

H-1630

- 1 Amend the amendment, H-1619, to Senate File 406, as
- 2 passed by the Senate, as follows:
- 3 1. Page 1, line 3, by striking the figure "11"
- 4 and inserting the following: "9".
- 5 2. By renumbering as necessary.

Amendment H-1630 was adopted.

McCarthy of Polk asked and received unanimous consent that Senate File 406 be deferred and that the bill retain its place on the calendar. (Amendment H-1619, as amended, pending.)

### COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

Cohoon of Des Moines 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, Cohoon of Des Moines, Wise of Lee and May of Dickinson.

Cohoon of Des Moines, 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-NINTH BIENNIAL SESSION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 9, duly adopted, the joint convention was called to order at 2:02 p.m., President Kibbie presiding.

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

Courtney of Des Moines 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 Connolly of Dubuque, Courtney of Des Moines, Boettger of Shelby and Putney of Tama, on the part of the Senate, and Lensing of Johnson, Mertz of Kossuth, Sands of Louisa and Boal of Polk, on the part of the House.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

President Kibbie presented Senator pro tempore Jeff Danielson, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the Senate.

President Kibbie presented Representative Polly Bukta, Speaker pro tempore of the House, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House.

President Kibbie presented the Honorable Senator Mike Connolly of Dubuque member of the Senate who responded to the welcome.

Senator Mike Connolly introduced Mike Glover, Senior Correspondent of the Associated Press.

Thank you for that kind introduction—a rare moment of kindness between my profession and yours. Actually, it's not really all that rare, but more about that later.

I hope you will pardon me if I struggle a bit with this sort of role reversal. The concept of my speaking to the Iowa Legislature, and not the Iowa Legislature speaking to me and my colleagues, is enough to bring a journalist painfully close to hyperventilation. Like many of you, I come from an earlier generation where the rules were a bit clearer and things were a bit more black and white. I didn't do what you did and you didn't do what I did. Things are a bit more gray these days.

I'm often reminded by the character played by Holly Hunter in the movie "Broadcast News" when she accuses her romantic interest of violating ethical standards with the classic charge, "You crossed the line." To that charge he replies, "How do you know? They keep moving the sucker."

For the generations most of us come from it was simpler. But this isn't about me, this is about you and this institution which you have served and I have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century.

There's a lot of talk in these halls about how things have changed—how money and other factors have changed the character of this institution. There is, or course, some basis for those dire predictions, but let's not rush too far and let's think about some things which have not changed.

I bring to this discussion, after all, an outsider's view. Contrary to what has come to be the conventional wisdom, I was not installed in the press room during the run-up to the Civil War—it just seems that way.

As many of you know, I am a native of Illinois where the practice of politics is a much different creature. For instance, in that fair state we never hear the returns from Cook County until all the returns from downstate are complete. That's because Mayor Daley can't report returns until he knows what number he needs—and then he can go find it. We once had a secretary of state named Paul Powell who pushed through the legislature a minor measure changing the way you made out checks for license plates to include the name of the secretary of state. When he died they found scores of shoe boxes buried at this house stuffed with checks, and to this day no one knows how many he cashed.

With that background, we turn to Iowa. Is money changing the way business is conducted in this building? Without a doubt. But I would argue there is much more to the story. Politicians are, indeed, forced to spend more time raising and spending money, but most people I know in this room spend even more time dealing with the very real people they represent.

There's always considerable tension between your profession and mind on openness, and we won't relax on that front. I am often struck, however, how open this process is. I was walking through the halls just this week and passed by two lawmakers from opposite parties haggling over a bill and cutting the deal in a public hallway. To save their reputations, I won't name them.

And this can be one of the most partisan places in this very partisan environment. It isn't hard to get Republicans and Democrats shouting at each other. In fact it happens at a drop of a hat. What has struck me since the first day I walked into this place, however, is that the overwhelming bulk of the work done in this building happens because those exchanges take place. It doesn't make headlines because headlines are all about conflict.

Folks in this room are lucky to be part of that process, and there's another piece of luck you should ponder. We have lived in a state that has experienced one of the most remarkable political stretches in American political history. Since the 1970s, Iowa has lived at the center of the nation's political drama, and that's colored your political life and my professional career. The state, and I believe the nation's politics, are better for it.

Having said all that, the path has not always been smooth. There have been times when by all accounts things didn't go so well here. I'm fond of telling friends that I've seen more sunrises from this building than from any other spot in America.

I'd hate to try to count the number of shouting matches I've had with people, probably in almost every room of this very large building. Conflict is inevitable between my profession and yours, and it is equally inevitable within yours.

But the years sure have brought a whole bunch of memories, and I think it's important every now and then to stop and take stock of those memories. Those of us who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I guess that means we'll all try again and maybe, just maybe, this time we'll get it, if not right, at least a little better.

Enjoy your time.

Thank you.

The Honorable Mike Connolly announced the 1987 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

Honorary members of the 2007 class were the following:

Judy Dierenfeld, Chuck Gifford, Joe O'Hern, Virginia Petersen, Diane Reid, Jan Reinicke, Don Rowen and David Yepsen.

McCarthy of Polk moved that the joint convention be dissolved at 2:33 p.m.

The House resumed session at 3:08 p.m., Speaker Murphy in the chair.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Speaker announced the following Pioneer Lawmakers qualified to receive the traditional "chair" given in honor of their 20 years of service to the House:

The Honorable Phil Wise, state representative from Lee County.

The Honorable Dennis Cohoon, state representative from Des Moines County.

The Honorable Don Shoultz, former state representative from Black Hawk County.

The House rose and expressed its appreciation.