

# THE PALIMPSEST

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## The Election of 1970

Neither Iowa seat in the United States Senate was at stake in the non-presidential election year of 1970. So public attention was focused on the race for Governor where the bid of Governor Robert D. Ray for a second term was being challenged by Robert D. Fulton, the Democrat he succeeded in that office. Fulton had served nearly four years as Lieutenant Governor before completing the last 15 days of the third term of Governor Harold E. Hughes, who was sworn into the United States Senate early in 1969.

There were many similarities between the candidates. Both had served as Governor; both were lawyers; both had the same first name and middle initial; both were in their early forties; and both had enviable records as dedicated public servants and as devoted party workers. Then, too, both lacked the personal magnetism to stir supporters into momentum-building enthusiasm that produces votes. So the campaign, which found Governor Ray fending off Candidate Fulton's frequent

charge that the state was being operated in the red, took on a dullness ultimately reflected by one of the lowest voter-turnouts in recent Iowa history.

Even the fact that a woman (Senator Minnette Doderer, Iowa City Democrat) was running for the first time for Lieutenant Governor did not lure a complacent citizenry to the polls in anything resembling record-breaking numbers. Perhaps the only exciting campaign moments came in the First and Second Congressional districts. In the Second, Vice President Spiro Agnew dropped into Cedar Rapids to pin a "radiclib" label on the Democratic incumbent, Congressman John Culver, who went on to win anyway by 29,117 votes. In the First, Republican Fred Schwengel kept his seat by a margin of 765 votes over Democratic State Representative Edward Mezvinsky.

Republicans won a substantial victory in the election, holding all seven state offices and five of seven congressional seats. But Democrats made gains in the legislature, claiming 33.3 per cent of 150 seats compared to 29.2 per cent of 185 seats after the 1968 election. The 1970 election results:

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Republican</i> |         | <i>Democrat</i> |         |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Governor*     | Ray               | 403,394 | Fulton          | 368,911 |
| Lt. Gov.      | Jepsen            | 423,491 | Doderer         | 338,722 |
| Sec. State    | Synhorst          | 437,928 | Robinson        | 313,510 |
| Auditor       | Smith             | 422,622 | Lindusky        | 323,510 |
| Treasurer     | Baringer          | 401,295 | Palmer          | 335,400 |

*THE ELECTION OF 1970*

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|            |        |         |        |         |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Sec. Agri. | Liddy  | 395,881 | Owen   | 357,095 |
| Atty. Gen. | Turner | 405,474 | Walton | 341,451 |

\* Robert Dilley received 18,933 votes as the American Independent party candidate for governor.

On special issues, voters opposed holding a constitutional convention, 214,663 to 204,517. But they ratified three proposed amendments to the Iowa constitution:

SJR 1: To liberalize residency requirements for voting, 300,119 to 141,091.

SJR 2: To require election of each legislator from a single-member district, 289,200 to 132,590.

SJR 3: To repeal the constitutional provision limiting terms of county attorneys to two years, 243,628 to 169,969.

**COST OF FIRST SESSION, 64th GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

| <i>Item</i>     | <i>House</i>   | <i>Senate</i> | <i>Joint</i> | <i>Total</i>   |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Salaries .....  | \$ 950,815.06  | \$533,050.05  | \$ 88,323.14 | \$1,572,188.25 |
| Chaplains ..... |                |               | 4,252.00     | 4,252.00       |
| Printing .....  |                |               | 314,111.74   | 314,111.74     |
| *Travel,        |                |               |              |                |
| Expenses .....  | 203,005.20     | 103,755.90    |              | 306,761.10     |
| Miscellaneous   | 27,432.36      | 28,729.12     | 37,329.79    | 93,491.27      |
| Totals .....    | \$1,181,252.62 | \$665,535.07  | \$444,016.67 | \$2,290,804.36 |

Cost of First Session, 63rd General Assembly ..... \$1,885,448.67

**TOTAL COST OF LAST FIVE BIENNIAL SESSIONS**

|                |                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 63rd G.A.      | 62nd G.A.      | 61st G.A.      | 60th G.A.      | 59th G.A.      |
| \$3,260,824.59 | \$2,311,097.28 | \$1,608,894.56 | \$1,190,485.30 | \$1,153,226.66 |

\* This item represents mileage for one round trip weekly for each legislator between home and Statehouse, plus daily expenses, authorized for first time beginning January 1, 1971. Previously nothing was authorized for expenses and each legislator was paid for one round trip per session.