

Messages of the Governors

In his farewell message to the legislature on January 10, Governor Loveless pulled down the curtain on four years in office by describing his administration as one "marked by strict adherence to sound fiscal policy." He expanded his report on the condition of the state during the last two years to include the four years of his administration.

Those four years brought improved efficiency and economy in government, Governor Loveless declared, but "the most conspicuous gains have been made in the improvement of services of government in meeting vital human needs." Iowans have properly concerned themselves for many years, the Governor said, "with the conservation of our soil — our basic resource," but "only recently have we begun to fully awaken to our enormous responsibilities in conserving and strengthening our human resources."

The Governor, who gained his greatest fame when he kept a 1956 campaign promise to veto an extension of the 1955-57 half-cent sales tax increase, pridefully told legislators that he was leaving office with an estimated unencumbered balance of \$44,380,805.21 in the state treasury as of

June 30, 1961. He did not mention his successor by name but noted that Governor-elect Erbe reportedly intends to reduce the state's working balance well below the \$24 million mark which various state comptrollers have said is essential. On this point he commented:

I would only remind you that the state government is a vast establishment and that unforeseen contingencies do sometimes arise. I would earnestly recommend that a sound working balance be maintained. Dissipation of cash reserve for recurring appropriations would be a mark of fiscal irresponsibility.

The Governor trained his big gun on the need for legislative reapportionment in the list of recommendations which he proposed. He challenged the Republican-controlled legislature to fulfill its reapportionment promises. He pledged the support of the Democratic minority to "any fair reapportionment plan you may propose." He added:

No issue in Iowa's history has ever been so buried in confusion and misinformation. I am personally convinced that if all of the citizens of our state could really know and understand the basic terms and issues involved, we could solve this problem in a manner acceptable to all. The word "reapportionment" and the phrase "one house on area, one house on population" are meaningless unless they provide reasonable equality of representation.

Other recommendations included: Four-year terms for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, changing most state offices from elective to ap-

pointive, the item veto, action on education, welfare, and other "human needs," and the establishment of a non-political state employee civil service system.

He also recommended a long-range financing program for capital improvements at state-supported institutions through a revenue or general obligation bond issue, adequate pensions for retired teachers, a merit scholarship program, reorganization of state government, adoption of a public defender system and modification of the right-to-work law to permit the union shop.

First Democrat to serve in the office since 1939, Governor Loveless wished the heavily Republican legislature and his Republican successor well, then smilingly served notice that the Democrats hope to come back in 1962 and 1964:

Cynics may say that we members of the minority in Iowa should be graceful in defeat since we have had considerable practice through the years. I can only say, looking ahead to 1962 and 1964 that we now feel we have served an adequate apprenticeship in that respect and do not plan to continue the trend.

Erbe Inaugural Message

In his inaugural address on January 12, Governor Erbe picked up where Governor Loveless ended when he told the legislature that it had unlimited opportunities to solve the state's pressing problems.

The first such problem, the new Governor said,

was legislative reapportionment. He expressed the hope that legislators would "fully discharge that obligation in a representative manner." It is "a vital issue" which should be resolved "on the federal basis of providing one house on area and one house on population," the Governor declared in taking a different tack from his predecessor, "with district representation in those counties with multiple legislators in the population house." He said reapportionment should be automatic in the population house every 10 years. By rejecting a constitutional convention last November, the Governor continued, Iowans had given legislators "a vote of assurance and confidence" that they will meet the reapportionment problem.

Governor Erbe was not as specific in his reference to the formula for distribution of the \$116 million road use tax fund among the primary, secondary and municipal highway systems. "The allocation of funds will properly receive serious consideration by your body," he observed, "and, I am sure, will result in a distribution which will be in the best interests of the people of Iowa."

The Governor forcefully presented the remainder of his program, calling on the legislature to:

. . . provide for property tax relief through increased agricultural land tax credit payments and increased state aid for schools.

. . . set up a long range building program at Board of Regents institutions.

. . . pass the judicial reform resolution so it can be submitted to the people as a proposed constitutional amendment.

. . . raise the limit of only one member per school of the alumni representation on the Board of Regents.

. . . extend terms of county attorneys and state elected officials from two to four years.

. . . create a state civil service system.

. . . authorize annual legislative sessions with one limited to fiscal affairs.

. . . lower the minimum voter age from 21 to 18.

. . . rearrange the state's eight congressional districts into seven of equal population.

. . . consider adopting a system of district attorneys to serve judicial districts for four year terms with adequate compensation.

. . . place county attorneys on a full-time salary basis to eliminate making them dependent on partial pay from court fines.

. . . adopt an implied consent law as well as a manslaughter-by-motor-vehicle provision to protect motorists from intoxicated drivers.

. . . re-examine the requirement for posting speed limits on secondary roads.

. . . provide better recreational facilities for Iowans and to attract tourists.

The Governor also called for:

. . . prompt removal of curbings from narrow highways as a safety measure.

. . . enabling legislation authorizing Iowa to participate in the federal Kerr-Mills medical care for aged program.

. . . continuing enabling legislation to permit establishment of local medical health centers.

. . . enabling legislation to permit municipalities to pro-

vide nursing homes and homes for the aged upon a favorable vote of the people.

The Governor said we all face "the challenge to develop a better Iowa" and that the state's favorable tax laws, ideal location and plentiful labor supply of "excellent quality" give the state "an ideal and fertile climate for greater promotion in the vital area of industry."

He expressed great pride in the accomplishments of Dr. Frank Spedding of Iowa State University in atomic research and of Dr. James A. Van Allen of the State University of Iowa in space research.

The Budget Message

A record "no tax increase" balanced budget of \$189,430,850 for each year of the biennium starting July 1, 1961, was recommended by Governor Erbe in his second message delivered February 2. This represented an increase of \$18,387,775 a year over the record high budget of 1959-61, but it was \$70,390,658 a year under the amount requested by various state departments for 1961-63.

On a per capita basis the proposed budget amounted to an outlay of \$68.69 a year for each of Iowa's 2,757,537 citizens. "I am presenting you a balanced budget which does not call for any tax increases," Governor Erbe told the legislature. "It is my belief that it will be possible to carry out the prevailing sentiment of the people regarding

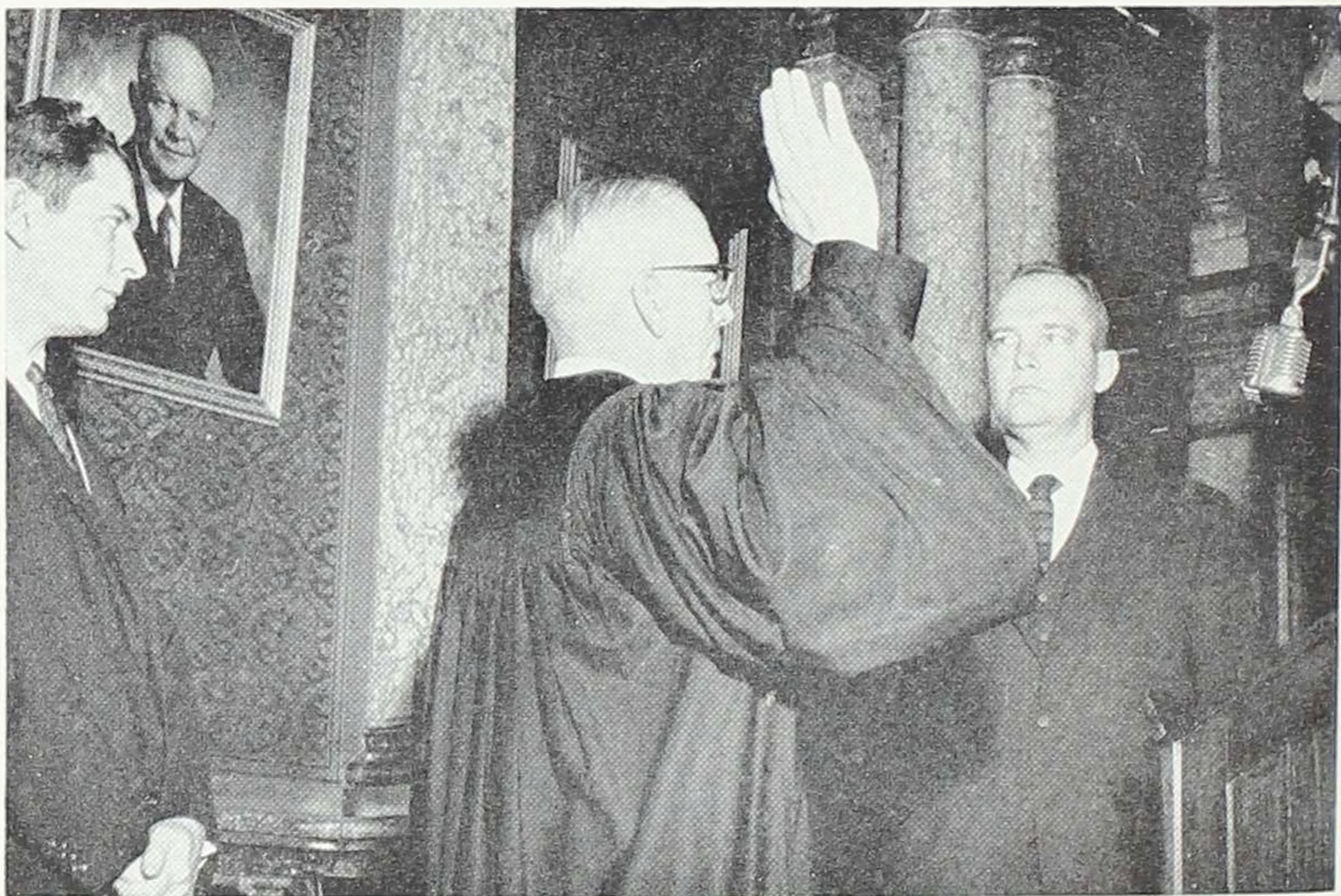


Governor Herschel C. Loveless hands keys to Governor-Elect Norman A. Erbe, wishes him well and . . .

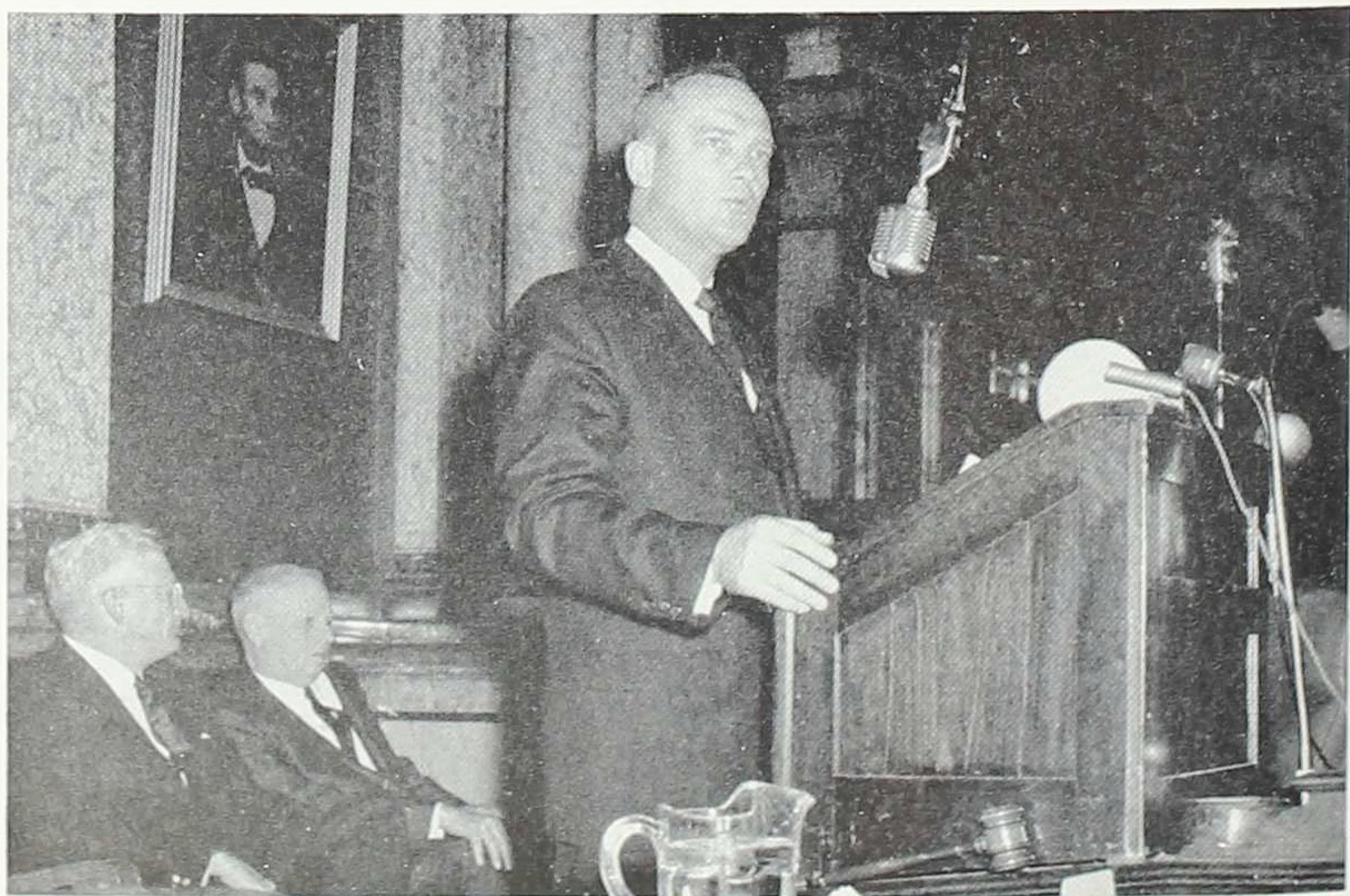


Photo by Tom Merryman of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*

. . . leaves the state Capitol for his home in Ottumwa upon completion of two terms in office.



Lt. Gov. Edward J. McManus watches Chief Justice Theodore G. Garfield administer oath to Norman A. Erbe as Iowa's 35th Governor, and then the new Chief Executive . . .



Photos by Tom Merryman of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*

. . . delivers his inaugural address as the new Lieutenant Governor, William L. Mooty, and Senator Irving D. Long, President Pro-tempore of the Senate, listen.



Inaugural ceremonies over, the new Governor and Mrs. Erbe hold reception for legislators, including Representative and Mrs. Tom Riley, in his office.



Photo by Tom Merryman of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*

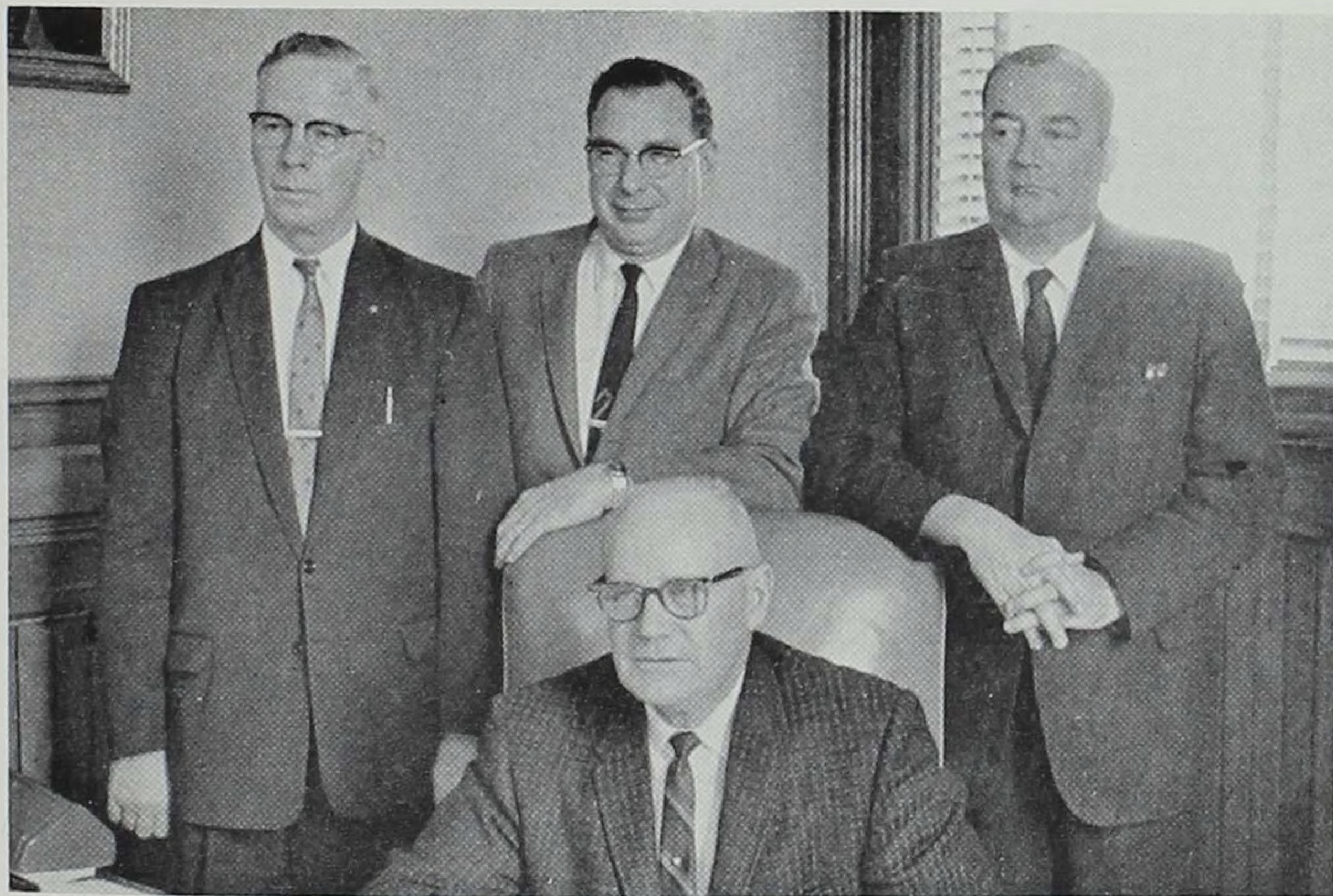
When the reception ends, Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Mooty get a word alone with Governor and Mrs. Erbe.



The session begins. Senate officers: Lt. Gov. Mooty (seated), Senators Irving D. Long, president pro tempore; J. Kendall Lynes, majority leader; Andrew G. Frommelt, minority leader.



Senate Majority Leader with Secretary Marie Capper.



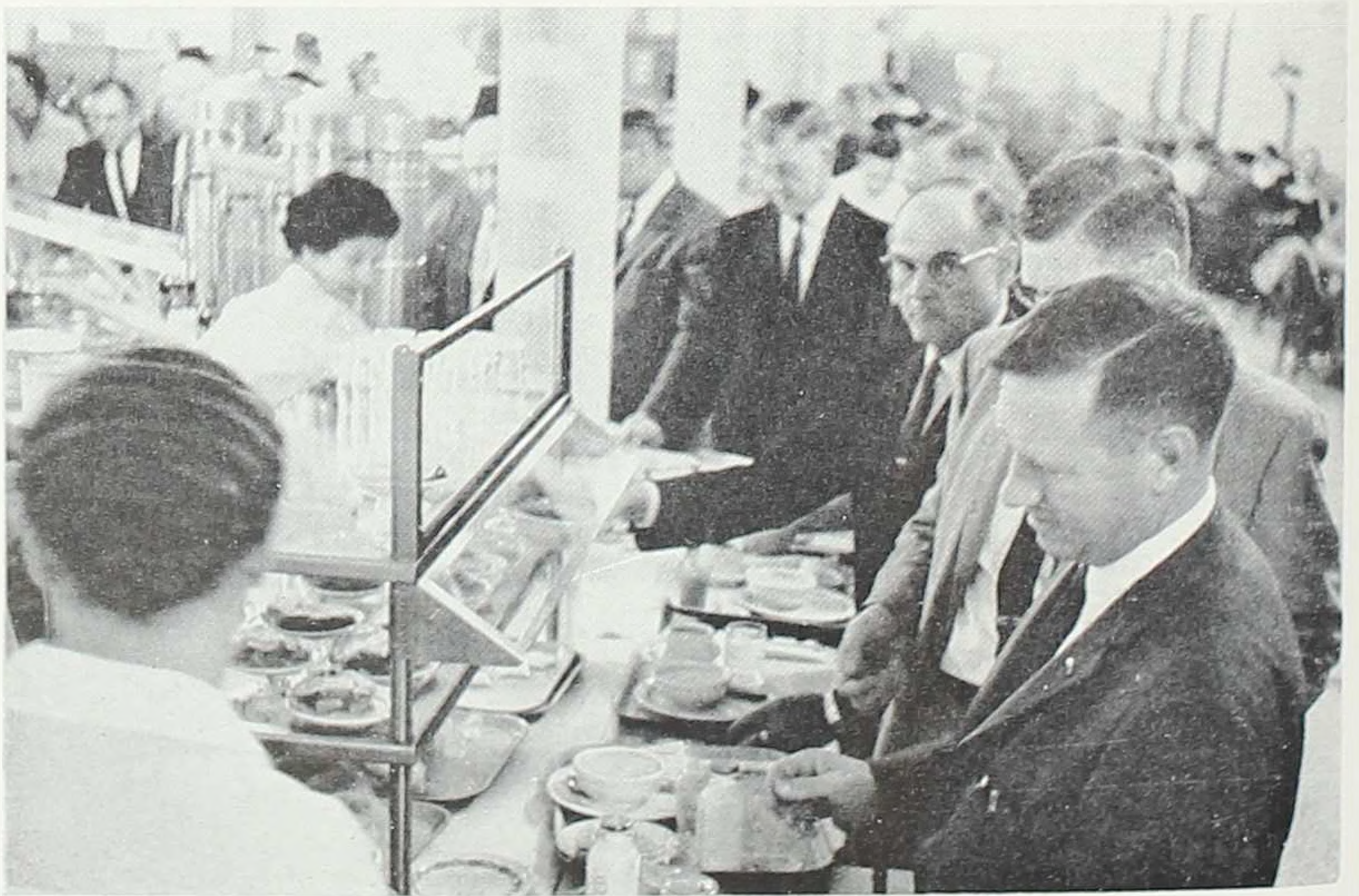
House officers: Representatives Henry C. Nelson, Speaker (seated); William E. Darrington, speaker pro tempore; Robert W. Naden, majority leader; Scott Swisher, minority leader.



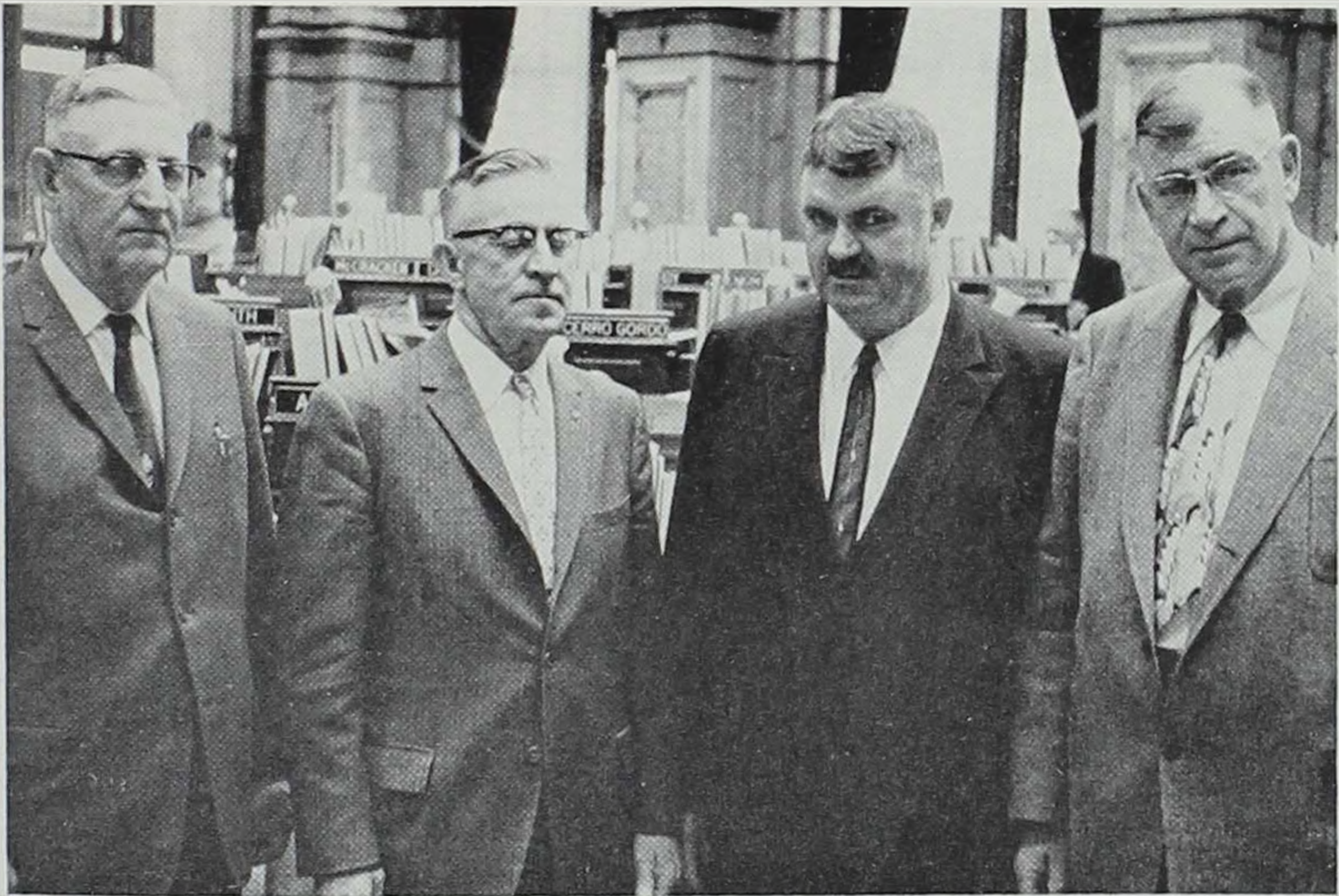
House Majority Leader Naden dictates a letter to his clerk, Rose M. Olson.



Minority leaders: Andrew G. Frommelt of the Senate and Scott Swisher of the House.



Lunch time: Representative Elmer H. Vermeer leads colleagues through cafeteria line in basement of Capitol.



Brother-Legislators: Representatives Fred B. Hanson and A. C. Hanson; Senator J. Kendall Lynes and Representative William S. Lynes. A. C. Hanson and J. Kendall Lynes were named "outstanding legislators" by press corps; A. C. Hanson and William S. Lynes are former House Speakers.



Photo by Representative Cunningham

House quartet: Representative Walter R. Hagen, Assistant Chief Clerk Burl B. Beam, Representatives Elroy Maule and Joseph G. Knock.

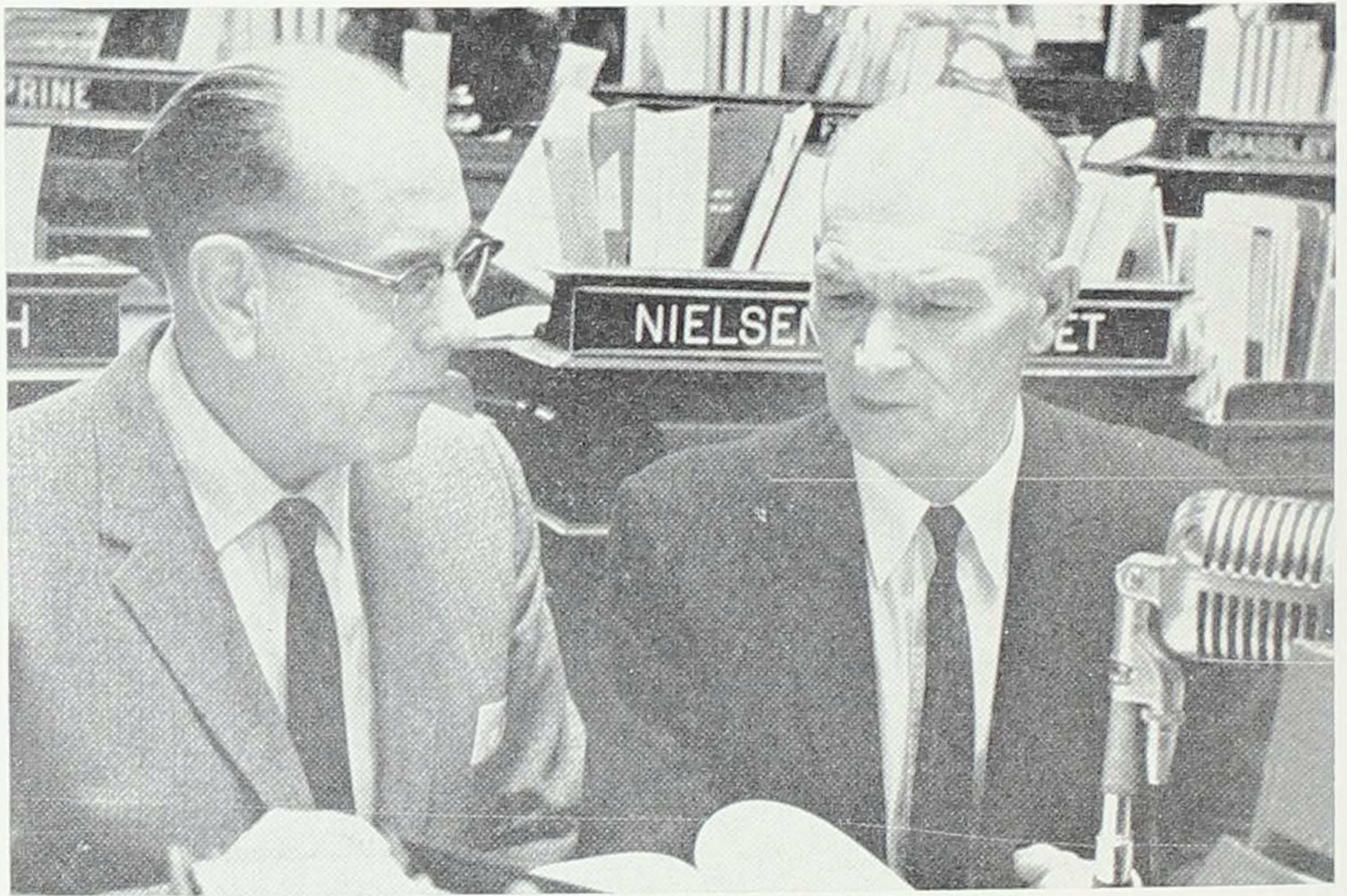


Photo by Tom Merryman of the Cedar Rapids Gazette

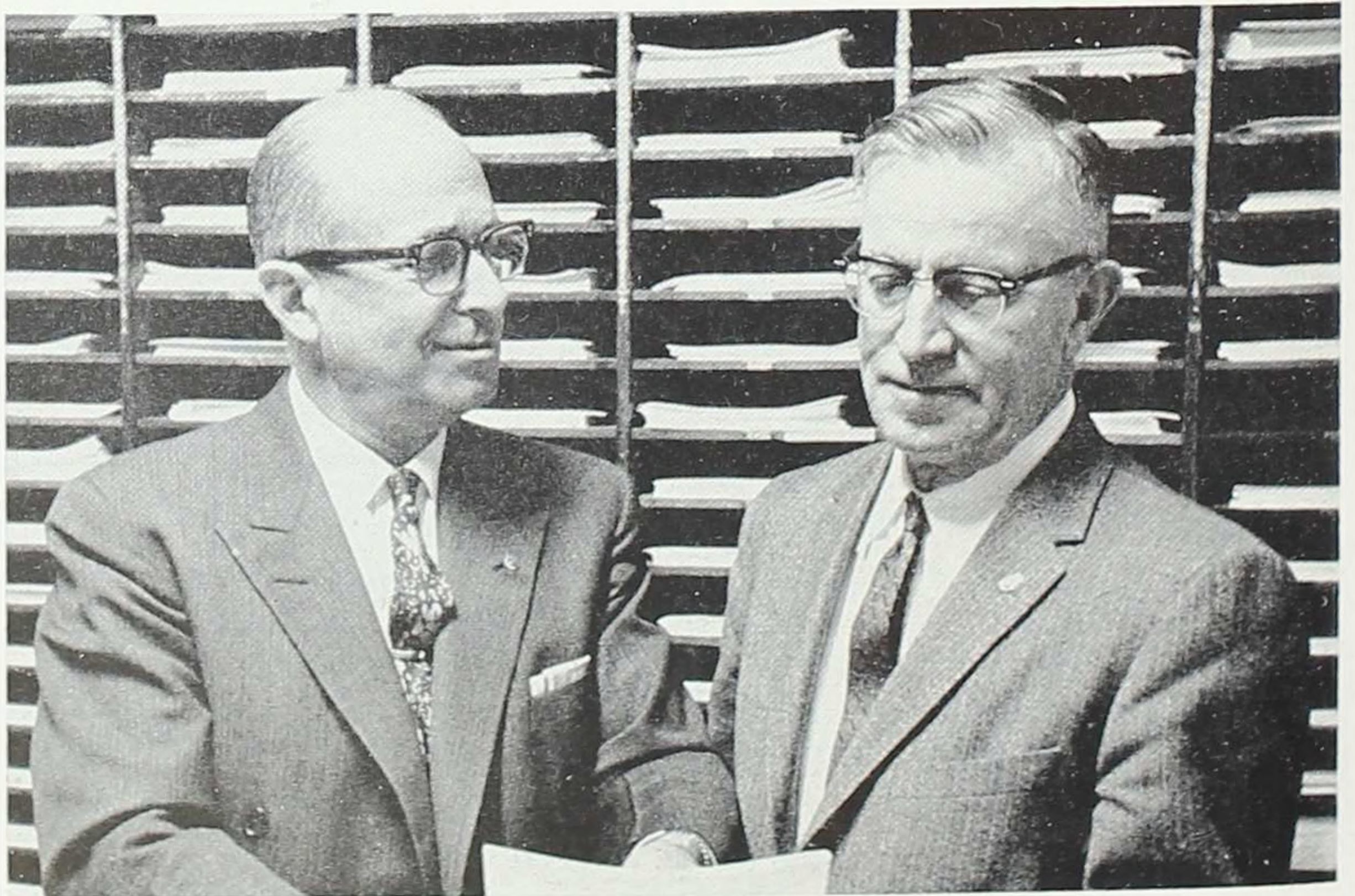
Governor Erbe delivers inaugural address before a joint session in the House of Representatives chamber.



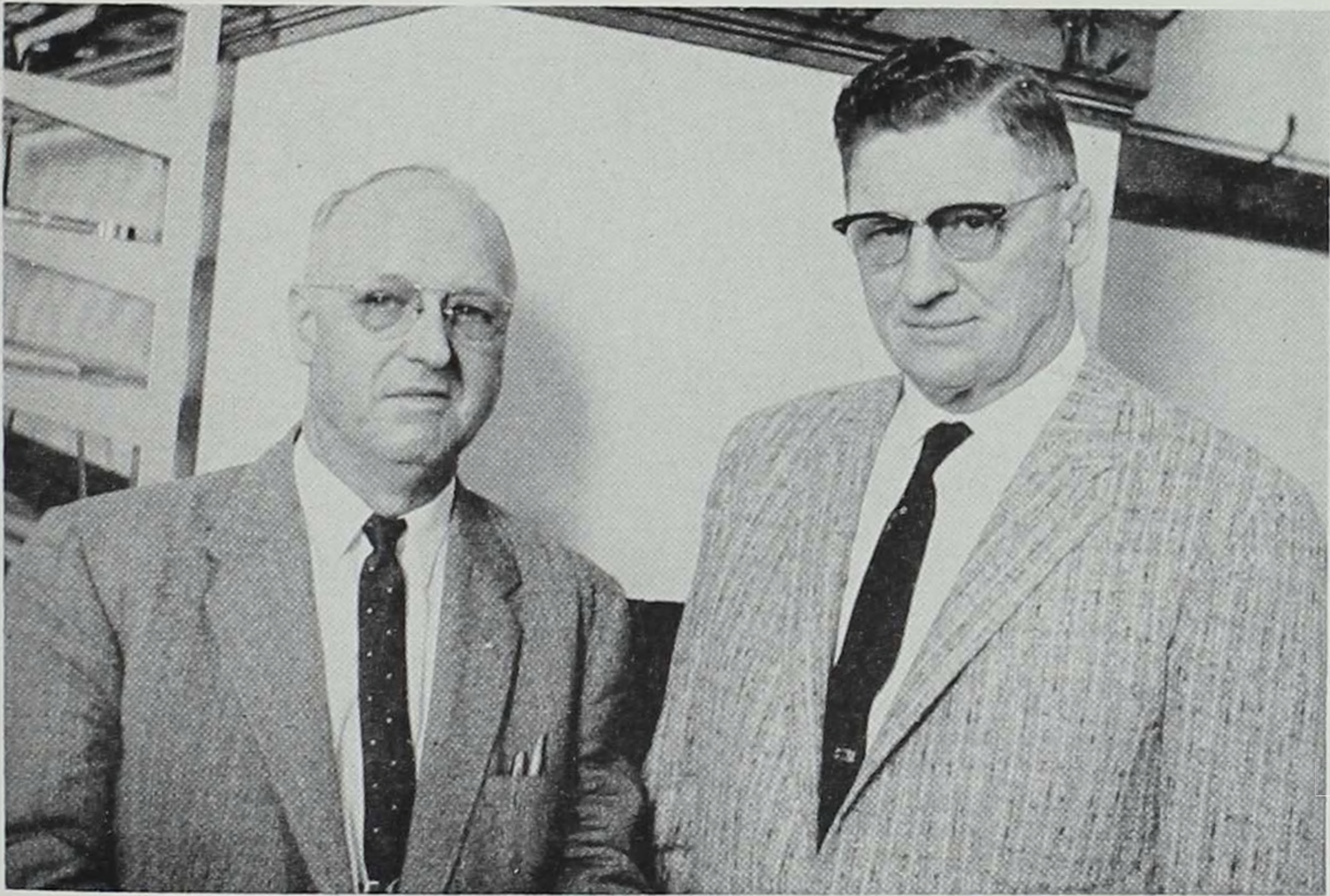
House of Representatives in session.



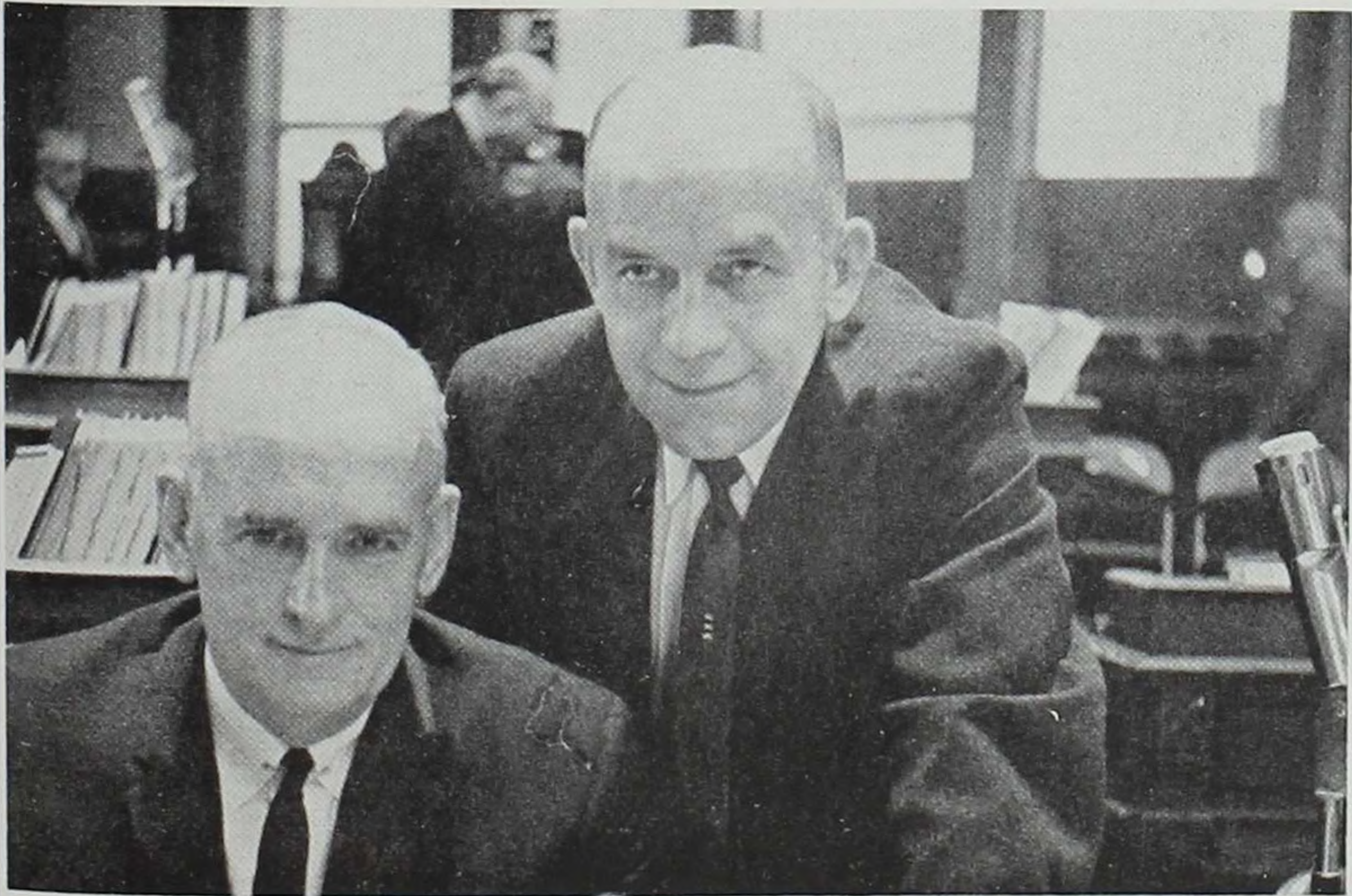
Chairmen of Appropriations Committees: Representative Ray C. Cunningham and Senator Lawrence Putney.



Chairmen of Ways and Means Committees: Senator X. T. Prentis and Representative A. C. Hanson.



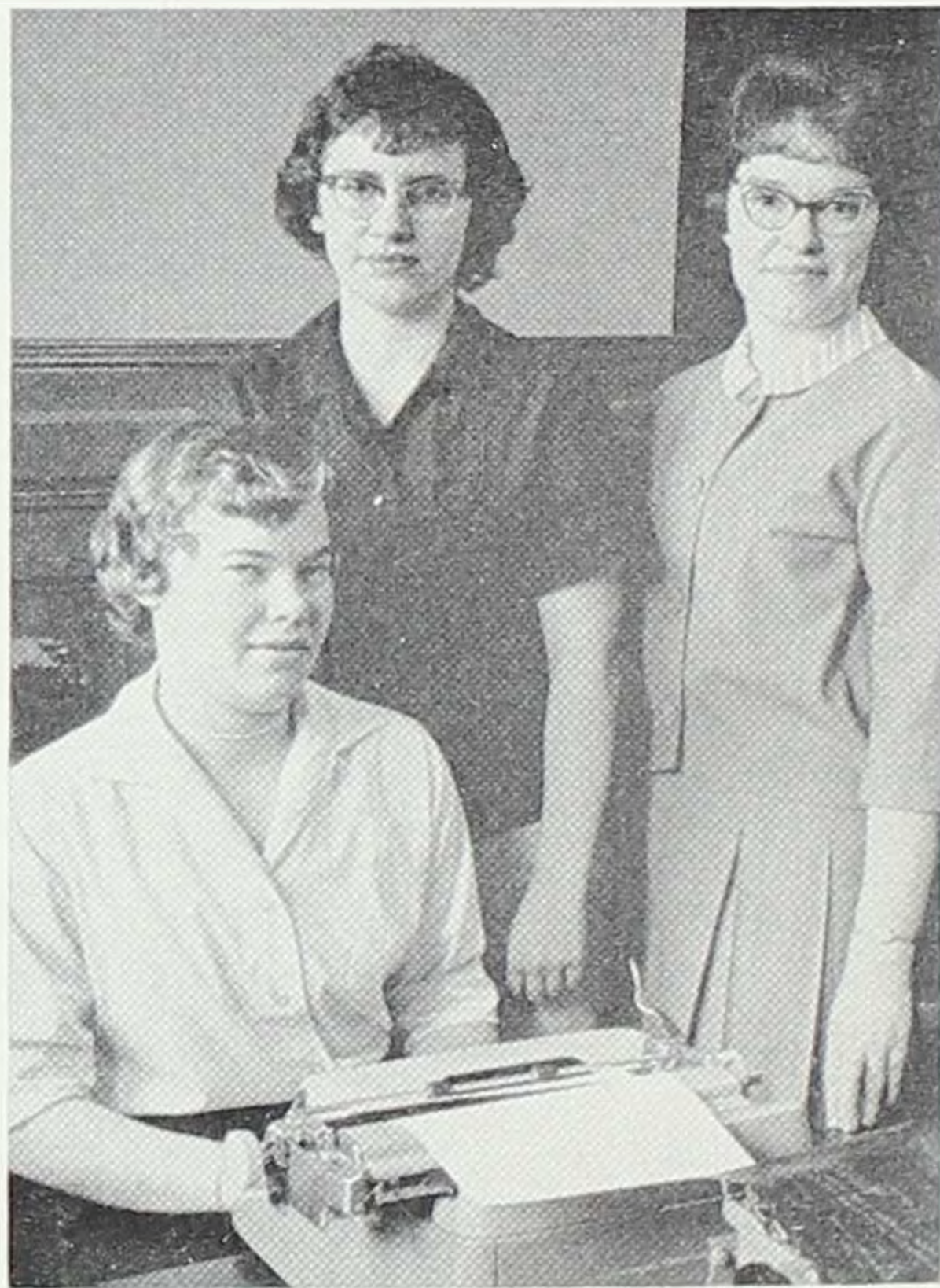
Chairmen of Reapportionment-Redistricting Committees: Senator Clifford M. Vance and Representative Marvin W. Smith.



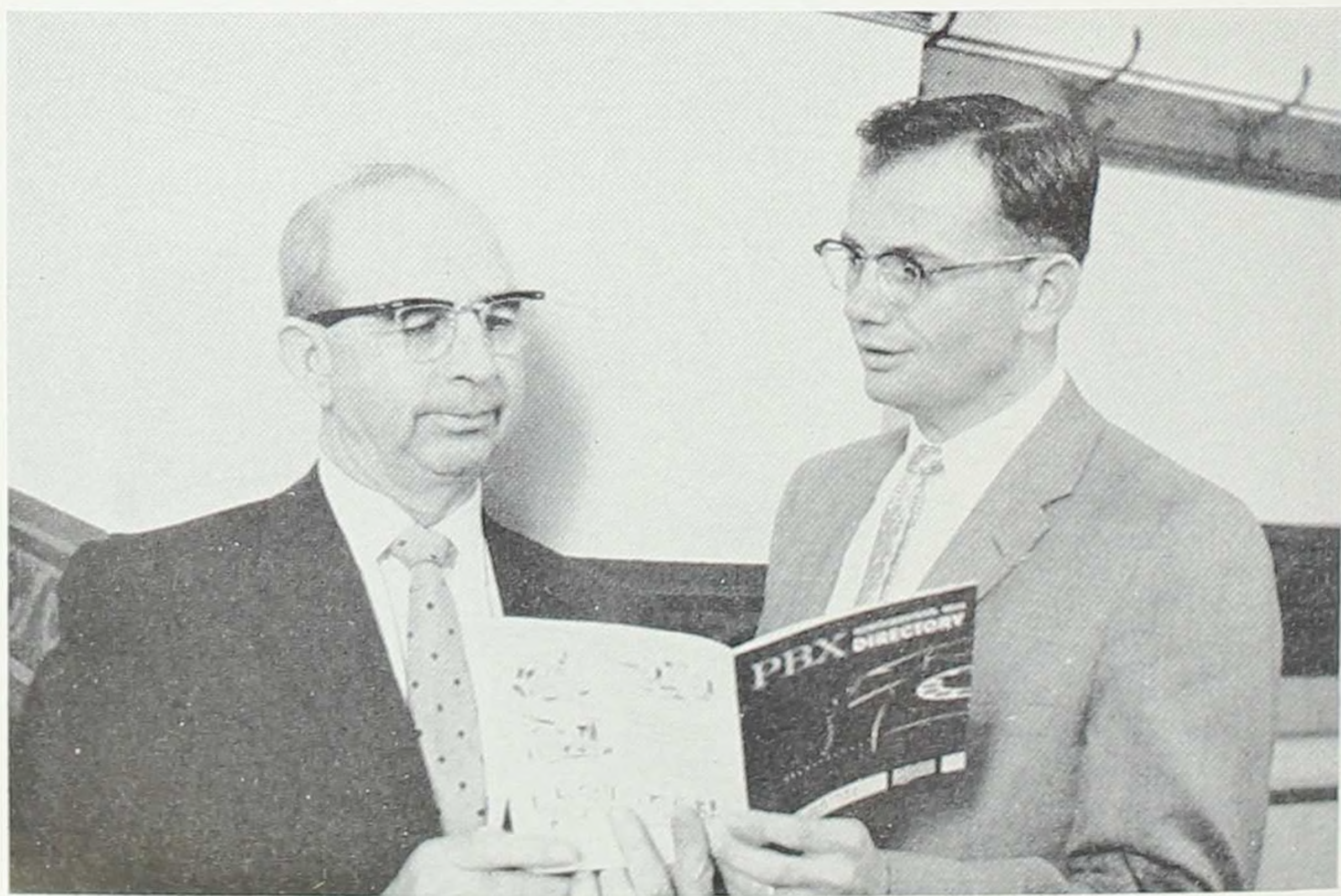
Chairmen of Roads and Highways Committees: Senator D. C. Nolan and Representative Russell L. Eldred.



Chairmen of Tax Revision committees: Senator Earl Elijah and Representative Elmer H. Vermeer.



House Clerks: Judy Wheeler, Pat Musel and Helen J. Coffman.



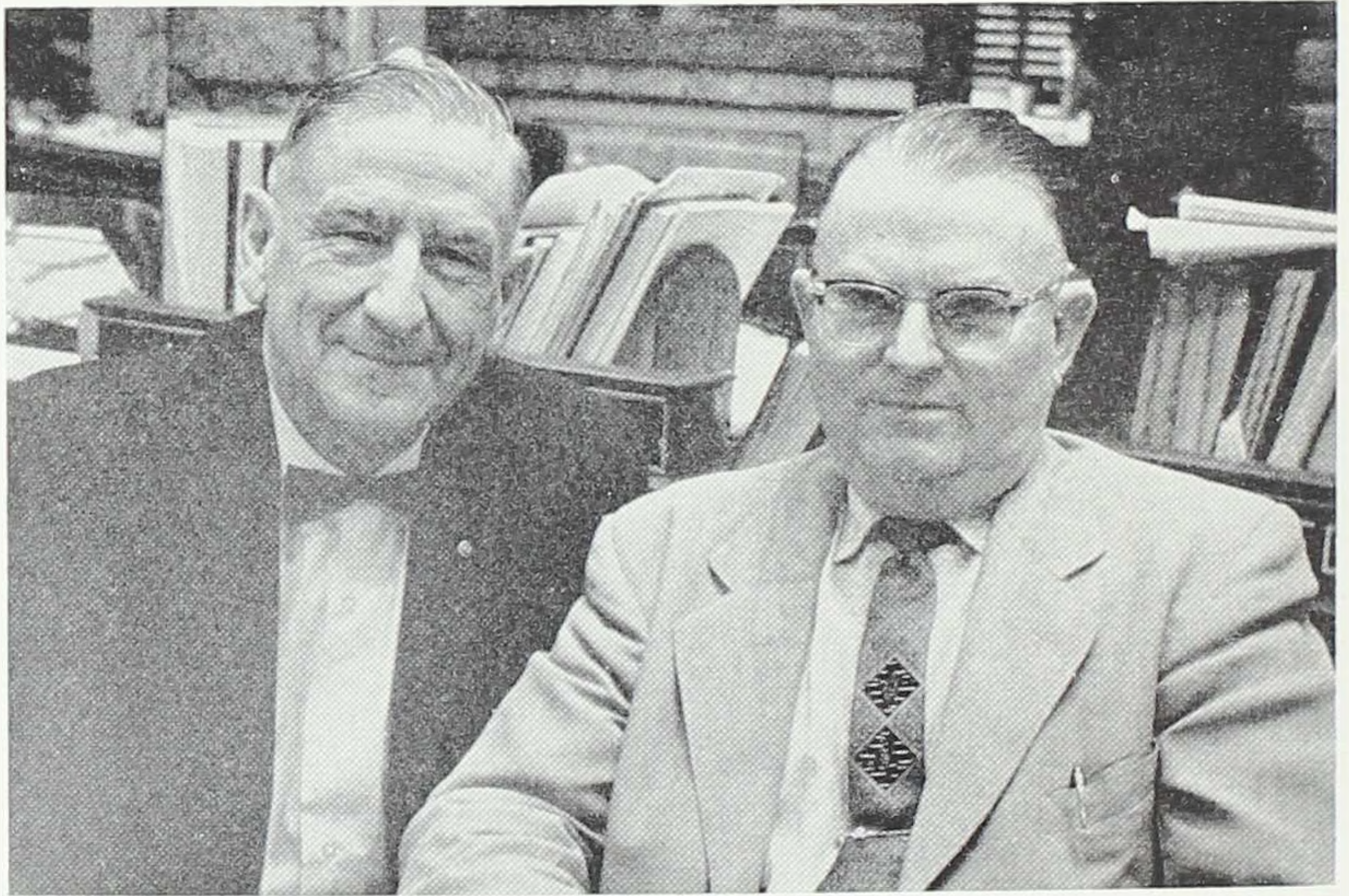
Chairmen of Schools committees: Representative Richard L. Stephens and Senator Robert R. Rigler.



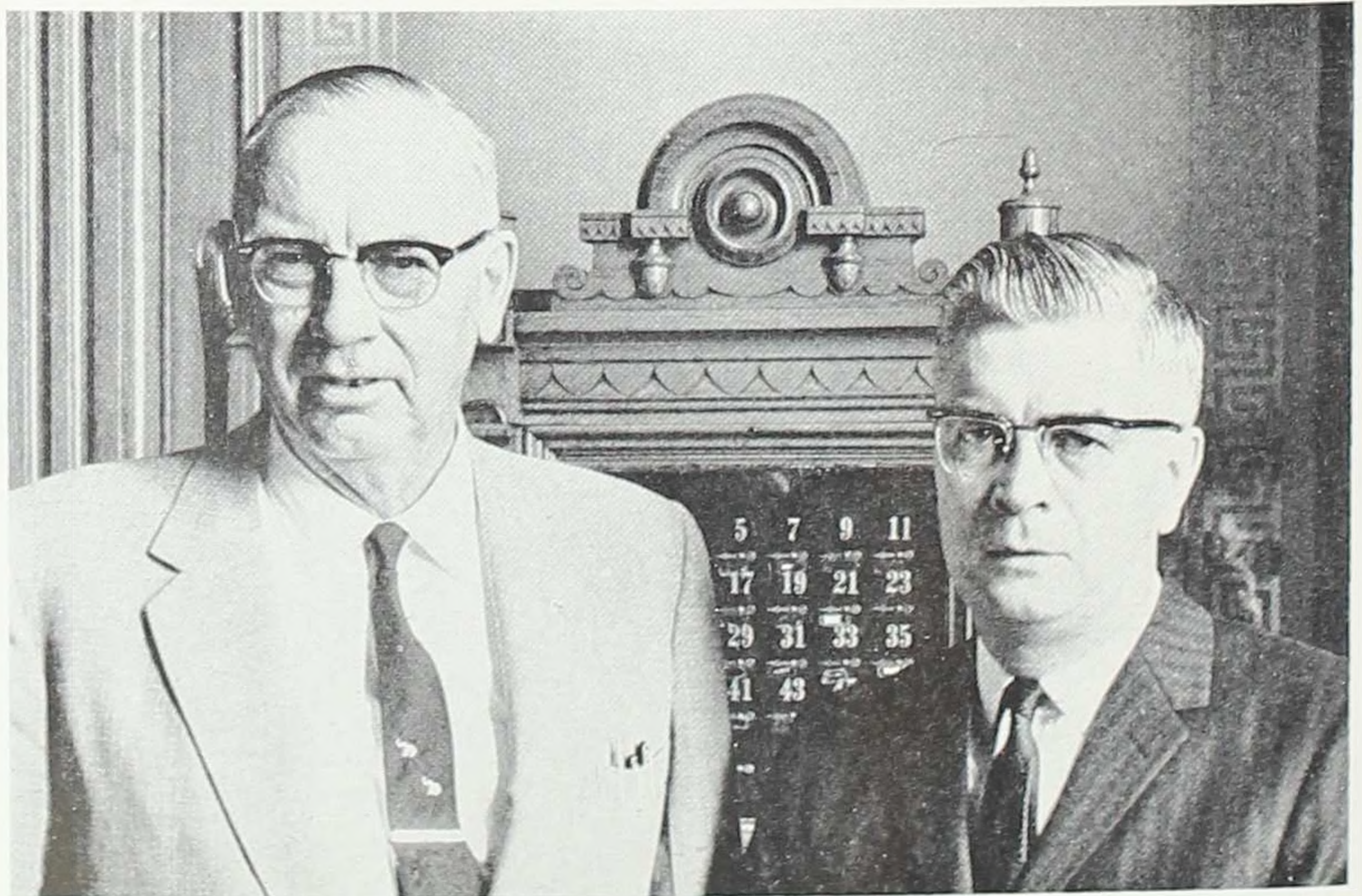
Senator Robert R. Rigler, Senate schools committee chairman, addresses Parent-Teachers delegation from Cedar Rapids at State Office building cafeteria.



Senate Reapportionment committee meets with Attorney General Evan L. Hultman to discuss legal problem concerning Senate redistricting.



House members with longest service records for their parties: Representatives W. J. Johannes, Democrat (10th session), and Dewey E. Good, Republican (12th).



Senator J. T. Dykhouse, holder of longest service record of any member of 59th G. A. (serving 13th session), greets Donald G. Beneke, newest Senator, sworn in May 4 to fill unexpired term of late Senator Guy G. Butler.



Queens of the Legislature: Representatives Katherine M. Falvey (seated), Lenabelle Bock, Frances Hakes and Percie Van Alstine.



Candidates for queens of Senate secretaries and House clerks as selected by pages: Linda Johnson, Kaye Curran, Karen Gladfelder, Mrs. Richard J. Freeland, Barbara Allison and Diane McElroy.



Governor Erbe signs highway fund distribution bill as Representative Eldred, John Baldrige of Iowa Good Roads Association, Chief Engineer L. M. Clauson of Iowa Highway Commission, and Richard Hileman of IGRA look on.



Governor Erbe signs into law one of 328 bills with Senator Joseph B. Flatt, Representatives Charles Balloun, William J. Coffman; Senator David O. Shaff; Representatives David E. Weichman and Kenneth L. Parker as witnesses.

revenues and tax relief and still move ahead in all essential areas."

The Governor redeemed a campaign pledge by recommending an increase of \$5,980,328 a year, nearly 25 per cent, for state aid to schools to help relieve property taxes. His proposed school aid figure was \$30,131,530 — a new high.

He redeemed another pledge by recommending a seven per cent increase of \$750,000 a year, to a new high of \$11,250,000, in credit against school taxes on agricultural land in school districts. The Governor estimated this amount would pay in full all such credits between 15 and 20 mills in school districts levying more than 15 mills.

Governor Erbe also recommended increasing current appropriations from:

. . . \$36,577,822 to \$40,373,000 a year, about 10 per cent, for the operation of Board of Regents institutions and from \$8,248,655 to \$10,417,000 a year, about 26 per cent, for building needs at these institutions.

. . . \$21,674,820 to \$24,922,640 a year, about 10.3 per cent, for the operation of Board of Control institutions and from \$2,581,727 to \$3,247,820, about 25 per cent, for building needs at these institutions.

. . . \$4,863,800 to \$5,477,460 a year, about 12.6 per cent, for the Department of Public Safety.

. . . \$7,442,910 to \$8,309,285 a year, about 4.3 per cent, for the operation of state administrative departments.

. . . \$28,200,000 to \$29,165,000 a year for homestead tax credits.

. . . \$18,335,000 to \$18,908,500 a year, about 3.12 per cent, for the Board of Social Welfare.

The Governor recommended reducing current appropriations from:

. . . \$7,336,783 to \$7,172,785 a year for miscellaneous state services (including State Soil Conservation Commission, Iowa Development Commission, district court judges, Iowa State Fair Board, State Historical Society, Hoover Birthplace Society, national and state guards, Civil Defense Administration, reciprocity board and Mississippi Parkway Planning Commission).

. . . \$1,527,850 to \$1,268,550 a year for miscellaneous building needs.

. . . \$1,262,500 to \$1,260,000 for miscellaneous state aids to local communities.

Governor Erbe noted that his proposed budget called for \$174.5 million a year for operational purposes and \$14.9 million a year for building needs. He said an anticipated four per cent growth factor in present major tax revenues would make up the difference between current and proposed operational expenditures. He proposed dipping into the state surplus for the \$14.9 million annual outlay for capital improvements. The Governor estimated the surplus at \$45,898,788.37 as of June 30, 1961 — \$1,517,983.16 more than former Governor Loveless had pegged it in his farewell message.

Governor Erbe cautioned that his proposal would mean reducing the surplus to an estimated \$16,031,848.27 on June 30, 1963 — about \$9 million under what is generally regarded as necessary for a working balance.

He added, however, that the working balance would not be endangered provided the legislature rewrote the law to permit transfer of revenue from 10 per cent of the sales tax to the road use tax fund from the general fund in the last three months of the year rather than monthly.

The Governor reiterated his inaugural address request for legislation permitting Iowa to participate in the federal program of medical care for senior citizens but did not propose an appropriation to carry this out. He did suggest that any surplus remaining in the fund used to pay the bonus to Korean war veterans might serve to pay the initial cost of Iowa's share of a medical care program.

In conclusion, the Governor candidly remarked that the time has come for Iowans to decide how much government they want and are willing to pay for, observing:

The burden now rests with our constituents to tell you whether this program is adequate and if it is not, whether they are ready and willing to pay the price for more.

It would seem imperative to keep the tax structure on a basis that will not strangle the individual initiative of our Iowa citizens. . . .

Iowa's "sound economy" has resulted, Governor Erbe concluded, from fiscal conservatism based on a pay-as-we-go program.

FRANK T. NYE