

Composition of the Assembly

Once the votes cast for national and state offices were counted in the 1960 election, attention turned to legislative races where the Republican trend in Iowa continued to evidence itself. Democrats had experienced their biggest legislative gains in 20 years at the polls in 1958. But this time they lost 18 seats in the House and two in the Senate in the official canvass.

Thus, 78 Republicans and 30 Democrats were on hand in the House, together with 35 Republicans and 15 Democrats in the Senate, when the 59th General Assembly was called to order on January 9, 1961.

In occupations, agricultural interests continued to dominate the legislative scene. Eighty-five sessions listed themselves as farmers or in closely aligned pursuits. This compared to 81 two years previously and to 82 in the 1957 session. Lawyers came in second although their number — 22 — was down slightly from 1959 when there were 24, and from 1957 when there were 28.

The number of lawyers was increased to 23 during the last week of the session when Donald G. Beneke, a Republican attorney from Laurens, was sworn in as a member of the Senate to suc-

ceed Senator Guy G. Butler of Rolfe, a Republican veteran serving his seventh session, who died on April 12. Senator Beneke was chosen to fill Senator Butler's unexpired term in the Fiftieth district at a special election on May 1. He took the oath May 4.

Here is a breakdown of the membership by occupations:

Occupation	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Farmer	37	12	13	4	66
Lawyer	7	5	7	2	21
Retired	8	1	0	1	10
Farmer-Businessman..	5	2	2	0	9
Businessman	0	2	4	0	6
Insuranceman	5	0	1	0	6
Real Estate-Insurance	2	0	1	2	5
Farmer-Banker	1	0	2	0	3
Banker	0	1	2	0	3
Retired Farmer	0	2	1	0	3
Veterinarian	0	0	1	1	2
Housewife	2	0	0	0	2
Auctioneer	1	1	0	0	2
Manufacturer	2	0	0	0	2
Farmer-Teacher	1	1	0	0	2
Lumber Business	0	2	0	0	2
Auto Dealer	0	0	1	0	1
Restaurant Operator..	0	0	0	1	1
Professor	0	0	0	1	1
Investments	0	0	0	1	1
Assembler	0	0	0	1	1
Accountant	0	0	0	1	1
Animal Nutritionist....	1	0	0	0	1
Speaker-Counselor	1	0	0	0	1

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 517

Roofing Contractor....	1	0	0	0	1
Businessman-Lawyer	1	0	0	0	1
Creamery President..	1	0	0	0	1
Drainage Engineer....	1	0	0	0	1
Teacher	1	0	0	0	1
Purchasing Agent.....	0	1	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	78	30	35	15	158

Membership turnover in the legislature averages about 33 per cent every two years. This year there were 47 new legislators — a turnover rate of only 29.7 per cent, which was identical with that of 1959. The turnover rate from 1955 to 1957 was 32.9 per cent, exactly the same as from 1953 to 1955. This table shows the session in which each 1961 legislator was serving:

<i>Session</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
First	32	6	7	2	47
Second	15	10	2	8	35
Third	13	7	4	2	26
Fourth	7	4	5	0	16
Fifth	4	0	5	2	11
Sixth	2	1	1	0	4
Seventh	3	1	4	1	9
Eighth	1	0	2	0	3
Ninth	0	0	1	0	1
Tenth	0	1	1	0	2
Eleventh	0	0	2	0	2
Twelfth	1	0	0	0	1
Thirteenth	0	0	1	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	78	30	35	15	158

Honors for the longest service record of any member serving in 1961 went to Senator J. T. Dykhouse, 71, of Rock Rapids, for whom this was session No. 13. First elected in 1936, Senator Dykhouse was a "freshman" in the 47th General Assembly in 1937 and has been a legislator ever since. This record also gave him prior claim to the longest continuous service.

Trailing him by only two years for the longevity record was Representative Dewey E. Goode of Bloomfield, serving his twelfth session. Goode was first elected in 1932 and has served in all except three sessions since. Both Senator Dykhouse and Representative Goode are Republicans.

Longevity honors among Democrats went to Representative W. J. Johannes of Ashton, serving his tenth session, and Senator George E. O'Malley of Des Moines, serving his seventh. The latter's service was continuous, deadlocking him for that honor with Representative Casey Loss of Algona, serving his seventh consecutive session.

For the second straight legislative year Republicans took honors for having both the youngest and oldest members and they were the same two gentlemen who won them in 1959 — Representative Charles E. Grassley of New Hartford, 27, and Senator George W. Weber of Columbus Junction, 77. Oldest Republican in the House was Representative Fred B. Hanson of Osage, 72, and

the youngest Republican in the Senate was Senator Richard C. Turner of Council Bluffs, 33.

Youngest Democrat in the House was Representative John P. Kibbie of Emmetsburg, 31, while Senator Melvin H. Wolf of Waterloo, 38, was the youngest Democrat in the Senate. Oldest Senate Democrat at 72 was Senator Robert G. Moore of Dunlap, while Representative Johannes took similar honors in the House at 70.

Here is the age range table of the 1961 lawmakers:

Age Range	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
26-30	2	0	0	0	2
31-35	5	2	2	0	9
36-40	9	3	5	3	20
41-45	8	6	1	2	17
46-50	10	3	2	5	20
51-55	11	2	4	1	18
56-60	14	3	9	1	27
61-65	10	8	6	1	25
66-70	5	3	0	1	9
71-75	4	0	5	1	10
76-80	0	0	1	0	1
Totals.....	78	30	35	15	158

Average age of legislators, which had been following a downward trend since 1953, shot upward sharply in 1961. In 1951 and 1953 the average age was an identical 53 years. It dropped to 52 in 1955, to 51.8 in 1957 and to 50.8 in 1959. It took a jump of nearly two years to 52.6 in 1961.

Here is the average age table of legislators serving in the last three sessions:

Year	House			Senate			Both Houses		
	Rep.	Dem.	T.	Rep.	Dem.	T.	Rep.	Dem.	T.
1961	51.8	52.3	52.0	55.8	50.1	54.1	53.0	51.6	52.6
1959	50.4	49.5	50.1	54.1	48.1	52.1	51.7	49.6	50.8
1957	52.7	50.0	51.9	53.6	47.5	50.6	53.0	49.0	51.8

From the standpoint of educational background, all but seven of the 158 members had profited from high school training and 110 had taken work beyond high school. In 1959 the number with high school training stood at 150, of whom 111 took further academic work. In 1957 these figures were 143 and 116. Here is the educational background table for 1961's membership:

	College or beyond H.S.		High School		Grade School		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Senate	30	9	5	5	0	1	50
House	55	16	20	11	3	3	108
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	85	25	25	16	3	4	158

Seventy-one members had served in World Wars I, II or in Korea, or in the armed forces since Korea, compared to 78 in 1959.

Served	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
World War I.....	10	10	4	3	27
World War II, Korea or since	21	8	9	6	44
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	31	18	13	9	71

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 521

Excepting two members, all legislators in the 1961 session belonged to a church or had a church preference. Methodists, who predominated in 1959 with 51 members, led again in 1961 with 50.

Denomination	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Methodist	26	9	14	1	50
Presbyterian	17	2	7	1	27
Lutheran	9	3	4	0	16
Catholic	2	7	1	5	15
Baptist	3	2	4	0	9
Protestant	4	1	1	1	7
Congregational	3	1	2	0	6
Christian	1	0	1	1	3
Episcopal	2	0	0	1	3
Reorganized Latter Day Saints	2	0	1	0	3
Community Church	3	0	0	3	3
United Presbyterian	0	0	0	2	2
Evangelical United Brethren	0	2	0	0	2
Church of Christ.....	1	1	0	0	2
First Reformed	2	0	0	0	2
Quaker	1	0	0	0	1
Unaffiliated	1	0	0	0	1
Evangelical and Reformed	0	0	0	1	1
Hebrew	0	0	0	1	1
Non-sectarian	0	0	0	1	1
Unitarian	0	1	0	0	1
Federated	0	1	0	0	1
United Church of Christ	1	0	0	0	1
Totals.....	78	30	35	15	158

Of the 158 members, 128 were born in Iowa compared to 131 who were natives in 1959. This table shows the birth places of the members:

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Iowa	58	29	29	12	128
Illinois	6	0	1	0	7
Indiana	2	1	0	0	3
Minnesota	3	0	0	0	3
Missouri	2	0	0	1	3
Kansas	1	0	1	0	2
Nebraska	1	0	1	0	2
Arkansas	1	0	0	0	1
Austria	0	0	0	1	1
Montana	0	0	1	0	1
New York	1	0	0	0	1
North Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1	0	1
Pennsylvania	0	0	0	1	1
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
Washington	0	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin	1	0	0	0	1
Totals.....	78	30	35	15	158

Aside from the appreciable increase in the number of Republican members, the slight upward trend in the average age of the membership and the downward trend in the number of veterans among the members, there was little difference in the makeup of the membership of the 59th General Assembly from that of the 58th.

FRANK T. NYE