

Significance of Work

Perhaps the most significant item emerging from the session was the rekindling of a long-standing feud between rural and urban forces over taxes. It was obvious from the beginning that either the income tax or the sales tax would be increased to raise the money needed to relieve school taxes on property.

The question was whether the increase would be in the income tax, as favored by rural interests, or in the sales tax, as favored by urban legislators. Governor Ray's insistence on increasing the income tax may have tipped the scales in that direction. At any rate, rural forces won this round.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette took note of the rural-urban split and also that "the House and Senate seemed on occasion to be more interested in working as autonomous and unrelated units rather than as partners." Nevertheless, it viewed the session as "productive."

But the WMT Stations in Cedar Rapids saw it as "unproductive," observing that Iowans "would do well to take a look at the extent to which special interest legislation has dominated the session."

The KWWL Stations in Waterloo agreed that

too much time was spent "on special interest legislation" and blamed failure of some key bills on Republican in-fighting at the administrative level.

The Des Moines Register summed up the views of many editorialists, saying that members of the Sixty-Fourth "may yet chalk up a record in which they clearly can take pride. But at this point the record is mixed."

In other words, with the advent of annual sessions, many editorial writers preferred to wait until the Sixty-Fourth completes its 1972 session before commenting on its record.

But they did agree that there are some ominous forebodings for the 1972 session in the widening breach between Governor Ray and Lieutenant Governor Jepsen, what with all the signs pointing to a battle between them for the Republican nomination for Governor at the 1972 primary election.

They wonder whether the 1972 legislature will follow the program proposed by the Lieutenant Governor in his campaign or that which will be presented to them by Governor Ray when they convene next January.