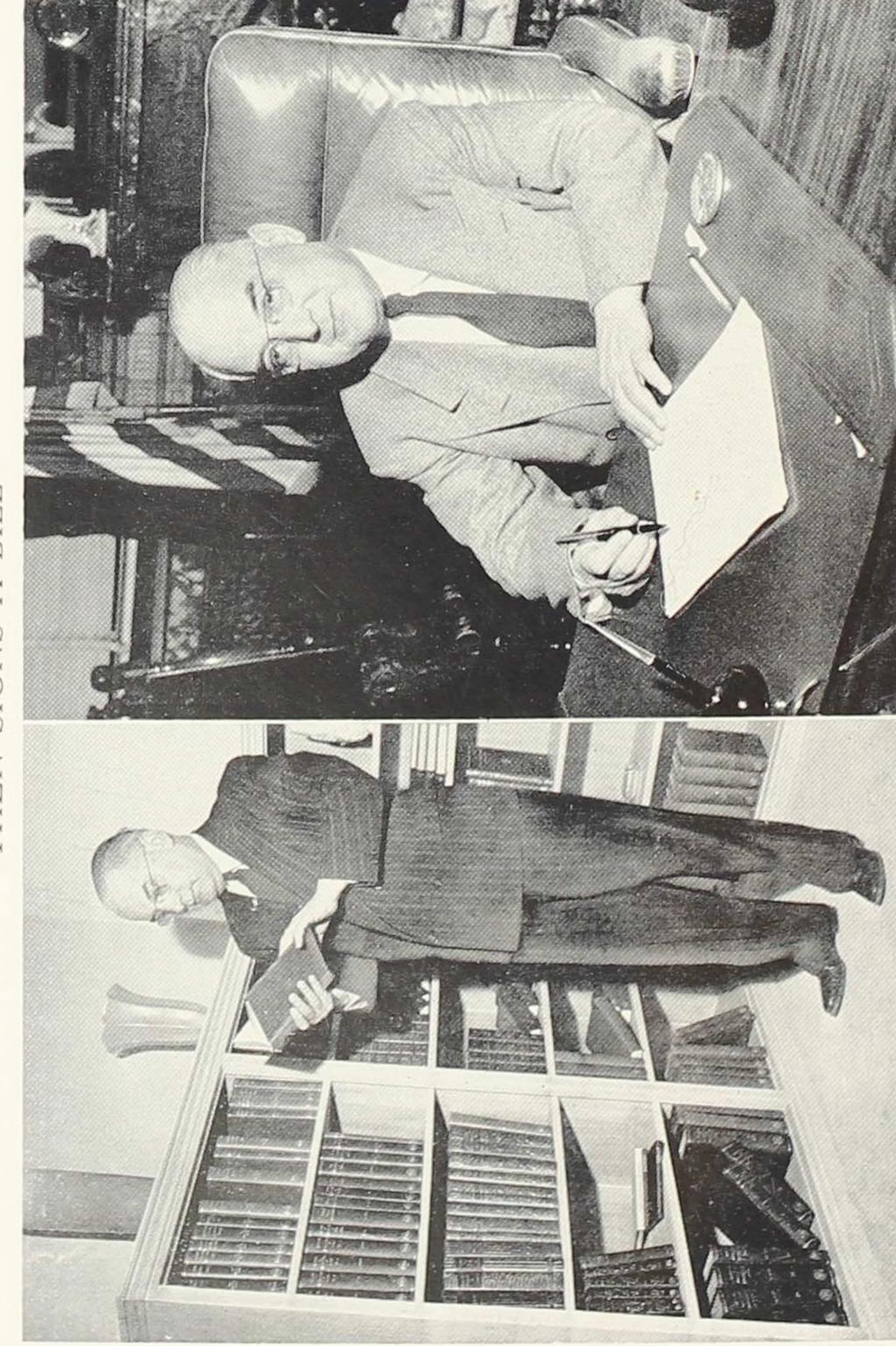
THE 55TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNS



Des Moines Register Photo

Gavel raised, Lt. Gov. Leo Elthon looks through the open doors of the Senate chamber, across the rotunda and into the House chamber facing Speaker Wm. Lynes, who also stands with poised gavel. They brought them down simultaneously to adjourn the 55th General Assembly on April 30, 1953.

THE GOVERNOR STUDIES IOWA HISTORY AND LAW THEN SIGNS A BILL



Governor Des Moines Register Photo into law. a bill a legislative session, which explains why signs Governor Beardsley Left: A governor's day is never done, especially during Beardsley studies up on Iowa history and law at home.

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Photo loaned by The Iowan

sessions. It is commonly known as the "Interim" committee. It keeps a legislative finger on the pulse of the state by visiting institutions, checking into matters that need legislative attention, and providing money in event of emergencies. Rep. Gus Kuester was missing when this picture was made. Others are (clockwise) Rep. Henry H. Stevens, Senator Herman M. Knudson, Senator X. T. Prentis, Senator Jay C. Colburn (chairman), Senator J. Kendall Lynes, Rep. Dewey E. Goode, Senator George E. O'Malley, Rep. Andrew G. Frommelt and Rep. A. C. Hanson. Mrs. Colburn sat in as secretary at this meeting. The legislative Budget and Financial Control Committee carries on for the General Assembly between regular sessions. It is commonly known as the "Interim" committee.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKS TOO



Des Moines Register Photo

When the Assembly adjourns the executive and legislative branches go their separate ways, with the Executive Council helping the governor carry on work of the administrative department. Here the council is shown at a typical meeting in the governor's office. Members are (clockwise): Secretary W. Grant Cunningham, Treasurer M. L. Abrahamson, Governor Beardsley, Secretary of Agriculture Clyde Spry, Auditor C. B. Akers and Secretary of State Melvin D. Synhorst.

Major Legislation

Iowa's legislature meets in regular session every other year for an allotted 100 days, or more if necessary, during which time it considers hundreds of bills proposing news laws or changing existing ones. Considering the variety of bills presented, it is amazing that so much is accomplished in so little time.

For the official record, the 1953 legislature required 108 days to complete its work — from 10 a.m. January 12 to 5 p.m. April 29. Unofficially, however, an extra day was required; the legislature did not actually adjourn until 5:26 p.m. April 30. To get around the extra day, the legislature crowded an "extra" 24 hours and 26 minutes into the session by the simple procedure of stopping the clock at 5 p.m. April 29, as called for in a House concurrent resolution adopted earlier in the session. All actions of April 30 were duly recorded as having taken place on April 29.

The 100th day fell on April 21, but for the first time in years the legislature did not stop the clock on that day. Although 108 calendar days elapsed between the fall of the opening and closing gavels, the official record of actual working time shows that the Senate was in session 74 days and the

House 72.

During the session 971 bills were introduced, 182 fewer than in 1951, with 518 being originated in the House and 453 in the Senate. Of the total, 295 were passed and 293 were signed by the Governor, who vetoed the other two. The House originated both of the bills that failed to win the Governor's approval and 157 of those that he signed. The Senate originated the other 136. Two additional bills were passed by both houses but in different form. They never reached the Governor because neither chamber would concur in what the other wanted.

In addition to bills, three kinds of resolutions may be introduced in the Assembly — joint, concurrent, and just plain House or Senate resolutions. Joint and concurrent resolutions must win approval of both houses, and joint resolutions must be signed by the Governor to become effective. Plain House and Senate resolutions need only the approval of the chamber in which they were introduced.

Altogether 91 resolutions of varying kinds were introduced, 59 in the House and 32 in the Senate. Of the total, 24 were joint resolutions, 53 were concurrent resolutions, and 14 were plain one-house resolutions. Of the joint resolutions 19 were introduced in the House and 5 in the Senate. One of the House resolutions was later withdrawn, while 2 House and 1 Senate resolution were passed and signed by the Governor. Of the con-

Current resolutions, 31 were introduced in the House and 22 in the Senate. Twenty-four of the House concurrent resolutions were adopted, and 19 of the Senate's were passed. Of the plain resolutions, Representatives introduced 9 and the House passed all but 1. Five were introduced in the Senate which passed 2. These resolutions do not include those adopted in memory of former members of the Assembly — known as Memorial Resolutions.

As if this business were not enough to keep both chambers busy, the Senate also passed 54 bills which failed to gain House approval, while 40 House-approved bills did not arouse enough enthusiasm for passage by the Senate. In addition, the Senate voted down five of its own bills while the House defeated one of its bills and one of its joint resolutions. Thirty-nine House and seven Senate bills, as well as two House joint resolutions, were indefinitely postponed.

One of the bills vetoed by Governor Beardsley proposed amending Section 627.10 of the 1950 Code exempting earnings of a family breadwinner. House File 123 provided for a 10 per cent garnishment for debts. The Governor returned it unsigned on April 15, with the following letter.

I have considered this bill very seriously and have been impressed with the earnestness and sincerity of the authors of the bill in their desire to protect merchants and small business men in the collection of accounts.

However, we must look further. The purpose of the debtor's law . . . is to protect the home and the family against the financial vicissitudes of life. The law was created for that purpose, recognizing the responsibility of the state in protecting the home.

... One can readily see, by the application of this act, that a family's support could be impaired for a long period of time, and the home life even disrupted, especially if a creditor sought mercilessly to pursue the collection of a debt.

In view of these hazards . . . I have withheld my signature.

The House attempt to override the Governor's veto failed because the 61 to 44 vote in favor lacked the required constitutional two-thirds majority.

The House had no opportunity to override the Governor's veto of House File 328, the other bill he would not sign, because the bill was not sent to him until April 28, the day before official adjournment sine die; and under the law he had thirty days in which to act on it. On May 28, Governor Beardsley notified Secretary of State Melvin D. Synhorst that he was delivering to him, unsigned, House File 328. In his letter he included the following reason of his refusal to sign:

Section 2 of the Bill provides for the contracting of work without competitive bidding up to the amount of \$25,000.00. In my judgment, this is not sound public policy, as a transaction of that size should be subject to competitive bidding.

The beneficiary of more authority to contract for work up to \$25,000, had the Governor signed the bill, would have been the State Board of Control.

It is impossible to mention all of the bills adopted and signed into law. Only those of general interest are presented here. From that standpoint, however, there is no question as to which of the many bills passed attracted most widespread attention. They were the so-called "oleo" bills, including one to remove the ban on the sale of yellow oleomargarine in Iowa, and one to repeal the 5-cent per pound tax on oleomargarine. But even though the legislature considered these bills over the longest period of time, most members did not rate them as important as many others that received more concentrated attention but failed to attract comparable interest.

Of vital importance to Iowa's secondary system of public school education was the new law changing the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction from elective to appointive and creating a new Iowa Board of Public Instruction to be composed of nine lay citizens serving part time. Eight of the new board members were to be elected by delegates named by Boards of Education located in each of the eight congressional districts, and the ninth appointed by the Governor. The Board will supervise the secondary school program and appoint the State Superintendent. This new law also abolished the State Boards of Vocational

Education and of Educational Examiners, transferring their duties to the new Board.

The legislature also established a new procedure for reorganization of school districts. One clause of major importance in this new law provided that new districts must have at least 300 pupils. By this method it was hoped school districts would be able to offer more courses and better equipped teachers, while operating more efficiently and economically.

Another important bill that received legislative approval in one of the greatest displays of statesmanship that came out of the arguments in both houses was the change made in the retirement system for Iowa's public employees. This change was accomplished by three bills which (1) abolished the existing system which had been declared insolvent, (2) placed employees under the federal social security system, and (3) created a new state system to supplement federal coverage.

Important to every citizen paying an income tax was the bill which made permanent the 75 per cent rate and the deduction schedule that had been in effect on a session-to-session basis since 1945. The removal of the tax on oleo was also important. Another bill helped indirectly to lessen the taxpayer's load. It exempted public bodies from paying the sales and use taxes, instead of paying them and later applying for refunds.

Offsetting this boon to income tax payers was

the increased tax on gasoline and cigarettes. The tax went up a penny a gallon on gas (from 4 to 5 cents) and a penny a pack on cigarettes (from 2 to 3 cents). The \$7,500,000 which it was estimated the extra cent of gasoline tax would bring in was to go specifically for hard surfacing primary roads now covered only with gravel or rock.

In the field of agriculture one bill set the requirements for the percentage of butterfat in substandard ice milk, substandard frozen milk, and ice cream from none to 10 per cent. Another increased the minimum butterfat content of market milk from 3 to 3.25 per cent to conform with the uniform federal requirement for Grade A milk.

Other agricultural bills added vesicular exanthema, scrapie, and rinderpest to the list of communicable animal diseases subject to condemnation and payment of indemnity to the owner; and prohibited the feeding of raw garbage to swine except as regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture and unless boiled for thirty minutes. The exanthema law affords a good example of how the legislature can act promptly in emergencies. This dreaded hog disease broke out in Iowa while the legislature was in session. A bill, recommended by the Council of State Governments, was passed by both houses and signed by the Governor in a matter of hours.

On appropriations matters the legislature adopted the "must" legislation to keep the state govern-

ment and its subdivisions going. It also voted: (1) to return \$450,000 from the World War II bonus fund to the general fund, and to extend the period for World War II veterans to claim their bonus from December 31, 1950, to June 30, 1953; (2) to terminate the World War II bonus board and to transfer its records to the State Auditor; (3) to transfer \$2,000,000 from the World War I bonus fund to the Board of Control for construction of a nursing home at the Soldiers' Home in Marshalltown; (4) to appropriate \$843,000 to the State Conservation Commission, of which \$500,000 was for use in a sanitary district at Clear Lake and \$25,000 for algae treatment at Storm Lake; and (5) to authorize the spending of \$500,000 for a new liquor warehouse.

The legislators also voted:

To provide a penalty of \$25 to \$100 for refusal of a cemetery corporation to accept a body because of race or color.

To require operators of prearranged funeral plans to deposit 80 per cent of all payments in separate trust funds.

To repeal the 5-mill limit on municipal taxation for payment of bond issues and interest, and to correct a number of other municipal code laws passed by the 1951 legislature.

To lower from 65,000 to 40,000 the minimum population of a county authorized to spend up to \$25,000 for courthouse, jail, or county home addi-

tions without a vote of the people, provided the county has a county seat of 5,000 or more.

To raise the daily pay of petit jurors from \$3 to \$5.

To provide a fine up to \$10,000 or a prison term up to ten years for any one convicted of attempting to bribe an athlete. This law soon became applicable when a man was charged with attempting to bribe a Drake University basketball player.

To increase from two up to twenty years the penitentiary sentence for selling narcotics.

To require foreign-born physicians to show citizenship or intent to become citizens before they can qualify for a license to practice.

To redistrict four senatorial districts by transferring Grundy County from the Black Hawk-Grundy district to the Tama-Benton district and Franklin County from the Cerro Gordo-Hancock-Franklin district to the Butler-Bremer district.

To reduce minority party membership on the legislative budget and financial control committee from two to one from each house whenever the minority party controls fewer than ten per cent of the seats in that house.

To raise active duty pay of guardsmen from \$1 to \$3 daily, and to recognize the air guard.

To increase motor vehicle speed limits in school districts from 20 to 25 miles per hour.

To assess a monthly fee of \$2 to \$3 on mobile homes in licensed trailer parks, the proceeds to be

distributed among the local school district, municipality, and county.

To establish a centralized printing department.

To require issuance by county treasurers of certificates of title to motor vehicles.

This summary does not begin to cover the work accomplished by the legislature; nor does it detail what was contained in bills or resolutions which the legislature refused to adopt on such subjects as Class C beer permits and reapportionment of the lower house. It does, however, indicate the tremendous amount of work done and the magnitude of the task the legislature faces each biennium in giving just consideration to every proposal.

FRANK T. NYE

COST OF A LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Expense items	Senate	House	Joint
Members' salaries\$	104,000.00	\$218,000.00	\$
Employees' salaries	80,210.00	131,833.40	30,099.50
Printing	28,173.53	39,076.11	4,087.16
Traveling expenses	650.10	1,369.60	
Chaplains' expenses	735.40	735.40	
Miscellaneous expenses	4,673.85	3,236.35	103.49
Total expense 55th General			
Assembly\$	218,442.88	\$394,250.86	\$34,290.15
Expense total, 54th General			
Assembly\$	235,969.73	\$427,586.50	\$61,236.70

Significance of Work

What kind of a legislature was it — good, bad or just average? Did it face its problems squarely, show courage, have vision? How did it get along with the Governor? Who can say? Is there one among the Iowa political experts whose judgment would be accepted over all others as final? Well, hardly. Not when legislators themselves could not agree, and fifteen veteran political writers held widely varying opinions. In any man-on-the-street survey one would be sure to find opinions ranging from "the best" to "the worst" legislature in our history.

This would prove very little, perhaps, except that it was a controversial session — colorful, spirited, confusing. It even had the elements of a stirring "whodunit" — mystery and intrigue. It had humor, too, and politics. For a legislature simply is not a legislature without politics, and politics never lacks for humor. But this time the politics was intraparty rather than interparty, due to the tremendous majority of Republicans, who fought among themselves and, at times, even with the Governor.

The legislature was also educational, for seldom has a legislative session attracted more wide-

spread attention. Perhaps this was because it had greater press-radio coverage than ever before. Perhaps it was because more bills were easier to understand and thus attracted more interest. Perhaps it was a combination of factors.

Whatever the reason, it seems that Iowans learned more about legislative processes, about parliamentary procedures, and about cloakroom maneuvers than ever before. They learned, too, that controversial matters require liberal sprinklings of all three, plus weeks of study before final action, whereas noncontroversial matters can be whisked through the Assembly and signed into law in a matter of hours. Finally, Iowans learned what a vital role the art of compromise plays in formulating our laws.

So it was an educational session, a fact of inestimable value in bringing about improved government. It is axiomatic that the kind of government we get in a democracy depends largely on how well informed the citizens are and to what degree they resolve issues. For the people are still all-powerful in a democracy. Thus, if the 1953 legislature did little more than whet the appetite of the people for more knowledge about their government, it would have reason to feel rewarded, Since this was not all, it is essential to study the record carefully in order to evaluate fairly the legislature's work.

The record shows that this legislature faced not

only the perennial problems that have confronted its predecessors (how to balance the budget and keep taxes at a minimum), but that it faced such new problems as educational television and toll roads. In addition, there was the task of correcting costly mistakes made by past legislatures. One such — the adoption of an unsound public employees' pension program by the 1945 legislature — would have created an estimated \$240,-000,000 state debt within twenty-five years had it not been repealed and replaced with new legislation. The municipal code bills adopted in 1951 also had to be revised.

These vitally important matters were largely overlooked by a public that riveted its attention, for the most part, on the progress of the oleomargarine bills. Undoubtedly this was because the oleo bills were before the public eye throughout the entire session, requiring 77 separate actions on 27 days, starting January 13 and ending April 29, before they were passed. Action on bills considered far more important often was taken within four days.

The hard work done on the three bills setting up a new retirement system attests the seriousness with which the General Assembly approached its problems. It was only natural that such highly controversial bills would bring out deep fundamental differences in the philosophies of the members. As a result, legislators divided into two

factions — one intent on cutting back government services and reducing taxes; the other convinced that government must continue to expand soundly in order to keep pace with the rest of the economy.

These differences came out in secret committee sessions and in floor debates over the appropriation bills and the measure increasing the gasoline tax to help finance the highway modernization program. They also provided the inspiration for legislative studies that resulted in reducing or eliminating many unnecessary expenses. For example, centralizing the state printing may result in an estimated saving of \$1,000,000 in a two-year period.

Unfortunately, the oleo debate overshadowed many important actions. For the first time in forty years the House actually debated the question of reapportioning its own seats. In the end, it defeated a proposal to give larger counties more representation by enlarging the House membership. Later it adopted a resolution for a constitutional amendment under which House memberships would represent area while Senate memberships would represent population. This resolution would have reduced House membership from 108 to 99 — one per county — while increasing Senate membership from 50 to 60 on a purely population basis. Action by the Senate would have meant much to over two-thirds of Iowa citizens who pay more than 75 per cent of the cost of state

government but have less than 45 per cent of the legislative seats. The Senate finally did go part way toward meeting the constitutional requirement that it must redistrict its present 50 seats every 10 years, when it reshuffled four districts. These actions required at least a show of courage in comparison with the refusal of past legislatures to face the issue.

It took courage, too, to transfer the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction from the status of elective to appointive, and to create a new State Board of Public Instruction to supervise the programs for secondary public schools. Confusion entered the picture in this instance for the intent was to remove the office from politics but the legislature put it right back into politics when it required that the Superintendent had to be confirmed by the Senate even though appointed by a Board representing the citizens.

More confusion must have been created in many minds when the legislature increased the standards for embalmers, requiring four years of advanced study before permitting them to handle dead bodies, while clinging tenaciously to laws setting two years of study as enough for teachers instructing young Americans who are very much alive.

Puzzlement also resulted when legislators, professing allegiance to the two-party system, adopted a measure reducing the minority party's membership from each house on the Budget and Financial Control Committee unless it won at least 10 per cent of the seats in that house. Moreover, the Senate minority party members voted for the bill, while a majority member, Senator Earl C. Fishbaugh, Jr., of Shenandoah, registered the lone vote against it, on the grounds that the bill encroached on the rights of the minority.

Humor and confusion both were present in a matter involving Iowa State College's television station, WOI-TV. Even as some legislators protested that the station must stop accepting commercial advertising, one solon introduced a proposal that (had it passed) would have required WOI-TV to telecast a boxing match currently attracting nationwide attention despite the fact that it was sponsored by a company advertising beer.

Humor is best typified by the comment inspired around the state after the legislature adopted a bill requiring deer hunters to wear on their backs a large red sign marked "Deer." Many quipped that in the spirit of fairness the deer should be made to wear this sign, while that worn by the hunter should read "Man" or "Woman."

Members showed both color and spirit in expressing their uninhibited feelings about the long-range effects of permitting the sale of yellow oleomargarine in Iowa, the proposal to make the Delicious red apple tree the official state tree, the activities of lobbyists, and educational television.

Mystery and intrigue entered the act when the House concerned itself with Secretary of State Melvin D. Synhorst's belated revelation that he was convinced someone had tampered with a House-originated bill adopted in 1951 but vetoed by the Governor. The Secretary declared the bill bore the Governor's signature when it first reached him, but that later it was removed from his files, the signature erased and a veto entered. Speaker Lynes took up the matter at once but withdrew his interest after conferring with the Attorney General, leaving unsolved the mystery of (1) whether the bill actually was tampered with, and (2) if so, who did the tampering.

As this is written a year has not elapsed since adjournment of the legislature. Although it is much too early to assess the long-range historical significance of its work, there was no lack of newspaper editorials reflecting divergent reactions.

Such Independent or Independent-Republican journals as the Des Moines Register and the Cedar Rapids Gazette took the position that the session fell "short on many pressing problems that have been with us for years," but that "the record indicates a majority of members do not believe progress is at an end." The Sioux City Journal felt the Assembly "did a fairly good job . . . in relation to other legislatures."

The opinions of Republican editors were sharply divided. The Belle Plaine *Union* described the

session as "just about average," while the Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette declared the legislature had made "a sorry spectacle of itself." The Charles City Press maintained the General Assembly had "its moments of courageous action and also its moments of mediocrity, inertia, even stupidity." The Perry Chief defended the Assembly as one "that stood its ground well" while the Hampton Chronicle praised it for refusing "to be stampeded by the sob artists." In contrast the independent Decorah Journal viewed the session as "a clownish performance." The Creston News-Advertiser summed up the view of many papers when it said that the legislature "attracted more than the average amount of criticism . . . but it had some unpopular assignments from the start."

Many others, such as the Jefferson Herald and the Iowa City Press-Citizen, deplored the "lack of leadership," and the "lack of a strong minority," while the Waterloo Courier, likewise Independent-Republican, commented that the body would continue to subject itself "to be ridiculed and criticized" until it reapportioned at least one house on the basis of population.

Democratic papers were no more critical than some Republican editors. The Davenport Democrat said too many vital matters were "permitted to go into the last few helter-skelter days of the session," while the Parkersburg Eclipse pointed to the record of "deficit spending."

In the final analysis, of course, history will be the judge. But this much can be said: The 55th General Assembly was confronted with a greater number of complex problems than any other in our history. Where it faced up to them, it scored well. In doing that it compiled a defensible record — as far as it went. But there was a strong tendency, despite the changing times, to be too satisfied with things as they were rather than to keep pace with modern progress. Ultimately, history may show that in 1953 the time was ripe to start such a transition period but that the legislature failed to measure up to this wonderful opportunity. Perhaps this was because it lacked able leadership, or perhaps because it lacked a unified majority or a minority numerically strong enough to force the issues.

Whatever the reasons, the opportunity was missed. But a ray of hope exists in that this legislature served as a training ground for more bright young men than have sat as members in many years. Their eyes are on the future, and they are aware of the need to overhaul state government. At the moment they seem destined to play a leading role in bringing it about.

FRANK T. NYE

Biennial Appropriations of the

Iowa General Assembly

Administrative Departments

	1949-51	1951–53	1953-55
Aeronautics Commission\$	None	\$ None	\$ 9,200
Agriculture, Dept. of	1,307,820	1,249,320	1,202,000
Appeal Board	None	None	10,000
Attorney General	99,440	119,000	127,120
Auditor	256,760	322,000	404,000
Blind, Iowa Commission for	62,084	62,084	57,440
Bureau of Labor	84,600	126,900	161,680
Commerce Commission	377,000	394,500	410,300
Comptroller	216,000	206,000	258,000
Conservation Commission	819,000	950,000	949,000
Control, Board of	470,000	470,000	430,300
Council of State Governments	8,000	10,000	10,000
Custodian	307,200	371,000	657,340
Development Commission	160,000	200,000	200,000
District Court	962,000	1,058,000	1,130,000
Education, Board of	117,600	122,000	127,760
Educational Examiners, Bd. of	99,000	100,000	147,510
Employment Security Comm	170,000	162,000	260,000
Executive Council	614,000	700,000	905,040
Fair Board	100,000	100,000	100,000
G.A.R	7,400	7,400	500
Geological Survey	174,020	188,000	204,000
Governor	59,600	59,600	67,000
Health, State Department of	734,642	778,900	943,540
Historical Society	119,200	131,600	126,000
History and Archives	127,900	127,900	121,000
Hoover Birthplace	3,200	4,600	10,800
Industrial Commissioner	67,170	67,170	73,700
Insurance Department	194,720	164,000	165,280
Libraries	183,638	205,000	217,330
Mine Examining Board	6,000	6,000	5,520
Mine Inspectors	41,600	35,200	27,460
National and State Guard	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,200,000
Natural Resources Council	100,000	100,000	100,000
Parole, Board of	116,450	124,000	149,352
Pharmacy Examiners	55,270	61,000	65,320

Pioneer Lawmakers	100	200	200
Printing Board	651,645	550,000	670,000
Public Instruction, Dept. of	580,220	580,900	708,780
Public Safety, Dept. of	3,610,000	5,166,852	5,189,500
Real Estate Commission	37,200	37,200	37,640
Secretary of State	64,740	70,000	71,300
Soldiers' Bonus Board	8,000	8,000	11,040
Spanish-American War Vets	5,000	6,000	6,000
Supreme Court	216,000	239,000	260,300
Člerk	25,860	28,000	28,420
Reporter and Code Editor	47,008	47,008	49,500
Tax Commission	1,786,000	1,616,600	1,840,000
Treasurer	110,200	127,200	124,080
Uniform Laws, Commission on	1,600	2,100	2,400
Vocational Education, Board of	110,000	126,000	111,520
Rehabilitation Division	190,000	250,000	450,000
Veterans Education Program	20,000	None	None
_	20,000		
Total\$	16,784,887	\$18,738,234	\$20,594,172
BOARD OF CON	TROL (Support)	
	1949-51	1951–53	1953–55
Mental Health Institutes	1919-31	1991-99	1995-33
Cherokee\$	1,990,720	\$ 2,193,050	\$ 2,708,700
Clarinda	1,901,700	2,068,900	2,708,700
Independence	1,970,000	2,237,350	2,708,700
Mount Pleasant	1,946,800	2,115,827	2,708,700
State Homes			
Wittenmyer (Davenport)	768,200	934,698	1,036,420
Soldiers' (Marshalltown)	740,960	819,420	982,260
Juvenile (Toledo)	456,940	535,000	601,600
State School (Glenwood)	1,850,220	2,015,347	2,576,600
State School-Hospital			
(Woodward)	1,826,800	2,121,400	2,587,840
Reformatories			
Anamosa (Men's)	1,187,560	1,337,150	1,565,060
Rockwell City (Women's)	154,440	169,600	221,820
Training Schools			
Eldora (Boys')	670,000	737,400	885,200
Mitchellville (Girls')	335,390	338,000	360,100
Observation Mentally Ill	500,000	500,000	None
Penitentiary (Fort Madison)	1,508,740	1,548,400	1,853,260
Total\$	17,808,470	\$19,671,542	\$23,504,960

BOARD OF EDUCATION (SUPPORT)

	1949-51	1951-53	1953-55
State University (Iowa City)	\$10,406,000	\$12,600,000	\$15,653,000
Lake Side Laboratory	None	6,000	6,000
University Hospital	5,160,000	7,133,256	7,665,400
Psychopathic Hospital	520,000	624,000	751,372
Bacteriological Laboratory	267,500	271,500	396,600
Hospital-School	140,000	190,000	587,800
State College (Ames)	10,500,000	12,600,000	15,272,956
Teachers College (Cedar Falls)	4,468,854	5,273,000	5,645,460
Deaf (Council Bluffs)	733,000	880,600	1,036,382
Blind (Vinton)	487,000	501,482	647,400
Sanatorium (Oakdale)	1,264,000	1,540,000	1,747,960
	-		
Total\$	33,946,354	\$41,619,838	\$49,410,330

Social Welfare

	1949-51	1951–53	1953–55
Aid to Blind\$	700,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 820,000
Aid to Dependent Children	3,150,000	4,350,000	4,400,000
Child Welfare	440,000	440,000	600,000
Emergency Relief	60,000	80,000	20,000
Old Age Assistance	6,000,000	9,000,000	8,800,000
O. A. A. Fund (Standing)	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
_			
Total\$	30,350,000	\$34,420,000	\$34,640,000

STATE AID

	1949-51	1951-53	1953-55
District Schools			
Handicapped Children\$	1,052,000	\$ 1,052,000	\$ 992,000
Mining Camp Schools			
Emergency	54,000	54,000	54,000
Mining Camp Schools			
State Aid	90,000	90,000	90,000
Normal Institute	99,000	99,000	99,000
School Transportation	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
School Supplemental Aid	4,000,000	4,000,000	6,000,000
Vocational Education, Board			
of—Training Aid	None	None	200,000

Vocational Education, Board of—Training Aid			
(Standing)	None	400,000	400,000
	24,000,000	24,000,000	24,000,000
Credit (Standing)	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Total School Aid\$ Homestead-Credits	45,295,000	\$45,695,000	\$47,835,000
(Estimated)\$ State Mental Aid	36,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$48,000,000
County Payments (Standing) State Soil Conservation Committee	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
District Commissioners'			
Expense	100,000	100,000	100,000
Personnel and Expenses	400,000	500,000	600,000
Total Soil Conservation			A 700.000
Committee		\$ 600,000	\$ 700,000
Fair Board, Agri. Societies\$	350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 400,000
Total State Aid			*********
Total State Mu	883,145,000	\$92,645,000	\$97,935,000
	83,145,000 LLANEOI	•	\$97,935,000
Misce		•	\$97,935,000 1953–55
MISCE Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System\$	LLANEOI 1949–51	us	
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51	US 1951–53	1953–55
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None	US 1951–53 \$ None	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000 None	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000 10,000	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000 None
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000 None 1,000,000	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000 10,000 2,000,000	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000 None 2,000,000
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000 None 1,000,000	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000 10,000 2,000,000	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000 None 2,000,000
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000 None 1,000,000 50,000,000	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000 10,000 2,000,000 8,000,000 None	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000 None 2,000,000 None 3,768,000
Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System	LLANEOI 1949–51 None 2,000,000 None 1,000,000 50,000,000	1951–53 \$ None 3,000,000 10,000 2,000,000 8,000,000	1953–55 \$ 1,000,000 4,720,000 None 2,000,000 None

Lake Sewers	None		700,000		None
Public Safety, Dept. of	None		None		91,300
Executive Council	None		None		16,500
State Office Building	2,500,000		90,000		None
Total Capital	-	-			
Improvements\$	12,076,893	\$	1,179,000	\$	9,858,138
General Assembly					
56th G. A. (Estimated)\$	None	\$	650,000	\$	695,000
Legislative Printing					
(Standing)	None		35,000		75,000
Total\$	650,000	\$	685,000	\$	770,000
Claims to Be Authorized by the					
56th G. A. (Estimated)\$	None	\$	None	\$	110,000
Claims					
Legislative Committees	131,898		15,091		23,414
Miscellaneous	61,281		103,324		126,203
Total\$	193,179	\$	118,415	\$	149,617
Deficiency Appropriations\$	512,500	\$	None	\$	None
Miscellaneous	None		360,076		53,174
	5,000,000		None		None
Purchase of Land	17,000		None		None
*Total Appropriations\$2!	53,484,283	\$22	2,447,106	\$24	14,745,391

^{*}The above compilation was prepared by Glenn D. Sarsfield, State Comptroller.

Speaker of the House: Wm. S. Lynes

THE FIFTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATORS		SENATORS		
Name Address	District	Name	Address	District
Anderson, Carl TWellman	10	*Miller, Leon N.	-Knoxville	15
Bateson, R. R. (Rex)—Eldora	37	Molison, W. C		12
Bekman, Elmer K.—Ottumwa	13	Myrland, E. C		34
Bellman, G. D.—Indianola	11		W.—Packwood	2
Berg, John P.—Cedar Falls	38	Nesmith, James		29
Boothby, Laurence M.—Cleghorn	46	Nolan, D. C		25
Byers, Frank C.—Marion	26	Oltman, R. J		50
Clark, Ted D.—Mystic	3		e E.—Des Moines	30
Colburn, Jay C.—Harlan	18	Prentis, X. T		5
*Dailey, Thomas J.—Burlington	9	Risk, Don-Ind		33
Dewel, Duane E.—Algona	49	Sayre, Lorin B		16
Dykhouse, J. T.—Rock Rapids	24	Schoening, Erw		22
Elijah, Earl—Clarence	23	Scott, George L		40
Fishbaugh, E. C., Jr.—Shenandoah	7	Stewart, C. Em	The state of the s	14
Grimstead, Jacob—Lake Mills	41	Stuart, W. C		4
Hart, Stanley L.—Keokuk	1	*Utzig, Arnold-		35
Hedin, Philip T.—Davenport	21		arles S Sioux City	32
Heideman, Henry-Rockwell City	27	Vest, Alan—Sa		48
Johnson, A. J.—Elkader	36	Walter, W. Eld		28
Knudson, Herman M.—Clear Lake	43		ry W.—Hastings	8
Larson, Thomas C.—Blockton	6		re—Council Bluffs	19
Linnevold, William-Decorah	42	Watson, Harry	E.—Sanborn	47
Lord, Herman B.—Muscatine	20	Weichman, Har		45
Lucas, J. GMadrid	31	Whitehead, G. I		17
Lynes, J. Kendall—Plainfield	39		W.—Charles City	44

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIFTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Abel, L. W.—Guttenberg Armstrong, Otto-Ottumwa Ballhagen, W. W .- New Hartford Bass, Elmer A.—Red Oak Beck, Robert K.—Centerville Bloedel, A. S.—Tabor Brockmeyer, John-Lime Springs Brown, Carroll L.—Oskaloosa Brown, Mahlon N.-What Cheer Brownlie, John-Winterset Buck, Howard C.—State Center Burrows, R. O., Sr.—Belle Plaine Burtch, Charles R.—Osage Butler, Guy G .- Rolfe Carlson, Robert-Sioux City Christiansen, W. R.-Northwood Cooksey, Paul-Spencer Cornick, Raymond-New London Darrington, W. E.—Persia Eckels, Penn-Britt Edgington, Floyd P .- Sheffield Fairchild, Bert K.—Ida Grove *Falvey, L. A.—Albia Frey, T. J.—Neola *Frommelt, Andrew G.—Dubuque Gallup, Lee-Libertyville Goode, Dewey E .- Bloomfield Hadden, Roy-Castana Hanson, A. C .- Inwood Harris, Fay L.—Greenfield Hawkins, R. B.-Leon Hendrix, W. C .- Letts Henry, Jim O.—Carson Hinchliffe, Charles F.—Baldwin Hoover, Earl T .- Mount Ayr Hoth, Elmer A.—Postville *Democrats

Huisman, Robert-Sibley Jones, Alfred E.—Osceola Judd, William N.—Clinton Kerr, Francis L.—Manilla Klemesrud, Theo.—Thompson Koch, Frank-West Bend Kosek, Ernest-Cedar Rapids Kudsk, Soren S.—Carroll Kuester, G. T.—Griswold Lauer, Grant-Eldorado Lisle, Vern-Clarinda Lucken, J. Henry-Akron Ludwig, G. M.—Tiffin Lynes, William S.—Waverly Mallonee, L. Dee-Audubon McFarlane, Arch W.—Waterloo McNeal, Clark H .- Belmond McWhorter, Ray S .- Burt Mensing, A. L.—Lowden Meyer, Dwight W.—Odebolt Miller, Earl A.—Cedar Falls Moore, Kenneth R.—Morning Sun Mooty, W. L.—Grundy Center Morris, Conway E .- Dallas Center Nelson, Gladys S.—Newton Nelson, Harold "Lum" -- Sioux City Nicholson, Kirk R .- Bedford Novak, Emil L.—Fairfax Oberman, Claude-Yarmouth Oppedahl, Edward-Renwick Palmer, Ernest, Jr.—Fort Madison Parker, Paul—Des Moines Patrick, Russell A.—Hawarden Paul, George L.—Brooklyn Pedrick, Frank-Ottumwa Pendleton, Wendell-Storm Lake

Peters, John M.-Fort Dodge Peterson, Amos C.-Nashua Pim, Raymond T .- Lucas Putney, Lawrence-Gladbrook Ramseyer, H. W .-- Washington *Reilly, Robert C .- Dubuque Ringgenberg, Carl H .- Ames Robinson, G. E.-Manchester Ryan, Earl C .- Des Moines Sar, Martin E.—Charles City Scheerer, Chester A .- Boone Schroeder, Jack-Davenport Schwengel, Fred-Davenport Sersland, H. H .- Decorah Shaff, David O .- Camanche Sherod, C. D.—Birmingham Smith, Roy J .- Spirit Lake Soeth, Max M.—Estherville Steers, Edward J .- Creston Stephenson, O. C .- Corydon Stevens, Henry H .- Scranton Strawman, C. M.—Anamosa Tate, W. H. "Bill" -- Mason City Thompson, F. R.—Guthrie Center Turner, Ira L.-Malvern Turner, W. Oliver-Corning Van Zwol, Jacob-Paullina Vermeer, Elmer H.—Pella Voigtmann, Fred-Marengo Walker, John A.-Williams Walter, Paul M .- Union Watson, J. O., Jr.-Indianola Weiss, Albert-Denison Weston, L. O.—Stanley Whitney, W. E .- Aurelia Wilson, Melvin-Rockwell City



