

Major Legislation

Different was the word, all right. Even a cursory look at legislative results proved it. For one thing, fewer laws were passed. For another, 14 bills were vetoed — a new record. For a third, three of the 14 bills were passed over the Governor's veto — another new record. This, perhaps more than any other thing, indicated the temper of the Republican-controlled legislature during the session's closing days. All told, 305 new laws were passed, as indicated below.

	<i>House</i> <i>Bills</i>	<i>Senate</i> <i>Bills</i>	<i>Total</i>
Introduced	604	397	1,101
Passed by one house; then recalled	1	0	1
Withdrawn	32	68	100
Indefinitely postponed	43	0	43
Failed to pass.....	12	5	17
Tabled	3	0	3
Passed both houses; then failed through non-concurrence	1	1	2
Passed	269	141	410
Sent to Governor.....	197	119	316
Signed by Governor.....	183	113	296
Law without Governor's signature	4	2	6
Vetoed by Governor.....	10	4	14
Passed over veto	3	0	3
New laws	190	115	305
Laws repealed	1	0	1

All other bills died in committees for want of support. However, bare statistics do not tell the entire story of legislative results. In addition to bills, 115 resolutions (joint, concurrent, and one-house) were introduced. Only joint resolutions adopted by both houses must be sent to the Governor and he signed all five (four House, one Senate) that reached him. The remaining 36 (21 House, 15 Senate) failed of passage.

The legislature did pass 41 (13 House, 28 Senate) of the 54 (18 House, 36 Senate) concurrent resolutions introduced, while the House passed 12 of its 14 one-house resolutions and the Senate five of the six that its members introduced. The legislature missed an opportunity to override the Governor's veto of the sales tax measure because it had adjourned. The Governor's veto was announced on May 24 and made good his campaign promise to thwart any attempt to extend the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent rate beyond its June 30, 1957, expiration date. This promise had been reaffirmed several times during the session.

The vetoed tax bill provided for extension of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent tax for two years beyond its expiration date. It also called for extension of temporary increases in the individual and corporation tax rates, adopted in 1955. The Governor was not opposed to these extensions but Iowa law allows no "item veto" so he had to reject the whole bill.

Even if the legislature had been in session when the tax bill was vetoed, doubt existed that the Governor would have been overridden, because the Republicans needed the vote of every one of their House members to assure the two-thirds majority needed to override. This was an unlikely prospect inasmuch as Republicans from many counties bordering sales-tax-free Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin were as much against the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent sales tax rate as was the Governor himself, and had served notice not to count on them to override a tax bill veto. Two Republicans, T. J. Frey of Pottawattamie and Jack Miller of Woodbury, went to the Democratic Governor immediately after the tax bill was passed to urge him to veto it. Representative Frey declared "the Republicans signed their own death warrant by passing this bill." Senator Miller, who had fought the bill vociferously and bitterly, promptly said to Governor Loveless: "As a member of the Senate I told the Senate that if the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent sales tax rate passed I would come to you to ask you to veto it. Not as a Republican but as a representative of my people, I'm asking you to veto this bill." Replied the Governor: "Rest assured I'll veto it."

The three bills vetoed by the Governor and passed over his vetoes by the legislators were:

H.F. 113 — permitting garnishment for debt. Governor Loveless cited reasons in the late Gov-

ernor Beardsley's veto of a similar bill in 1953 in his own veto message. He also said the bill would make every employer a potential collection agency, that the cost of garnishment would absorb too much of the earnings subject to garnishment and that temporary loss of income through illness or unemployment would create hardships "which can delay, or prevent, the establishment of a solvent family budget."

H.F. 162 — exempting farmers from paying sales tax on gasoline used in crop and livestock production, and on chemicals used to control animal diseases, weeds, and insects as well as in crop and livestock production. The Governor listed five reasons for disapproving this bill and concluded his veto message by saying "the time has arrived to resist pressures for further exemptions." He said it seemed inappropriate to grant sales tax exemptions to businesses which encounter economic difficulties and argued that there should not be a different standard applied to agricultural producers. "While such exemptions are always alleged to relieve this or that inequity," he observed, "a careful examination of the state's tax system gives overwhelming evidence that the long list of exemptions has necessitated higher rates on the remaining taxable base, and has created more inequities than it has eliminated."

H.F. 372 — exempting city transit lines from paying the state gasoline tax and from certain

registration fees for the two years ending June 30, 1959. The Governor said this bill constituted "an attempt to cope with what is essentially a local problem by means of legislation having a uniform, state-wide applicability." He said it did not take into account the "rather wide range of differences in the financial conditions of the several urban transit systems," and pointed out that some companies made net profits before income taxes, according to the 1955 transit study committee report. He also repeated some of the reasons given in his message vetoing *H.F. 162*.

Other bills vetoed by the Governor included:

S.F. 23 — providing for a property tax levy on flight property of commercial airlines.

S.F. 83 — permitting the attorney general to appoint special assistants and to assign them to certain state departments at salaries set by him.

S. F. 491 — relating to payment of the state's share, as an employer, of taxes levied for support of the Iowa Employees Retirement System.

H.F. 167 — permitting use of farm-to-market road funds to resurface roads already surfaced.

H.F. 500 — relating to the employment of a full-time clerk for the Board of Accountancy.

H.F. 597, H.F. 598, H.F. 600, H.F. 601, and H.F. 602 — relating to funds to be used by the Board of Regents, Board of Control, and the Conservation Commission, for capital improvements.

The Governor made it clear his vetoes of capital appropriations bills were penned reluctantly. They were necessary, he felt, to keep the budget in balance, since the tax bill had been vetoed.

Although one might easily gain the impression that the legislature accomplished little other than to pass bills destined to be vetoed, or to override vetoes, such was not the case. More than 300 bills were passed and signed by the Governor. Some of the more important included measures to:

Establish water control rights.

Legalize adoptions prior to July 1, 1957, where names of adopting parents were not disclosed in adoption papers.

Appropriate \$31,121,206 a year for support of Board of Regents institutions; \$16,000,000 to Board of Control Institutions; \$17,835,000 to the Board of Social Welfare; \$13,423,959 to state departments; approximately \$23,000,000 for various state school aids.

Require the state treasurer to collect interest of 1 to 2½ per cent on idle state funds on deposit in banks.

Authorize communities to issue bonds and to accept federal urban renewal aid for rehabilitation and slum clearance projects.

Forbid incorporation of new municipalities within three miles of the corporate limits of cities with 15,000 or more population.

Increase pay of future legislators from \$2,000 a session to \$30 a day for regular and special sessions.

Create a legislative committee to investigate election laws and political practices.

Increase highway patrol membership from 225 to 275 men and to provide an upgraded salary for patrolmen.

Increase drivers licenses from \$1.50 to \$3 for two years; chauffeurs licenses from \$2 to \$4 for one year.

Set a nighttime highway speed limit of 60 miles per hour.

Extend the six-cent state gasoline tax to June 30, 1961.

Increase the limits of proof of financial responsibility for operation of motor vehicles.

Require car dealers to make full disclosure of finance and insurance charges on cars they sell and to require refunds to customers of unearned finance charges in prepayment cases.

Increase salaries of elected county officials \$400 a year and of probation officers \$500 a year beginning January 1, 1958.

Increase starting pay of conservation officers from \$3,300 to \$3,450; to fix second year pay at \$3,800 and to boost from \$3,600 to \$4,800 the salary ceiling beginning with the sixth year of service.

Require reorganization of schools into districts maintaining 12 grades by July 1, 1962.

Increase from five to eight the minimum daily average attendance required at each elementary school before a teacher may be employed.

Eliminate the requirement that superintendents at the State Hospital at Woodward and the State School at Glenwood must be physicians.

Eliminate the state comptroller's pre-audit of receipts and expenditures at Board of Regents institutions and the Iowa State Fair Board.

Provide a minimum \$75 monthly pension for Iowa teachers over 65 who retired prior to July 4, 1953, provided they had taught at least 25 years of which five could have been outside of the state.

Set up more stringent rules and regulations for nursing homes.

These and many other bills were passed in the legislature's 72 working days. Including weekends, holidays, the spring recess period, and the time that elapsed between May 3 (when the legislature actually went home) and the May 9 sine die adjournment, the session lasted 116 days.

It was opened at 10 a.m., January 14 and final adjournment was at 3 p.m. on May 9, even though the official record lists it at 4 p.m., May 3. Because legislators did go home on May 3, only a few were present on May 9 to hear Lt. Gov. Nicholas and Speaker Mooty rap their gavels, proclaiming the 57th session of the Iowa General Assembly at an end.

FRANK T. NYE

COST OF A LEGISLATIVE SESSION

<i>Expense Items</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Joint</i>
Members' salaries (including Lt. Gov.)	\$104,000.00	\$218,500.00	\$—————
Employees' salaries	86,607.23	149,863.07	15,441.53
Printing	—————	—————	121,282.29
Travel	638.90	1,378.90	—————
Chaplains' expenses	947.58	668.49	—————
Miscellaneous	4,635.51	5,187.52	—————
	—————	—————	—————
	\$196,829.22	\$375,597.98	\$136,723.82
Total expenses of	55th G. A.	56th G. A.	57th G. A.
	\$646,985.89	\$681,988.89	\$709,151.02