

# THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XXXVIII

ISSUED IN NOVEMBER 1957

No. 11

*Copyright 1957 by The State Historical Society of Iowa*



## The 1956 Election

Something different was in the Iowa political wind. Dwight D. Eisenhower was still riding a popularity wave and seemed sure to carry Iowa and the nation against Adlai Stevenson, the same Democratic opponent he had defeated in 1952. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, the Republican candidate for United States Senator, appeared safe enough in his bid for a third term. But the first term Republican Governor, Leo A. Hoegh, was in trouble — real trouble. The polls showed it. The people whispered it. Even G.O.P. politicians and the Governor admitted it.

Not since the 1932 nationwide Democratic landslide had Iowans denied an incumbent Republican governor a second term if he sought it. Was it not utter folly to think this could happen again in a year when Republicans loomed as a shoo-in — even though deep disagreement existed within party ranks over the Governor's positions on labor, agriculture, and taxes?

Moreover, Herschel C. Loveless, Hoegh's op-



ponent, had lost the race for Governor in 1952, finishing 50,717 votes behind the late Governor William S. Beardsley, who was seeking a third term that had been won by only three of 29 predecessors. But talk persisted that it would happen again. Furthermore, Democratic candidates had more campaign enthusiasm than at any time since 1932. Election day results only served to confirm public opinion polls. Ike defeated Adlai nationally, 35,582,236 to 26,028,887, and won Iowa easily, as did Hickenlooper. But Hoegh lost, and races for other state offices, though won by Republicans, were closer than usual.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Republican</i>		<i>Democrat</i>	
President	Eisenhower	729,187	Stevenson	501,358
U. S. Senator	Hickenlooper	635,499	Evans	543,156
Governor	Hoegh	587,383	Loveless	616,852
Lt. Gov.	Nicholas	603,444	O'Malley	554,776
Sec. of State	Synhorst	626,494	Davey	524,126
Auditor	Akers	629,148	Eischeid	515,150
Treasurer	Abrahamson	621,855	Hansen	525,150
Sec. of Agri.	Spry	621,192	Ohlson	528,697
Atty. General	Erbe	605,170	Fitzgerald	535,253

The people also approved, 773,950 to 249,770, a bonus for Korean war veterans.

FRANK T. NYE