# Iowa Diplomats

When Augustus C. Dodge was named Minister to Spain on February 8, 1855, he became the first Iowan to receive such a high diplomatic appointment. Dodge was experienced in administrative and governmental matters, having previously served as registrar of the public land office in Burlington, Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Iowa, and United States Senator.

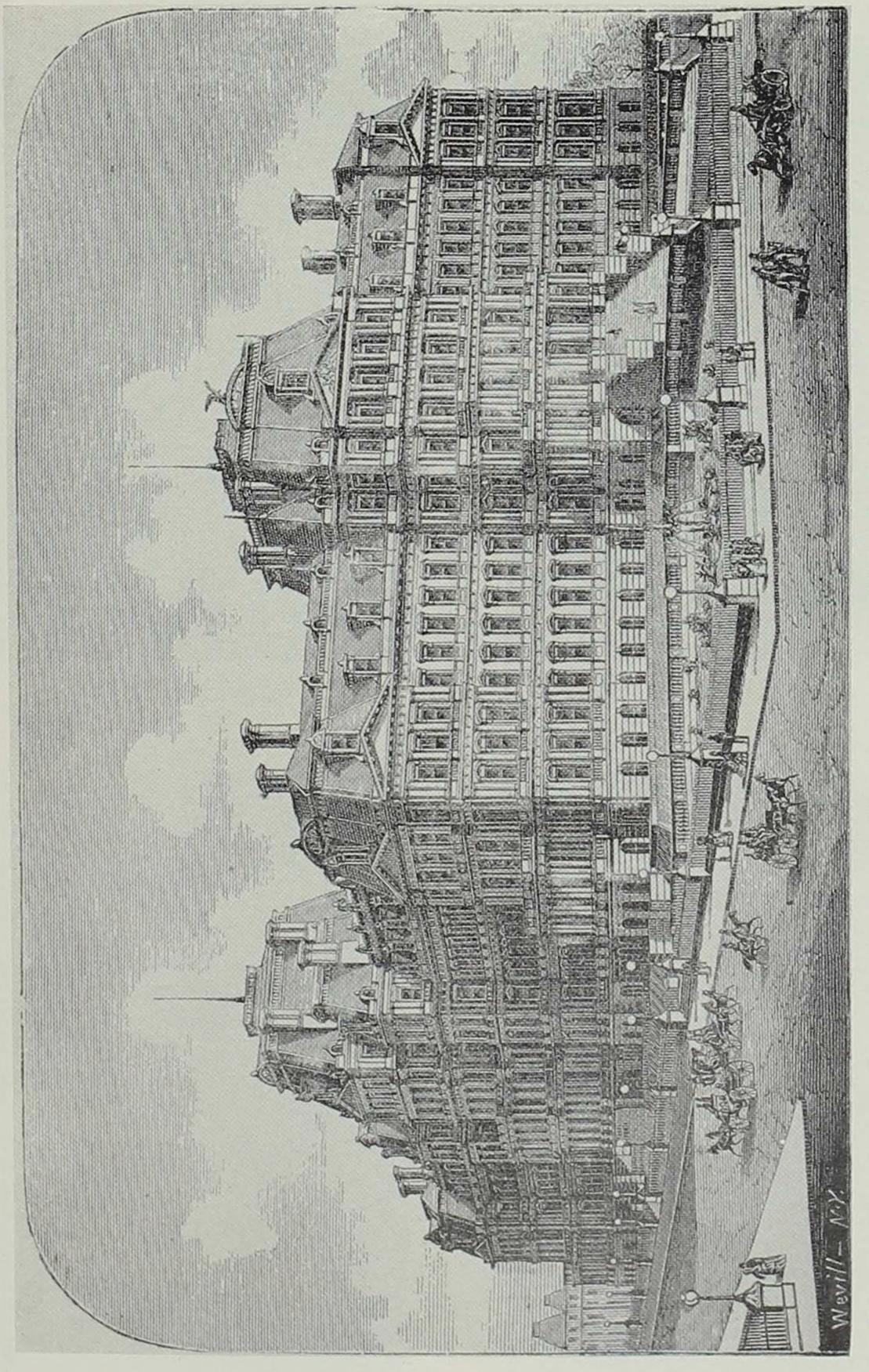
Despite his background, Dodge's appointment was criticized, especially his inability to speak French or Spanish. He was soon considered a great improvement over his predecessor, Pierre Soulé. Though Dodge was "primitive to a degree in manners and social intercourse," he was, according to Sir John Howden, British Minister to Spain, "a very excellent person and one totally without guile."

Because of a series of blunders and intemperate conduct on the part of Soulé, relations between Spain and the United States were somewhat strained at the time of Dodge's appointment. Two major diplomatic assignments confronted him—the annexation of Cuba and the settlement of the Black Warrior case. Democrats, particularly in the Southern states, had strongly advocated the ces-

sion, purchase, or acquisition by other means of Cuba. Secretary of State William Marcy wrote to Dodge that the incorporation of Cuba into the American Union was essential to the welfare of both the United States and Cuba, an event which would occur sooner or later. Dodge was to point out to the Spanish government that Cuba would sometime find that her political and economic interests were similar to those of the United States. Cuba would then seek to leave the control of Spain. Dodge was also instructed to point out that because of high defense costs and other complicating factors, remote colonies were not a source of strength to the home government but a weakness.

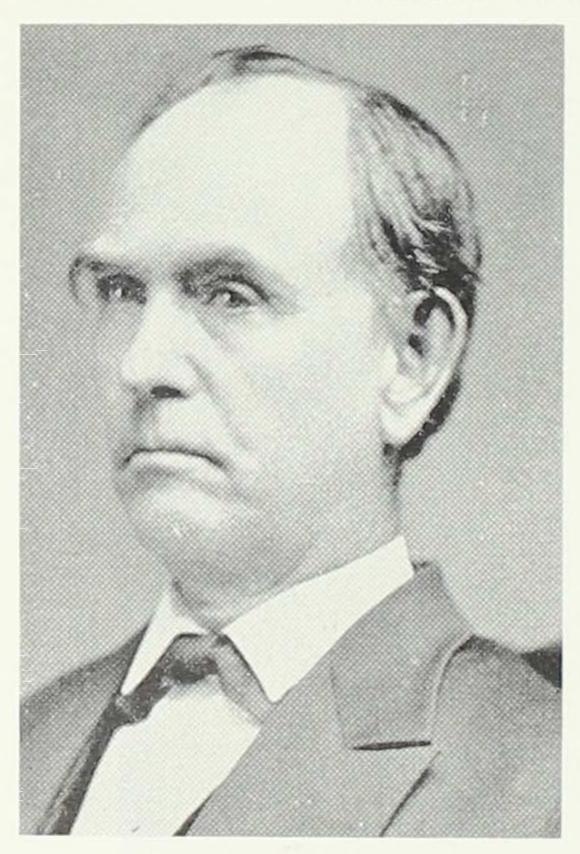
In August, 1855, Dodge had an interview with General Juan de Zavala, Spanish foreign minister, regarding the cession of Cuba. He stated that the peace, prosperity, and happiness of Spain could thus be promoted. Zavala replied that the ceding of Cuba was very remote from Spain's intentions. In the whole kingdom it was unlikely that one could find two men who were favorable to it. During another interview in 1858 Dodge was told that Cuba was a possession that Spain considered "beyond price."

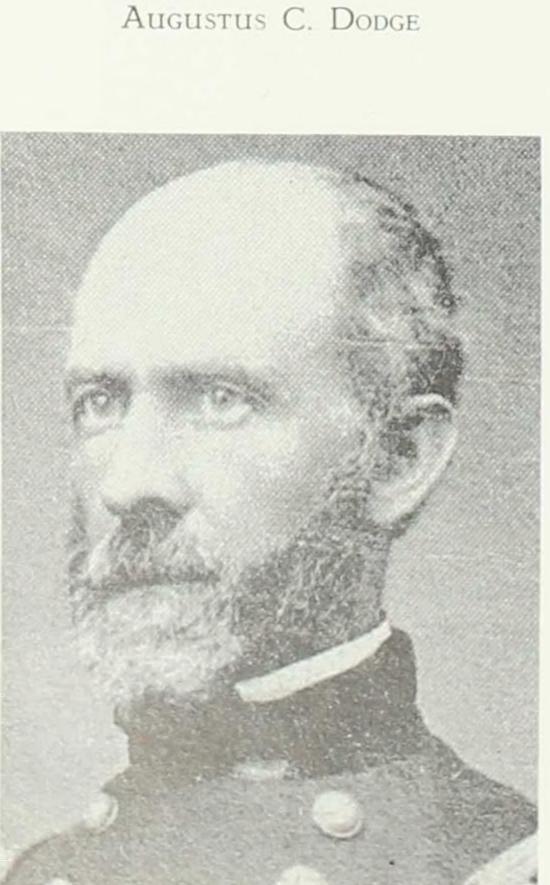
Dodge was more successful in reaching a settlement in the Black Warrior case. The Black Warrior was an American coastal ship sailing semimonthly between Mobile and New York, stopping



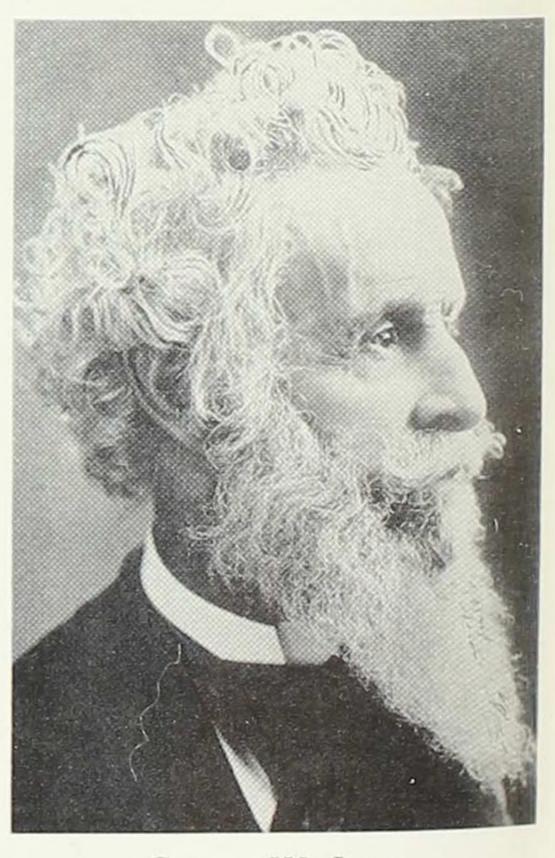
A view of the old State Department building in Washington in the 1870's when it was still in the process of completion.

# EARLY IOWA DIPLOMATS





FITZ HENRY WARREN

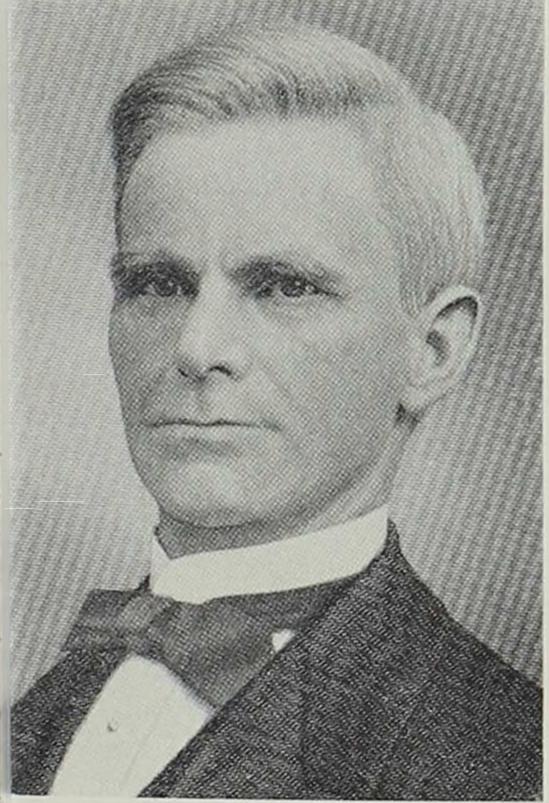


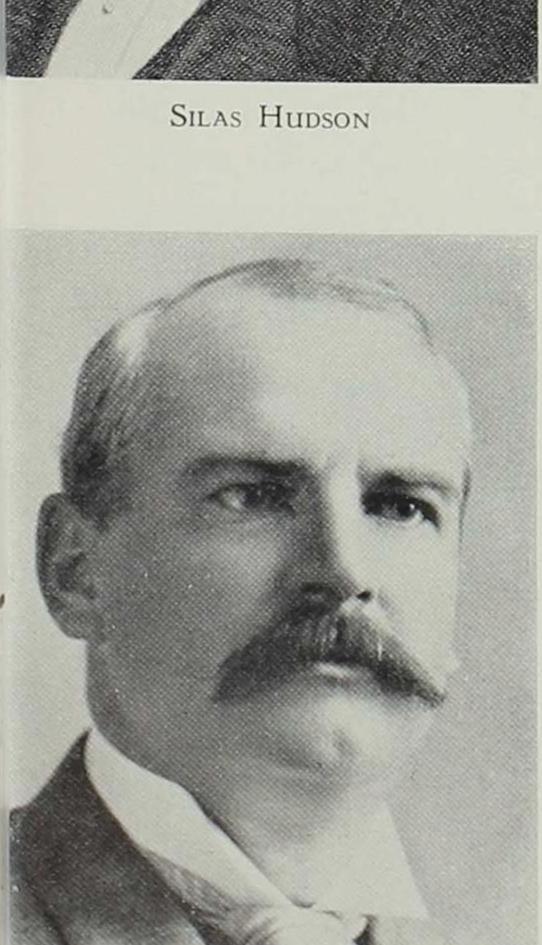
George W. Jones



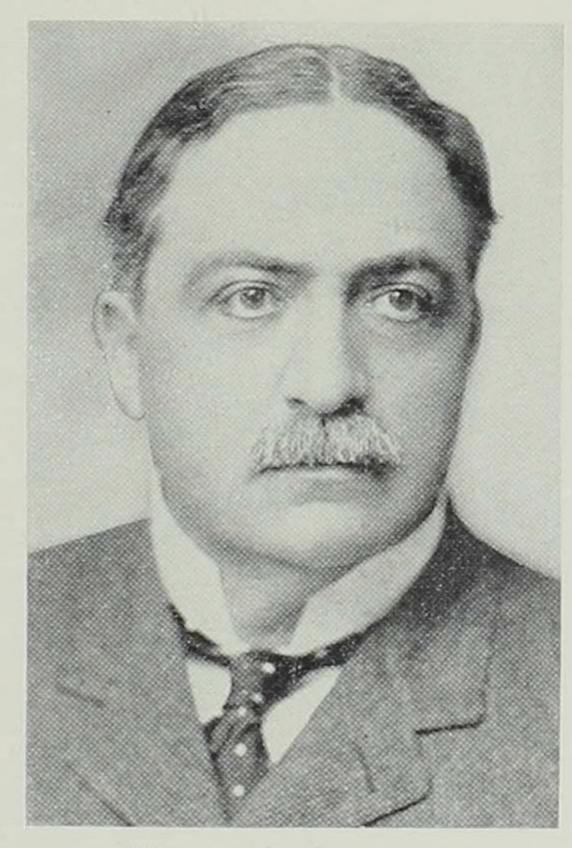
JOHN A. KASSON

# MINISTERS TO LATIN AMERICA

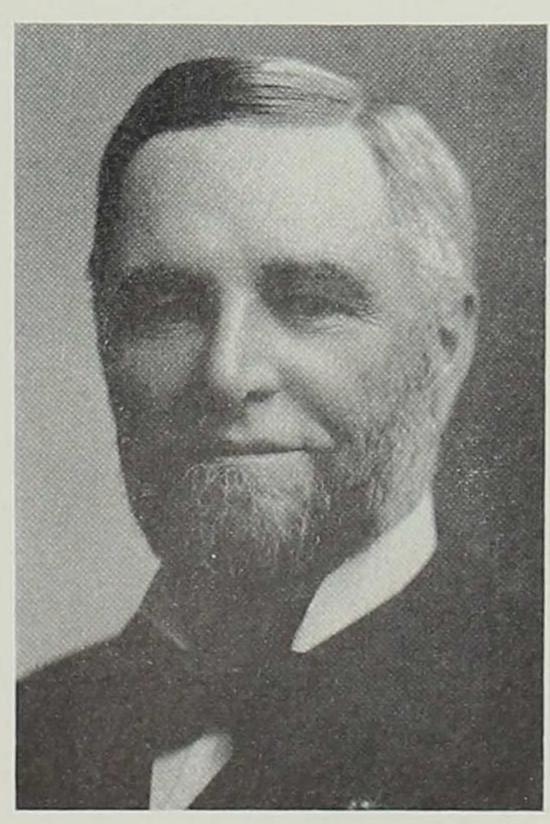




THOMAS C. DAWSON

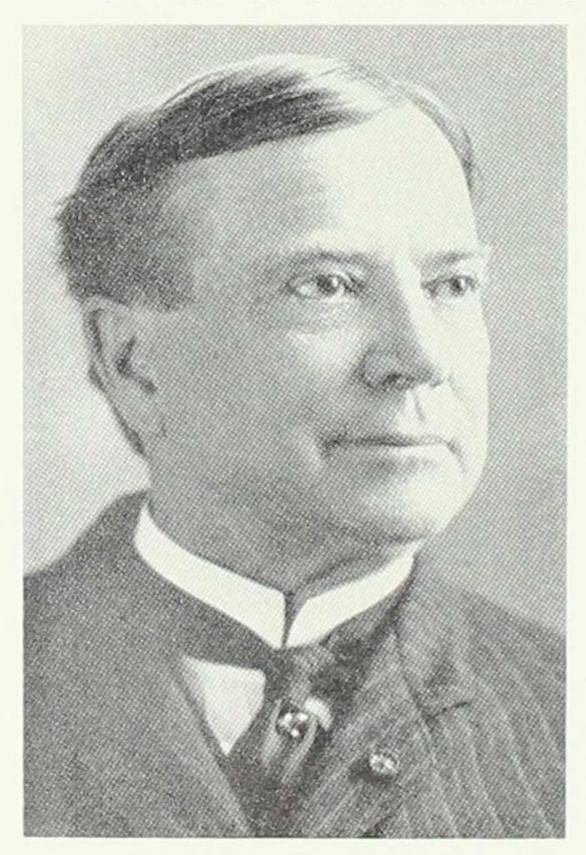


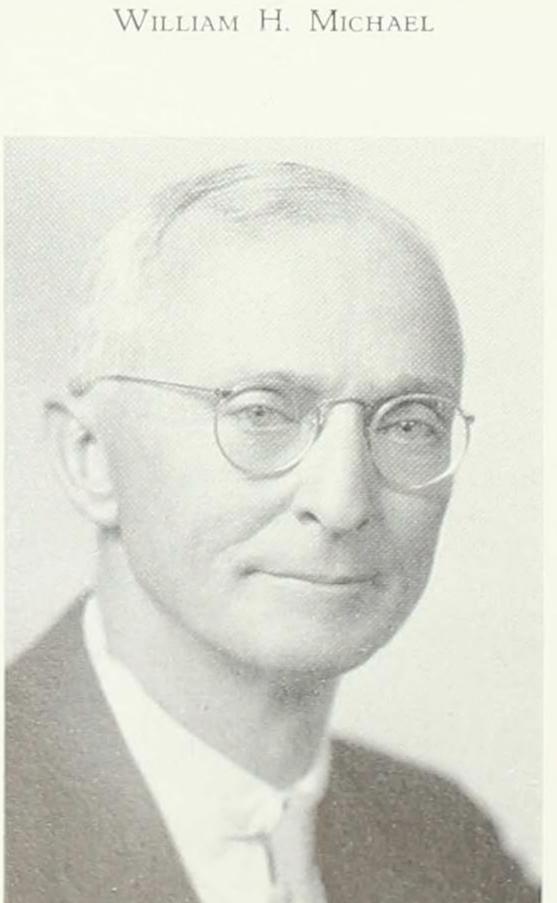
William I. Buchanan



EDWIN H. CONGER

### IOWANS WHO SERVED AT HOME AND ABROAD

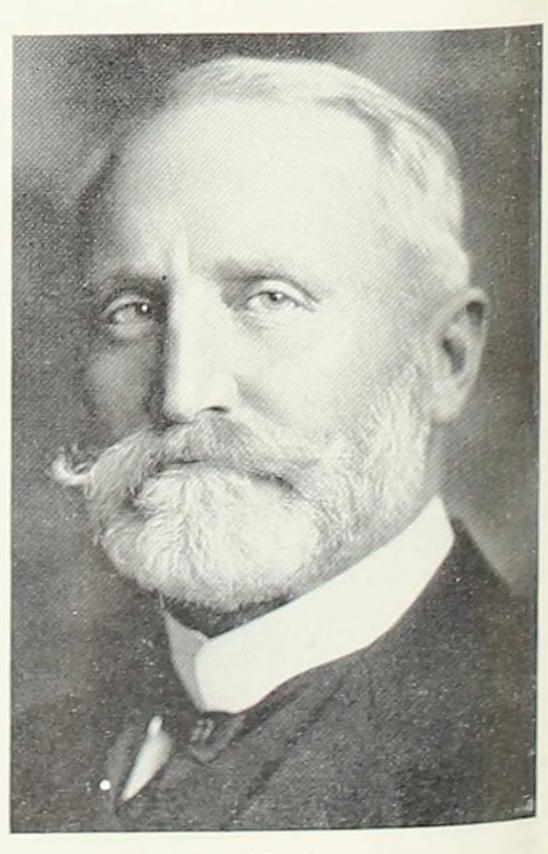




GEORGE L. BRIST



PHILIP H. PATCHIN



GEORGE H. SCIDMORE

en route at Havana for passengers and mail. During her stop on February 28, 1854, the ship was boarded by Spanish authorities who confiscated 900 bales of cotton. The captain thereupon abandoned ship to the Spaniards. Almost at once many claims for damages were entered by United States citizens. On May 7, 1855, Dodge was instructed to accept the terms offered by the Spanish, indemnities for Americans amounting to \$43,212.92. Spain's decision had made a favorable impression on America, which the government did not wish to weaken by haggling over the amount.

Dodge was recalled on March 12, 1859, but Iowa was not without a person in the diplomatic corps long. On April 6, 1859, George Wallace Jones, Senator from Dubuque, accepted an appointment as Minister to New Granada (now Colombia). Earlier Bernhart Henn, Congressman from Fairfield, had written Lewis Cass, Secretary of State, that friends of Jones wanted to secure him a position to which his long and faithful services to the Democratic party entitled him.

If untiring industry, perseverance and energy coupled with sound judgment and accomplished address added to a devotedness to the interests of his country are traits which commend themselves to the Administration to the post in question, no man has them more prominently than he.

Fourteen years in Congress representing the territories of Michigan and Wisconsin and the State of Iowa had contributed greatly to Jones' knowl-

edge of United States relations with foreign countries. Jones could also speak French, a qualification possessed by few Northerners at that time.

Prior to his departure for Bogotá, Jones was instructed by Cass to obtain favorable concessions, if possible, for American companies building rail-roads across Panama in regard to tonnage, passenger and mail taxes. The New Granada government had been disregarding its guarantees to the Americans. In addition it was to be the duty of the new Minister to impress upon the officials and citizens of New Granada "the cordiality of our sympathies and the integrity of our purposes in behalf of that Republic." Although he arrived on May 16, Jones did not present his credentials until August 28, because part of the United States-New Granada treaty had not been ratified.

Interest in building some means of transportation across the Isthmus was increasing constantly. As might be expected, many of Jones' despatches carried reports of his discussions with the New Granada government regarding concessions to American companies wanting to build canals or railroads, visits of Americans to procure contracts, and actions of New Granada in refusing grants.

Shortly after Jones arrived in Bogotá, it became clear that a revolution was likely to occur. In August, 1859, he wrote Cass to ask what his course of action should be. He was told he could not be "too cautious . . . in extending asylum to political

refugees." Jones, however, was to use every possible effort to protect men from being assassinated by the mobs. He found himself repeatedly in the midst of the conflict. At times engagements between the two sides took place within full view of the American legation.

In June, 1861, General Herrán, Minister to the United States from New Granada, asked the British, French, and Peruvian diplomats to help settle the differences between the opposing forces. The British and French refused to serve as moderators; they thought Jones should be the one to act since he knew both sides. During the conflict he had provided safety for General Herrán's family. He was also personally acquainted with General Mosquera, leader of the rebel forces. Jones felt that the responsibility for a settlement should not rest with him alone but with the diplomatic corps. However, he worked to bring about an understanding and was largely successful.

Jones' reception in the United States was not that normally accorded a returning diplomat. On December 20, 1861, he was arrested at his New York hotel, and charged with treasonable designs. The charges were based upon a letter he had written to Jefferson Davis in which he said that "the dissolution of the Union will probably be the cause of my own ruin as well as that of my country and may cause me and mine to go South." He had also written to Isaac E. Morse, "Great God, what a

calamity civil war will be to my country." After being detained for two months, Jones was released from Fort Lafayette on February 22, 1862.

Not all Iowans were eager to accept diplomatic appointments. On March 11, 1863, Lincoln offered Samuel J. Kirkwood, Governor of Iowa, the position of Minister to Denmark. He declined, fearing that it might be a move to keep him from the United States Senate.

As early as 1861 Fitz Henry Warren of Burlington was being considered for a diplomatic post. In a letter to Secretary of State William H. Seward, Warren wrote that he was informed that the Iowa congressional delegation had asked for his appointment to Bogotá. He accused the delegation of maligning him, as well as President Lincoln. He felt they wanted to get rid of him by sending him to "this semi-barbarous" country, instead of Naples, Constantinople, or Austria. On April 2, 1861, Warren wrote Seward again. Since he had not received a mission he wanted, he inferred that he was "not thought worthy," and did not possess the confidence of the administration.

Warren later accepted a commission as Minister to Guatemala, arriving there on June 21, 1866. Though not in the best of health and greatly fatigued by the journey, Warren was cheered by the Guatemalans' expressions of friendship toward the United States and their satisfaction with

the outcome of the Civil War.

In one of his despatches dealing with Guate-malan sugar and coffee Warren provided information considered by experts to be carefully prepared and very reliable. Warren was of the opinion that many United States citizens might "be induced to seek in this charming locality, a new home" to grow sugar and coffee. Eventually, "this Country might be a valuable acquisition to our Country, in the growth to which we tend."

Early in 1869 Silas Hudson from Burlington, a native of Kentucky and a cousin of General Ulysses S. Grant, was selected as successor to Warren. Adverse criticism regarding Hudson circulated in Guatemala before his arrival. Newspapers claimed that he was so uneducated he scarcely knew much English. Warren did what he could to counteract this impression by informing the Guatemalan officials that Hudson was a man of education and marked ability, and to give Hudson all possible aid and encouragement, Warren remained at his post until the new Minister arrived.

On August 4, 1869, Hudson reported on his first visit with the President of Guatemala. Hudson assured him the United States did not plan to annex Mexico or any of the Central American countries as had been suggested by the English and French in Guatemala.

In carrying out his duties Hudson was guided by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, who outlined a diplomat's mission in a country, such as

Guatemala, where commerce was small. Fish stressed the point that it was not American policy to domineer, especially in Spanish American countries. The Minister was to obtain information not available from other sources. In line with these instructions, Hudson's reports dealt with topics such as the establishment of steamship lines in the Pacific and Atlantic-Pacific railroad lines.

As usual there were the activities of insurgent forces to be reported to Washington. Hudson was urged to use caution since governmental changes were frequent in Latin America. He should not interfere in local politics without express instructions.

Hudson, suffering from partial paralysis of his limbs in the summer of 1872 and fearing greater incapacity as the wet season set in, requested and was granted a four months' leave. He did not return, and no replacement was made since the diplomatic missions to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Salvador were consolidated into one shortly afterwards.

The first person from Iowa who would be called a career diplomat — one who held a series of posts — was John A. Kasson. Kasson was born in Vermont, educated at the University of Vermont, lived in St. Louis a number of years, and moved to Des Moines in 1857. Under President Lincoln he was appointed First Assistant Postmaster General. His first diplomatic experience came as a

delegate to the Paris international postal conference of 1863 which prepared the way for the International Postal Union.

Kasson's first appointment as a Minister was to Austria-Hungary from 1877 to 1881. His second assignment was in Germany from 1884 to 1885. In both countries he served with great credit. Equally important were his activities in connection with a number of international conferences. In 1884 he was the delegate to the conference to regulate the status of the Congo. In 1889 he was sent to the Berlin Conference to settle Samoan claims. Finally in 1898, he was a member of the British-American Joint High Commission to solve the Alaskan boundary question and special commissioner to negotiate reciprocity agreements under the Dingley Tariff Act.

Christian Wullweber, a native of the Grand-Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and educated at Heidelberg and Berlin Universities and Harvard Law School before coming to Dubuque, was the next Iowan to receive an appointment. He was named Minister to Ecuador in July, 1875, but did not arrive at Quito until November 13. Wullweber's despatches were routine in nature. They pertained largely to claims of American citizens, mail matters, political affairs, and the inevitable revolution. In September, 1876, Wullweber was recalled and was not replaced until 1892.

In a speech at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1868

Alexander Clark, a Negro from Muscatine, advocated the election of General Grant as President. Three years later it was suggested that he be appointed to the consular service. Since Iowa had been among the first to give Negroes the right of suffrage, it seemed fitting that the state be favored with an appointment for one of its citizens.

Late in 1872 Clark was offered the post at Aux Cayes, Haiti. He was unable to accept before the next spring by which time the post was no longer vacant. In August, 1890, Clark was again considered for a position and this time was named Minister Resident and Consul General to Liberia. Clark, who had been called the "Frederick Douglass of the West," was the second Negro to serve in this capacity.

However, he served only a short time, dying on May 31, 1891. The President of Liberia, the members of the Cabinet, and all diplomatic representatives in Monrovia were in attendance at the funeral. Military and Masonic rites were held for him.

Another Iowan who was in the diplomatic corps was John N. Irwin, a native of Ohio and head of a wholesale house in Keokuk. Earlier he had been a territorial governor in Idaho and Arizona. In 1899 it was suggested that he would make an excellent Assistant Secretary of State, Consul General in Berlin, or Minister to Greece. None of these materialized, and he was appointed to Por-

tugal where his career in the diplomatic service was uneventful and his stay a short five months.

Three Iowans had a great influence on diplomatic relations between the United States and the Latin American countries from 1890 to 1911. They were William I. Buchanan of Sioux City, Thomas C. Dawson of Council Bluffs, and Edwin H. Conger of Dallas and Madison counties.

Buchanan, after having been one of the promoters of the corn palaces in Sioux City, served as chief of the departments of agriculture, livestock, and forestry at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His plan for the exhibit of farm machinery, his zeal in advancing the livestock and agricultural interests of the United States and his knowledge of agricultural resources and needs led many to urge his appointment as Minister to the "great agricultural country" of Argentina.

Familiar names of manufacturers were among his supporters — Studebaker, John Deere, Swift and Company, Cyrus Hall McCormick, and Pabst Brewing Company. Livestock associations, such as the American Clydesdale Association and the American Short-Horn Breeders' Association were also backing Buchanan. All were of the opinion that American trade with Argentina was decreasing in favor of Germany. Buchanan's background made him the logical person to develop markets for American livestock and farm machinery.

Buchanan arrived in Buenos Aires and pre-

sented his credentials on May 19, 1894. For this ceremony the Subsecretary of the Foreign Office and a General of the Army called for him in the state coach, escorted by a large number of cavalry. Awaiting his arrival were the President of Argentina, the cabinet, a representative of the Archbishop, and many public leaders.

In less than a month Buchanan was giving "careful attention and considerable time to securing" estimates on wheat and corn crops. His comment was that no country offered greater possibilities for American commerce than Argentina. Therefore, the United States should make a determined effort to develop a profitable foreign trade to overcome the poor showing being made at that time. To accomplish this a commercial treaty between the United States and Argentina was needed, and Buchanan obtained one in July, 1899.

Buchanan's ability as a diplomat was evident in other ways. Argentina had withdrawn from the Bureau of American Republics, a predecessor of the Pan American Union, on the grounds that none of the Latin American countries had a voice in its direction. Buchanan finally convinced Argentina that she should rejoin, thus bringing about a more united and zealous cooperation among all members of the Bureau. Even more noteworthy was Buchanan's appointment on the Delimitation Commission on the Argentina-Chile boundary dis-

pute. Largely through his efforts the dispute was settled in 1899. President Roca of Argentina wrote:

The participation taken in the difficulties . . . by Mr. Buchanan, the American minister, has been a motive for particular gratification. To that solution he chiefly contributed, and thus rendered both the Republics an eminent service. . . . Nor will this ever be forgotten by the people whose destinies have been at stake on one or the other side of the mountains.

Thomas C. Dawson was a lawyer in Des Moines and Council Bluffs, city editor of the Des Moines Register, and Assistant Attorney General of Iowa prior to his appointment as a diplomat. Dawson's assignments included Secretary of the legation in Rio de Janeiro from 1897 to 1904, Minister to the Dominican Republic in 1904, Minister to Colombia in 1907, Minister to Chile in 1909, Minister to Panama in 1910, United States Special Agent to the Provisional Government of Nicaragua in 1910, Special Peace Commissioner to Honduras in 1911, and Ambassador on Special Mission to the Venezuelan centenary in 1911.

At the time of his death in 1911 Dawson was considered the foremost Latin American authority in the United States. The way in which he entered upon his duties in the Dominican Republic shows clearly why he became such an able man in his field. On the way to Santo Domingo he traveled by horseback, naval vessel, and railroad to

meet provincial officials, as well as many prominent citizens and merchants; he also visited important cocoa centers and a large banana plantation of the United Fruit Company.

He presented his credentials to the President on July 23, 1904. Within five days he had visited nearly every important town and most productive areas of the country, talking with hundreds of the Dominicans in their own language. When he returned to Santo Domingo, he had a fairly exact idea of the industrial resources and possibilities of the Dominican Republic.

In September Dawson took a four-day horse-back trip to the coastal villages where insurrectionists were predominant. Dawson wrote of them:

They are so poor that they have little to lose by the disorders of war; their farms are mere patches of plantains, sweet potatoes and manioc which they temporarily abandon without loss; a campaign is to them a sort of picnic in which they get fifty cents a day, spend most of their time lying in camp playing cards, and are permitted to kill and eat any cattle they may want to eat.

Edwin H. Conger, the third diplomat in Latin America at this time, operated a large stock farm and engaged in banking in Madison County. He held such political positions as Madison County supervisor, treasurer of Dallas County, and United States Congressman. From 1890 to 1893, and 1897 to 1898 he was Minister to Brazil, and to China from 1898 to 1905. When he was ap-

pointed Ambassador to Mexico in 1905, he became the first Iowan to hold this rank. He resigned on October 18, 1905, because of high expenses in Mexico City and his need for rest.

One of Conger's principal interests in Brazil was the development of trade opportunities for Americans. He felt that the market was there but it was controlled by habits not easily changed or disregarded. The flour trade was established but needed to be pushed. Bacon, ham, butter, cheese, and other products were in demand if they were marketed to meet Brazilian desires.

When Conger left his "pleasant diplomatic career" in Rio de Janeiro in 1893, he wrote that:

Relations at present existing between the United States and Brazil are most cordial and friendly; and that no troublesome questions are now pending, every important incident having been satisfactorily closed except the pending negotiations for an Extradition Treaty.

In China Conger was faced with problems raised by the threat of war between Japan and Russia. In such case, the situation in China would be "wholly unique, extremely difficult and critical." Much of the land and sea fighting would be in Chinese territory and waters.

He reported that the occupation of Manchuria by the Russians made its future uncertain, "paralyzing and destroying all trade." He wrote of a Russian proposal to establish a sanitary commission in Manchuria before withdrawing:

Some of my Colleagues are inclined to believe it is simply a trial, on the part of the Russians, to see how far they can go in the direction of retaining control before any of the other Powers will cry halt. . . . It is not difficult to foresee what political domination by Russia means in Manchuria, but it can only be prevented by the actual planting therein of the arms, officials, and capital of the other great nations. This the United States cannot and will not do.

At his last audience with the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China, Conger was decorated with the Order of the Double Dragon and was presented with a painting by the Empress and four rolls of silk from the Imperial looms. This was in appreciation of the many services he had rendered China, as evidence of their personal friendship and esteem, and as a souvenir of his long residence in China.

His successor, John Gardner Coolidge, wrote:

Mr. Conger has made a permanent record in the history of the foreign relations of China; and, to sum up the situation as it appears to my best judgment, during the latter days, whereas other representatives exerted pressure, he carried weight; and I conceive that this is the ideal, the attainment of which is most in accordance with the principles of our Government and the instincts of our people.

A number of other Iowans held diplomatic missions during the first third of the twentieth century. Lauritz S. Swenson, a graduate of Luther College, was Minister to Denmark from 1897 to 1905, to Switzerland from 1909 to 1911, to Norway from 1911 to 1913 and from 1921 to 1930,

and to the Netherlands from 1931 to 1934. While in Denmark he negotiated the cession of the Danish West Indies to the United States.

Richard C. Kerens, a native of Kilberry, Ireland, emigrated at an early age to Iowa, where he received a public school education. Later, as a resident of Missouri, he was Republican National Committeeman from that state, railroad builder, and large contributor to campaign funds. President Taft appointed him Minister to Austria-Hungary in 1909 as a reward for his political services. Except for social activities, his four years were marked only by colorless routine matters.

Alfred J. Pearson, a professor of history and languages at Drake University, was confirmed as Minister to Poland on April 2, 1924. There he helped in the economic and financial reconstruction of the country. In 1925 he was transferred to Finland, where he remained until April 30, 1930.

Less than two months later Hanford MacNider of Mason City was appointed Minister to Canada. Previously he had been National Commander of the American Legion, Assistant Secretary of War, and general manager of the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company. He held the Canadian post until he resigned on August 31, 1932.

For a number of years no Iowans held diplomatic posts. Since World War II there have been seven. Maxwell M. Hamilton of Sioux City was

Minister to Finland from 1945 to 1948. Before that he served in various capacities in China, was Chief of the Far Eastern Division of the Department, and Counsellor of the Embassy in Moscow.

Myron M. Cowen, who was born at Logan and received his law degree from Drake University, was Ambassador to Australia from 1948 to 1949, to the Philippines from 1949 to 1951, and to Belgium from 1952 to 1953. Cowen was also Adviser to the American Delegation to the Conference for the Conclusion and Signature of the Treaty of Peace with Japan in San Francisco in 1951.

Raymond A. Hare, who graduated from Grinnell College, is considered one of the State Department's top specialists on the Near East. He first went to that area in 1924 on the staff of Robert College in Istanbul. Since his entry into the Foreign Service in 1927 he has served in Turkey, France, Lebanon, Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Kingdom. On August 28, 1950, he was named Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Minister to Yemen. He became Ambassador to Lebanon on July 28, 1953. He resigned in September, 1954, to take the position of Director General of the Foreign Service.

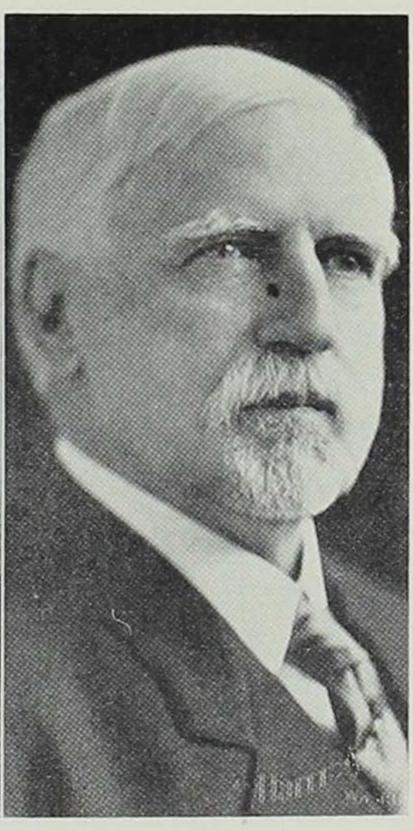
Major General Philip B. Fleming, who was born at Burlington, was graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1911 at the head of his class. In addition to his army career he served in a number of government agencies, in-

### DIPLOMATS TO MANY LANDS

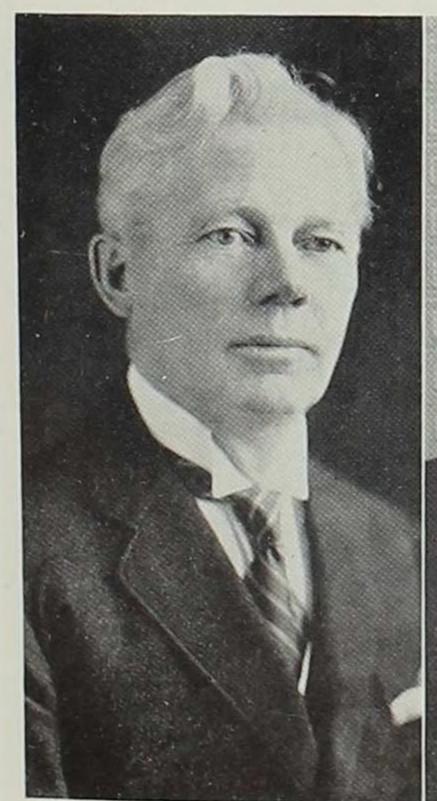


CHRISTIAN WULLWEBER ALEXANDER CLARK





RICHARD KERENS



ALFRED J. PEARSON

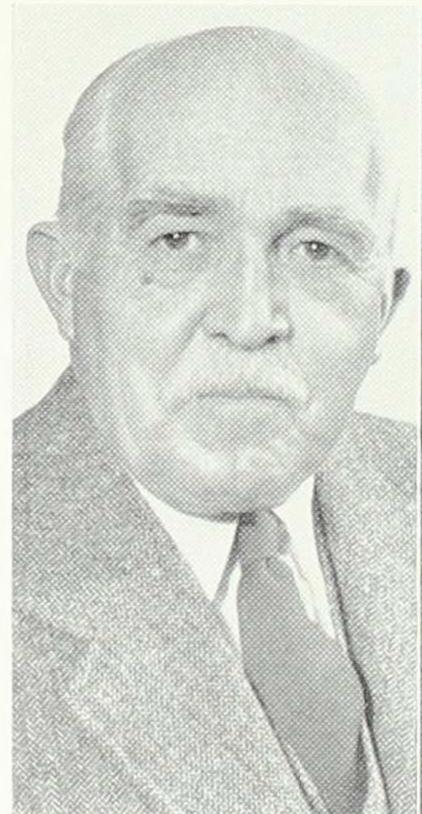


Maxwell Hamilton

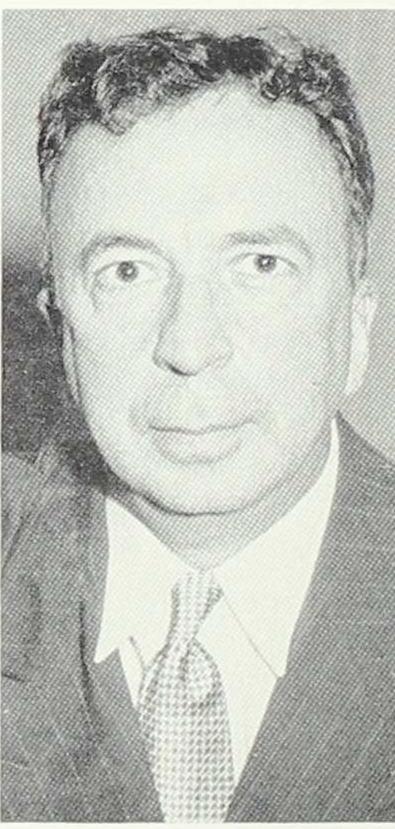


HANFORD MACNIDER

# RECENT DIPLOMATS FROM IOWA



PHILIP B. FLEMING



Myron M. Cowen



RAYMOND A. HARE



CHRISTIAN M. RAVNDAL

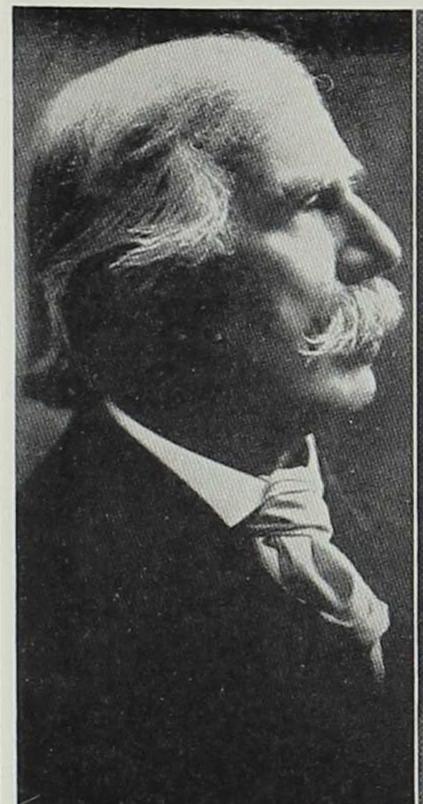


Mrs. Eugenie Anderson



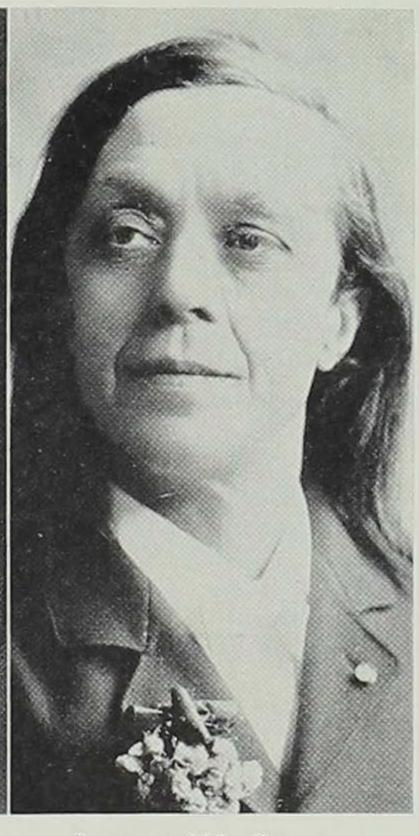
MAX W. BISHOP

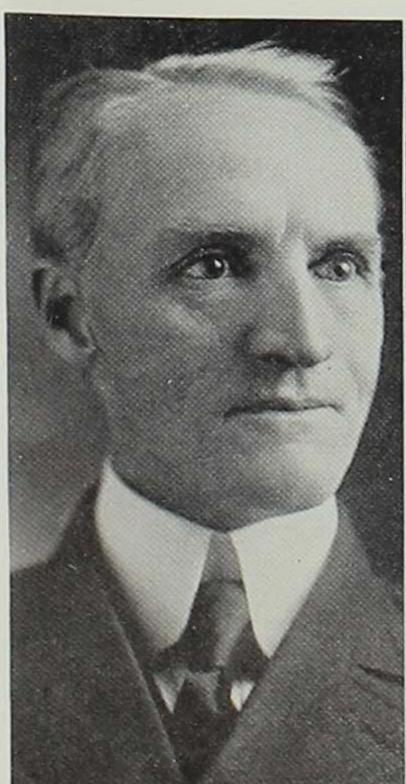
# IOWANS IN THE CONSULAR SERVICE





S. H. M. Byers Johnson Brigham Albert W. Swalm

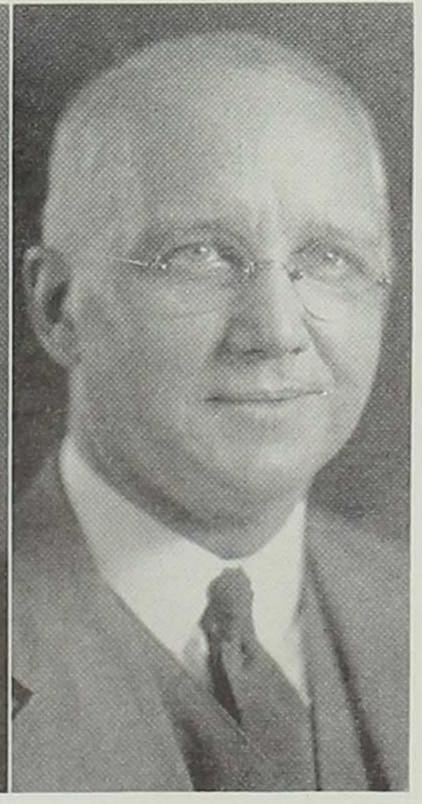




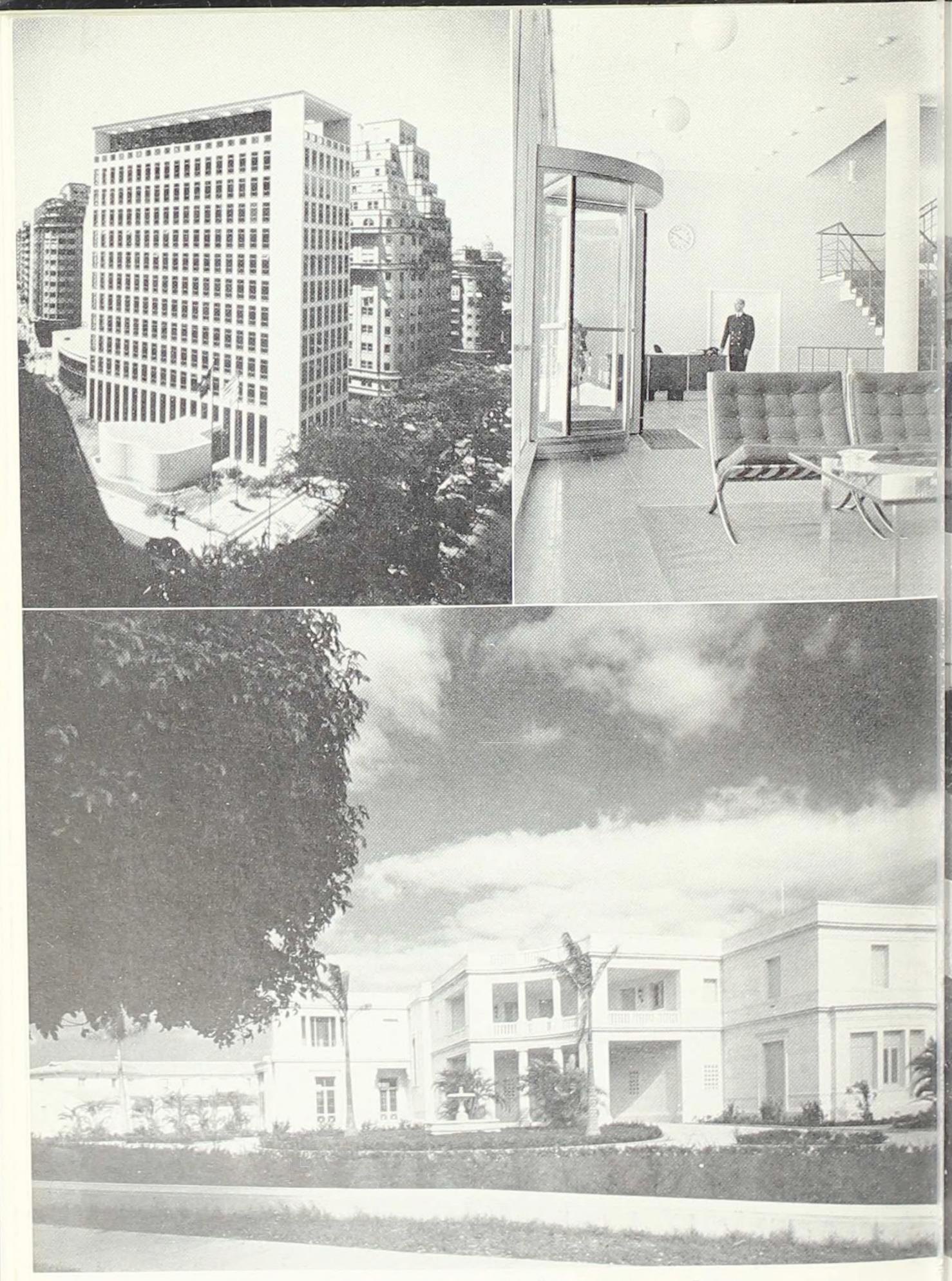
PHILIP C. HANNA



IRVING B. RICHMAN



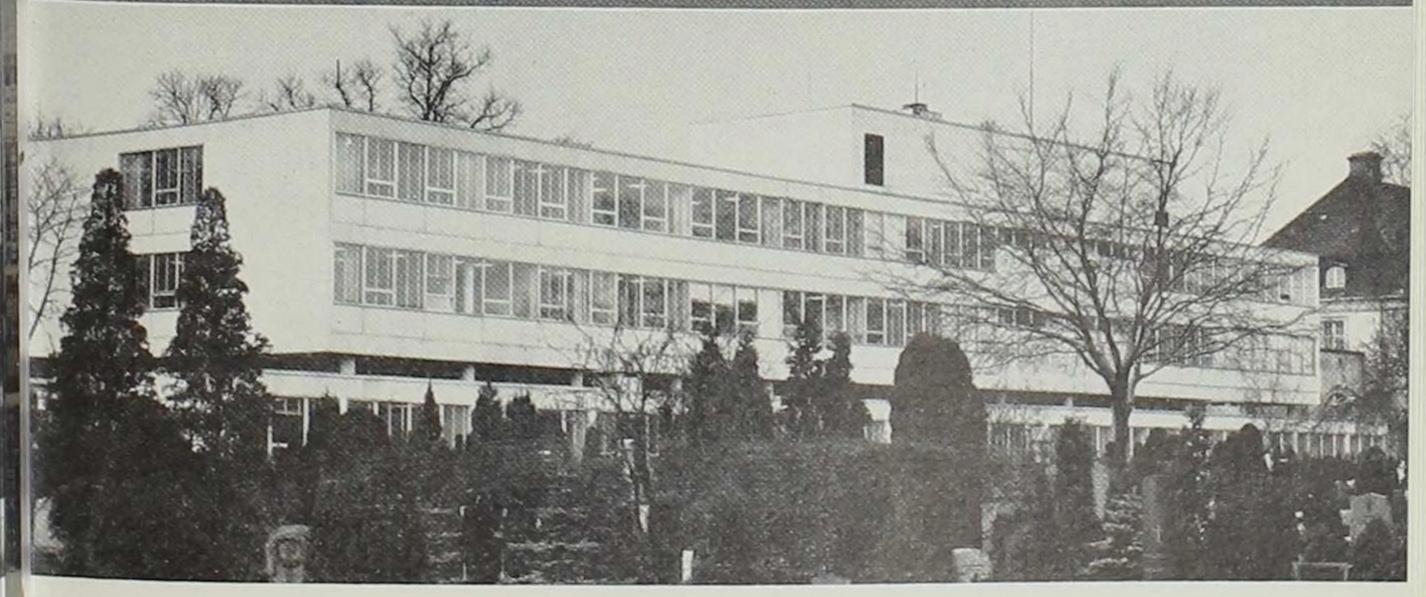
STUART J. FULLER



Top, left: New American Office Building, Rio de Janeiro Top, right: Entrance to the same building Bottom: Ambassador's Residence, Havana, Cuba



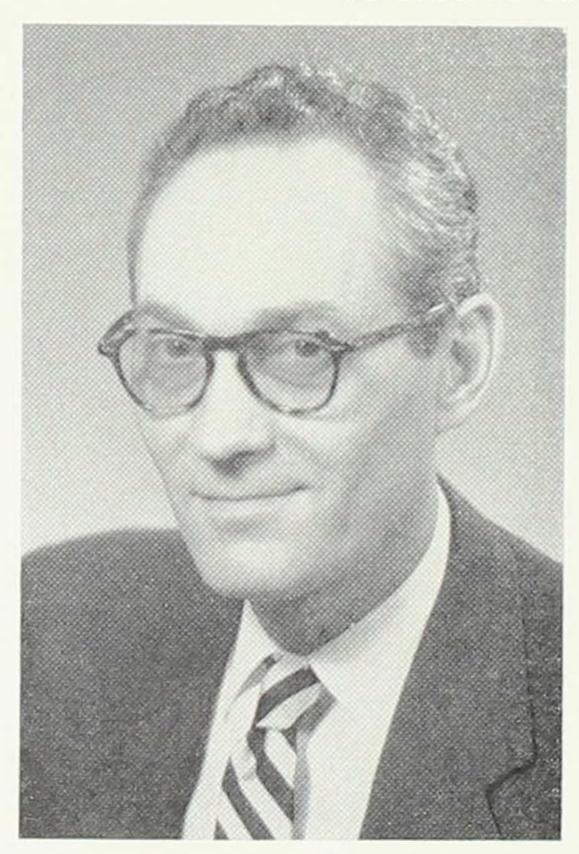




Top: Ambassador's Residence, Brussels, Belgium Middle: Ambassador's Residence, Dublin, Ireland

Bottom: New American Office Building, Copenhagen, Denmark

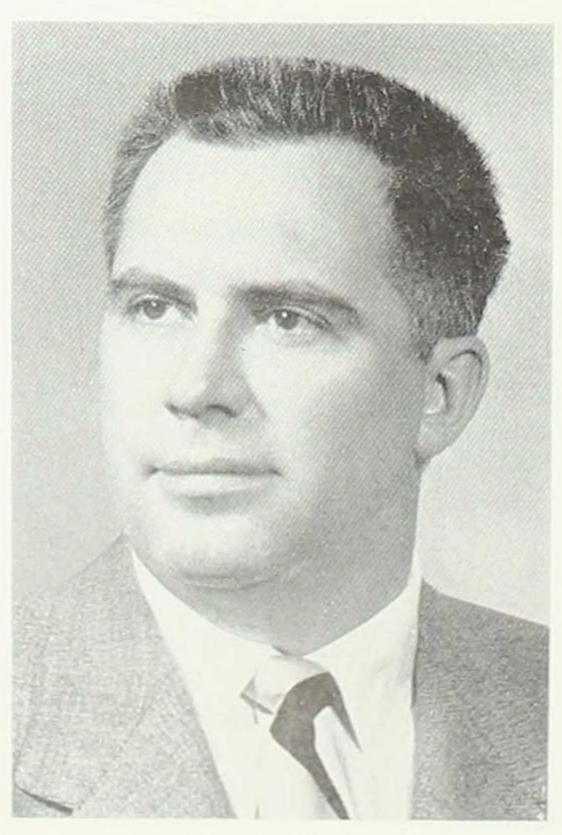
# IOWANS IN WASHINGTON



Francis O. Wilcox



Mrs. Dorothy Houghton



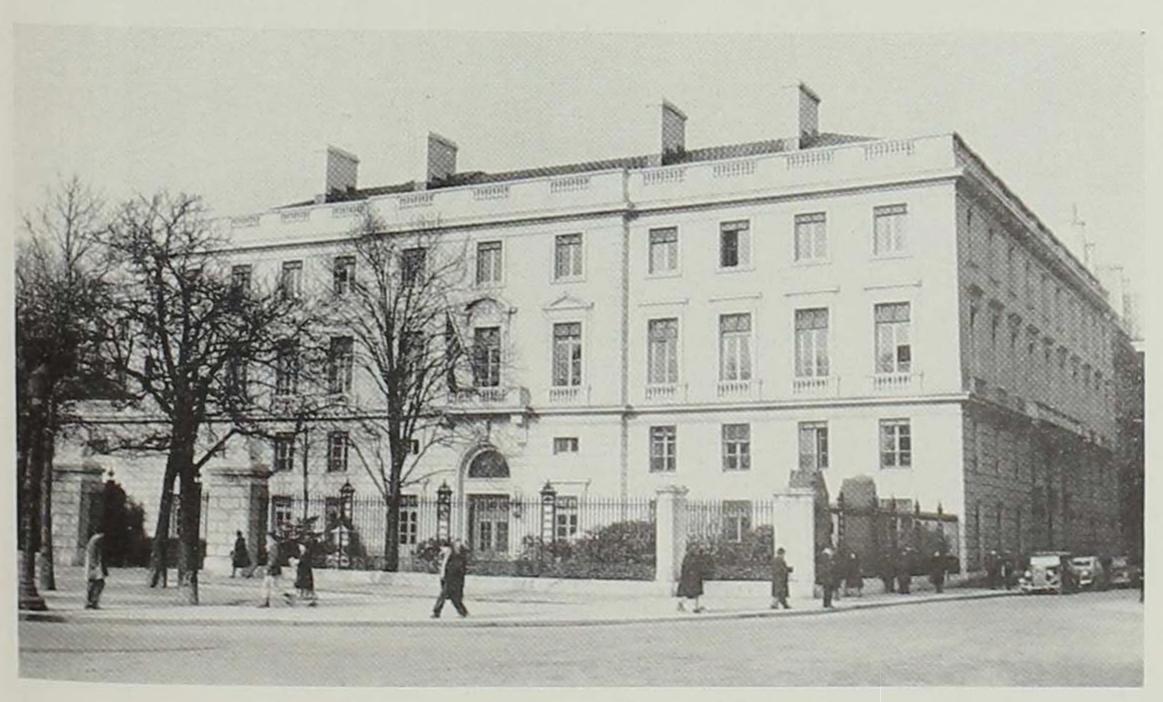
SCOTT McLEOD



HOMER L. CALKIN

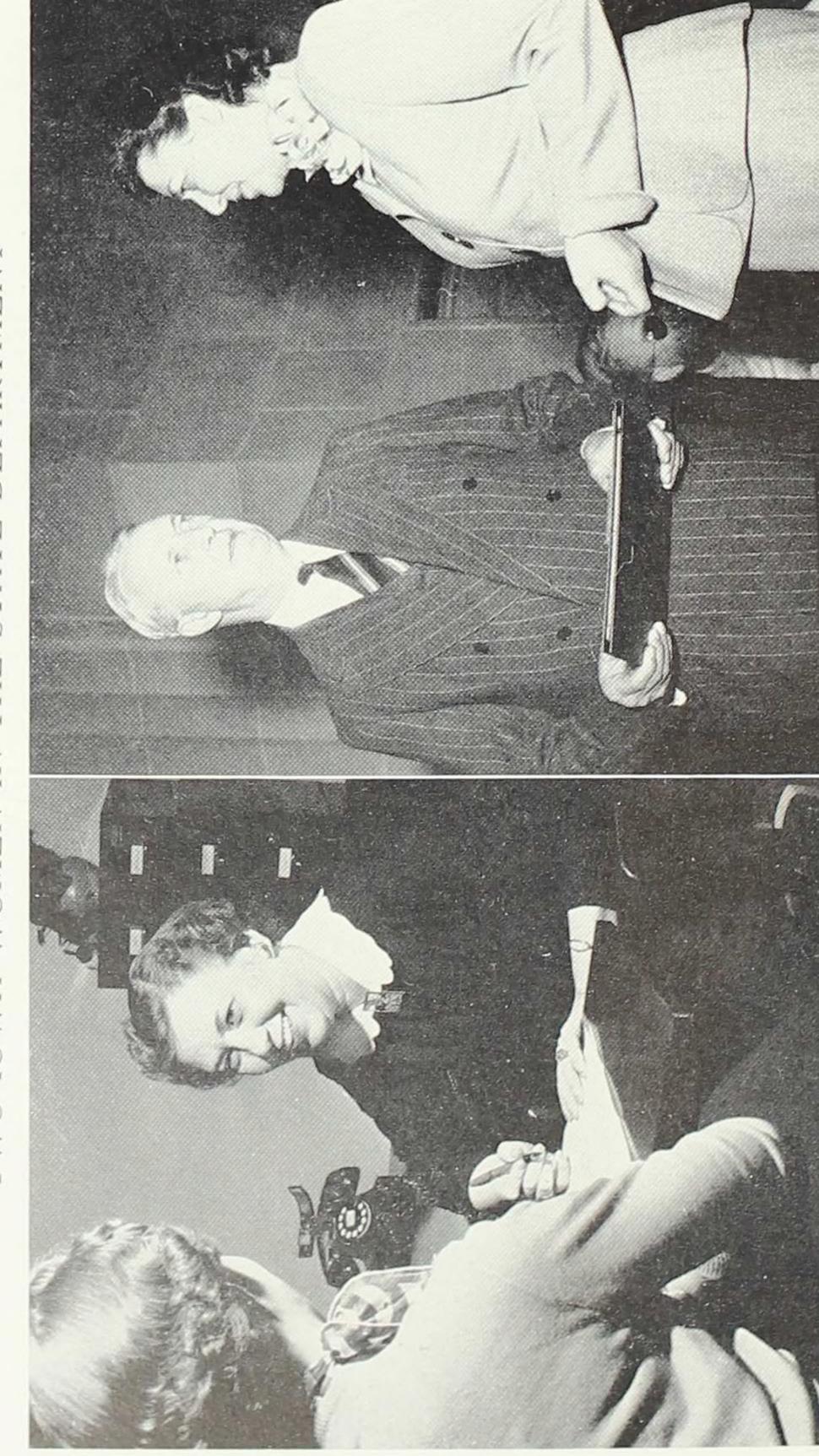


American government office building, Belgrade



American government office building, Paris

# TWO IOWA WOMEN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT



delegation to an inter-1952. American October, an i in a position with a Superior On the left: Mary Friday conducts an interview with an applicant for national conference. On the right: Ruth Harvey receives a Superior

cluding the Public Works Administration and the Departments of Labor and Commerce. From 1951 to 1953 he was Ambassador to Costa Rica.

Mrs. Eugenie Moore Anderson was the first woman in the United States to become an Ambassador. Mrs. Anderson, daughter of a Methodist minister, was born in Adair and lived in many Iowa towns before moving to Minnesota. Appointed Ambassador to Denmark in October, 1949, Mrs. Anderson arrived in Copenhagen in December of that year. She wasted no time in winning friends for America. She did it primarily by her efforts to understand the Danish people, their customs, their traditions, and their problems.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Danes showed the greatest interest in three aspects of American life: the labor movement, farming, and how American youth lives. She did everything possible to give an objective picture of these subjects.

While in Denmark, Mrs. Anderson signed a treaty and two agreements on behalf of the United States. The treaty, signed on October 1, 1951, and the first in American history to be signed by a woman, was one of friendship, commerce, and navigation. She signed an agreement with Denmark which gave the United States access to bases in Greenland without infringing upon Danish sovereignty there. The second agreement was one providing for the exchange of students, teachers, and research workers between the United States

and Denmark. Of the exchange program, Mrs. Anderson has said, "Travel and study in the United States are the most effective answer to criticism and misconceptions of our country." She resigned in 1953.

Christian M. Ravndal of Decorah, present Minister to Hungary, was born in Beirut where his father was American consul. He received an A.B. degree from Luther College. Ravndal entered the Foreign Service in 1920 and has been stationed in many cities in Europe, Canada, and South America, as well as holding numerous departmental assignments.

The most recent appointment of an Iowan was that of Max W. Bishop of Davenport as Ambassador to Thailand on December 3, 1955. Prior to this he has been responsible for coordinating plans within the Department on matters before the Operations Coordinating Board, which has the job of seeing that national security policies are carried out. Bishop has spent nearly twenty years in the Foreign Service and has held such positions as political advisor to the Comanding General in the India-Burma Theater and to the Supreme Commander, Allied Forces, in Japan.

HOMER L. CALKIN