

On motion by Upmeyer of Hancock, the House was recessed at 8:38 a.m., until 1:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The House reconvened at 1:07 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

Pettengill of Benton 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, Pettengill of Benton, Garrett of Warren and Lensing of Johnson.

The House stood at ease at 1:08 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 1:48 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

Pettengill of Benton, 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 ALWMAKERS SIXTY-FIRST BIENNIAL SESSION

In accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 11 duly adopted, the Joint Convention was called to order, President Kibbie presiding.

President Kibbie announced a quorum present and the Joint Convention duly organized.

Senator 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 Fraise of Lee, Bowman of Jackson, Boettger of Shelby and Houser of Pottawattamie on the part of the Senate; and Drake of Cass, Hanusa of Pottawattamie, Kelley of Jasper and Hall of Woodbury on the part of the House.

The committee escorted the Pioneer Lawmakers into the House chamber.

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

President Kibbie presented Representative Kraig Paulsen, Speaker of the House, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the House.

President Kibbie presented the Honorable Robert Dvorsky, member of the Senate who responded to the welcome and announced the 1990 class of legislators who were eligible to become members of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

SENATE

Borlaug, Allen	Kersten, James	Kramer, Mary
McLaren, Derryl	Rittmer, Sheldon	Slife, Harry

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Baker, Tom	Bartz, Merlin	Bernau, William
Burke, Gordon	Dickinson, Rick	Gill, Pat
Gipp, Chuck	Grubbs, Steve	Hahn, James
Hanson, Don	Hurley, Chuck	Iverson, Stu
Johnson, Robert	Krebsbach, Scott	McNeal, Clark
Millage, David	Murphy, Pat	Rafferty, Bob
Weidman, Richard	Wissing, Matthew	

Honorary members of the 2011 class were the following:

HONORARY PIONEER LAWMAKERS

Brandsgard, Mark	Feltner, Paula	Laue, Jan
Langbehn, Robert	Nichols, Marcia	Roos, Jonathan
Walter, Susan		

Senator Dvorsky introduced the Honorable Arthur Neu, former Lieutenant governor, who addressed the Joint Convention as follows:

Incivility in politics has been around in America as long as the country existed, maybe even longer. There are some marvelous examples I have run across.

At the top of the list is the Hamilton-Burr duel in 1804. Interesting is that Iowa repealed section five of its bill of rights in 1992 which barred from political office anyone who had engaged in a duel. So you are now apparently free to challenge anyone with whom you disagree to a duel and still hold public office.

No one should overlook the incident in 1856 when Senator Sumner of Massachusetts was brutally assaulted by two members of congress from North Carolina.

Sometimes incivility is tempered with humor. In English Parliament an exchange between Disraeli and Gladstone was as follows:

One said "I swear, I don't know if you will die on the gallows or of the pox." (pox was the term for syphilis)

The other responded, "That depends sir, on whether I embrace your morals or your mistress.

In all fairness the press always has its less than civil moments with politicians. Ben Butler was a civil war general and later, a House member from Massachusetts. He was hated in the south, where he was in charge of occupied New Orleans. When he died, the Nashville Daily American wrote a long editorial, titled "The Beast is Dead" and read in part as follows:

"Old Ben Butler is Dead! Early yesterday morning the angel of death acting under the Devil's orders took him from Earth and landed him in Hell. In all this southern country here are no tears, no sighs and no regrets. He lived only too long. We are glad he has at last been removed from Earth and even pity the Devil the possession he has secured."

Then later it really gets bad.

"He was a trucking demagogue whose selfishness amounted to pollution; he was an autocrat who used power to wreak personal revenge; he was mean and malignant, a hangman from prejudice, the insulter of women, a braggadocio, a trickster and a

scoundrel whose heart was as black as the smoke from the coals that are now scorching his soul.”

Even Thomas Jefferson surreptitiously had a journalist refer to John Adams as a “hermaphrodite”.

The Liberty League referred to Franklin Roosevelt as a communist.

More recently, an example of civility took place when, during a parade, city workers found a backpack bomb on the Martin Luther King Day parade route. Emotions ran high but the NAACP chapter president made sure that the conversation remained civil.

Today there is incivility all over the place though, admittedly, not as severe as some alluded to earlier, and not much humor that I have observed. There never was a golden age when there was not incivility, but what seems to be somewhat unique to the present time is institutional incivility between the political parties. There was a day when Hubert Humphrey and Bob Dole would debate issues vigorously in the Senate and afterwards go out for a beer together.

It used to be the same here. We used to have vigorous, hot debates, but once we left the chamber it was set aside. I think that the demonizing of someone who disagrees with you is bad for politics, bad for legislation and bad for the state and country. It also makes compromise very difficult and we all know that compromise is impossible to avoid in a democracy.

One old time lobbyist told me that the incivility came about when we regulated lobbying. It used to be that legislators got together in the evenings at functions sponsored by lobbyists. At these functions legislators got to know each other socially. I certainly don't think that is the sole or even a major cause of today's incivility but it did result in less contact between legislators from the two parties. I suspect the money that is pumped into campaigns from the various interest groups deserves some of the credit for incivility. Also the people and organizations who are only concerned about one issue and support candidates on that one issue and nothing else. I think that plays a part in incivility.

I remember one session when Attorney General Turner issued an opinion holding that under the criminal code anyone who went out to an event in which their dinner and drinks were paid for was guilty of some crime under the then new criminal code. All events ended and a number of us joined the “Y” and played basketball together. We certainly got to know each other well on the basketball court.

One suggestion I might make. During the Ray years every Tuesday for lunch the leadership of both parties met for lunch in the Governor's office. Sometimes, early in the session there was not always a lot to talk about, but we still had lunch. You did get to know each other and in some instances we became good friends. We also knew that if you said something unpleasant about a leader of the other party, that in all likelihood you would be questioned about it next Tuesday. It served as a deterrent on extreme statements.

A little incivility, short of a duel or whipping, can be funny particularly when it involves some humor.

A lot can be dangerous, even disastrous. I think today we are at a dangerous stage particularly with an awful lot of people running around with side arms.

Thank you.

Upmeyer of Hancock moved that the Joint Convention dissolve at 2:23 p.m.

The House stood at ease at 2:23 p.m., until the fall of the gavel.

The House resumed session at 2:50 p.m., Speaker Paulsen in the chair.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted as follows:

Van Engelenhoven of Marion on request of Arnold of Lucas.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS Unfinished Business Calendar

House File 482, a bill for an act relating to various matters under the purview of the insurance division of the department of commerce, was taken up for consideration.

Pettengill of Benton offered amendment H-1408 filed by her.

Pettengill of Benton offered amendment H-1434, to amendment H-1408, filed by her and moved its adoption.

Amendment H-1434, to amendment H-1408, was adopted.

Pettengill of Benton moved amendment H-1408, as amended.

Amendment H-1408, as amended, was adopted.

Pettengill of Benton asked and received unanimous consent to withdraw amendment H-1419 filed by her on March 22, 2011.