

Senate File 439, by committee on appropriations, a bill for an act relating to and making appropriations to the justice system and providing an effective date.

Read first time and referred to committee on **appropriations**.

On motion by Gipp of Winneshiek, the House was recessed at 9:03 a.m., until 2:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The House reconvened at 2:04 p.m., Speaker Rants in the chair.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

Greiner of Washington moved that a committee of four 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 Alons of Sioux, Lykam of Scott and Mertz of Kossuth.

Greiner of Washington, 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 and the members of the Senate were seated in the House chamber.

JOINT CONVENTION PIONEER LAWMAKERS FIFTY-SEVENTH BIENNIAL SESSION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 9 duly adopted, the joint convention was called to order, President Kramer presiding.

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

Iverson of Wright moved that a committee of eight be appointed to escort the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

The motion prevailed and the President appointed as such committee Boettger of Shelby, Putney of Tama, Courtney of Des Moines and Connolly of Dubuque on the part of the Senate, and Greiner of Washington, Alons of Sioux, Lykam of Scott and Mertz of Kossuth on the part of the House.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

President Kramer presented Senator Angelo, President pro tempore of the Senate, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate.

President Kramer presented Representative Christopher Rants, Speaker of the House, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House.

President Kramer presented the Honorable Richard F. Drake, member of the House who responded to the welcome.

The Honorable Richard F. Drake announced the 1983 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

Honorary members of the 2003 class were the following:

Elizabeth (Liz) Isaacson, Dennis Prouty, David Scott, John (Jack) Soener, Robert (Bob) Schulz and William (Bill) Wimmer.

The Honorable Richard F. Drake presented the Director of the Department of Economic Development, Michael Blouin, who addressed the joint convention as follows:

This has got to be from Cal Hultman. Those who can't see this, it's a fish drawn on a piece of paper. Cal and I, years ago used to go at it in committees and on the floor and one time he cornered me and he said "you know you're making that argument so often it's starting to smell like dead fish." And from that point on, you have to know me; I

did make the arguments quite often. From that point on Cal and I used to slip each other a fish when we got tired of listening to what the other was saying.

Cal, I haven't said a word yet and you're already giving me a fish.

This is a very heady place to stand. I am deeply honored to be here. One of your previous speakers from a few years ago mentioned to me the other day when he heard I was going to speak that it was a great opportunity. All the old folks start stumbling back in here limping down the isle and reminiscing about how great things were. And I said to myself, you know, I'm one of those old folks. And I'm not limping yet. Although by the time this session is over I might well be.

It is an honor honestly to be here, to be asked to be a speaker to this assembly. When Senator Drake invited me several weeks ago I assumed it was just to give a few comments at the luncheon. I had no idea until later that it was an invitation to speak to this joint session. And I was first humbled and secondly scared because there is, frankly, nothing more petrifying than to attempt to speak to former colleagues and peers. Especially when I realize that those so many years ago, we all may have been colleagues, but I was far from a peer.

As some of you might recall I was the ripe old age of twenty-two when I was first elected and twenty-three when I took that first oath of office. I was so wet behind the ears; I didn't even know I was wet behind the ears. And to this day, it still amazes me that the people of Dubuque were so willing to take a chance on someone this young. And not only young, but Dubuque had the reputation as being somewhat provincial and I wasn't even a native. Yet, they sent me here anyway. Probably to get me out of town.

I spent the six shortest years of my life in this beautiful building. Short because the time just flew by. This building where the past meets up with the present and always seems to create reasons for hope for the future.

My memories of those years are too many and for some, probably too boring to relate to you in total, but I'd like to try to share some of those thoughts with you anyway. And share them in no particular order.

When I first arrived here I was so naive, I actually thought I could live well on the pay that we were given. Forty dollars a day including expenses for a hundred days, not a day more and one round trip home a year at ten cents a mile. It was the best reason that I could think of for being from Dubuque. A 400 mile round trip equaled forty dollars and it was like receiving another day of session pay free. I soon realized how poor I was and when the session ended, the realities became clearer.

As a Catholic schoolteacher my job was gone as of January and I had to find other work. We adjourned, if I remember rightly that year, May 23, 1969. The earliest exit of our years here and two days later our twin daughters were born. And life changed again. But as tough as we thought things were then and to our own circumstances, they were nothing compared to the problems that others who came those same years faced in their own situations. People who came here with successful business only to see their client base erode as the weeks of absence from home began to take a toll on their business. Some actually lost their companies in just a few years of serving the same people that they were trying to represent and serving them, frankly, for peanuts.

1968 some of you might recall was the year of the constitutional amendments. Annual sessions were approved, annual salaries and expenses, restructuring and resizing of the legislature to one hundred members of the House and fifty members of the Senate and home rule was approved for our cities and towns that year. We acted quickly in those days and implemented the major changes mandated by our fellow Iowans and became known nationally as one of the most progressive legislatures in the country. As some of you might recall, I quickly earned the well-deserved reputation as someone who would enter nearly any debate for almost any reason. Single-handedly adding days to the length of each session.

In 1970, on one occasion, on the occasion actually of our daughter's birthday, we brought them to the floor for a look-see. One of them grabbed the microphone and began gabbing away, prompting the Speaker of the House Bill Harbor, at that point, to comment that they clearly were their fathers daughters.

Suzanne and I developed many lasting friendships from our six years here. And we gained some valuable life lessons as well. I gained a lot of insight into the geniuses of personal beliefs and personal feelings from guys like Senator George Milligan on the abortion issues. George and I came at it from very different sides, but both of us, in talking about it, learned that our beliefs were deeply rooted in our own personal faith.

I learned about the deep seated integrity of legislators who put their jobs here ahead of their personal business, their own personal wealth. Most vividly taught to me by two guys in the Senate, Gene Kennedy and Chuck Laferty.

I learned to argue with Cal Hultman over committee during the day and at night spend a lot of time playing bridge without any sign of the clash that took place just hours before.

I watched Bill Gannon and Grumpy Fisher sit across the aisle from each other and fight like two mad cats. Yet wink when it was over like they were family.

I watched Dewey Good who sat over here and was a throw back from the turn of the century who was as street smart and as savvy a legislator as there was. Changed minds in the heat of a debate with fewer words than anyone in the chamber.

I learned also what it meant to really be in the minority. As I recall, our hundred plus House members had only twenty-four of us who were democrats and we were so few that one particular day the House passed three bills while we were in caucus before they realized we were gone. Bill Harbor ruled that it was in order and Bill Kendrick, the Clerk of the House, found a rule somewhere that backed him up.

Back in those days neither chamber was air conditioned and tools like funnels hadn't been invented yet. So sessions would last well into June. And things would get rather heated, both figuratively and literally. Well, the Senate had a coat rule. Members were required to wear a coat whenever the Senate was in session. I was never one to really follow rules and wasn't really good at doing what I was told. So, one particular day, with the help of some misguided and almost unemployed pages, I made my own coat out of a copy of the Des Moines Register. Art Neu was Lieutenant Governor and was sitting in the chair and when I walked in I'd never seen him get so angry so quick. The coat disappeared, never to be seen again and the only comment I heard afterwards

was from someone to the effect that it was the preferred use for that paper. I don't believe that anymore if anybody's listening.

Those years came and went all too fast. In the midst of rather extensive change of the state. They were learning years for me. They contributed greatly to my ability to find gainful employment in the years ahead and to a great degree those years helped me become the person that I am today, good or bad. And for that I am personally, extremely grateful. Politics is an honorable profession, an honorable calling and let no one tell you anything different. It's filled with honorable people, men and women who clearly are not in it for the money, but who truly wish to make Iowa an ever better place to live. We are fortunate; you and I, each one for being able to call this beautiful land our home. Some by birth, some by chance, all by choice.

I've had an over forty year long love affair with this place. In my brief time on this earth, I've had the opportunity to visit all fifty states and over three dozen countries. Honestly, I can find some reason why I'd be able to live, even enjoy living, in every one of those places. But nothing compares to Iowa. And I often find myself asking why, what is it that makes Iowa, in at least my mind, so special. It's not the winters, which can be brutal, but at the same time, can be incredibly beautiful. It's not the summers which can be hot as an oven, yet as inviting as any place on earth I've ever been. And we don't have the mountains and oceans of a lot of states. So what is it? Why do I love this place so much? I've come to believe that it's the people. The genius of those who call Iowa their home. It's the concern we share for one another, for our past, our present, our future. It's the care we share for the land and for all our natural resources. And it's the way we dig in and fight for what we believe in. How we can stand touching noses, as Meredith Wilson said, for a week at a time and never see eye to eye. He had to have this place in mind when he wrote those words. While at the same time each of us will put out our hearts, our souls, our own possessions to lend a hand to anyone in need. It's no wonder why groups like United Way set records year after year all across Iowa. We're a people of faith, diverse faiths who seek guidance each in our own way and who try to live our lives in response to the guidance we receive. We're a people of hope who, while playing to the past, reach out to the future with the knowledge that somehow, some way, what lies ahead of us will be better than what has already come. We're people of love who care deeply about our country, our state, our family, our friends, our neighbors and our God. All this is what I believe brought all of you to public service. You care about what happens in your collective careers. And in your collective caring you care about what happens to Iowa, because Iowa is a treasure worth preserving.

All this is what brought this current legislature together this January. To deal with some of the toughest issues this state may ever face. And to do it in the most bipartisan fashion I've ever seen in my thirty-five years of following this process. All this is what allowed me to say yes to the governor when he called this past winter and asked me to head up the Department of Economic Development. It wasn't sanity, it was a belief in this state. And a desire to want to make a difference.

The problems we face as a people are huge. But the spirit of Iowa, Republicans and Democrats, rural and urban, east, west, north, south, will lead us to solutions which will make life better for all of us and our children. Why do I believe this? Because we always have and we always will. It's what we do best as Iowans.