

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Johnson, Elmer A. Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Linn County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 29 Nov 1871 Harnerville, Wisconsin

2. Marriage (s) date place  
① Ella Kettering 5 June 1901

② Ira M. Strong 14 Dec 1905

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Practical law in Linn County for 56 years; member of  
Linn and American Bar Associations

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Knights of Pythias; Kiwanis

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 45<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1933, 1939, 1941

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 21 Oct 1955 Cedar Rapids, Iowa; buried Cedar Memorial Cemetery, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

8. Children Mrs. Errol L. Miller;

9. Names of parents John and Kate (Burke) Johnson

Johnson, Elmer O.

10. Education \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Degrees University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa - graduate of law school in 1899.

12. Other applicable information Republican

- His first 20 years of practicing law was in Leibow, Iowa
- He then practiced in Cedar Rapids from 1919 in the firm of Johnson, Lawrence and Crissman
- He came to Iowa in 1877 with his parents where they lived on farms near Chester in Harbin County.
- He studied law in the John Mc Cook law office in Cresco Iowa before entering the University of Iowa law school
- Military service - Spanish American War - Co. I 50<sup>th</sup> Iowa Infantry Regiment
- His first wife, Ella, died in 1903



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Youngsters.

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13, John Schuessler, 13,  
rother, Anton, 11.

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said eight persons in all  
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sperct. Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by Volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

## E. A. Johnson, Veteran C.R. Lawyer, Dies

Cedar Rapids News—

Elmer A. Johnson, an attorney in Linn county for 56 years and a former state legislator from this county, died suddenly Friday of a heart ailment.

Mr. Johnson was taken ill at 10:22 a.m. on the sidewalk at the intersection of Third avenue and Second street SE. Taken to a hospital by ambulance, he died at about 10:45.



JOHNSON

Hospital authorities said he apparently had died of a heart ailment, but that the nature of it had not been determined.

Mr. Johnson had practiced law in Linn county ever since his graduation from the University of Iowa law school in 1899.

The first 20 years of that time he practiced in Lisbon. A member of the firm of Johnson, Lawrence and Crissman at the time of his death, he began practicing in Cedar Rapids in 1919.

### Four Sessions.

He represented Linn county in four sessions of the state legislature. The first two were the regular session and special session which made up the forty-fifth general assembly.

The last two were the regular sessions which made up the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth general assemblies.

He was known as one of the most scholarly men in the Iowa legislature and one of the most colorful speakers.

Clippings from that day show that even in his first term he was known as one of the outstanding members of the legislature, a tireless worker and militant for what he thought was right.

He was known as a keen student of the Constitution and the practice of government.

Saying that he had no personal political ambitions, the Iowa Official Register credited his service in the legislature to "an attempt in a small way to repay the debt he feels he owes to his community."

For his first term he succeeded Senator Philip Myers in the house of representatives.

He returned for a second term



A BOUQUET FOR ELEANOR — When Eleanor Roosevelt was greeted by representatives of the Cedar Rapids Horizon club girls who presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Barbara Battin and Bette Riley, who made the presentation; Association for the United Nations, and Mrs. M. R. Warren.

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Mrs. Roosevelt  
Says Stevenson  
Best Candidate

Says Kurt Carlsson  
Had Atom Res

hem, because his truck was parked near the ditch where they were found at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

A crowbar, claw hammer and stained sweatshirt found in Rohlfes' truck were sent to the crime laboratory before it was ascertained he had cleared the highway.

Police said eight persons in all have been held for questioning about the slayings, but none is a "good suspect."

Four of those in custody for questioning visited undertaking rooms Thursday night to view the bodies of the Schuessler brothers. Police quoted the four men as saying they did not know the youngsters, but came to the funeral home to say prayers for them.

There was a new eyewitness story, Margaret Criminus, 48, a waitress, told police she saw three youngsters who looked like the victims, accept a ride from a motorist at 10:30 p.m. Sunday at a northwest side intersection.

Meanwhile a girl who gave her name as Gloria Vasquez and said she was from the Sacramento, Calif., area, was picked up without charge at Brookville, Ind., after she went to a priest to confess an automobile theft.

Sheriff James Hixon said she told of being in Chicago last weekend and that she "knew the fellows was" in the Chicago slaying. Hixon quoted her as saying, "I know who did it, but I promised I would never tell."

Sheriff Hixon said Miss Vasquez had a record for burglary, arson and narcotics violations in California and New Mexico.

Meanwhile, investigators doubled the area of a door-to-door canvass for clues in area where the boys last were seen alive Sunday night.

## Factory Worker Pay Sets Record

WASHINGTON (UP)—Average take-home pay of factory workers rose last month to a new record.

A factory worker with three dependents had \$71.55 in his weekly pay envelope, after taxes. Average take-home pay for a factory worker with no dependents was \$64.23.

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members of the legislature, a tireless worker and militant for what he thought was right.

He was known as a keen student of the Constitution and the practice of government.

Saying that he had no personal political ambitions, the Iowa Official Register credited his service in the legislature to "an attempt in a small way to repay the debt he feels he owes to his community."

For his first term he succeeded Senator Frank Byers in the house of representatives.

He returned for a second term because "a man has no right to complain about alarming trends in government unless he is willing to do something about it" and campaigned for a third term to combat pressure groups he believed would try to push selfish bills through that session.

### Minority Member.

A Republican, he had the unusual experience (for a Republican) of serving as a minority member of the Iowa legislature.

Born Nov. 29, 1871, in a lumber camp at Warnerville, Wis., Mr. Johnson came to Iowa in 1877 with his parents, John and Kate Burke Johnson. They lived on farms near Chester and in Hardin county.

After completing grade school, he studied law in the John McCook law office in Cresco and taught school in Howard county before entering the University of Iowa law college. He received his bachelor of laws degree and admitted to the bar in 1899.

He served in the Spanish-American war with Co. I of the Fiftieth Iowa infantry regiment.

Mr. Johnson was married June 5, 1901, to Miss Ella Kettering of Lisbon, who died in 1903. He was married Dec. 14, 1905, to Iva M. Strong of Lisbon.

He was a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans, Iowa Consistory, El Kahir Shrine, Star of the West Knights of Pythias lodge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Linn county, Iowa and American Bar Associations and St. Paul's Methodist church.

Mr. Johnson also had held memberships in the Linn County Farm Bureau and the Kiwanis club.

His home was at 1920 First avenue NE.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, is a daughter, Mrs. Erroll L. Miller of Cedar Rapids, Mrs. Miller, who had been on a vacation trip to Hawaii, was flying home Friday.

The body was taken to the Turner chapel, where friends may call after 1 p.m. Sunday. Funeral announcement will be made later. Entombment will be in the Chapel of Memories at Cedar Memorial cemetery.

## Adlai, Kefauver Listed for Ballot

PORTLAND (AP) — Adlai

### A BOUQUET FOR ELEANOR

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## Mrs. Roosevelt Says Stevenson Best Candidate

By Laurie Van Dyke.

Eleanor Roosevelt stated her opinion on a number of important questions at a Cedar Rapids news conference Friday.

Russia is confident of winning the "new battle," that of ideologies, she said.

Adlai Stevenson is still her favorite candidate, and he's better qualified now than four years ago, she believes.

The present national administration doesn't have the "real feeling" needed to keep up with farm problems and "for a little while we've been losing" on that score, she warned.

People are always ready to listen when the wife of the former President has a comment, but the persons who waited for her 11:25 arrival at the Montrose hotel Friday morning were most eager to just get a look at "Eleanor" and possibly shake her hand.

### Wanted To See Her.

There's an aura of greatness about the former First Lady that makes her still the "first lady" in the minds of many. . . . like the little girl who peered around the corner in the hotel lobby to get a peek at Mrs. Roosevelt.

"I just wanted to see her before I left," she smiled.

The remarkable 71-year-old Mrs. Roosevelt quietly denied that she keeps a heavy schedule.

As she made the statement she was preparing to attend the noon luncheon of the Association for the United Nations and address the board of directors before going to her usual rest and work on her daily column.

After that she was due at 6 p.m. dinner at the Cedar Rapids Country club before her 7:45 p.m. talk at Coe auditorium in the Council on World Questions program. At 9:40 she will catch a plane to New York.

Mrs. Roosevelt presented her ideas on several world questions at the morning press conference. Her agile mind had no difficulty switching from the Geneva spirit to the farm situation to Stevenson as a presidential candidate.

### Never Changes.

She referred to the prediction

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 4.)

## Says Kurt C Had Atom

LONDON (AP) — The Daily Chronicle said Friday that the freighter Flying Enterprise whose 1951 sinking added a new chapter to sagas of the sea, carried a secret cargo of rare metal vital to U.S. atomic power research.

"In six small steel boxes the story reported, she was carrying almost all the world supply of pure zirconium-silvery, steel-strong metal for making atomic power plants."

### Found by Italians.

The account said the boxes of the metal were recovered by the Italian crew which salvaged much of the cargo in 1953 from the sunken wreck off Falmouth harbor.

"Now that the United States and other countries are hoarding large quantities of the metal, an American atomic spy has been allowed to let his colleagues know the story."

## Living Cost Edges Up to Year's Peak

WASHINGTON (UP)—Prices for food and clothing higher household costs set the cost of living up last month to the highest in a year.

The rise sent the cost of living to within one-half of one percent of the record high set in October 1953, the government said Friday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said its index of consumer prices rose three-tenths of one percent between mid-August and September to 114.9 percent of 1947-49 prices.

This was two-tenths of one percent higher than in September, 1954, and the highest since August, 1954. It was the highest since July, 1954, when the index has been higher than the corresponding month of the previous year.

The Bureau of Economic Affairs Commissioner Arnyess Joy said most of the increase was seasonal. She described