

Composition of the Assembly

There was no doubt about it. The 1966 election proved convincingly that the two party system was still flourishing in Iowa. Democrats, feeling their oats after their tremendous 1964 victory, had all but counted Republicans out in 1966. But they got a surprise when the votes were counted.

Republicans had recaptured four of seven state elective posts and four of five congressional seats. Moreover, they had won control of the House of Representatives, held 101 to 23 by the Democrats in 1965, by the unbelievable margin of 89 to 35. And, before the session was over, Republicans would add insult to injury by winning a special election in the state's most heavily Democratic county, Dubuque, to fill the vacancy left in the House by the death of Representative Arnold Utzig, veteran Democrat, on May 10. The Republican elected to succeed him, Representative Raymond Miller, was the first of his party ever sent to the House by Dubuque. Republicans claimed this continued a trend started in 1966 when Dubuque elected the second Republican in its history to the Iowa Senate—John M. Walsh.

The Democrats were able to hold the state's two most important elective positions, Governor

and Lieutenant Governor, and to retain control of the Senate by a thin 32 to 29 edge. They also held one of five congressional seats taken from Republicans in 1964.

So Iowa was to have a divided legislature for the first time in its long history, according to available records. In 1933, Democrats controlled the House, 76 to 32, but gained only an even split with Republicans in the 50-member Senate. And in 1937, Republicans controlled the Senate, 28 to 22, but the House was evenly divided, 54 to 54. Other than in those two years, records indicated, one party or the other had controlled both chambers—until 1967.

Despite the shift in voting trends, farmers continued to outnumber others in the legislature although, significantly, their number dropped slightly for the third consecutive session. Lawyers still clung to second place but with a slight drop from 1965. Some 59 different occupations were listed by the 186 members (including both Representatives Utzig and Miller) of the 1967 legislature compared to 33 among 158 members of the 1963 legislature (before reapportionment) and to 55 among 183 members of the 1965 legislature (after reapportionment). This table shows the occupations listed by the 1967 legislators:

<i>Occupations</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Farmer	24	5	2	10	41
Lawyer	9	6	3	5	23

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Retired	10	3	2	0	15
Contractor	4	0	2	1	7
Farm Manager	4	1	1	1	7
Insurance	3	3	1	0	7
Farmer-Businessman	3	2	0	0	5
Insurance-Real Estate	2	1	0	2	5
Banker	2	0	2	0	4
Business Executive....	2	0	2	0	4
Salesman	1	1	0	2	4
Farmer-Realtor	1	0	0	2	3
Manufacturer	1	1	1	0	3
Automobile Business	0	0	2	0	2
Businessman	0	0	1	1	2
Clothier	0	0	1	1	2
County Employee	2	0	0	0	2
Electronics	0	1	0	1	2
Elevator Owner	2	0	0	0	2
Farmer-Prod. Worker	2	0	0	0	2
Housewife	2	0	0	0	2
Lawyer-Merchant	0	0	2	0	2
Publisher	1	0	1	0	2
Realtor	2	0	0	0	2
Union Business Rep.	0	1	0	1	2
Advertising Director	0	1	0	0	1
Animal Nutritionist	1	0	0	0	1
Area Manager	0	0	0	1	1
Auctioneer	0	0	1	0	1
Auctioneer-Insurance	0	0	0	1	1
Buyer	0	0	0	1	1
Chiropractor	0	1	0	0	1
Circulation Manager	1	0	0	0	1
Consultant	1	0	0	0	1
Editor-Grain Dealer	1	0	0	0	1
Farmer-Banker	0	0	1	0	1
Farmer-Industrialist	0	0	0	1	1

Grain Elevator	0	0	1	0	1
Investment-Banker ..	0	0	1	0	1
Lawyer-Housewife ..	1	0	0	0	1
Lawyer-Insurance	0	0	1	0	1
Lawyer-Pastor	1	0	0	0	1
Livestock Auctioneer	0	0	0	1	1
Manager, Farm Coop	0	1	0	0	1
Mechanical Engineer	0	1	0	0	1
Medical Rep.	1	0	0	0	1
Pharmacist	1	0	0	0	1
Planting Analyst	1	0	0	0	1
Politician	0	1	0	0	1
Poultry Processor	0	1	0	0	1
Gravel Co. Pres.....	1	0	0	0	1
Production Worker ..	0	1	0	0	1
Realtor-Accountant ..	0	1	0	0	1
Resort Operator	1	0	0	0	1
School Maintenance	0	1	0	0	1
Semi-retired Executive	0	0	1	0	1
Telephone Co. Emp.	0	1	0	0	1
Theater Manager	1	0	0	0	1
Water Cond. Dealer	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	90*	35*	29	32	186*

*These figures include the late Representative Utzig, Democrat, and his successor, Representative Raymond Miller, Republican.

Even with the big turnover of House seats, there were only 73 freshmen among the 185 members when the 1967 legislature convened on January 9, compared to 100 among the 183 members of the 1965 legislature. Undoubtedly, this was due to the return of many Republican veterans who, in 1966, won back seats they had lost to Democrats in 1964. The turnover rate between

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1965 and 1967 was 39.59 per cent, higher than usual but lower than the 54.64 per cent rate between 1963 and 1965, the modern day record. For comparative purposes the 1961-63 rate was only 19.62 and the 1959-61 rate, 29.7. This table shows the experience rating of 1967 legislators:

Session	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
First	52	11	9	1	73
Second	5	16	2	18	41
Third	13	4	4	1	22
Fourth	6	1	4	3	14
Fifth	6	1	3	2	12
Sixth	5	0	1	3	9
Seventh	0	0	3	2	5
Eighth	3	0	0	1	4
Ninth	0	1	1	0	2
Tenth	0	1	1	1	3
Eleventh	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	90*	35*	29	32	186*

The legislator with the longest service record was Senator J. Henry Lucken, a retired farmer and Republican from LeMars, serving his eleventh session. Senator Vern Lisle, a Clarinda manufacturer and Republican, Senator George E. O'Malley, a Des Moines lawyer and Democrat, and the late Representative Utzig, each was serving his tenth session.

Among House Republicans there was a three-way tie for longevity honors among Representatives Floyd P. Edgington, Sr., a retired Sheffield

farmer, William E. Darrington, a Persia farmer, and A. L. Mensing of Lowden, retired. Each was serving his eighth session.

Honors for oldest and youngest legislators were divided as follows:

Oldest and youngest legislators were Representatives Fred B. Hanson, 78, Osage Republican and county fair official, serving his third session, and Charles H. Pelton, 26, Clinton Republican and lawyer, in his first term. He nosed out Senator Walsh by five months.

Oldest and youngest House Republicans: Representatives Hanson and Pelton.

Oldest and youngest House Democrats: The late Representative Utzig, 73, Dubuque, who died in his tenth session, and Representative James E. Maloney, 28, Bondurant insurance agent, serving his first session. He beat out Representative Dan Johnston, Des Moines lawyer, by six months.

Oldest and youngest Senate Republicans: Senators Charles S. Van Eaton, 77, Sioux City, semi-retired business executive, in his ninth session, and Senator Walsh, 26, Dubuque department store manager, in his first session.

Oldest and youngest Senate Democrats: Senators John W. Patton, 61, Aurora farmer, and Alan Shirley, 29, Perry lawyer, each serving his second session. Senator Patton won over Senator O'Malley by a little more than four months.

Here is the age range of 1967 legislators:

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Age Range	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
26-30	2	6	1	1	10
31-35	8	4	1	1	14
36-40	10	5	5	7	27
41-45	9	4	2	8	23
46-50	10	5	7	5	27
51-55	13	4	1	6	24
56-60	15	2	5	2	24
61-65	11	1	4	2	18
66-70	8	2	2	0	12
71-75	3	2	0	0	5
76-80	1	0	1	0	2
Totals	90*	35*	29	32	186*

Average age of 1967 legislators was up slightly from that of 1965 legislators—49.3 years to 48.1. Since reapportionment the average age has remained slightly below the 50-year level. Prior to reapportionment it stayed a shade above that mark. This table shows the average age of legislators serving in the last six sessions:

Year	House			Senate			Both Chambers		
	Rep.	Dem.	Totals	Rep.	Dem.	Totals	Rep.	Dem.	Totals
1967	51.5	45.1	49.7	51.1	46.3	48.6	51.4	45.6	49.3
1965	53.4	47.0	48.2	49.9	46.5	48.0	51.4	46.9	48.1
1963	52.9	50.9	52.4	55.2	48.2	53.5	53.7	50.1	52.7
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

All except six of the 186 legislators had completed high school and 131 had college degrees, or had been exposed to some schooling beyond high school. This compared favorably to legislators serving in the previous five sessions when

similar surveys were made. Educational background listed by 1967 legislators follows:

	<i>College, or Beyond H.S.</i>		<i>Completed High School</i>		<i>Grade School Only</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Senate	25	22	3	9	1	1	61
House	57	27	31	6	2	2	125*
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	82	49	34	15	3	3	186*

A total of 85 of the 1967 legislators had served their country in uniform compared to 83 of the 1965 legislators. This breakdown shows number of 1967 legislators who had been in service:

<i>Served in</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
World War I	6	4	1	0	11
World War II	19	4	11	14	48
W.W. II to Korea....	3	1	0	1	5
Korean War	6	5	3	4	18
Korea to Vietnam	2	0	0	0	2
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0
Danish Army	1	0	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	37	14	15	19	85

When Republicans outnumber Democrats in the legislature it generally follows that there are more Methodists than members of any other religious faith. When Democrats are in control there generally are more Catholics. The religious backgrounds as listed by 1967 legislators:

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Denomination	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Methodist	27	7	7	6	47
Catholic	2	16	2	12	32
Presbyterian	16	0	8	2	26
Lutheran	14	3	2	4	23
Congregational	4	1	3	0	8
Disciples of Christ....	5	1	0	1	7
Baptist	2	1	1	2	6
Episcopal	4	1	1	0	6
Protestant	1	0	2	1	4
Unaffiliated	2	1	0	1	4
United Ch. of Christ	3	0	0	1	4
United Presbyterian	3	0	0	0	3
Ref. Ch. of America..	2	0	1	0	3
Reorganized L.D.S ..	1	0	1	0	2
Agnostic	0	1	0	0	1
Assembly of God	1	0	0	0	1
Christian Reformed ..	0	0	0	1	1
Church of Christ.....	0	1	0	0	1
Community	0	0	1	0	1
Evangelical U.B. ..	1	0	0	0	1
Jewish	1	0	0	0	1
Mennonite	1	0	0	0	1
Christian Science	0	1	0	0	1
Open Bible	0	1	0	0	1
Unitarian	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	90*	35*	29	32	186*

Interestingly enough, the number of native Iowans in the legislature usually runs between 80 and 85 per cent of total membership. The 1967 legislature was no exception, with 84 per cent of

its members having been born in Iowa. This table lists the birthplaces of 1967 legislators:

<i>Born in</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Iowa	71	31	23	29	154
Illinois	6	1	1	1	9
Kansas	3	0	0	0	3
Nebraska	3	0	0	0	3
Michigan	0	1	0	1	2
Oklahoma	1	1	0	0	2
South Dakota	2	0	0	0	2
Arkansas	0	0	1	0	1
Indiana	1	0	0	0	1
Minnesota	1	0	0	0	1
Missouri	0	0	1	0	1
Montana	0	0	1	0	1
North Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
New York	0	1	0	0	1
Ohio	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	0	0	0	1	1
Washington	0	0	1	0	1
Wisconsin	0	0	1	0	1
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Totals	90*	35*	29	32	186*

*These figures include the late Representative Utzig, Democrat, and his successor, Representative Raymond Miller, Republican.

This, then, was the composition of Iowa's Sixty-First General Assembly, believed to be the first in its history with the Senate controlled by one party and the House by the other.