

The motion prevailed and the Speaker appointed as such committee: Brown of Lucas, Pavich of Pottawattamie and Bennett of Ida.

Brown of Lucas, 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 received and the committee discharged.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the President of the Senate, the Secretary 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 in the House chamber.

JOINT CONVENTION
PIONEER LAWMAKERS
FIFTIETH BIENNIAL SESSION
(House Chamber — 1:30 p.m.)

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 3 duly adopted, the joint convention was called to order, President Zimmerman presiding.

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

Senator Hutchins of Audubon 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 Coleman of Webster and Tieden of Clayton, on the part of the Senate; and Representative Blanshan of Greene and Pellett of Cass, on the part of the House.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

President Zimmerman presented Senator Thomas Mann, Jr. of Polk, President pro tempore of the Senate, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate.

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

President Zimmerman presented Representative William H. Harbor, of Mills County, who responded to the welcome.

Representative Harbor announced the 1969-1970 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers; that Russell "Rusty" Laird, Lobbyist from Des Moines; Dr. William "Steamboat Bill" Peterson, Iowa City; and Bettie Wentz, House Secretary, Des Moines were awarded honorary membership in the Pioneer Lawmakers Association.

Representative Harbor presented George Mills, longtime newsman from Des Moines, who addressed the Pioneer Lawmakers.

President Zimmerman presented the Honorable Jack Miller, former member of the Iowa House of Representatives and Iowa Senate and United States Senator representing Iowa and presently Senior U.S. Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, who addressed the joint convention as follows:

Madam President, Pioneer Lawmakers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been a long time since I addressed a joint session of the Iowa legislature, and I am highly honored and appreciative of the gracious invitation to do so on this, the 50th biennium of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers Association.

As my reference point, I would select a day early in December 1954. The November elections were behind us, and a new session of the legislature was only a month away — January of 1955. I had been elected State Representative from Woodbury County and was really looking forward to what promised to be a new and deeply satisfying experience as a state legislator.

So, on that December day, I drove to Des Moines to arrange for a room in one of the hotels, with the expectation that I would ordinarily be able to go home on Friday afternoon and return on Sunday evening. I also wanted some orientation on how the House of Representatives operated. I was lucky — the Chief Clerk of the House, whose service commenced clear back in 1921, was A. C. Gustafson, known to everyone as "Gus", and he was in. He gave me an enthusiastic hour of his valuable time, answering many questions and really showing me around. I also met his deputy, Bill Kendrick, who served as Chief Clerk from 1959 to 1972.

My first need, said Gus, was an experienced secretary, and he put me in touch with Edith McElroy, who accepted my invitation to be my secretary during the upcoming session. Edith was an officer in the Business and Professional Women's Association and was most helpful in insuring that I would be knowledgeable and fairly liberal with respect to legislation affecting women. As the session went on, it became more and more evident that a good staff is indispensable to a good legislature, and we certainly had a good staff while I was there. A little lady, who served as legislative counsel to the House, deserves special comment — Lillian Leffert. No bill of any consequence was cleared for action without passing her professional review. She taught me a lot.

It wasn't long before I noticed the influence some of the political writers, TV and radio newscasters had on the legislature. In retrospect, this should not have been surprising considering the quality of journalists like George Mills, Cliff Millen, Skip Weber, Frank Nye of the Cedar Rapids Gazette; Bill Severn of the Waterloo Courier; Dillard Stokes of the Council Bluffs Nonpareil; and Paul Norris of the Marshalltown Times Republican. They may not have had recognition on a nationwide scale, but they were

then, and their successors are today, just as professional as self-appointed members of the "Washington Media Elite."

It seemed as though there was always something brewing in the House. The first time we had a record vote, all of the lights showed up on the board — except the one of State Representative Klein from Clarke County. He stood up, got the Speaker's eye, and said: "I want to press the blue button." Everyone laughed except Klein. Later we learned that he was color blind. Speaker Art Hanson was still suspicious.

If you were there, as I was, how could you ever forget Show Girl Dagmar's visit to the Capital? She had an overactive press agent, who spread the word that Dagmar would visit the Capital, the Governor, and — of course — the legislature. Three of us had an appointment with Governor Leo Hoegh as soon as the House convened. Just as we began to move toward the rear of the chamber, Dagmar appeared in center stage, at the back of this aisle, escorted by Clark McNeal of Belmond, who announced in his silver-tongued voice: "Mr. Speaker, a message from the Senate." Down the aisle to the well of the chamber they came. Dagmar didn't wait to be introduced. She literally engulfed the Speaker in a warm embrace. We thought it prudent to get out of there and meet with the Governor. But as we got to the Governor's outer office, he came out, hair mussed, and mouth bleeding from excess lipstick. "Did you see that woman?" he asked. We reported what had occurred in the House. This time, Art Hanson was not just suspicious — he was red-faced.

At the next election, I moved over to the Senate, Woodbury County's Charlie Van Eaton having retired. It wasn't long before my erstwhile colleagues in the House began asking me what I thought of the change. Somehow I managed to finesse their questions by saying it would be like comparing the rumpus room of one's home with the study — one usually has more "fun" in the rumpus room. In my four-year term in the Senate, the biggest issue, of course, was reapportionment, which was not settled until after I had left. Nevertheless this issue was terribly abrasive and emotional, causing the same hard feelings that had previously arisen over school district legislation.

The Iowa legislature had its share of lobbyists, whom I found to be an honorable and able group of men and women. Most of them presented their views fairly — albeit forcefully. This was particularly true with women's organizations. I recall one morning shortly before the Senate convened. I observed an unusually large number of women moving about and wondered what was going on. A colleague with whom I was conferring, Lawrence Putney of Tama County pointed to the front page of the Register, which read: "HOUSE PASSES DOVE BILL". This was a perennial issue, with bills to open a shooting season being constantly stuck in committee. It was evident that the women's lobby was dedicated to insuring that the dove bill would have that fate. I was visiting with colleagues in the rotunda, when a small contingent approached us. The chair of the conservation committee immediately checked his pocket notebook and with a glint in his eye, said, "My dear ladies, that bill has been referred to a subcommittee of which Senator _____ is chair, (pointing) and there he is now!" Well, the ladies were gone before his sentence was finished.

Late in my last session in the Senate, my wife and I thought that we ought to have our two oldest children, Janice, ten and Judy, nine, spend a day visiting the legislature. At the time, we did not know what the political future held — perhaps this would be my last session in the legislature. (As it turned out, it was.) So, on a Wednesday morning, my wife put Janice and Judy on an early morning Braniff flight to Des Moines, from Sioux City. On the way over to the Statehouse, I told the girls that I

would be debating a bill, that I might lose, and that they should not feel badly if I did. My adversary in the debate was Buster Lynes of Plainfield. After I had discussed the bill, he took the floor, speaking loudly and looking rather fierce. He was just getting warmed up when the Lieutenant Governor ordered a ten minute recess, for what reason, I don't know.

I invited my daughters to come meet the Senator they were eyeing warily. They approached with a little reluctance and extended their small hands to shake his. "I'm delighted to meet you....", began Senator Lynes. He questioned the girls about their classes, their concerns and life at home and too soon the Senate was gavelled to order. Janice and Judy returned to their seats and I settled in for the rest of Senator Lynes' remarks.

To my great surprise, my adversary simply stated that there were obvious problems with such legislation and that he would oppose it. He then lowered his microphone and sat down. The bill passed, which shows even little girls can influence legislation.

Let me close with a few observations. First, a comparison of the State legislature with the federal Congress. After twelve years in the U.S. Senate, I would have to say that the State legislature does a better job of legislating — gives a closer, more personal attention to its business — than does the Congress. Here each house often becomes, in effect, a committee of the whole. Almost all of the members are present and are familiar with the bills being debated. Of course, there are exceptions, but I am satisfied that the federal Congress could take a lesson in grass roots legislating from many state legislatures including, particularly this one.

Second, it can be argued that the reason for the differences lies in the Congressional complexities spawned by rules or statutes, including an unhelpfully large number of subcommittees, each striving to gain a share of the publicity pie. This argument has merit, but year after year the Congress seems less and less willing to streamline its operations and to devote its energies (including spending) to what is necessary — as distinguished from what is merely desirable.

Finally, those who have had and will, in the future, have the privilege of serving in the Iowa legislature can be justly proud of their dedication to the proclamation that "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain." This, along with an enlightened state judiciary, which we have in Iowa, explains why Iowa is a good and great land. Nowhere can you find a better place to achieve what President Bush has praised as a "sense of service and love of country."

May God bless your efforts.

Thank you.

Arnould of Scott moved that the joint convention be now dissolved at 2:26 p.m., which motion prevailed.

The House reconvened at 2:27 p.m., Speaker Avenson in the chair.

The House stood at ease at 2:28 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 3:20 p.m., Speaker Avenson in the chair.