

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

Poncy of Wapello moved that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Senate that the House was ready to receive it in joint convention.

The motion prevailed and the Speaker appointed as such committee Poncy of Wapello, Chair; Muhlbauer of Crawford and Pellett of Cass.

Poncy of Wapello, chair of the committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House was ready to receive it in joint convention, reported the committee had performed its duty. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the President of the Senate, the Parliamentarian of the Senate and the honorable body of the Senate.

The President was escorted to the Speaker's station, the Parliamentarian to the Chief Clerk's desk and the members of the Senate were seated in the House chamber.

JOINT CONVENTION PIONEER LAWMAKERS (House Chamber - 1:30 p.m.)

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 18, duly adopted, the joint convention was called to order, President Anderson presiding.

President Anderson announced a quorum present and the joint convention duly organized.

Senator Junkins of Lee moved that a committee of four be appointed to escort the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

The motion prevailed and the President appointed as such committee Senators Neighbour of Lucas and Holt of Clay, and Representatives Gruhn of Dickinson and Welden of Hardin.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

President Anderson presented Senator Norman G. Rodgers of Dallas, President pro tempore of the Senate, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate.

President Anderson presented Representative John Connors, Speaker pro tempore of the House of Representatives, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House of Representatives.

President Anderson presented the Honorable Eugene Hill who responded to the welcome. Senator Hill announced the legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers and that Robert Case (deceased), Waterloo, and Elizabeth Ligouri, Des Moines, were awarded honorary membership in the Pioneer Lawmakers Association.

President Anderson then presented the Honorable Robert D. Fulton, Former Governor of the State of Iowa, who addressed the joint convention as follows:

Thank you, Senator Hill, Governor Anderson, Senator Rodgers, Speaker pro tempore Connors, Senator Coleman, and distinguished guests:

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be offered the opportunity to speak to the Pioneer Lawmakers. I only have one problem, I have very little idea of what I intend to say, or how I intend to say it, because a problem of logistics developed.

Some two months ago, I had a phone call from Senator Coleman asking if I would be the speaker and if you've ever been aware of has-beens, if anybody asks to put a microphone in their hands, they say yes and say it very quickly, before somebody will change their mind, which I did. I asked that I be advised a couple of weeks ahead of time of the appropriate date, as it had not been set.

I received a call this morning from the Lieutenant Governor's office on another matter. The secretary said "Could you stop in and talk to the Lieutenant Governor while you're down in Des Moines?". And I responded with "Why am I going to be in Des Moines, today?". This was at 10:30 a.m. She informed me that it was Pioneer Lawmaker's Day. Joe and I talked and I said, "Joe, I have nothing to say!" and he said, "All your friends will recognize you." I said, "Joe, I don't have time to prepare a speech." and he said, "You always gave your best speeches, when they weren't prepared." You notice he didn't say a good speech. He only compared them with my others.

Be that as it may, I'm here. I almost didn't come for one other reason. When Joe indicated I was going to be here, I told him that I would only come on one condition. That this podium be moved outdoors in front of the television cameras so that I could get proper recognition. I was told that would not be accepted and so here I'm doing it like everyone else.

I also would like to pay my tribute to Robert Case who was referred to earlier, who was a reporter for the Waterloo Courier in my home town. Bob was a good political reporter. He did a great job of understanding the political process. He respected the people in the political process, he respected the legislature and I know you and we in Waterloo will miss him a great deal.

In discussing things with John Connors, I said "John, what did we do back when I first got involved, like my first session in the legislature?" I was trying to think of constitutional amendments and tax bills and very important problems in the state of Iowa that we solved or confused as the case may be. And John, typical to his heritage as a fireman, said, "Well Bob, you passed the police and firemen's pension." I guess that's how he remembers us and I guess all of us to a degree are that way.

I also want to comment that every so often I see that there is a reference here, the difference between the House and the Senate. Well I can give you a very short difference between the various bodies and the executive branch. And I think I'm quite qualified to speak since I served both in the House and the Senate, and for a short period of four years as Lieutenant Governor, whatever role that is and 14 days as Governor. Well I found out that in the House, they debate the problems and the issues facing the state of Iowa. The Senate speaks to each other about the problems and the issues of the state of Iowa, and the chief executive claims both bodies are not doing anything about them. This was true back when I was here and we had two Democratic legislatures and a Democratic Governor, as well as the President.

One other thing I want to correct, if I may, and that is on the introduction of the program, it lists me as the former Governor. That's a title I hold, I appreciate and of which I'm proud of, if only for a short period. But today I want to indicate to you here assembled, that I'm here not even as ex Lieutenant Governor, but as an ex member of the Iowa House and an ex member of the Iowa Senate.

Although very often, disparaging remarks are made about the legislature and its process, when I think about the democratic process, its good people and the roles I've played, I think the most important part are those in the legislative structure, and that's what I remember the most often.

I also want to indicate to you that things really do not change. I noticed last week you passed the tax bill. This law will obviously be remembered as the tax bill of 1985, but I want to let you know that I was Lieutenant Governor and had something to do with the services tax bill which was passed in 1967. And it appears to me from reading the account, that one thing happened. And that is that you used the same formula in drafting the services that were used in the past. Let me explain it this way. I find that one of the services that were used earlier were put in this bill also, which would lead me to the conclusion that the same yellow pages were used. But something more revealing about it, is that the formula you've used, didn't have lawyers, accountants, or the various professions just like ours didn't some 20 years ago.

It was my privilege to start serving in the legislature in 1958. In reminiscing, you think of the various people, legislators, press, and their insight into the political process. The press is always at some time criticized but they're only there to analyze the political process. But in 1958 the press always chose the most likely to go on into politics and the least likely to succeed. And with their clairvoyance as usual, they picked out a lot of people who were going on into politics and we've never heard of since. Their pick for the least likely to succeed was a fellow that I started with in this House in 1958. He said "Wel-l-l—golly," in Lil' Abner boots and we now call him Senator Grassley. And it just shows that you don't know where success is in the political process and you don't understand the choices of the people since they'll almost always be different than the choices of the members.

I would also like to spend a little time talking with you about the things that I learned through my political experience and through the legislative process. As I indicated, I started in 1958. I came out in February of that year and opened up my own law office and that's a lonely, lonely thing to do. So in order to have something to do, I went to a Democratic Central Committee meeting. Somebody pinched me, I said ouch and wound up as a candidate for the legislature. That was the only qualification to be a Democratic candidate at that time because none had been elected in 30 years. It was a good year for the Democrats, I went out and campaigned, said what I had on my mind because I didn't think I had a chance of winning, had a good time and won.

I came down and served in a very responsible session of the Iowa legislature in 1959. In that session, the first thing I learned was that all the partisan gossip that goes on during the election process is not indicative of the corroboration that goes on in these halls for the benefit of the state of Iowa.

I remember in the campaign, I was convinced that Clark McNeal, the Republican Majority Leader and Scott Swisher the Democratic Floor Leader—that Swisher was the good guy and McNeal was the bad guy and they must hate each other. But I got down here and found two responsible politicians, doing their best for the state of Iowa, cooperating when cooperation was called for, competing when competition was called for and making sure that the two never became confused. This taught me that you can differ without being difficult and without being insulting.

I then decided that since I'd come down to learn something in 1958, I would run again in 1960 and this time, of course, I caught the disease of all politicians. I was of the opinion that the legislature, and particularly this House, couldn't operate without me. I ran and, as you might imagine, things weren't quite so favorable in 1960 and I got beat. But the sorry thing about that was during the process I figured it was so important for me to be here, that it was necessary for me to not fully disclose my stand on certain issues. When I lost I had two pains — one, the pain of losing, the other was not saying what I had to say about the problems of Iowa during the election process.

In 1962, the incumbent Democratic senator from Black Hawk County ran for Lieutenant Governor and I ran for the Senate. I won that election by about 39 votes out of 35,000. But in the process of that election I learned some things important to the political process and important to anyone in any walk of life.

In that campaign, it was my privilege to run with Harold Hughes who was running for Governor the first time. I'll not forget when we were on a television program together, we were taking questions over the air and someone called in a question about

the death penalty. I leaned over to Harold and said, "Harold, maybe you should let me take this one so it won't hurt your chances." Harold looked at me and said, "Bob, I have an opinion on it and the people of Iowa are entitled to know that opinion," and he gave it. I learned that it is better to give your opinion and live with it, than attempting to obtain any honor by less than full honesty.

I got elected in 1962 and served in the Senate. We were 12 Democrats and 38 Republicans. I learned there that you can be an abject minority. At times you would feel picked on, but all the time you were treated with full respect and your views were given a chance to be heard and there was an understanding of the majority to treat the minority with fairness. This, I think, is another thing that can be learned through our time of service.

In 1964, I got elected Lieutenant Governor and was allowed to serve as the presiding officer of the Senate. At that time I had two beautiful floor leaders. A good presiding officer is only as good as his floor leader, they can make the job difficult or make the job easier. Andy Frommelt, Majority Leader, and Bob Rigler, Minority Leader did nothing but make my job easy. And the Senate would always forgive my mistakes and compliment me for my correct rulings.

I got reelected in 1966, and at that time we had a Democratic controlled Senate and a Republican controlled House and we learned that we could pass legislation even though the bodies were divided and come up with legislation that was the basis for a lot of changes within our governmental process.

These experiences have taught me as I've indicated that it is fun to compete, it is fun to be different, but there is a time to cooperate for the benefit of the purposes for which we get involved in the process. I want to congratulate those of you who are now taking part in that process. I do not envy your responsibilities. Your task is the most difficult that I have seen since I have been aware of state government and its process. The lack of money and the problems that need to be solved are contradictions that are going to take your best efforts and your best cooperation. Based on the Pioneer Lawmakers that I've seen — I'm sorry I don't have time to name them all — and how they've responded in unity to Iowa's problems and I know you will do the same. It doesn't hurt to compete for the best jobs in the political process — that you should do. It doesn't hurt to corroborate for the benefit of Iowa. That, you have been doing.

On behalf of those of us who have served before, we thank you for your service and ask you to have us back again next year when you'll have a speaker more prepared.

Norland of Worth moved that the joint convention be now dissolved at 2:08 p.m.

The motion prevailed.

The House reconvened at 2:10 p.m., Speaker Avenson in the chair.