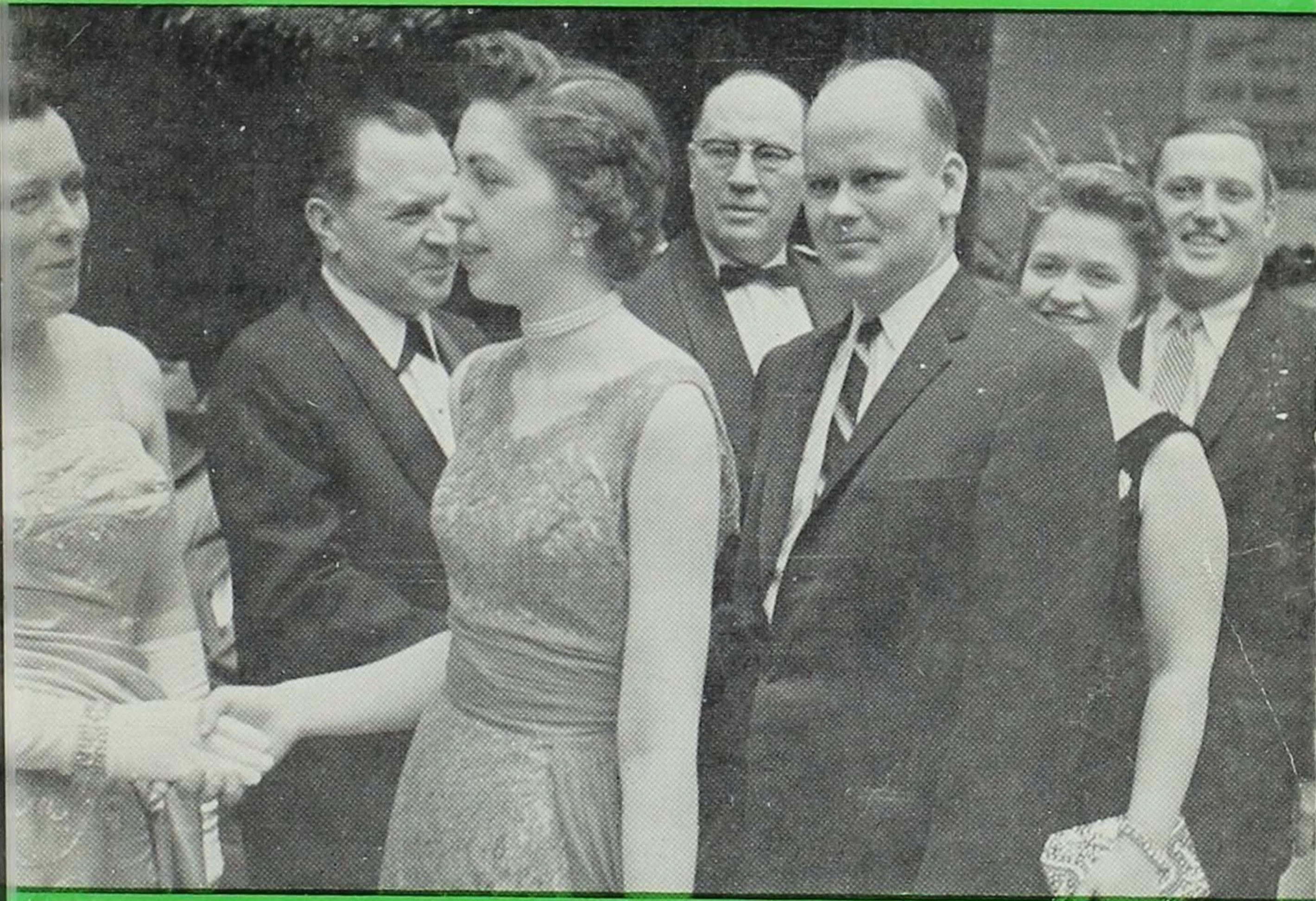


The **PALIMPSEST**



Reception Line at Inaugural Ball in Veterans Memorial Auditorium

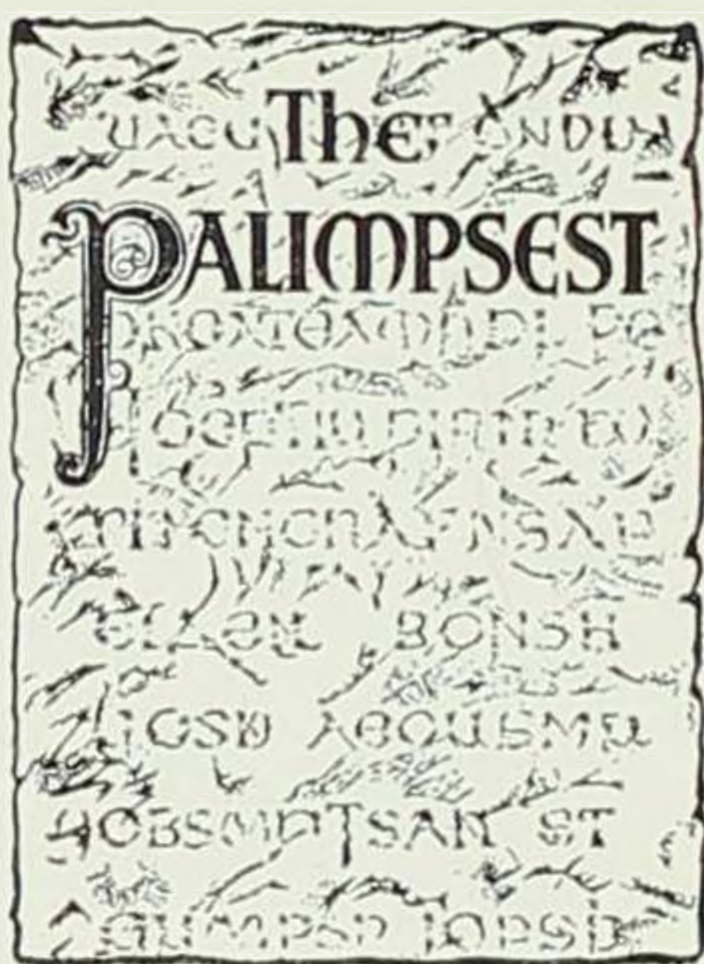
The 58th General Assembly of Iowa

Published Monthly by

The State Historical Society of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

NOVEMBER, 1959



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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FRANK T. NYE

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Cover

Front: Governor and Mrs. Herschel C. Loveless greet Representatives Robert F. Wilson and Frank Martin and their wives.

Back — Outside (Top): Gov. Loveless signs speed limit law in presence of Representative Falvey, Safety Commissioner Brown, Representatives Wilson, Fuelling, and Duffy, and Senators Hoxie and Gillespie. *(Bottom):* Legislative leaders at Iowa Daily Press Association editors' luncheon: (from left) McNeal, Schroeder, O'Malley, Lt. Gov. McManus, Lisle, Lynes and Swisher.

Author

Frank T. Nye is Associate Editor of the Cedar Rapids *Gazette*. He has covered every session since 1935 and has written similar reviews in THE PALIMPSEST of the 54th, 55th, 56th, and 57th General Assemblies.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT
IOWA CITY IOWA UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

PRICE — 25 cents per copy; \$2.50 per year; free to Members

MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$3.00

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XL

ISSUED IN NOVEMBER 1959

No. 11

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Composition of the Assembly

When the 58th General Assembly convened on January 12, 1959, there was a closer division between Republicans and Democrats than at any time since 1937. In the Senate, 33 Republicans and 17 Democrats occupied the 50 seats, while across the rotunda, in the House, 59 Republicans and 48 Democrats were in evidence. One seat, belonging to Representative Thomas P. O'Toole, Dubuque Democrat, was vacant. He was recovering from a heart attack suffered shortly after the 1958 election and unable to attend until later. Later, too, Republicans unseated Stanley Watts, Murray Democrat, through an election contest brought by Cecil V. Lutz, Osceola Republican, who took the Clarke County seat at mid-session, giving the House Republicans a permanent 60 to 48 edge.

Democratic gains at the 1958 election were not limited to the legislature. Governor Herschel C. Loveless doubled his 1956 victory margin to become the first Democrat in 22 years, and the sec-

ond since 1894, to succeed himself in Iowa. He had been the lone Democratic state official in 1957-1959. But this time he was joined by former Senator Edward J. McManus of Keokuk, newly-elected Lieutenant Governor, two Supreme Court justices and two Commerce Commissioners.

But whether Democrats or Republicans occupied legislative seats, there was virtually no change in the legislature's makeup in one respect: farmers among legislators outnumbered those of any other calling, and lawyers were still in second place. Eighty-one legislators listed occupations as "farmer," or as having something to do with farming, compared to 82 in 1957. There were 24 lawyers this time compared to 28 two years ago. The breakdown for 130 of the 158 members is:

Occupation	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Farmer	26	14	8	5	53
Lawyer	6	8	8	2	24
Businessman	2	3	3	0	8
Livestock Farmer	5	1	1	0	7
Farmer-Businessman ..	4	1	1	0	6
Farmer-Banker	0	0	3	1	4
Real Estate-Farmer	2	2	0	0	4
Lumber Yard	1	2	0	0	3
Insurance	2	0	0	1	3
Retired Farmer	0	0	2	0	2
Publisher	1	0	1	0	2
Manufacturer	2	0	0	0	2
Retired Businessman ..	2	0	0	0	2

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Occupation	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Grain Dealer	1	0	1	0	2
Auctioneer	1	1	0	0	2
Veterinarian	0	0	1	1	2
Salesman	1	1	0	0	2
Banker	0	1	1	0	2
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	56	34	30	10	130

The four remaining House Republicans listed themselves as: Retired Y.M.C.A. secretary; farm manager; retired public official; and estimator. The three remaining Senate Republicans were: real estate man; grain dealer-banker; and livestock farmer-hatcheryman.

The 14 remaining House Democrats listed themselves as: retired mail carrier; retired grain buyer; farmer-retired teacher; inspector; farmer-insurance man; minister; advertising manager; machinist; teacher; electrician; transfer company president; teacher-farmer; engineer; switchman. The seven remaining Senate Democrats listed occupations as cafe owner; professor; investments-securities; brickmason; assembler; hotel proprietor; and accountant.

Of the 158 legislators, only 47 were first-termers or "freshmen" — a turnover of 29.7 per cent since 1957. From 1955 to 1957, and from 1953 to 1955, the turnover rate was an identical 32.9 per cent. This table shows which session each 1959 legislator was serving:

Session	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
First	16	22	1	8	47
Second	20	15	6	5	46
Third	11	7	6	0	24
Fourth	4	1	6	3	14
Fifth	3	1	2	0	6
Sixth	5	1	4	1	11
Seventh	1	0	2	0	3
Eighth	0	0	1	0	1
Ninth	0	1	2	0	3
Tenth	0	0	1	0	1
Twelfth	0	0	1	0	1
Sixteenth	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	60	48	33	17	158

A new record for continuous legislative service was set during the session by Senator Frank C. Byers of Cedar Rapids-Marion. Byers came within two years of the longevity record set in 1957 by former Senator Arch W. McFarlane, Waterloo Republican. Elected in 1928, Senator Byers was sworn in as a legislator in 1929 and will have served 32 years consecutively when his term expires in 1961.

The Democrat with the longest service record was Representative W. J. Johannes, Ashton banker, in his ninth session. However, Senator George E. O'Malley, Des Moines attorney, and Representative Casey Loss, Algona farmer, each in his sixth session, had longer continuous records.

Republicans claimed "youngest" and "oldest"

honors in both houses. Representative Charles E. Grassley, New Hartford farmer at twenty-five, beat Representative Donald L. Kimball, Fayette publisher, for "youngest" honors by only a few months. On the other hand, Senator George W. Weber, seventy-five, Columbus Junction banker-grain dealer, had an earlier birthday than either Senator Byers or Representative J. D. Currie, Schaller farmer-real estate man, for "oldest" member.

Representative Currie was the oldest House member, while Representative William McArthur, seventy-two, retired Mason City grain buyer, was the oldest House Democrat. Youngest Democratic legislator was Representative Royce Gordy, twenty-six-year-old school teacher from Bloomfield, Iowa, who replaced the veteran legislator, Dewey E. Goode, who had served eleven legislative terms.

Senator Jack Schroeder, thirty-three, Davenport attorney, was again the youngest Republican Senator as in 1957 and this time, in addition, was the Senate majority leader — believed to be the youngest ever to hold the position. Among Senate Democrats, Senator R. G. Moore, Dunlap veterinarian was the oldest at seventy, and Senator Melvin H. Wolf, Waterloo attorney, the youngest at thirty-five. The age range table for House and Senate members in the 58th General Assembly follows:

	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
21-25	2	0	0	0	2
26-30	2	2	0	0	4
31-35	3	5	3	2	13
36-40	8	5	3	3	19
41-45	3	9	1	4	17
46-50	7	4	3	3	17
51-55	14	6	3	1	24
56-60	9	4	8	0	21
61-65	8	8	6	1	23
66-70	3	4	1	3	11
71-75	1	1	5	0	7
	—	—	—	—	—
	60	48	33	17	158

Average age of the legislature continued its downward trend. Since 1951, and again in 1953, when it was an identical fifty-three years, it dropped to fifty-two in 1955, 51.8 in 1957 and 50.8 in 1959. The average age of legislators in 1959 and in 1957 was:

	House			Senate			Both Houses		
	Rep.	Dem.	T.	Rep.	Dem.	T.	Rep.	Dem.	T.
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

Educationwise, 150 legislators listed their backgrounds as having included high school training, with 111 having taken work beyond high school. In 1957, a total of 143 members listed themselves as having high school training and 116 as having taken work beyond high school. This table gives the education of the 1959 law makers:

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	College or beyond H.S.		High School		Grade School		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Senate	27	11	6	6	0	0	50
House	43	30	12	15	5	3	108

Almost half — 78 to be exact — legislators listed themselves as veterans of World Wars I or II, or of Korea, or as having been in service. This table lists the military background of these members:

	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
World War I	11	9	5	3	28
World War II, and/or Korea, or since	18	16	8	8	50

All but two legislators listed themselves as church members, or as having a church preference. Here are the denominational backgrounds:

	House		Senate		Total
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Methodist	22	13	14	2	51
Presbyterian	12	2	7	2	23
Lutheran	8	8	5	0	21
Catholic	0	13	2	5	20
Baptist	5	3	1	1	10
Congregational	2	2	1	0	5
Christian	1	2	1	0	4
Episcopal	2	0	1	1	4
United Presbyterian	0	1	0	3	4
Evangelical					
United Brethern ..	2	0	0	0	2
Protestant	0	1	1	0	2

Reorganized Latter

Day Saints	1	0	0	1	2
Quaker	2	0	0	0	2
Unaffiliated	0	1	0	1	2
Church of Christ	0	1	0	0	1
Community Church..	1	0	0	0	1
Evangelical and					
Reformed	0	1	0	0	1
First Reformed	1	0	0	0	1
Jew	0	0	0	1	1
United Church					
of Christ	1	0	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	60	48	33	17	158

All but 27 members were born in Iowa — 131 as compared to 137 members of the 57th General Assembly. Two were born overseas — the same number as in 1957. This table shows birthplaces 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	47	44	26	14	131
Illinois	6	0	2	0	8
Indiana	2	1	0	0	3
Nebraska	0	1	2	0	3
Missouri	1	0	0	1	2
Austria	0	0	0	1	1
Colorado	0	1	0	0	1
Kansas	0	0	1	0	1
Michigan	0	1	0	0	1
Minnesota	1	0	0	0	1
Montana	0	0	1	0	1
North Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
Norway	0	0	1	0	1

COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY 489

Pennsylvania	0	0	0	1	1
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
Wisconsin	1	0	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	60	48	33	17	158

In many respects the 58th General Assembly did not differ greatly from its immediate predecessors. There were, however, more Democratic members. Notable, though, were these facts: The number of veterans was up and the average age of members was down.

FRANK T. NYE