

Thirty-Second Biennial Meeting of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers

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THIRD SERIES

Thirty-second Biennial Meeting of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers

By EMORY H. ENGLISH

The Thirty-second biennial meeting of members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa opened in the General Dodge memorial room at the State Historical building at Des Moines, March 19, 1953, with the association president, former Congressman Burton E. Sweet, presiding.

Mr. Sweet's home is at Waverly and he was accompanied to the meeting by Mrs. Sweet. He served from the Third Iowa district in the Sixty-fourth, Sixty-fifth, Sixty-sixth and Sixty-seventh congresses of the United States, 1915-1923, and the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies of Iowa, 1900-1903, in the House of Representatives.

The forenoon program began at ten o'clock with the invocation by the Rev. Claude R. Cook, curator of the Iowa State Department of History & Archives, as follows:

Mr. Cook: Our Heavenly Father: A well of gratitude fills our hearts and our minds this morning as we come together in this historic and important assembly. We are grateful for the contributions which these men have made to the commonwealth of Iowa; the contributions they have made to the scientific and material progress of this great state. We are grateful for all of their efforts; for the high idealism which marked their work when they were legislators and in the various posts which they have held in the country and in the state. We are pleased to register with them our thanks this morning for the work

they have done. May your blessings rest upon them as they meet this morning and again this afternoon. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

President Sweet: We have with us today Governor Beardsley who again has kindly consented to welcome us here. We have had a great many governors in this state, most of them good, and I am satisfied that when the history of this period is written, the administration of Governor Beardsley will be a splendid history, one of which we may all be proud. I now introduce Governor Beardsley, who will welcome you.

BACK TO CAPITOL HILL

Governor Beardsley: Thank you President Sweet, Mr. Secretary and welcome Pioneer Lawmakers. It is a rare pleasure to have the good fortune to come here this morning, and welcome you back to these familiar scenes—back to Capitol Hill. I know many of your fond recollections are associated with your service here at the seat of government and in behalf of the people of our great state. As governor I am privileged indeed to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome, and may I say there are many here with whom I have served in the Legislature and whom I have known personally for many years. To them a personal welcome.

I don't know of any finer contribution or any richer experience for anyone than having the privilege of serving in the General Assembly. I think it is not only a distinct honor but a great opportunity for service, and I am sure you will all agree that it is a broadening experience. I have a proper appreciation of the sentiment which you all hold towards the Legislature, and of your approval of the rich traditions which are a part of it. It is one of the finest things that can come to one in a constructive and useful life; a true measure of success cannot be found in the measure of things by material value, but the true measure of success is for one to leave this world a better world for their having lived in it.

It is the responsibility of every generation to make this contribution not only to the stability and security of our nation, of our government, of our state, but to provide for the advancement and growth and development in the future. The traditions of the Iowa General Assembly are of the finest and each of you in your way have made your contribution to that sum total of accomplishment and growth and development, so on this occasion we can attribute our good government in this

state, not only to the fine conceptions originally conceived, but to the sturdy and good work done by men and women like you, and it is through your labors and perseverance, that we have built strongly and well. You have always shown a proper appreciation of the true landmarks, the fundamental principles of representative government, at the same time meeting the changed conditions. We have met those changing conditions with sound and wise legislation to solve the problems immediately at hand, and planning to build wisely and in a stable way for the future. We have those who live in the past, but I am sure you Pioneer Lawmakers don't live in the past!

BOTH GOVERNOR AND PIONEER

I remember back in the '30's—by the way, I am a Pioneer today—when the court packing question was raised in our session and some people were prone to say that when a man reached the tender age of 65 he should not sit on the bench any more. I was a young blood in the senate, and some of the men I cherished there—old Judge Anderson from down in my own county, and B. F. Carroll, the former governor of Iowa—all elderly men, Rush G. Clark—many of you have cherished memories of Rush. And often through the day I would visit with them, those men in the mature years of life, and they had more vision and had more progressive thoughts than many of the men of my own age, so I say the age of a man is not indicative of his capacity towards life.

The thing we need to do is to maintain the proper perspective so we can see things in their proper proportion, and if we do that, we will maintain a proper respect for ancient landmarks and traditions which have guided us on our way and from those concepts, we will find the wisdom, the knowledge, the judgment, to make it possible in our day to meet our problems and to provide for growth in the future. That is the responsibility of the legislature. In the administration of government, in the executive branch there is an equal responsibility for sound governmental administration. That is how it has been done in each generation. Each generation in its way has made its contribution to the sum total.

Twenty-nine other men have occupied the governor's chair, preceding me, each in his own way, some more, some less, has made his contribution to the good of our state, as you have in the legislative branch. What we should each seek to do is to make the greatest contribution possible in the furtherance of that noble cause.

I know the fine sense of citizenship which motivated you men then and today and I join with you in paying reverence

to the fine concepts, the great citizenship, the deep patriotism, that are expressed in those words of Sidney A. Foster, "In all that is good, Iowa affords the best."

RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S WELCOME

President Sweet: Mr. Edward J. Wenner from Waterloo, an old friend of mine, is with us today. He has kindly consented to respond to Governor Beardsley's welcome.

Mr. Wenner: President Sweet, I don't know whether his excellency is in the back of the room or whether he has gone, but anyway I address myself to him, to the members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association, and the ladies who have lived along with some of us fellows when we were in service in the state house and shared our experiences, and to the visitors, if there are any with us, it is my privilege to address.

It was my pleasure to accept this duty when Burton Sweet called me by telephone a few days back, and asked me if I would respond to the address of welcome to be delivered by Governor Beardsley. I told him I would be pleased to do so. A response to an address of welcome is just what anyone makes it. Usually it is too long. I told Burton this one would be short, and that is what you may expect.

I have known Burton Sweet for a long time. Burton was our congressman for some years. He made an excellent representative in Washington; many of you here today know that. Burton sought a greater service, and he became a candidate for the United States senate while he was still serving in the house. Maybe some of you remember we had a spirited campaign at that time, and Burton, like others before, and others since, fell by the wayside. That was a distinct loss to the state of Iowa. His service in the house was very satisfactory, a valuable service to us, and had he been advanced to the United States senate at that time, the chances are he would still be serving, because you can tell from the way he acts today, he is capable of doing that work.

Since that time there came in a sort of wave of reorganization. A few Democrats got their heads up and started voting; still, I do not believe if Burton had been advanced to the senate, when he aspired to it, that any Democrat would have beaten him. We in the old third district would have seen to that!

I recall the first few days when Governor Beardsley was in the state senate. I am sorry he had to leave for he got hold of things in good shape and as a young fellow he started to do a good job, and he did a good job later on when he was a

member of the house. You know what his large following has accomplished. He has been elected governor three successive terms, and we hear whisperings around that he may not be a candidate for governor, but for the United States Senate. He has served earnestly and well. He has done a good job, and he will continue to serve us.

EXPERIENCES IN THE ASSEMBLY

Now I might go back and tell you some of the experiences that happened when I was in the state house. There were many interesting events. We had some fights—some didn't come out so well. Once or twice the legislature adjourned with some very important bills still in the hopper. Some of us liked that and some didn't.

I recall when the oleomargarine excise tax bill passed. Nothing was said then about triangular oleo. The Farm Bureau at that time had a lot of steam behind several measures, and the excise tax was one. It had been in the legislature, I believe, the session before I came, but wasn't enacted into law. I don't recall why but in the session I served, it passed the house, I believe it wasn't unanimous, but almost. The bill passed the senate 49-1, I believe. You know I wasn't that one, but since then, how many times I have wished I had been the second one! I have said to many people this year, while this fight was only one of the many roll calls I participated in the senate, it is the only one I feel ashamed of after a few years when I voted to put a five cent tax on oleomargarine.

I presume many of you have received this booklet "Real and Personal", which was written by Walter Beam. He is here and if nobody calls him up, I will call him before the session is over, and have him tell us a few things. Walter's book tells something of every session Walter was in. He was in the legislature from the time he was a youngster. He has met many of the people that wrote the history of Iowa.

This is my response to the governor's fine address. We are glad to be here on this occasion, I know, and some of us who haven't met others here, will do it before the day is over. I am sure this will prove an interesting and profitable meeting.

The secretary read a list of those in former Iowa official station twenty or more years ago, now becoming eligible for association membership under the automatic provisions of its constitution, including former members of the state legislature, of the U.S. congress from Iowa, the state judiciary and state officers, many of whom were present.

PRESIDENT SWEET'S ADDRESS

Mr. Sweet: As your president, I am pleased to see so many members present on this occasion. We have all taken a small part in enacting laws in the state of Iowa. We have all belonged to the legislative branch of our government. In our scheme of government there are three branches—the legislative, the executive and judicial. All of the branches play an important part in the history of the great state of Iowa. This morning I wish to discuss in general terms the important part that the legislature of Iowa has taken in our scheme of government.

I was elected first to the house of representatives of the state of Iowa in the fall of 1899. The legislature met at that time on the even numbered years. Later that was changed. When I was elected to the legislature, the condition of our country was entirely different than it is today. Telephones were just coming into use. We knew nothing about radios, television or atomic bombs, as we do today. In those days we did not have paved highways, automobiles or flying machines. We had dirt roads, and when we came to Des Moines to participate in the legislature of that day, we usually came by railroad. We knew nothing about the millions of automobiles, trucks and other conveyances that we now have. Our lives were very simple. There was no great oil business, or other business of that kind, and yet there were many important questions for us to pass upon, including the elusive budgets that we have today.

As I look back over my life at that time, in 1900 and 1902—in the 28th and 29th General Assemblies of which I was a member—we were free men. It was after the Civil war and just following the Spanish-American war. Our union had been saved, and we were a united people. In truth and in fact we were free men—we were not discussing the question of the preservation of our freedom. We had it. As I look back now, those were the halcyon days of the great Republic. In Iowa we were settling a new country. The outline of our form of government had been given to us. We had a constitution similar to that of our Federal constitution. The future seemed safe and secure. To be sure times have changed. We are living in another age. We are living in the age of inventions; we are living in the mechanical age; but I think everyone of us should take cognizance of the fact that we have to keep step with the march of events and the demands of the hour.

THE IOWA LEGISLATURE

As to our legislative history in the state of Iowa, I think

that every one of us can be proud of the laws that have been enacted by our legislatures, and the form of our government, which I hope will be retained until the last hour of recorded time.

At times there have been those who would like to abolish either the house of representatives or the senate, and have only one legislative body in the state. This has been done in the state of Nebraska, but if all reports are true, it is not working as well as though the state of Nebraska had a house of representatives and a senate.

It must be remembered that we are a democracy within a republic, and not just a democracy. In fact, our constitution guarantees to us a republican form of government, and that is representative government. The senate is composed of men of mature years, and generally conservative in their views on legislation, and the house of representatives is a more radical body. And, while in a sense, both houses are elected by the people, yet that is the history of all legislative bodies in the various states that have a house of representatives and a senate. I am inclined to the view that this should never be changed. The founders of our government who gave us the constitution of the United States, had in mind that there was as much danger from the mob as from the dictator, and so they adopted a happy medium between these extremes, and we have thus continued in existence during all these years a harmonious people and our rights to a certain extent have been preserved.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PURPOSE

Some years ago, I prepared a paper to be given before the State Bar Association, and entitled it "Render unto Business the things that pertain to business, and unto Government the things that pertain to government." In that paper I set forth that the constitution of the United States was never adopted for the purpose of doing business. Consequently, the government of the United States was really an umpire, saying to every man, whether in business or otherwise, you have an equal opportunity in anything that you do in business, but if you step beyond the bounds of reason, the government has a right to say to you, as the umpire on a baseball field—you must play it according to the rules of the constitution. The government of every business concern must of necessity be a monarchy. The power to handle that business is located in the hands of one man or a few men. Our great business organizations, private enterprise, is founded upon that axiom.

When it comes to the government, we have the legislative,

the executive and the judicial, and they should be a check upon the other, each to stay within its own confines. In a republic, business operated by it cannot be successful, for the legislative body does not act fast enough. But in a monarchical form of government the individual, or a number of kindred spirits, must handle the business and can handle it with dispatch and with success. So, it should be plain to every man in the Republic that we may be drifting far afield, and that the government is going into business, and those elected to our house of representatives and to the senate of the United States are liable to be dominated by certain groups who wish to have legislation enacted which is for their particular benefit, when in truth and in fact the United States government should simply determine and decide the terms and conditions under which a business may operate, instead of actually doing business itself. If we permit government to get into business and give preference to any set of individuals or groups, and compete with these groups, we are doing that which is prohibited by the constitution of the United States.

I realize that at the present time we are passing through perilous times, and our freedom as individuals, is being impaired. I realize that it is difficult to retrace our steps in government. Men who have tasted and enjoyed freedom will never submit to the rule of a dictator. Times seem out of joint. I am confident, however, that when the time comes, we will always be a united people in the great cause of preserving our freedom.

"The tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart,

Lord God of Hosts be with us yet, lest we forget, lest we forget."

DECEASED DURING THE BIENNIUM

Secretary English: Members of the association who have died since its last meeting include:

LEGISLATORS	COUNTY	SESSIONS SERVED	FIRST YEAR
A. M. Utterback	Keokuk	R 29	1902
W. W. Saylor	Bremer	R 30-31	1904
Berges J. Bergeson	Woodbury	R 32	1907
George A. Kellogg	Harrison	R 32-32x-33	1907
Paul E. Stillman	Greene	R 32-32x-33-34	1907
Anthony M. McColl	Dallas	S 34-35	1911
		Bd. of Control (1913-30)	
Justin Barry	Linn	R 35-36	1913
Lee W. Elwood	Howard	R 35-36-37	1913

John M. Lindley	Henry	S 36-37	1915
Rube McFerrin	Hamilton	R 36-37	1915
Fred G. Turner	Iowa	R 36-37	1915
William Schmedika	Hardin	R 36-S40-40x-41	1915
Emil A. Larson	Montgomery	R 37-38-39	1917
John M. Wormley	Plymouth	R-37-38	1917
Omen Nervig	Humboldt	R 39	1921
George S. Banta	Delaware	S 39-40-40x	1921
H. N. Donhowe	Story	R 39-40-40x	1921
Alfred Williams	Montgomery	R 40-40x	1923
Heike A. Rust	Franklin	R 40-40x-41-42-42x	1923
W. Walter Wilson	Tama	R 40-40x-41-42-42x-43	1923
Oscar Anderson	Decatur	R 41	1925
State Budget Director (1929-1933)			
John H. Hager	Allamakee	R 41-42-42x S 43-44	1925
H. B. Owens	Harrison	R 41	1925
Chas. L. Rigby	Cedar	S 41-42-42x-43-44	1925
Clyde B. Charlton	Polk	R 42-42x	1927
George M. Vosseller	Bremer	R 43	1929
Chas. O. Dayton	Washington	R 43-44	1929
Fred W. Nelson	Story	R 43-44 S 45-45x-46	1929
State Tax Com.			
Ed. R. Brown	Polk	R 44-47	1931
O. P. Morton	Wright	R 44	1931
William Paisley	Lee	R 44	1931
W. R. Ritchie	Buena Vista	S 44-45-45x	1931
Wallace M. Short	Woodbury	R 44	1931
Paul I. D. Ostby	Worth	R 45-45x	1933
OTHER MEMBERS			
	RESIDENCE	POSITION	FIRST YEAR
John C. Crockett	Eldora	Clerk Sup. Court	1903
Dr. Robt. D. Wall	Des Moines	St. Veterinarian	1919
C. A. Bryson	Iowa Falls	District Judge	1924
		R 49-50-50x-51-52-52x	
Sherwood A. Clock	Hampton	District Judge	1923
Loy Ladd	Des Moines	District Judge	1931
John A. Murray	Logan	District Judge	1932
Geo. A. Johnston	Union	District Judge	1932

The President announced appointment of a committee to nominate officers of the association for the ensuing term as follows: Frank M. Hanson, of Garner, Carl W. Reed of Cresco, and Frank G. Snyder of Webster City.

ROUNDTABLE REMARKS

President Sweet: This is a sort of an open meeting

for everyone. We thought possibly we might have Senator Francis here to lead in the reminscences, and I want all present to feel free to take part in this, for this is a general discussion. I now recognize Senator Francis.

Senator Francis: I came in contact with government in a very fine way at an early age. We had in our county a famous senator, who served for a good many years. He was perhaps the best known man in public life in Iowa at that time, Senator A. B. Funk. When I was about twelve years of age, I received a letter from Senator A. B. Funk written from Des Moines on the letterheads the senators used, and he addressed me as Mr. Francis. I don't remember what was in the letter, but I preserved that letter with pride for probably twenty years. To me it brought the state house and the government of Iowa right down on the old farm on the banks of East Okoboji lake, and from that day on I felt a love for our government and our state.

Later on I received another letter. We had a congressman in the old 11th district by the name of Ike Struble. I had a letter from him. He, too, called me "Dear Mr. Francis," and said he was sending me a book which he hoped I would enjoy reading. In due course, it came—a big book with a black cover. It had 600 pages and was the agricultural year book of that time. I doubt if any other government publication was ever so thoroughly read and so completely enjoyed as was that book. I tell you this little anecdote that indicates my feeling towards these men who encouraged me in public life. Senator Funk was a popular and well loved man.

My father bought a farm from the United States government in 1860 on the east banks of Okoboji. He paid the government \$1.25 per acre. That was two years before the first homestead act was passed in the congress. I was born and raised on that farm. There were on it fifty acres of timber, of trees fully three feet in diameter, that stood fifty feet high on a kind of knoll where the prairie fires that swept the country did not destroy them. You can imagine what a wonderful place for a boy that was on the banks of the lake. A little ways away was Thomas creek. Every spring as soon as the ice went out, the pickerel went up that creek. When I was six or seven years of age, I could spear a pickerel and bring it home.

FISH SPEARING AT OKOBOJI

A little further away was a creek named for a pioneer who

was three-quarters of a mile from his cabin when one of those terrific storms swept down and he was frozen to death. The pike went up that stream. I never could spear a pike. A pike has so much more intelligence. I could only look at them and they were gone. After they started their run, the buffalo came. The buffalo has no intelligence, except to go. I have seen them go in tens of thousands up East Oko-boji, swirling up the surface of the lake. I saw a grown man one day spear a buffalo that dragged him as quick as a flash into the stream, and he finally came out and brought the buffalo. They claim that buffalo weighed a hundred pounds. I don't vouch for the truth of this.

It seemed to a good many people that men should be prevented coming to the lakes and spearing fish. I am speaking the truth when I say I have seen men come in and fill a wagon box with fish they speared.

Senator Funk was chairman of the Fish and Game Committee in the legislature. To him it seemed that such slaughter of fish should be prevented, and he aided in putting through the legislature, the first law in the state of Iowa prohibiting spearing fish. Here was the result. Every farmer who had been in the habit of getting the fish he wanted, felt that Abe Funk was to blame and responsible, and that it was not right that a farmer should be denied the privilege of getting these fish, and claimed that they were being penalized for the benefit of the summer resorters. Abe became a most unpopular man, but he survived. I have observed that the men who stand up for right and justice ultimately survive.

AMAZED AT BECOMING SENATOR

I was amazed, my friends, when I found myself a member of the senate of Iowa so long ago, forty-four years ago it was. I know I don't look that old, I was a mere child when elected! I had my first experience with the members of the senate in a room in the hotel where they met to elect the people who should preside. I was named one of the people to carry the hat around and take the votes. I performed my duty and as I went along, I held out the hat to a man I didn't know. I didn't see any difference between that man and the rest of the senators but there was a general laugh, and I was much embarrassed. He didn't vote. Later I made inquiries and found he was a janitor. As far as I could see, he was just as much a citizen as anyone else.

I went into the senate with such a humble feeling—with such absolute fear, I believe it was that, when I was taken up and administered the oath, I felt that it could not be

possible that a boy from the country could be in a great assembly like this.

I have watched the legislature with great interest in the intervening years, and I will say that they will compare in their integrity with the congress of the United States, and that there are many members equally competent to serve in that body.

The address of welcome brings to my mind that I replied to this same governor's address a few years ago. I said to him that there was just one thing I would like him to do for me, if either of our present United States senators resigned, I would accept the appointment! That is the only job in this world that I would accept from anybody at this time. I have such a feeling of respect and honor for our congress and our legislature, that I say no man could fail to count it the greatest possible honor that could come to him.

PRIMARY ROADS AND TAXES

President Sweet: Former Speaker J. H. Johnson, of Knoxville, should give us an interesting message. Will you speak to us Mr. Johnson?

Mr. Johnson: This is the first meeting I have attended since I became a Pioneer. It so happens to be a time of year in my profession that I could not come. I thought I would not make it this year, but by reason of one person getting ill, I could come. The case was postponed.

When I first entered the legislature in 1925, at that time the road question was uppermost in our minds. The previous legislature had passed a gas tax bill which had been vetoed, and so it came to the 41st. We worked on that for sometime, and it almost passed. There was a question about a road matter which took a great deal of time in the question of whether or not the highway commission should have control of primary roads.

Perhaps some here will remember the first road law we had, the boards of supervisors and the highway commission were given concurrent jurisdiction over primary roads. The result was that when the highway commission wanted to locate the road a certain place and it did not go past the places of the supervisors there was a stalemate. One had veto power over the other, so the result was when they came to pass the road statute as it was, the board vetoed it, and the highway commission would not give their consent. So finally towards the last of the session, when we did not get a bill through for complete jurisdiction of the highway commission, a development fund was set up of four and a half

million dollars over which the highway commission had complete jurisdiction, and could be used where most needed. In the 42nd, the primary road bill was passed. When that was completed, we thought we had the finest roads in the United States. We did not realize the extent of the traffic they would have on these roads. Now they are outmoded practically and that is the main question before the general assembly.

We enacted a law for creating a state tax commission. They did not have such a fine sounding name as now. We gave them one little place in the basement of the capitol building for their offices. That has been extended until now they have a large number of offices and it is one of the important branches of our state government. I value very highly my experience in the legislature and my acquaintance made throughout the state, and I am so happy to be with you again, and to renew old times.

President Sweet: Now, Judge Reed have you a word for us?

Mr. Reed: One of the first things I remember happening after I came to the senate, was a roll call. My name beginning with R was far down in the alphabet, and with Albert Fellows of Waukon and Byron Newberry of Strawberry Point—you may remember Byron telling the story of being introduced by the nervous chairman as Senator Strawberry of Newberry Point—I thought with them ahead on the roll call, I could get an idea on the matter being voted on. Well, Senator Fellows voted "aye" and Senator Newberry voted "no"! I knew then that I had better get on my own and decide upon the bills myself.

PROUD OF IOWA'S MEDICAL HOSPITAL

President Sweet: Next I will present to you Ray A. Yenter, formerly of Iowa City, who will address you.

Mr. Yenter: Like Senator Francis, I don't know just what I am supposed to talk about! However, in this day and age of the world there is considerable to talk about.

As our president suggested, the world has changed considerably since I came to the legislature, fresh out of three years active service in the army. I know my legislative experience and my experience in the army took the raw edges off pretty rapidly. Those days, you will all remember, were days of depression. The basic industry of Iowa was suffering. There were many demands being made. Among others I remember it was proposed to appropriate funds to

match those of the Rockefeller Foundation for a great hospital in Iowa City, and in spite of the sacrifice involved, it was done. I think every member of the legislature at that time can look with pride on that accomplishment, can feel proud of the good that hospital has done. The citizenry of the state of Iowa can look with pride upon the strides that have been made there in medical research. All of this bears out the judgment of the assembly at that time.

I think perhaps as we grow older, we are inclined to look in retrospect. I think we should spend some energy in looking ahead. This world is in terrific turmoil, and the end of it all is not yet foreseen. It seems a terrible thing that with an earth such as we live on capable of affording sufficient of everything that everybody wants, everyone on the earth should not live in comfort, even luxury, but that because of economic mal-adjustment, those who live on it must compete for power which a person cannot use and certainly cannot take with them. I think that is the crux of the problem that the world must solve, if it is to survive. That is the problem of fair distribution.

At the present time we are confronted by this situation which is not just a theory. Day before yesterday an atom bomb was exploded on the flats of Nevada in an effort to bring to the United States something of an understanding of the enormity of the situation that we face. To bring to us a knowledge of the necessity for organization, full and complete organization to conform with the things that confront us. Don't make any mistake—we are confronted by a real emergency. The local communities if they hope to survive without almost total destruction must realize this. I don't mean the farm or the small Iowa town, but don't forget Iowa is the bread basket and the bread basket is the second or third military objective of any nation. It would not take too much to cripple the middle west—a bomb atavenport, one at Council Bluffs, another at Burlington, one at Kansas City—and where do you go from there?

I have been acting as chairman of the Defense Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We have been trying to organize behind the county defense chairman and get in shape so that if these things which we pray God do not happen, should happen, we will be in shape to handle the situation. I served in the army long enough to know the difference between organization and disorganization, and it is considerable. If any of you have ever handled a civilian people who are scared, you really have something to do. If you have ever been confronted with this, you know how

much of the disastrous results a few cool heads could have averted.

Let me suggest that you give this matter some thought, every one of you can go back to your own community and do a lot of good if you see the situation as I do.

Considering the time I spent in the legislature, it was a rare opportunity for a comparatively young man. I worked hard, and tried to do my job. In one or two of the sessions, there were more lawyers, or at least those holding certificates saying they were lawyers—the farmers were not far behind. I had a lot of friends who did not see as I did—did not vote as I did. In later years I have been proud of the fact that many came to me and I went into the law library with them and helped them look up things, that they knew at the time I would not vote for, but the fact that they let me work with them and do work for them, was one of the highest compliments ever paid to me, and I think there are a few men in the sound of my voice, who know what I am talking about.

President Sweet: Some of Frank Lund's good friends would enjoy hearing from him today. Will you favor us, Mr. Lund?

Mr. Lund: We have heard many good talks, and I am not in favor of too much politics! I was in the best legislature that ever did meet, and of course I won't tell you the best man in it! We elected Senator Kenyon. We voted on woman's suffrage. I shan't try to tell you all we did. There isn't time! I appreciate very much being here. I enjoyed your talk, Colonel, it was a good talk. The Americans today don't know how much danger we are in. We hope the danger is not as great as we fear.

There is a gentleman in this audience who has never had the honor and distinction of serving with the rest of us, but he came from my senatorial district, and I would like to pat him on the back. So now I call on my friend, Senator L. J. Dickinson.

President Sweet: I had requested his presence, but did not know that he was here. We served together in congress. Will you say a word?

EXPERIENCE A GREAT TEACHER

Senator Dickinson: When I first went down to Washington, my room was on the inside and Burton Sweet's on the outside, and I had to do what he told me to do. He was a good instructor and I enjoyed my association with him for a long time. Just one thing happened to him—he was

retired, and went back to business, which was what I should have done before I did. But I was having a good time.

I never had experience in the state legislature. I went green to the national House of Representatives. I think Joe Johnson served with my partner, and perhaps the rest of you—T. P. Harrington—he was a good student. A red-haired Irishman, he sometimes wanted his way and until I got in public life, he and I were the firm of Harrington and Dickinson for a number of years.

I remember when Senator Francis was senator from up there. There isn't any difference between the fellow who goes down to Washington, and the fellow who serves here. You are all made of the same clay and experience molds you along a different line. I have always said experience is the first essential for an efficient public servant. The fellow who goes in green and thinks he can do as much as the fellow who knows the earmarks has something to learn. Experience is a great teacher. When anybody comes into our law office now, we don't turn them over to the youngest fellow—we turn them over to one with experience. If he has an additional tax assessment, we turn him over to a man who knows the answers.

I have enjoyed life much since I came to Des Moines. I have never attended this meeting before, but I always thought it was a legislative group only, but I see our chairman is an ex-congressman, so it seems the rest of us are eligible.

I am glad to be here, and see familiar faces which I remember from other days. A good many of you will remember that I did my share of speech making for Iowa. Now I have quit. I don't make speeches any more. I just associate with folks like Emory there who has had a quite active life. I don't see Burton very often. I am glad we could get him down for this meeting. I am glad to see those who have carried water for me in so many precincts. I always appreciated it. And I am glad I received as many votes as I did. I am glad to be here. Glad to see so many here and to participate with you in this meeting.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORN LOANS

President Sweet: From the group of state officers who came to the capitol in 1933 we have Ray Murray, then state commissioner of agriculture, here today, and I will ask him to next address us:

Mr. Murray: Any one as well known and qualified as Senator Francis in this group, to approach the matter in hand

with assurance, can imagine my feeling. However, the chair spoke of his particular age as being the halcyon days. My state experience was in days extremely different, they were referred to as depression days. I came down in the turbulent days of the early 30's. I was elected secretary of agriculture in the election of 1932, and at that time, the days were anything but halcyon. But my recollection of the general assembly, of the session that fall and winter, which I believe was one of the longest sessions ever held in Iowa, and one of the most fruitful, are still clear memories in my mind. I want to relate just one little incident to show how I appreciate the work of the Forty-fifth General Assembly.

I came here in unauspicious times. I probably owe my election to the fact that corn in Iowa was selling for ten cents, and hogs at \$2 a hundred. That was just twenty years ago now.

Shortly after I arrived, the proposition was brought forth that the government would be willing to make a loan on this corn which had cost us about forty to fifty cents to produce and was then selling at just ten cents a bushel, and which had wrecked the economics of every farmer business man in Iowa. It was my job to organize a group who would enforce that particular law—the first corn loan program.

Within three days from the time that the congress of the United States made such a thing possible, we had in Iowa organized 100 county boards, two in Pottawattamie county, consisting of five to six members each, and had appointed and authorized 600 members to work on that program which would loan forty-four cents a bushel on corn. That is what I wanted to speak about. Of how we did something in three days that would ordinarily take weeks to do, and was done through the cooperation of the members of the Forty-fourth General Assembly. And I want now to pay my respects to three great farm leaders who worked all one day, all that night, and all the next day, in setting up those boards. Charles Hearst, Milo Reno and Ralph Smith of Newton. The leaders of three largest farm organizations of Iowa, they came to my office in the first day, and left late on the evening of the second day, without food, except such food as we could bring to them, and they set up these boards.

We were only aware there was a big job to do, and our concern was to see appointed on these boards men of whom when their names were made known to their communities, the people would say, if he is heading it, I am for it. There was for once an entirely new organization, and I say that advisedly. Our procedure was to call down to my office

to work with these three men, the legislators—senators and representatives—from the county being considered, and to you men who may have served in the Forty-fifth General Assembly, I want to present at this late date, my deepest thanks for the help you gave me in choosing in every county such a group of men that they were able in three months to loan over sixty-one million dollars to save the economy of Iowa farmers. And may I add, they paid back to the government with four per cent interest every single, solitary penny that was loaned to them.

I don't think in the entire history of Iowa that any group of legislators can be more proud of any outside activities than can those men to whom as a farmer and an official I appealed, and to whom Iowa will always be enormously grateful.

President Sweet: I now would like to call on Walter Beam. Will you say something, Walter?

Mr. Beam: I hardly know why you call on me when there are so many better speakers around. My clerical participation in the Iowa legislature extended over a period of thirty years. I started forty years ago. I think the only one of the boys here today who was serving at that time, is Leslie Francis. He was a leader in those days.

Perhaps I should say that bashfulness has bothered me all my life. I have hopes that some time it will fade away, but it is still with me today. It was a wonderful experience that I have had in the state of Iowa. Perhaps these lines will express it: "It's giving and doing for somebody else; on that all life's splendor depends; and the joy of this world, when we sum it all up, is found in the making of friends."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 1953-1955

Frank M. Hanson, chairman of the committee on nomination of officers for the ensuing biennial period, reported the following recommendations:

For President—Arch W. McFarlane, of Waterloo

For Vice-president—Frank Shane, of Eldon

For District Vice-presidents:

First—Geo. M. Clearman, Oxford

Second—Geo. F. Slemmons, Independence

Third—Carl B. Stiger, Toledo

Fourth—Roy E. Stevens, Ottumwa

Fifth—John H. Kelly, Altoona

Sixth—Geo. W. Patterson, Burt

Seventh—H. E. Davidson, Clarinda

Eighth—L. B. Forsling, Sioux City

For Secretary—Walter H. Beam, Martensdale

For Executive Committee—Arch W. McFarlane, Waterloo; Burton E. Sweet, Waverly; Carl W. Reed, Cresco; Frank Shane, Eldon; Walter H. Beam, Martensdale; H. J. Mantz, Audubon; Ray P. Scott, Marshalltown.

No other nominations being made, on motion of Mr. Hanson, those nominated were unanimously elected officers of the association for 1953-1955 term.

Letters from absent members regretting their inability to attend the sessions were read, following which President Sweet announced that luncheon would be served immediately at the nearby Christian church, and thereupon the morning meeting was adjourned.

JOINT CONVENTION SESSION

The Joint Convention of the Fifty-fifth General Assembly on March 19, 1953, in the chamber of the House of Representatives convened at 2 p.m., in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 13, and was called to order by President Leo Elthon of the Senate.

The members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa were escorted to the House chamber, and seated in the area at the front facing the speaker of the house, by the committee consisting of Senator Byers on the part of the senate and Representatives Dewey Goode and A. C. Hanson on the part of the house.

President Elthon presiding presented Senator Herman B. Lord of Muscatine county to the joint convention, who welcomed the visitors on behalf of the senate, speaking as follows:

Senator Lord: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and to pay our respects to the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa on behalf of the senate. We have several members of the Pioneer Lawmakers who are presently active in the admin-

istration of the laws and the making of laws of our state:

His Excellency, Governor William S. Beardsley,
Honorable Leo Elthon, Lieutenant Governor,
Honorable Frank C. Byers, Senator from Linn,
Honorable Arch W. McFarlane, Representative from Black

Hawk,

Honorable Dewey E. Goode, Representative from Davis,
and

Honorable Art C. Hanson, Representative from Lyon,
are all active in the business of the state while holding their memberships in the distinguished and venerable Pioneer Lawmakers Association.

In view of what has been said and will be said here today, let us take a look into the future of our state and nation as to the problems that will affect our lawmakers of the future.

We look back with pride and appreciation for the good work that has been done in the past. We are ever mindful of how the liberties have been preserved for the citizens of our state and nation, thereby creating a beacon of freedom, the light of which may be seen throughout the world and cherished by free men everywhere. Should that light in America ever be extinguished or even dimmed, mankind throughout the world would suffer a loss from which it would require centuries to recover. Our responsibilities are great!

In the coming years our population will become more dense—thereby the complexity of our society will become greater—which will call for more laws to govern the lives of the individual and greater demands will be made upon government for the solution of problems arising therefrom. Likewise, the individual citizen will endeavor to get rid of many personal problems by turning them over to the state. Many individual citizens are quite willing to exchange their freedom for the illusion of security. They wish to have the government solve their personal perplexing problems, and are quite willing to forego their liberties in exchange. Each time the government takes over the individual's responsibility, the more the individual is dependent upon government, and also becomes less capable of taking care of himself. The end result will be that the light of freedom will be dimmed and finally extinguished in America unless we legislate wisely and well.

In the future, as in the past, lawmakers must resist this trend with judgment and wisdom, weighing well the need of our times, keeping abreast with modern government, yet still preserving the freedom of our people. Lawmaking is and should be an exact science. If the trends of public

thinking and public demands are understood by our lawmakers well in advance of their movement, ways and means can be devised to meet these needs and yet preserve free enterprise and individual freedom.

We are pleased to give you this glimpse of the future problems as we see them, and to assure you that we are not unmindful of the pitfalls that lie ahead. We hope that we will justify the heritage that you have given us, and that we may pass on to our posterity a heritage as great.

President Elthon presented to the joint convention Representative Fred Schwengel who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on the part of the house:

Mr. Schwengel: It is indeed an honor to have been asked to represent the Fifty-fifth General Assembly on this auspicious occasion, and it is with a spirit of humility as I try humbly to represent you in honor of our distinguished guests today.

It is always good and especially in these times to reflect on the past and to have it show us how to chart our course for the future.

It is extremely fitting that we do honor where honor is due. Certainly, too, we who represent our people are honored to have these patriots of previous days, so important in the past history of our great state, on this occasion.

Looking back on the problems of our state twenty or thirty years ago, you were pioneers in a very real sense—then it was re-charting and adopting new philosophies on tax, reducing the state property tax burden meeting the challenge of bringing Iowa out of the mud and setting the pattern that they finally gave to the citizens of Iowa that we are still building on today. In instances, you brought order out of chaos; when the financial laws of Iowa needed amending and readjusting in the interest of the people, you brought about financial stability within our society; you saw the need of under-girding a good economy by recognizing, through tax relief, those things that make for stable citizenry; the homestead exemption is the case in point.

In addition to meeting problems like these with forthrightness and conviction, you, as history proves, did all things well in the many other areas of state responsibility—illustrated by the fact that our state is in fine condition financially and it has grown and progressed in every phase of its manifold activities.

You, honored guests, like our forefathers, were devoted to the system best described by a seer who once said: "The

objective of a representative form of government is the *cause of the people*. *Of the people* because men are what the holy doctrine teaches, for if it were not so, to sacrifice oneself for others would be extremest folly. Their devotion to this cause has made the patriots and philanthropists of all ages illustrious and their memories the richest inheritance of the human race and set them aside in an area of devotion and admiration for all mankind.

It is a fundamental truth that great men mold and shape the era in which they live—as we reflect on the history of the world, how different it would have been without a Moses, Christ, Alexander the Great, of ancient times, Cromwell, Napoleon and Disraeli of a later date; and without Adams, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and scores of others in panorama of more modern times; and in Iowa without Lucas, Kirkwood, Harlan, Grimes, Cummins, Clarke, Kendall and scores of others, almost all of whom were members of the Iowa General Assembly at one time.

All of this prompts me to call to your attention an appropriate and memorable poem by Lord Byron:

“Tis, thus, the spirit of a single mind
 Makes that of multitudes take one direction.
 As roll the waters to the breathing wind
 Or roams the herd beneath the bull’s protection,
 Or as a little dog will lead the blind
 Or bell-wether form the flocks’ connection,
 By tinkling sounds of speech when they go forth
 to victual

Such is the way of great men over little.”

Or in the words of an American poet, Edwin Markham, who wrote so glowingly on American tradition and life and people, when he said of Lincoln in that now memorable poem, “Lincoln, the Man.” After comparing Lincoln to all the great, fine things of nature and how he represented it, he pointed to his statue in Boston and said: “Here was a man to hold against the world, a man to match the mountains and the sea,” and then he went on to describe him as the great spirit that represented the fundamental laws of man and truth, he said, in effect, when he left, these words: “T’was as a mighty fallen tree and when it fell, it left a lonesome place against the sky.”

Honored guests, we have missed you, the state has missed you and we are happy to honor you this day. For it was you who handed us the torch of liberty, and God grant that we may hand it on to our successors as brightly lighted and untarnished as you handed it to us.

Gentlemen, there is no question that I express the hearts and minds of every member of this assembly when I say to you on this auspicious occasion, "welcome!"

President Elthon: It is certainly a pleasure and an honor at this time to introduce to you the Honorable Burton Sweet, who is president of the Pioneer Lawmakers, and at this time will appear before you to preside over the remainder of the joint meeting.

IOWA LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP

President Sweet: At the outset, I wish to express to you my profound appreciation for the compliment that has been paid to the Pioneer Lawmakers at this time, and for the welcome we have received at your hands.

I was elected to the legislature of Iowa as a representative about fifty-four years ago. I served in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies. We had in those sessions men of great ability and they made history for the great State of Iowa.

As I stand here today, the Twenty-ninth General Assembly rises before me like a dream. I look to the right, and I see Nate Kendall sitting there. He was a great orator. He was afterwards elected to congress and then later elected as governor of this great state.

I look to the back part of the room and see George Clarke from Dallas county, and remember that he was elected as governor of this state.

I look to my left in the body of the house, and I see Gardner Cowles. Shortly after his service in this house he purchased the *Des Moines Register and Leader* as it then was known, and he built up the *Register* until it has become the greatest newspaper in the State of Iowa—yea, in the Mississippi valley.

I look over here and I see M. L. Temple, a great lawyer, who represented the mining interests of the southern part of the State of Iowa.

In seat No. 10, there sits, in my mind's eye, Mr. Edwards, who was elected as district judge and served with great distinction. Nearby, and near the front

arises the distinguished form of B. F. Cummings of Marshalltown, who likewise became a district judge.

Over to the left and near Mr. Temple's seat I see the tall form of George W. Dunham, an eminent lawyer, who later also graced the district bench. And back in the center of the room to the right stands Fred C. Gilchrist, the speaker protem, who moved over to the senate and later had a long career in congress.

To the right over there, is Colonel Samuel A. Moore of Bloomfield, the silver-tongued orator of the house, who had been a captain in the old Second Iowa of Civil war fame, and afterwards lieutenant colonel of the 45th Iowa Infantry.

I look again and I see the able and astute Thomas Way. I see Senator Cummins, who then was governor and subsequently became a great senator. And I see others that are familiar to the mind's eye. One of these is Emory English. Emory afterward served as state printer and became Iowa's first insurance commissioner. At the present time he has charge of the publications of the state historical department, and today is secretary of the Pioneer Lawmakers. He served in the Twenty-ninth General Assembly with me.

I look again and I see William G. Kerr, representative from Grundy county in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth—he is here today. I look again and I see many others who would be familiar, but time forbids a longer look, even though it be in a dream. I want you to see those men who worked well in a day and a generation that is gone.

All but a few of that body of men have departed for the Great Beyond. They sleep in their windowless palaces of rest. It matters not where it may be, or among whom they lie, peace and rest comes to each and all, and their going marks the end of an age.

McFARLANE'S UNMATCHED RECORD

And now, I wish to present to you a veteran legislator, a man who has been in the Iowa legislature longer than any other man living or dead. A man

who was twice speaker of the house of representatives and presided over that body with honor to himself and to the great State of Iowa.

He was also elected lieutenant governor, and he presided over the senate with distinction. I want to say to you that he has held these high positions with honor, and with integrity; in the same manner discharging all the legislative acts of his life.

Every important piece of legislation that has gone through this legislature in the last forty years has received the imprint of his active mind, and the stamp of his legislative genius.

To you, gentlemen, all of you, I now present that prince of parliamentarians, that leader of men, the Honorable Arch W. McFarlane, who will address you on this occasion:

Mr. McFarlane: It is with humility and with a very deep sense of feeling that I take this opportunity to publicly express my appreciation to the Pioneer Lawmakers in selecting me as their president for the next two years. I can assure you that this came unsolicited and I feel very grateful for this honor. I shall endeavor to be an active president worthy of this high office.

As I appear before you here today my mind and memory cannot but dwell upon the past. I always feel, when the Pioneer Lawmakers meet, that there are present with us in an almost bodily sense, those other Pioneer Lawmakers who have drunk their cup a round or two before, and one by one crept silently to rest.

A few years ago, when I first became eligible to membership as a Pioneer Lawmaker, it was very hard for me to realize that I was in any sense to be classed as a pioneer. Most of us here have had, at times, much the same feeling. My idea of a pioneer came out of James Fenimore Cooper's "Leatherstocking Tales", and my thoughts of just what kind of people the pioneers were, and how they looked, tended to be derived from Blashfield's masterpiece of "Westward," which we view every day as we near the house and senate chambers.

Yet most of us here today will be regarded by the people of Iowa fifty years or so in the future equally as pioneers with the earliest men who moved into Iowa.

For Iowa is a young state, even today. There are men

here today, such as my almost lifetime friends, Burton Sweet, Emory English and Wm. G. Kerr, whose span of life is more than three-fourths that of the lifetime of the State of Iowa.

WHEN PIONEERS CAME TO IOWA

As we look backward today our lifetimes reach back into the days when just about everybody in Iowa was a pioneer, or is so regarded today. And, as we stop to think the matter over a little, we get a better picture of what actually constitutes a pioneer, and the manner of men they were.

The pioneers who came to Iowa in the days before my birth were, as a matter of fact, men and women just like ourselves. Some of them came to Iowa seeking their own future, some also came to leave their pasts behind them. There were more sinners than saints, not all of the men were handsome heroes, and the sturdy women who helped create this state didn't look, very many of them, like the movie stars who now portray them on the films.

And from this sturdy stock there developed the leaders who wrote the constitution of the State of Iowa, who became the pioneer lawmakers of two and three generations ago, and whose memory we honor today.

I like to think of the General Assembly of the State of Iowa as a training school for leaders of men. From among those who have occupied seats in the house and senate twenty-one have later become Governors of Iowa.

There was Samuel J. Kirkwood, who showed up in the Iowa State Senate in the guise of a grizzled farmer with seeds in his hair, and proceeded to demonstrate to his astonished colleagues the qualities of greatness which made him our Civil war governor, and later a United States senator. There was Tama Jim Wilson, who once occupied the speaker's chair on this rostrum, who rose to become the greatest leader that American agriculture has produced to date. There was William Larrabee, possibly the best beloved Iowan of his time. There was Albert B. Cummins, the unknown young lawyer who gained his election as an independent, and founded his political career by putting the barbed wire fence trust out of business. There was that great governor, George W. Clarke, who envisioned the Capitol Extension of which we are so proud today, and fought it through until his dream became a reality, and the saloons and brothels disappeared from the state house steps. And there was Nate Kendall, who also sat in the speaker's chair, perhaps the most eloquent orator who ever sat in this chamber.

I could go on and on with this list of Pioneer Lawmakers

of Iowa. I cannot even stop to enumerate the men who have gone from these halls almost directly into the halls of the national House of Representatives. I cannot enumerate, either, the men who have become our district judges and judges of our Supreme Court. And were I to attempt to list the civic honors which have been bestowed upon former members of the Iowa General Assembly by the State of Iowa, or by its counties and cities, or communities, my task would be endless.

It was a former pioneer lawmaker, Senator Anthony McColl, who laid the foundation for most of the activities of our state board of control, and whose work is being so ably carried on today by Henry Burma, who also sat in the speaker's seat.

We, as Pioneer Lawmakers, have had our part in making Iowa what it is today, along with those who have gone before. The test of our worthiness, and of the unseen Pioneer Lawmakers who are with us in spirit today, if not in body, is to be judged by a standard set up by the Savior of all mankind: "By their works ye shall know them."

Each generation of lawmakers finds its new problems to solve. Each generation of lawmakers becomes pioneers in its own right.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CREATED

We are perturbed today about what to do about our public schools. But the first pioneer lawmakers had to be concerned about having any schools at all. They had the job of creating all of our educational institutions, of founding our great State University of Iowa, our great State College at Ames, and our Teachers College at Cedar Falls. They had vision and foresight. They were the founders; we, who are here today, have been the builders, and those who follow us must continue to build.

It has been my privilege to have participated in more of the legislative deliberations of Iowa than any other man living or dead. As I look backward to 1915, and hunt up the old Iowa Red Book in which my picture is pretty much of a deadringer for that of my present colleague, Jack Schroeder of Scott county today, I cannot but be sobered by the feeling, I who was considered the bright young man of the Thirty-sixth General Assembly, must at some time pass on my duties to the bright young men of today. I am not saddened, because I feel, as I believe you who are gathered here today also feel, that they will do a better job perhaps because they will have the opportunity to profit by our mistakes.

Yet the history of the state reveals that it is seldom indeed that the Iowa General Assembly takes backward steps. The laws which are upon our state code books today are the product of the best efforts of four generations of lawmakers. They are the foundation for our free government and our liberties in Iowa. I, as a pioneer lawmaker, am conceited enough to make the statement that we pioneers have done a pretty good job.

We have established, in Iowa, a state and local system of government which, in the very nature of things, has its faults, but which I would not exchange for that of any state in the Union.

Iowa has good government, and the laws we have passed help keep it so. Iowa has good schools, established under the laws we have passed, and our successors will make them better schools.

We have set up a judiciary under which the protection of our laws is guaranteed to all, and whose integrity has never been questioned. We have established protection for our poor, our widows and our orphans. We have safe working conditions for the employees in our industries; we have shown due regard for our problems of sanitation and public health.

I myself have seen our road systems pass from paths into highways, here again we have laid the foundation for things to come.

NO MAJOR SCANDAL TAINTS IOWA

The General Assembly of Iowa has an enviable record. Its proceedings have never been tainted by a major scandal. It has preserved its independence of thought and action, and has been jealous of its own prerogatives. The most decisive step toward the disintegration of any democracy, and the loss of the liberty of its people, is a surrender of the powers of the popularly elected assembly to dictators or bosses, whoever they may be.

I remember a session, it was that of the Thirty-seventh General Assembly when we had the most bitter fight over highway legislation that has ever occurred in this chamber, when a member of the house voiced, on the floor of this house, a principle which I believe was inviolate in the minds of our predecessors, and should forever be retained by ourselves and our successors.

The argument revolved over whether or not the state highway commission should be deprived of its powers, the offices moved to Des Moines, and our infant policy of build-

ing roads upon a state and county basis, instead of haphazard, was at stake.

There was a member of the house at that time from my neighborhood county of Grundy. His name was Bill Mooty, and a son of his sits in this general assembly.

The battle was a political one, in which the political fortunes of one of the slickest state machines ever put together in the State of Iowa were involved. The lines were closely drawn, in fact, the battle ended in a draw, with fifty-four members of the House on one side and fifty-four on the other.

The governor of Iowa had called Mr. Mooty "downstairs." Most of you know what that means, and had put the pressure on Mr. Mooty pretty tightly. Mr. Mooty came back to his seat with his hair bristling, and took the floor.

"I am a pretty good Irishman," Mooty said, "and I am a pretty mad Irishman. I want to tell the members of this house that no governor is going to tell me how to vote. If he can convince me I am wrong, he has a right to try and convince me, but he isn't going to order me around. I know what kind of roads my people want, and how they want them built, and I am going to vote that way as long as I get a chance to vote."

I am citing this incident to emphasize the point that I am trying to make, as I turn from the record of the past and try to look into the crystal ball for a glance at the future of not only Iowa and its people, but of the United States and every American citizen.

Legislatures do make mistakes. We made one right here in this chamber back in 1945 which we are now doing our best to correct. I might comment that in my opinion that mistake was made because we paid too much attention to what we were told to do and not enough in determining what we ought to do.

But mistakes of representatives and senators elected by the people are seldom selfish mistakes. They arise because even legislators are human beings.

WHEN DICTATORS ARISE

Dictators rise into power through the elimination of governing bodies such as the Iowa General Assembly. Hitler rose to power only after the German Reichstag had been emasculated and then destroyed. The same thing happened in Italy when Mussolini took command, and in Russia, Rumania, China, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia the rise of communistic power was the direct conse-

quence of the loss of power by the elective representative bodies of those nations.

The mistakes of legislatures and parliaments, as I have indicated, are honest ones, and they are made without intention to deprive people of their liberties.

The mistakes of dictators are often fatal to their peoples, and they are generally irreparable, because once human liberties are lost, they are not regained, in most cases, without the pouring out of human blood.

Our Pioneer Lawmakers survived the era of the Civil war, when the liberties of Americans were threatened. They were unflinching in the emergencies of the first World War, and we didn't back down in the last World War.

The world now confronts, in my mind, a greater menace to human liberties than it has ever faced before. An evil man passed away the other day, and the power of Joe Stalin to do any more evil has been lost. But it was well said by William Shakespeare that "the evil which men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

The evils that Stalin and Lenin have created still live, and they menace us. The communistic ideology threatens every representative body in any nation, or in any village, upon the face of the earth. So I urge upon us today, as Pioneer Lawmakers, to oppose, with our dying breaths, if need be, any ideology which directly or indirectly menaces the freedom of legislative bodies anywhere.

It seems that the artists and the educators have discovered that the Pioneer Lawmakers of a century ago didn't do the best job in the world of designing the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. I am not much of an artist, but if they start revamping the Great Seal of the State of Iowa, there is one thing I want left strictly alone—by all future Iowa lawmakers. It is the motto upon that state seal, which I commend to you in closing: "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

Senator Hedin of Scott asked and obtained unanimous consent to have the remarks by Representative McFarlane, Senator Lord, Representative Schwengel, and the Honorable Burton O. Sweet printed in the journals.

President Elthon: This brings to a close our meeting here this afternoon, and I want to say it surely has been a pleasure for us in the legislature to meet with you Pioneer Lawmakers in joint session, and we

wish you the best of luck. We hope you can come back to us, session after session, and that you may have many pleasant days yet to live.

Upon motion of Christiansen of Worth the joint convention dissolved.

The proceedings of the Joint Convention were televised during the afternoon by representatives of Station WOI-TV of Ames, and the transcription broadcast over the air March 21, 1953, on its afternoon news program.

Prehistoric Peoples

Few of us realize how fragmentary and partial are the historical records of progress and doings of the human race as contained in our largest and best-equipped libraries.

We have fairly comprehensive details concerning what has happened in at least certain sections of the globe during the past three thousand years. This takes us back to approximately one thousand B.C., which was about the time of the Trojan war and a couple of centuries before the traditional founding of Rome. Back of this era our knowledge begins to drop sharply.

Recent excavations have enabled us to uncover isolated city chronicles which carry us back some three thousand years more, but the information as to what was happening the world over during this time is practically non-existent. That human beings inhabited the earth for many millenniums before the date of the first historical item now in our possession is hardly subject to dispute. We find a few evidences about some of these prehistoric peoples in the caves of the Pyrenees and elsewhere but most of them are tantalizing rather than informing.

For those who are anxious to pursue further investigation in this field, we recommend the recent volume by Adrian Coats entitled *Prehistoric History*, which contains about all the information available in the area.—Frederick D. Kershner in *The Christian-Evangelist*, January 28, 1953.

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