

Composition of the Assembly

Indeed there was something different in the 1956 Iowa political wind and it carried straight through the election to the 1957 legislature. What was different could be summed up in two words: More Democrats.

There were more Democrats in the 57th General Assembly than in any since 1937, when the House was divided evenly, 54-54, and Republicans outnumbered Democrats by only 29 to 21 in the Senate. Now, in 1957, Democrats constituted exactly one-third of the 108-member House and exactly one-fifth of the 50-member Senate. Furthermore, Herschel Loveless, the first Democratic Governor in twenty years, was a lone Democrat in a bevy of Republican state elective officials, whereas in 1937 the Democratic governor was surrounded by Democratic state officials, except for Miss Agnes Samuelson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

But there was nothing different on one count. Farmers, as usual, outnumbered all other legislators, be they Democrat or Republican, and lawyers, as usual, were in second place. There were 49 dirt farmers in the 1957 legislature, three less than in 1955. Legislators making all or part of

their living from agriculture numbered 80, two more than in 1955. There were 28 lawyers in 1957 compared to 27 in 1955.

The occupations of 125 of the 158 members follows:

	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Dirt farmer	23	12	11	3	49
Lawyer	10	6	9	3	28
Livestock farmer	5	0	1	0	6
Farm manager	2	0	2	0	4
Banker	0	2	2	0	4
Farmer-banker	0	0	2	1	3
Publisher	2	0	1	0	3
Merchant	0	1	1	1	3
Retired farmer	2	1	0	0	3
Farmer-businessman..	1	1	0	0	2
Farmer-merchant	2	0	0	0	2
Dairy farmer	1	0	1	0	2
Implement dealer	0	1	1	0	2
Veterinarian	1	0	1	0	2
Hardware merchant..	1	1	0	0	2
Manufacturer	2	0	0	0	2
Retired businessman..	1	1	0	0	2
Retired	2	0	0	0	2
Realtor-insuranceman	1	0	1	0	2
Teacher-farmer	0	2	0	0	2
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	56	28	33	8	125

The remaining 33 members listed occupations as: farmer-restaurantman, funeral director-farmer, businessman-farm operator, farmer-realtor-insuranceman, grain and feed dealer, wholesale

egg farmer, farm operator, businessman, lawyer-farmer-businessman, coal dealer, estimator, farm machinery-auto dealer, insuranceman, realtor, farmer-insuranceman, dentist, hotel-restaurantman, produce-fur dealer, lumberman, retired county officer, retired Y.M.C.A. secretary, retired jeweler, investment banker, retired public employee, grain elevatorman, retired minister, auctioneer, transfer-storage firm operator, machinist, labor-business representative, laborer, wholesale beverage distributor, and hotelman-editor.

Although the 57th General Assembly convened on January 14, permanent composition was not completed until mid-session, after two election contests had been decided and a special election was held to fill a vacancy left by a resignation. S. E. Robinson, Guthrie Center Republican, and Arley Barringer, Ruthven Democrat, seated tentatively in the House when the session opened, won election contests respectively from Bert L. Wooldridge, Stuart Democrat, and Edward C. Norland, Cylinder Republican. Louisa County held a special election on February 19, and William O. Weaver, Wapello Republican, succeeded William D. Dillon, Columbus Junction Republican, who resigned from the House for business reasons.

There was a total of 52 freshmen legislators, 43 in the House and nine in the Senate. This was a 32.9 per cent turnover from 1955, identical to the

membership turnover from 1953 to 1955. The following table shows which session each of the 158 members was serving in 1957.

Session	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
First	24	19	5	4	52
Second	20	11	8	2	41
Third	11	3	6	1	21
Fourth	6	1	5	1	13
Fifth	4	1	5	1	11
Sixth	5	0	3	0	8
Seventh	1	0	2	0	3
Eighth	0	1	1	1	3
Ninth	0	0	2	0	2
Eleventh	1	0	1	0	2
Fifteenth	0	0	1	0	1
Sixteenth	0	0	1	0	1

Youngest legislator was Donald L. Kimball, 23, Fayette publisher and Republican, who observed his twenty-fourth birthday during the session. Oldest legislator was Senator George W. Weber, 73, Columbus Junction banker and Republican, besting Earl T. Hoover, 73, Mount Ayr farmer and oldest House Republican, by only four months.

Youngest House Democrat was Jack McCoy, 27, an employee of John Morrell and Company of Ottumwa. He had been the youngest member in the 1955 legislature. Oldest House Democrat was James W. Howard, 72, retired businessman from Cresco.

Youngest Senator was Jack Schroeder, 31, Davenport attorney and Republican, who also had been the youngest in 1955. Youngest Democratic Senator was Joe Coleman, 31, Clare farmer. Senator Raymond R. Gillespie, 65, Dexter farmer-banker, was the oldest Senate Democrat.

Average age of all legislators was 51.8 years compared to 52 in the 1955 session. Average age of all Democratic legislators was 49; of Senate Democrats, 45.7; of House Democrats, 50. Average age of all Republican legislators was 53; of Senate Republicans, 53.6; of House Republicans, 52.7. Following is the age range table:

Age Range	Number of Legislators				Age Range	Number of Legislators			
	House		Senate			House		Senate	
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.		Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
21-25	1	0	0	0	51-55	13	4	6	1
26-30	2	1	0	0	56-60	10	9	7	0
31-35	4	4	3	1	61-65	11	4	3	2
36-40	7	7	5	2	66-70	3	2	5	0
41-45	6	3	4	4	71-75	5	1	4	0
46-50	10	1	3	0					

Senator Arch W. McFarlane, Waterloo fuel dealer, held fast to his service longevity record. This venerable statesman reached his seventy-second birthday during the session and has been a legislator for 32 of the 43 years since he was first elected in 1914. He served as Speaker of the House in 1919 and 1921 and was Lieutenant Governor in 1929 and 1931. His service is believed to be the longest in Iowa history. The honor for con-

tinuous service, however, went again to Senator Frank C. Byers, Cedar Rapids attorney. At 73, Byers has not missed a session since his first election in 1928. After two terms in the House, he was elected to the Senate where he has sat ever since.

For the Democrats the longest service record was held jointly by W. J. Johannes, Ashton banker and House member, and Senator Arnold Utzig, Dubuque merchant, at eight sessions each. Utzig's service, however, has been continuous.

Fully 135 of the 158 legislators listed themselves as having attended college, business college, Junior college, and/or high school. This was down from 1955 when 149 said they had educational training beyond grade school. The following table shows educational backgrounds as listed by the lawmakers.

	<i>College, Business College, or Junior College</i>		<i>High School</i>		<i>Grade School</i>	
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>
	Senate	33	7	5	2	2
House	54	22	14	8	4	6

All but three of the 158 members said they belong to, or attend, a church. This table shows denominational backgrounds.

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Methodist	26	8	18	0	52
Presbyterian	15	3	8	1	27

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Catholic	1	8	2	6	17
Lutheran	5	5	5	1	16
Congregational ..	5	1	2	0	8
Baptist	3	4	1	0	8
Protestant	2	1	1	1	5
Christian	1	2	1	0	4
Episcopal	2	0	2	0	4
Unaffiliated	2	1	0	0	3
Evangelical					
United Brethren..	3	0	0	0	3
Reorganized Lat- ter Day Saints....	1	0	0	1	2
Quaker	2	0	0	0	2
Evangelical and					
Reformed	1	0	0	0	1
Reformed	1	0	0	0	1
First Reformed....	1	0	0	0	1
Church of Christ	0	1	0	0	1
Federated	0	1	0	0	1
American					
Evangelical	0	1	0	0	1
Unitarian	1	0	0	0	1

There were 137 native-born Iowans, including 93 of 112 Republicans and 44 of 46 Democrats.

Birthplace	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Iowa	61	34	32	10	137
Illinois	2	0	3	0	5
Nebraska	0	1	2	0	3
Indiana	2	0	0	0	2
Wisconsin	2	0	0	0	2
England	0	1	0	0	1
Kansas	0	0	1	0	1
Massachusetts	1	0	0	0	1

Missouri	1	0	0	0	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
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	1

Republicans controlled the House 72 to 36, and the Senate 40 to 10. The number of House Democrats was up 17 from 1955's total of 19, while Democratic Senators numbered four more than in 1955.

There was also something different about the legislative pages. Two of them were girls. Linda Nye, 15, Cedar Rapids, became the first girl page in Iowa history to serve the Senate, while her 16-year-old Cedar Rapids classmate, Clary Illian, became the second girl to serve as a House page. Boys occupied the other page posts in both houses, as is the usual custom.

FRANK T. NYE