

The sergeant-at-arms announced the arrival of the President of the Senate and the honorable body of the Senate.

The President was escorted to the Speaker's station, the Secretary to the Chief Clerk's desk, and the members of the Senate were seated on the west side of the chamber.

### JOINT CONVENTION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 10, duly adopted, the Joint Convention was called to order, Kenneth A. Evans presiding.

The President of the Senate appointed the following committee to notify the Pioneer Lawmakers that the Joint Convention was ready to receive them: Representative McFarlane, Representative Avery and Senator Sharp.

The committee previously appointed escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers to the House Chamber.

President Evans introduced the Honorable Israel A. Smith, President of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, to the Joint Convention.

Mr. Smith introduced to the Joint Convention Senator Frank C. Byers who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate with the following remarks:

#### MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE PIONEER LAWMAKERS ASSOCIATION:

It is an honor and privilege to be allowed to welcome the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate of the Fifty-second General Assembly. It is especially a pleasure for me to welcome you on behalf of the Senate at this time because at the next meeting of the Pioneer Lawmakers two years from now I will be eligible to become a member of the Pioneer Lawmakers and hope to be here and be one of you.

There have been many changes in recent years. There are new conditions constantly arising which require legislative consideration and regulation.

You laid the foundations of the laws of our state wisely and well, and I presume you felt when the last session of your terms in the Legislature ended and you had adjourned that the state had all the laws it needed. You would have been correct if life had remained of the tempo of those days, but in this day of the radio, airplane, automobile and the streamliner, the rule of life is change rather than stability, and it is to meet this change with its increased complexity of human relations that new enactments are constantly required.

You realize as well as we that all change is not progress. It is still true, as in the past, that we must consider well what is proposed and

hold fast to that which is good. Though we have thus far preserved the heritage of a free people which our forefathers brought forth and you helped hand down, democracy was never as much challenged in the world as today. With highly organized pressure groups making their influence more and more felt in America, there never was a time when it has been more necessary to exert every effort and strain every power at our command to maintain our Republic and transmit it unimpaired to the coming generation.

These are the problems of today. They seem to us greater than the problems of yesterday. They may not be; they may only be closer. We take from you the inspiration, the zeal, the steadfast loyalty to the principles of the Constitution of our country which you in your legislative careers so highly exemplified. We hope to carry on upon the same high plane of public endeavor. The future only can judge of our success.

For the services you rendered the state, for handing down the charter of American freedom undimmed and un erased, and for the example of useful and necessary legislation you set, I welcome you here in the name of the Senate.

Mr. Smith introduced Representative Avery who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House with the following remarks:

PRESIDENT SMITH AND VENERABLE MEN: I use that term advisedly, because you are venerable men. As I think back, as I can, of the pioneering you did in lawmaking for the last fifty years, I am impressed that you did a great service in building well for the future.

I picked up a copy of the Journal of 1909—that is quite a while ago—and you did some pioneering in 1909. You provided for voting bonds for the building of county hospitals, and on that foundation we in this session of the legislature have before us an enabling act permitting us in Iowa to avail ourselves of federal aid for county hospitals. We have another bill before us for the licensing of county hospitals or building hospitals for that matter, and setting up a board to see that these hospitals are built the best to serve the purpose for which they are built. That county hospital bill that you passed in 1909 is being copied in many other states, or has been copied in many other states of the Union, and probably will be copied in many more during the present and the next year.

In Iowa it may interest you to know that twenty-five counties are voting county hospitals this year.

Five years ago America was engaged in the business of devising ways and means to make instruments to destroy life and cause human suffering. Today in this legislature in the county hospital bills that we are proposing to pass we are providing for the relief of human suffering and the saving of human life.

That is one peculiar thing about America. When it becomes necessary to preserve the things for which our pioneer ancestors away back fought, we are ready to lay aside everything and produce the instruments to cause human suffering and destroy human life in order to preserve it. But when it is all over then we turn right around and start doing those

things that will prevent human suffering and prevent the destruction of human life.

Venerable men, in behalf of the House of Representatives, I cordially welcome you this day to this occasion. Thank you.

Mr. Smith introduced to the Joint Convention the Honorable Lloyd Thurston, former member of Congress. Mr. Thurston delivered the following address:

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a privilege to take part in a program with the Governor of the State of Iowa, and also to appear before former and the present members of the General Assembly of a state, wherein the level of living conditions has a higher average than elsewhere in the nation—possibly the whole world. For in Iowa, we are not too conservative or too radical; few are very poor or very rich. Our people are measured and weighed on the scale of their talent or capability, rather than by their holdings. The children of our citizens find their place in the community through their own mental alertness; the leader in the Girls' Club or the captain of the football squad is chosen by the rule of leadership rather than by family position.

An inland empire named "Iowa" was created out here in the heart of the nation, which was to be the melting pot that received its human portions gradually, so there was complete absorption into the American way of life; while a few communities revere some of the customs or traditions of the land of their forbears, alien isms were not tolerated. If the pioneers had in mind the creation of a state where peace, toleration, education, industry, agriculture might thrive, their labors have borne fruit.

Only a few months have elapsed since the celebration of the Centennial of the admission of Iowa into the Union. It was observed in every city, town and village in the State, so it would be superfluous to attempt to add to the splendid record of achievements so vividly portrayed from one great river to the other. The great debt this and future generations owe to those hardy pioneers cannot in substance be paid; we can only voice what our heart has transmitted to our minds.

However, an abstraction might be mentioned; if the food products of our state should be withdrawn from the channels of trade, hunger and suffering would be felt in many sections of our country, because Iowa supplies ten per cent of the food consumed in the United States, so without boasting, it can be said that our applied science in agriculture and farm products directly concerns the whole world.

While our state stands first in many food and cultural fields, Iowa is not only a land of glorious memories, it must be a place with a promising future, so in education, science and social advancement, if Iowa cannot lead, it must keep abreast of the march of progress in movements that will maintain our hard earned place near the top of American citizenship.

A study of the science of history discloses an age old conflict between men who are willing to be slaves and those who prefer to fight for freedom; that self preservation is the impelling motive of human endeavor; so it matters not whether absolute power is vested in an

autocracy or in a self centered dictatorship; the result is the same for all except the favored few. The centralization of power has been the scourge of all times, whether ancient, modern or present.

Caesar, Napoleon, Cromwell, in their time, started out as the champions of the oppressed, but ended as tyrants. Later, Hitler, Mussolini and others organized a trail of bloodshed, anarchy, which brought ruin; as will all, who seek to rule through force rather than by orderly processes.

The thought expressed brings the logical corollary; men come and men go, but the principles of justice and humanity are as fixed as the North star. Stated broadly, those who put their faith in men awake in despair, as few mortal beings are strong enough to withstand the flattery of court jesters or office seekers. Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, were among the limited few on this continent who survived the test. And the humility of these great men, might well be used as a precept for others who slightly over weigh their talents.

Then a further search into the field of human motives is met with the stern, but indisputable evidence that the Almighty did not place all of the brains or intelligence of an era in one cranium; the diffusion of learning and knowledge was not confined to a race, a class, a creed, and never to an individual. The application of industry, coupled with a determination to achieve, has and always will survive. Merit or lack of merit cannot long be concealed.

So, to reoccur to the thought heretofore developed, the co-operation, the combination of the talents and the energy of the people of Iowa brought forth a government, with its subdivisions, that is second to none in the universe in serving those within its borders. A century of legislative enactments have been added to the original structure, many of those statutes have been written by former members of the General Assembly who are present today. Now as in the past, changes must be made to meet different conditions, trends toward the future must be constantly in mind, but the main structure of our state government is practical and sound, from the four corners of the state, to the top of the gilded dome above.

Inquiry might be made as to the reasons or causes responsible for the sound condition of our state. The reply can be made in a few words; short tenure in office, and frequent, uncontrolled elections. Iowa, recognizing the rights of minorities, many years ago provided for bi-partisan representation in the important boards having control over state institutions. Likewise, required that each election precinct must be under the supervision of officials representing two or more political parties. These salutary laws were not forced through by expediency, but were made mandatory by a citizenship who was willing to provide for honest and fair elections.

Right now it might be said that free elections are the bulwark of free men. Little of the world, and many of our great cities and some states, have yet to enjoy free suffrage, one of the greatest privileges of man. Sweat and free elections will do more to save the world than orations and relief.

TAXES, is a phrase which the present members of the Assembly

might prefer to have omitted from these remarks. However, the voters of Iowa have returned a select list of legislators whom they believe can wave a magic wand to make one dollar do the work of two. All eagerly await this transition. It has been said that a government does not create wealth; it just eats wealth; so the problem appears to be, just how little this beast can subsist upon, rather than to satisfy his greedy demands. Probably, each of your constituents would be willing to have you lightly pass over his interests and then press down somewhat heavily upon his neighbors. Life appears to be just that way.

The legislator occupies much the same position as a member of a trial jury. He is expected to hear all of the evidence of those for, as well as those against, proposed measures, then apply his mental processes so as to separate the grain from the chaff; thereafter, his task is simple. Sometimes, it is asserted that he failed to winnow the grain as now required by seed testing statutes; but his constituents usually feel that he has used his best judgment, and elect him again. It is hoped that no member will take offense at the last statement.

While the functions of the federal and state governments are fairly well divided, yet, the policies and actions of the central government affect the parts, just as the activities of the parts affect the whole, so each must take cognizance of the other. Each tax liquor, tobacco, gasoline, income and inheritances, and in some social fields there are duplications. It therefore follows that the obligations of the federal government are of deep concern to all because of the gigantic, almost incomprehensible debt, fixed and contingent, of about three hundred billion dollars. The units mentioned do have one thing in common; they derive their sustenance from the people, as they create nothing.

The one phase intimately connected with this subject, seldom mentioned in government circles, is that most current debts, public or private, were incurred during a period of high wages and high commodity levels, so the wherewith to pay current taxes or charges comes rather easily, whereas, if wages and commodities and property substantially diminish in value, obviously, the wherewith to pay becomes more difficult to obtain, so the debt just mentioned, in effect, might be considerably, or even greatly, increased insofar as its payment is concerned. Debts do not fluctuate with wages and property values, so the ability to discharge an obligation may vary from time to time. It is axiomatic that a strong nation is a solvent nation. This subject will be one of prime importance in the years to come.

And it is again apparent that the states through their executive or legislative branches, must intervene to conserve the assets of our savings and insurance institutions from acquiring securities of an international character, not one share of which will be purchased by a member of the federal government who assisted in creating them. If a provision had been incorporated in the Bill requiring each member of the government in favor of the enactment to invest even one month's salary in such securities, the Bill would never have become a law. The officers of mutual concerns acting for depositors, and life insurance policy holders, should be protected from the pressure that will be made to negotiate that questionable paper.

One of the strangest developments of recent years has been the unexplainable attitude of the people of our country in regard to federal expenditures, as compared with state and local expenses. If a local school board, or library board, whose members serve without compensation, paid a few a ton more for fuel than the current price, a great wave of complaint would arise. If a City Council or Board of Supervisors should slightly overpay for labor, or exceed some local price for materials, there would be a storm of criticism. But apparently, no one, until recently at least no executive federal officials, expected the Washington government to get fifty cents on the dollar for its expenditures. And when the domestic demand for free funds slowed up, these dispensers of public funds canvassed the world for new outlets. They usually found them.

Although we complain about excessive taxation, it would be interesting to know the total amount of funds that would be required if we did not have so many persons and charitable and benevolent organizations which annually contribute millions of dollars to assist the unfortunate, and a multiplicity of worthy causes. The list of such donors would be a long one, but included are the churches; private schools, hospitals and colleges; service units such as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Auxiliaries; the Farm Bureau with its 4-H and Future Farmers; the Farmers' Union and the Grange; the Federation of Women's Clubs and the Business and Professional Women; the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A.; the K.C.; the U.S.O.; the Red Cross; Salvation Army; the Rotary; Kiwanis; Lions; Boy and Girl Scouts; Parent-Teachers Association; Women's Relief Corps; the Masonic and I.O.O.F. Orders and their auxiliaries, are a few of the many who carry public burdens. So a survey of this charitable field discloses that if all of the splendid work done by these and other like organizations were to be paid for out of public funds, there would be a tremendous increase in taxes.

Not only do many of the groups mentioned expend their funds as indicated, but their educational programs cover a broad field of public service; civic, national, international; and their welfare and patriotic teachings extend vital support to uphold American ideals and traditions. May their number not diminish.

It may be said with propriety that many of the statutes first enacted in our state have been adopted by other state governments, which is a tribute to the sound judgment, the practical vision of hundreds of members who so well served this state and the nation. Many a legislator has been surprised, amazed, then angered by what some court said was his legislative intention. It is true that a statute is somewhat advisory until it has been construed by the highest authority having jurisdiction over the subject matter. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons why courts of last resort so frequently cite opinions of the Iowa Supreme Court is because that body has largely confined its analysis of statutes within the rule of fair interpretation, rather than to substitute the vagaries of minds disturbed by Shangri-La meditations.

As our national legislature is now intimately concerned about the domestic and foreign affairs of China, India, Hungary, Greece, Palestine,

and several other nations, it is apparent that less and less time will be given to our affairs, so of necessity, the states will be required to devote more time to matters within the country. Whether this great transition will be best for our people, only time can tell.

We had fervently hoped that when the war had been concluded, that propaganda, both foreign and domestic (and huge sums are now being used for both) which had taken so much of the air channels and space in the press, might subside, so the fog would be cleared and our citizens could again have clear vision to normally consider the problems of our homeland; but this hope is for the future. A bubble in Europe, transmitted to the global boys here, brings a quick huddle in the Washington departments; a spokesman makes a timely release that mountains of boiling, seething, caldrons are about to boil over and engulf the world; which blankets the efforts of our economy statesmen; but funds for the state and service departments are not reduced.

The propaganda dispensers have rendered one service for our American people, they are not required to think any more; their thinking is done for them.

The science of legislating, flexible as it is, affected by ambitious leaders, always subject to dynastic, ethnetic, economic, religious phases, expanding population, must of necessity adjust statutes to trends and times; and crude though many of its enactments have been, the composite judgment of the legislators when they could freely act, pointed toward the betterment of humanity, in contrast to ukases and commands of the head of nations, whether under the discarded guise of divine rights, or military or financial usurpation. While jibes may be pointed toward the legislator, God save us from the vanity of those who appropriate public funds to increase or perpetuate their authority.

It would appear that there is one weak spot in our national structure, in that which vests the veto power in the Chief Executive, requiring a two-thirds majority of both the Senate and the House of Representatives to over ride his individual decision, which is largely influenced by his own appointees, most of whom have never been elected to any office by the people. As there are 96 members in the Senate and 435 in the House, the difference over a majority equals 16 members in the Senate and about 72 in the House, or a total of about 88 members in the two bodies. Surely, it will not be seriously contended that the Chief Executive, who is often a political accident, has greater ability or is more interested in the welfare of the nation than one of our eighty some members of the Congress. Modern development has placed tremendous sums at the disposal of the President, plus many thousand lucrative offices, which can, and have been flagrantly used to influence legislation. Many a member of the Congress has been denied his share of public works because he did not vote as the President directed. A few years ago, there was much ado about "lame ducks", but legislation was enacted to terminate this complaint. It can be definitely asserted that Presidential patronage to affect, to coerce, has been a far greater menace to our government. An impartial survey of this subject would bring forth a startling array of facts to confirm the remarks just made.

To digress to the facetious, a story, somewhat antedated, has percolated

down from the Northeast part of the State; it runs like this: An aged patriarch, with long white beard, leaning on a staff, approached officials in an election precinct in Black Hawk County in the good year 1977, and requested a ballot, which was delivered to him. He then retired to the voting booth where he remained some time, and returned the blank ballot to the election judge saying: "This is not an official ballot." Upon being assured by the election judge that the ballot with others had been sent out by the County Auditor, the applicant said: "I know it is not official; it does not have Arch McFarlane's name on it."

Then, there is the incident about the member of the assembly from Linn County, who retired early because the indicator over the entrance to the elevator in the Savery Hotel pointed at the figure 11. He was astounded to learn that the mechanical device was not a clock. Whether this ignorance reflects more on Linn County or on the State Senate, you may determine. It is only fair to say that the member was not Senator Byers.

There was a measure pending in the 38th Session, backed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, proposing a State Flag, but some other patriotic orders, mainly the Grand Army of the Republic, opposed, asserting there should be one flag—that of the United States. An appeal was made to a member of the body across from this chamber, who made a survey and found the opposition adamant. Later, he called up the Bill for consideration, obtained unanimous consent to strike the word "flag" and substitute the word "banner", the measure was promptly passed by both branches, signed by the Governor, so the Banner of the State of Iowa proudly floats just below the National emblem.

But the humor directed toward legislative bodies should not be confined to state law makers. It is reported that a public spirited citizen entered a place of business and requested a merchant to donate \$2 to assist in defraying the burial expenses of a former member of Congress. The merchant went to his cash register, withdrew a piece of currency, turned to the solicitor and said: "Here, here is \$10; bury 4 more of them."

America does have innumerable problems, domestic and foreign, but, no real American would exchange his citizenship for any of the tinsel decorations passed around by foreign governments. The most enduring, the most valuable title that can be bestowed upon a human being is, that accorded to the citizen of the United States of America.

But what is America? So many million square miles of territory, with a great area of fertile land; gigantic industries; quantities of mineral deposits; unexcelled transportation facilities; large cities with beautiful parks and tall buildings; churches, colleges and schools without number; millions of good homes; most of the labor saving devices and comforts of the whole world?

Or, is America a great host of generous persons who in recent years have donated to other people more than fifty billion in dollars and supplies? Has any nation been more humanity minded than our own? Is America the only nation in the world that is constantly to be required to purchase good-will? It seems that many of our own people have forgotten about the contributions of their government and citizens to people in other parts of the world, and believe it to be their duty to

sharply condemn their own without carefully analyzing the other side of the picture. Possibly, some of these carping critics might find it more congenial, in other climes.

It has only been a short time since the most devastating war of all time was ended, and its conclusion was largely brought about by the tremendous power of the American armed forces and American economic and financial resources. The unparalleled success of our forces through devotion and loyalty to our flag, places all who did not thus serve under everlasting gratitude to those who so gallantly met and conquered every obstacle, whether on land, the sea, or in the air. The sons of Iowa did their full share in this world wide holocaust. May their flags and banners be placed in the rotunda of this building alongside the flags of the Iowa boys who served in the Civil, Spanish, and World War I Wars.

This America of ours is the most noble heritage ever handed down to a people. America's position in the world did not just happen; it was attained through the toil and privation; the genius, yes, the sweat and blood of thousands of men and women who were determined to prove that human agencies under Divine guidance could create and maintain a form of government that would insure free institutions for a continent extending from to sea to sea.

The courage of our people, the strength of our nation, is equaled by the generosity, the tender mercy which we have extended to the afflicted of many stricken lands. Because of the constant contributions made by our citizens to aid the impoverished abroad, it must not be thought that we intend to change the basic concepts of our well balanced government to meet the views of vocal minorities whose lung power greatly exceeds their mental capacities.

There are in our midst those who would tear into shreds the most benevolent haven of freedom known to man. Real Americans will resist these wreckers, inside and outside of our government, if necessary, with the last drop of their blood.

The spirit of America, with its creative genius, coupled with its humanity, is the beacon light to all mankind. We cannot afford, the world cannot afford, to have its foundations undermined.

The American Ship of State will sail on and on, if there is a crew in command which will not change the course to the shoals on the left, or to the rocks on the right. The middle course, is the American course.

President Evans in the chair.

Weichman of Benton introduced to the Joint Convention Mr. George Schultz, director of the orchestra from the College of the Blind at Vinton, and expressed his sincere appreciation for the splendid music rendered by the orchestra. Mr. Weichman introduced to the Joint Convention Mr. Leslie M. Hayes, Superintendent of the School for the Blind at Vinton, and his wife.

The committee previously appointed came forward and escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers from the House chamber.