

## Thirty-Third Biennial Sessions of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers

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ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

Beam, Walter H. "Thirty-Third Biennial Sessions of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers." *The Annals of Iowa* 33 (1955), 1-33.

Available at: <http://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/vol33/iss1/2>

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# Annals of Iowa

ESTABLISHED 1863

VOL. XXXIII, No. 1

DES MOINES, JULY, 1955

THIRD SERIES

## Thirty-third Biennial Sessions of Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers

BY WALTER H. BEAM, SECRETARY

The Thirty-third biennial meeting of members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa opened in the General Dodge room at the State Historical building in Des Moines, March 22, 1955, with the association president, Sen. Arch W. McFarlane, of Waterloo, presiding. Of the sixty and more present almost every one had served in some session of the Iowa general assembly with Mr. McFarlane, for he holds the unique and distinguished record of serving in more Iowa assemblies than any other man, living or dead. He entered the House of Representatives first in 1915; since that time he has missed only four sessions of the General Assembly. He was speaker of the house in 1919 and 1921; a member of the Senate in 1927 and the present session; lieutenant governor in 1929 and 1931. He is the only man who has served as a member in both house and senate and officially presided twice over each.

The forenoon program began at ten o'clock with the invocation by the Rev. C. E. Lookingbill, of Nevada, a member of the association.

President McFarlane: The Governor of Iowa has been invited to address this body, as is the usual custom. We are to be welcomed this morning by our new governor, who is almost a pioneer lawmaker himself. He was a member of the Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth General Assemblies; was appointed attorney gen-

eral of Iowa in 1953, and elected governor in 1954. Without doubt, he is one of the outstanding citizens of Iowa, and is going to make one of Iowa's best governors. The pioneers here today are in position to be of assistance to him, as we have been in the past. It is my pleasure to present to you Governor Leo A. Hoegh:

#### IOWA'S RICH HISTORICAL PAST

Mr. President and Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa: It is for me an enriching experience to share this occasion with you today, and I should like to thank you all for your graciousness in inviting me to be with you. Your records in office, your accomplishments as lawmakers, your lives themselves — all these are both a challenge and inspiration to those of us who would follow in your footsteps. As your governor, I am delighted to have this chance to say to all of you—"Welcome back to Capitol Hill."

This great state of ours has a rich political and historic past—you have been the leaders in the writing and making of this grand heritage which we cherish so proudly today. From the days of the first settlers, politics has flourished in the culturally rich environment of Iowa, and since the days before the Civil War, Iowans have been leaders in national affairs. We have taken our politics seriously—and that is a good thing. Democracy is a demanding form of government. It can flourish only when every individual within its framework combines his native intelligence and his educational advantages with constantly keen interest in the political problems of the day. All of you by action and by word have for these long years maintained not only your own personal interest in politics, but have stimulated the interest of thousands upon thousands of your fellow Iowans in these matters. You have helped to build and to maintain the democratic ideal in Iowa.

Those of us who wrestle today with the present problems of state government sometimes forget that you who came before us wrestled with issues fully as complex and controversial. It is a healthy thing for us today to look back on occasion and to draw renewed strength from the realization that our predecessors fought with and solved so many troublesome problems of other days and other years. And it is even more heartening to review the pages of our legislative history and see how rarely were you wrong. Our pioneer lawmakers have builded wisely—you have given us a sound foundation upon which to build even higher.

I find as I speak that I am inclined to speak of the pioneer lawmakers in the past tense. Nothing could be more inaccurate. For it would seem in Iowa at least that a pioneer

lawmaker, unlike an old soldier, does not fade away. He keeps going to the very end. We have, of course, in Senator McFarlane a wonderful example of this trait. Representative, Senator, Lt. Governor—for over forty years he has fought for a better Iowa and today he marches on as strong and vigorous as ever.

#### ONCE A BATTLER—ALWAYS ONE

I have noted recently too, that some of our old friends who have ostensibly retired from active life just can't resist the call to battle on occasion. Our beloved Dan Turner, I note by the papers, had some pungent comments to make recently about schools—he even rated the No. 1 editorial spot in a certain Des Moines newspaper as a result. And a few months ago I saw a picture in the Des Moines paper which carried me back some twenty years. It was a photo of our good friend, United States Senator L. J. Dickinson, and "Dick" was haranguing a crowd as in days of old—white hair gleaming, left arm pumping, and voice booming out the word to the enthralled listeners. The world has not passed you gentlemen by—for that we are all grateful.

I spoke a moment ago of the rich heritage that is ours in the realm of politics. Every small town, every county courthouse has its own dramatic story to tell of the campaigns and the campaigners of yesterday. Many of you are a part of these stories and of these campaigns. I wish that every Iowa schoolchild might have the opportunity to read the biographies of our giants of the past. I wish that they might come to know of the national campaigns that were fought in part in this state of ours through the years, and I wish that they might come to appreciate the truly significant role which Iowa and Iowans have played in the making of modern America.

I enjoy serving you as governor and I love this old capitol of ours, where so much of today has been conceived and born. There is history in every nook and cranny, and the spirit and the soul of Iowa is all about us. It is a long time from the crumbling and tattered old flags of Civil war days to the bright and shining new office building across the way, but it has been a century of growth and progress for Iowa and the nation. No such progress comes naturally or automatically—it rises rather from the work and toil of the men and women who have served along the way. You whom we honor here today are the living representatives of all those who have been in the front of the fight, who have made this progress possible. We humbly thank you—we proudly salute you.

#### RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S WELCOME

President McFarlane: Thank you, Governor Hoegh,

for your words of welcome; now the response to the governor will be given by one of our members. It is my privilege to present to you the Hon. David R. McCreery of Alburnett, a member of the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth and Forty-fifth extra General Assemblies, and a former member of the state board of control:

Mr. McCreery: First, may I say that I enjoyed very much Governor Hoegh's message, and I want to say that he has my utmost sympathy. I have come to the conclusion that when we elect a man to be governor of the state of Iowa, we ought to clothe him with a coat of armor. Now, I want to introduce to you Linn county's contribution to the new state government—Commissioner of Public Safety Clint Moyer.

Mr. Moyer: It is indeed a privilege to be here, and I only wish that I had a small portion of the political acumen that is represented here today. I might say that if some of you have any objection to the manner in which I operate the Department, you can seek out one of your own members—Mr. McCreery. He raised me from a political pup and has to bear part of the responsibility.

Mr. McCreery: I remember when Arch McFarlane was lieutenant governor and president of the senate. Talk about preserving the dignity of the senate—when he was presiding officer, walking into the senate was like stepping into a church. He wasn't like a preacher, but he really preserved the order and dignity of the senate. I used to just sit and rest my ears and listen. There weren't four or five men on their feet at the same time. When a man wanted the floor, he addressed the president, was then recognized and had the privilege of the floor.

I want to say I greatly appreciate this opportunity of responding to the kind words of welcome from our good governor. I also appreciate this opportunity of speaking for this fine group of former legislators and their friends.

Now, while in certain political parlance we can correctly be called a bunch of "has-beens," we should take great pride in the fact that at one time we were all members of that greatest law-making body in the world—a state legislature. I think a bad mistake is often made by former legislators in minimizing the importance of the work accomplished not only in our time but in succeeding legislatures.

With our experience we should stand ready and willing to defend the results of the conscientious efforts of men and women who have followed us in public life. To be sure, we don't have to sign a blank check endorsing every action of every legislature, but we should lend our moral support to

good legislation rather than criticize or castigate work that doesn't quite measure up to our personal standards. We should look back about twenty-five years and remember some of the mistakes we made and be thankful that the law of averages still prevails even in law-making bodies.

Now, let us reminisce a little. I came down here as a freshman in 1929, representing Linn county in the house of the Forty-third General Assembly, and with a lot of luck I managed to squeeze back for the Forty-fourth and the Forty-fifth.

We of the old Forty-third have served under eight different governors. I say "served" because I think that, once having been a member of a state legislature, a man can never shake off a feeling of responsibility in the acts of this body. Sometimes we are not particularly pleased with that sense of responsibility—but taking it all in all, and considering that every bill passed is an agreement of 158 individual members and a lieutenant governor and a governor, we can look back in the cold gray dawn of twenty-five years after, and say—"It was a pretty good job!"

#### ADVANCED ROAD LEGISLATION

I have always been especially proud of that first session that I worked in. You will remember that as the year when the entire secondary road statutes were rewritten into what was then and still is known as "The Bergman road law." That law took the construction and the maintenance of all secondary roads from the supervision of the township trustees and placed same in the hands of the county supervisors.

Not a township at a time — nor a county at a time — but *right now*. We took this state's whole secondary road system away from the township trustees and plumped it in the laps of the various boards of supervisors; every mudhole in the state from Illinois to Nebraska and from Minnesota to Missouri. Everybody screamed to high heaven. The township trustees didn't want to give up the roads, and the supervisors didn't want to take them over. *But we made it stick!*

That Bergman road law has been on the books for twenty-five years practically without change—and while everybody nowadays is thinking and talking toll roads and primary roads, we don't stop to consider that, according to the records of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, Iowa has the best system of secondary roads of any state in the Union—bar none!

And here was the way we got it done—the framework of the plan was set up before the legislature went into session. This work was done chiefly by Fred R. White, chief engineer of the state highway commission, and Louis H. Cook, now with the state tax commission. The first week of the session, a joint committee of eight men was formed. Lieut. Gov. Arch

W. McFarlane named four senators—Shaff, Bergman, Clearman and Booth; and Speaker Joe H. Johnson named four representatives—Hollis, Elliott, Green and myself—all old timers but me, and *they* knew the game.

That session ran for 110 days—ten days with the clock stopped—and the final vote on that road bill was taken at 11:30 p.m. on the last day. That vote was to adopt the final report of the last of many joint conference committees—and we adopted it by a fair constitutional majority of fifty-five votes. I walked out of the state house that night feeling like a king for having had a part in it all—and I wasn't the only one!

#### THEN—THE DEMOCRATS TOOK OVER

Now in contrast to all this chest-beating—I came back to the next session to an entirely different experience.

To begin with, the Republicans in the house got into a knock-down drag-out speakership fight. It was decided by one vote, and my side got licked. Well, that was all right, if we had shown some sense and buried the hatchet after the house was organized; but we didn't. We have all heard the old political axiom: "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em." But my gang didn't play that way. They knew only one way and that was to pick your side and fight till hell freezes—and they proceeded to do just that. We carried that fight clear through till the last gavel fell—and even that wouldn't have been so bad if we had kept it in our own kitchen—but we went over and dragged the senate into it and even invited the governor in!

Then came the "Cow War" and the "Farm Holiday"—and that blew us all out of the water. Good old Senator Bert Stoddard summed it all after the adjournment *sine die*, that day when he said "Mc.—we just wasted our time down here this winter."

But that wasn't the half of it! We Republicans still wanted to fight, so we went home and cooked up a cat and dog scrap in the next primary election. That finished it. The state had seen enough, and the Democrats descended on us in the next election, and cleaned house! They didn't leave anything in the state house that even smelled like a Republican!!!

And believe you me, they took the ball from there. They kept the legislature in session almost the year around, and they enacted legislation for which we Republicans had been fighting for twenty years. And yet—"By the Grace of God"—the government of the state of Iowa still stands.

President McFarlane: The governor will be excused at this time, as he has visitors awaiting him at his office.

Dave, I want to thank you for your fine address. I am sure everyone here enjoyed it tremendously.

Next upon the program is the address by the president—that being myself.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President McFarlane: We, who are here today as members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa, quite properly have chosen for our meeting place a building which, in itself, exemplifies the history of the entire state and of its lawmakers. It was at an early session of this association that a resolution was adopted proposing the establishment of a state historical department and secured the legislation accomplishing that purpose. And further, I find it fitting to call attention to the fact that one of the pioneer lawmakers here present introduced the bill in 1904 which authorized the construction of this building. So, we have a continuing interest here.

I am reminded too, as I speak, of such men as Johnson Brigham, Charles Aldrich and E. R. Harlan, who had so much to do with the molding of constructive legislation during their period. Most of us who are here today have achieved the Biblical life span of three score and ten years. Many are much older as, for example, the men whom we have honored or are about to honor as past and future presidents of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association.

We of this association have witnessed much of the history of Iowa. We have had a part in preserving in our generations and for generations to come the heritage of liberty and protection under our state constitution and our laws which were handed down to us by the pioneer lawmakers who preceded us. Some of us have the privilege of continuing as lawmakers side by side with the new generation who are the pioneer lawmakers of today, although they will not be so recognized for another generation to come.

It happens that I have the privilege of serving today as a member of the general assembly in companionship with four members of the house who are sons of pioneer legislators who served with me a good generation ago, and that I also have the privilege of associating in the senate with the son and a nephew of former colleagues of mine of many years ago. I make these comments because I wish to emphasize that the Iowa general assembly is a continuing body; that it has its traditions of service, which are being carried on from generation to generation by men of the same type and of the same breeding and lineage of the lawmakers of the past.

#### LEGISLATORS MEN OF INTELLIGENCE

I do not believe, and I have observed more than a score of



men who are sons of earlier members of the General Assembly, that the Iowa General Assembly is deteriorating in ability and intelligence. Each generation must face a new series of problems. The nature of our society has changed immeasurably during my own period of service going back to 1915.

Most of us who are here can go back in our memories to the days when there were no automobiles, no radios, no television sets, no electric lights, and few telephones. For many of us, it was a long day's journey to our county seats and return. Yet, with all of these changes, the people of Iowa themselves have altered but little. Physically they have certainly improved. We are living longer than people used to live. Most of us can go back to our childhood days when smallpox was accepted as a matter of course; when the death toll among children from diphtheria and scarlet fever was appalling and when people died very miserably from what they called "inflammation of the bowels" because appendicitis had not been discovered yet. We live more luxuriously than did our fathers. We live far more comfortably but, in essentials, we are the same people who, within a period of little more than one hundred years, have created a great commonwealth of which we are so proud.

I know that we pioneers all regret we shall not be able to witness the continued progress which the State of Iowa will make after we have joined other pioneer lawmakers in their final rest. We may, however, take courage from the record of the past, and take pride in the kind of government we are providing for ourselves.

A democracy is never as efficient as a dictatorship. There are some who believe that we should abandon our form of government for this reason. I do not share in their viewpoint.

#### THE OFFICIALS OF YESTERYEAR

As president of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association for the past term, I just want to reminisce a little bit and bring to your attention the officials of the state of Iowa when I was first elected to the legislature. George W. Clarke was governor; William L. Harding was lieutenant governor; William S. Allen was secretary of state; Frank S. Shaw was auditor of state and George Cosson was attorney general. Just a few of the outstanding men of the general assembly forty years ago were Wallace H. Arney, Joseph H. Allen, Nicholas Balkema, Justin R. Doran, John T. Clarkson, John H. Darrah, (Chariton), Leslie E. Francis, Joseph R. Frailey, Fred P. Hagemann, Clem F. Kimball, Guy M. Gillette, Frederick Larrabee, Addison M. Parker, Robert Quigley, Eli C. Perkins and Chester W. Whitmore, all of whom were in the senate. A few of the outstanding men in the house forty years ago were William I. Atkinson,

Joseph H. Anderson, Justin Barry, Henry Brady, Lee W. Elwood, William N. Gilbert, Ross C. Gray, Thomas F. Griffin, Allan J. Kane, David W. Kimberly, William F. Kopp, Peter J. Klinker, David Mackey, Rube McFerrin, Milton B. Pitt, and many others. Then in the next session came others of like importance and excellent ability. The next session in the senate found such outstanding men as W. T. Evans, Perry C. Holdoegel, W. G. Haskell, Byron Newbury, Ed M. Smith and A. V. Proudfoot, and across the hall in the house was John H. Darrah, (Belmond), S. W. Klaus, Ira W. Jones, John N. Slosson, J. O. Shaff, C. B. Santee, Stanley R. Smith, W. A. Mooty and, last but not least, James B. Weaver, and these were all outstanding men.

I am calling these names to your attention because they are so familiar and they were untiring workers and gave the people their best, so that we who follow them should profit by their labors. Yet, as I told you two years ago, 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.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN IOWA

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 the integrity of which 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.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for the great honor you conferred upon me in selecting me as your president to act during the past two years. I do not know of anything in my life which has given me any warmer satisfaction than my association during the last few years with the lawmakers of the State of Iowa.

## THE NECROLOGY REPORT

President McFarlane: We now come to a formal acknowledgment of loss of the services of valued members of the association. The Necrology report will be presented by the secretary, Mr. Walter H. Beam.

Secretary Beam: I submit to you a list of members of the association who have passed away during the past biennium. May I call your especial attention to the regrettable fact that among those so listed are two recent governors of the state—George A. Wilson and William S. Beardsley.

NAME	COUNTY	SERVICE	FIRST YEAR
George E. Grier	Poweshiek	R 32-32x-33	1907
Nelson J. Lee	Emmet	R 32-32x-33	1907
Frank A. O'Connor	Chickasaw	R 33-34	1909
Wm. W. Goodykoontz	Boone	R 33-34	1909
Nicholas Balkema	Sioux	S 33-34-35-36-37-38	1909
Harry C. White	Benton	R 34-35-S36-37-38-39- 40-40x-41-44-45	1911
Milo A. Manning	Story	R 35	1913
Joseph H. Anderson	Winnebago	R 36-37-38-39-40-40x	1915
Charles A. Hall	Taylor	R 36-37	1915
Edw. D. Rayburn	Poweshiek	R 36-37	1915
Ed. M. Smith	Madison	S 37-38-39-40-40x	1917
John Krouse	Wayne	R 37-38	1917
George A. Wilson	Polk	District Judge, 1917-21 S 42-42x-43-44-45-45x- 46	1927
		Governor, 1938-42	
		U.S. Senator, 1942-48	
Ray P. Scott	Marshall	R 38-S39-40-40x	1919
C. F. Clark	Linn	R 38-39-40-40x-S42x- 43-44	1919
Lawrence J. Truax	Guthrie	R 39	1921
Charles S. Browne	Jackson	S 39-40-41-42	1921
L. T. Quirk	Sac	R 40-40x-41-42-42x- S43-44	1923
Earl W. Vincent	Guthrie	R 40-40x-41	1923
Carl C. Anderson	Montgomery	R 41-42-42x	1925
Harry M. Greene	Pot'wat'mie	R 42-42x-43-44	1927
Samuel R. Torgeson	Worth	R 42-42x-43-44	1927
George O'Donnell	Carroll	R 43-44	1929
Ora E. Husted	Madison	R 44-S45-45x-46-46x- 47-48	1931
Sam F. Randolph	Davis	R 44	1931

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Henry Kohler	Plymouth	R 44	1931
Milton Peaco	Clinton	R 44-45-45x-46	1931
Lloyd W. Zipse	Chickasaw	R 45-45x	1933
Wm. S. Beardsley	Warren	S 45-45x-46-46x-47-48- R 52	1933
		Governor 1949-1954	

OTHER THAN LEGISLATIVE

James A. Howe	Polk	Judge District Court	1903
John W. Anderson	Woodbury	Judge District Court Supreme Court	1914
Ora Williams	Polk	Document Editor Secy. Pioneer Lawmakers	1915
M. H. Kepler	Worth	Judge District Court	1923
Boyd R. Bryson	Hardin	Judge District Court	1924
F. F. Faville	Buena Vista	Judge Supreme Court	1920
Wm. R. C. Kendrick	Lee	Ins. Commissioner Asst. Atty. General Law Librarian	1928
John J. Halloran	Polk	Judge District Court	1930

President McFarlane: The following members have been appointed by me to the nominating committee to make report of nomination of officers of the association for the ensuing year. They will meet at once and bring in their report before we adjourn: Frank M. Hanson, Emory H. English and Roy. J. Sours.

Your Past President Burton E. Sweet just phoned me to say that he was sorry he could not be here as the heavy snow kept him at home. You will remember two years ago what a wonderful presiding officer he was. And Vice President Frank Shane also sends a similar message. We sincerely regret the absence of these active members.

Upon direction of the president, Secretary Beam then read letters from other absent members who remembered the meeting and wished all a happy reunion and enjoyment of the day's program, including Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Karl M. LeCompte, Otha Wearin, Dan Turner, Lloyd Thurston, H. J. Mantz, Sanford Zeigler, Guy Gillette, Ed Hicklin, Ray Murphy, Howard Baldwin, Claire Dewey, E. W. Clark, Charles Grahl, B. L. Metcalf, G. T. Kuester, Frank G. Snyder, W. J. Goodwin and H. N. Hanson.

## CY CLIFTON MADE HONORARY MEMBER

President McFarlane: It has been suggested to me, and I want to bring the matter up now and see what you think about it, that we invite Mr. Cy Clifton to become an honorary member of our organization. Mr. Clifton has been writing in the legislature for forty years, and no one in the state of Iowa has done more to cement relations between the legislature and the people of Iowa than has Cy. If there is any opposition to this, I would not want to proceed.

Upon motion made and voted upon, Mr. Clifton was unanimously elected as an honorary member of the association in recognition of the services outlined by President McFarlane.

## ROUND-TABLE REMINISCENCES

President McFarlane: The remainder of the morning program will be given over to expression of thoughts by members, several of whom I requested to come prepared to talk upon their interesting experiences of the past, and I know you will be glad to hear from them.

The first of those men is the Hon. Robert D. Blue, former governor. Mr. Blue was a member of the house of representatives during the Forty-sixth, Forty-sixth extra, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth, was speaker of the house during the Forty-ninth, was president of the senate and lieutenant governor during the Fiftieth General Assembly, was governor from 1945 to 1949 and now is a pioneer lawmaker. It is my pleasure to present to you our good friend, Bob Blue.

Governor Blue: President Arch and Fellow Pioneer Lawmakers, I am honored to be here, and greatly appreciate the invitation extended to me by your president to reminisce for a few moments. I am frank to say to you that if anyone but Arch had asked me to do this, probably I would have said, "No." There is a reason for that. I have a very pronounced phobia about going backward. I always want to go forward. On the other hand, I recall that which is graven on the steps of a public building in Washington, D.C.—"Study the past. The past is but a prologue," and as we pick up the paper morning after morning, we know that is true. All the problems we wrestled with, they are wrestling with in the present legis-

lature. We didn't get them completely solved. Life is a passing parade—a constantly changing panorama, and so the present generation has to wrestle with the same problems you and I had.

The Scotch in me never made much of a comedian out of me, but I am reminded of a story which is good political philosophy. A young man went to an older man who was very successful in politics. The young man asked the older one to what he attributed his success, and looked quite surprised when the man said, "I can tell you that it consists of just two things—the first thing is to remember when you are in public life to always keep your promises. Don't ever break a promise." The young man said that would be easy, but what was the second, and the older man said, "Don't make them!"

I think many of us can think back to many of the things we were asked to pledge ourselves to which we later wished we hadn't, because we did not have all the facts at hand.

Now, I would like to say something to inspire you to current activity, as well as reminisce. I am going to be very concrete—at least to a degree. At my left is a very beautiful banner or flag—the Iowa flag. During the time I had the privilege of occupying the governor's chair, I saw that that flag was flown over the state house right along with the American flag. It was not particularly the fault of my successors in office that it is not now flown. I don't think they paid any attention to it. So, for a number of years that banner has not flown over the state house, and I think that is wrong. That is the banner of the state of Iowa and has just as much of a place there as the American flag—of course, flown under it. That banner should be flown all over the state of Iowa; it should be flown over every courthouse. If you go to California, you will see their Brown Bear flag everywhere, and you know you are in the state of California. Now, I suggest that steps be taken to fly the banner of the state of Iowa over the state house, and that a committee should be formed to find ways and means of finding how this banner could be flown over the state.

Here in Iowa, we are fundamentally inclined to have a "corn-hog" complex. Iowa is a great state. It is not only a great farming state, it is a great manufacturing and industrial state, a great state for education; it is a great social state. If it is possible to have fallen in love with a group of people, I have fallen in love with the people of Iowa. There are no finer people anywhere on earth, and it is too bad to be a state where people are "from" Iowa. Things are being done to correct that, but it is a long hard battle. Today we have industry in about the same proportion that we have agriculture, yet we educate and send most of our youth out over the land to serve

in other states. That is part of our burden. We stand at the crossroads of America and we have a tremendous road problem because of the transportation problem. I am going to stop there. There are many things I would be inclined to say, but if I go into those fields, I might say too much.

Now, a brief word of reminiscence—when I went into the legislature years ago, my good friend Arch McFarlane found me a seat next to him. He proposed an agreement which was this: each of us was to vote the way he wanted to vote, but if I was strong for a bill and he was not for it, he would vote against it but would not talk against it, and I was under the same obligation. It worked pretty well.

A few years after I arrived, the Democrats were interested in cutting expenses and suggested a good place to cut was to reduce the county officers' salaries. Most of the county offices were held by Republicans while the state offices were held by the Democrats. As an amendment to that salary cut bill, I proposed that it be extended to all state employees. They knew when I went out in the lobby, I was conscious of eyes and fingers being pointed at me, but that amendment had the desired effect. You couldn't find that bill for love or money. The Democratic majority was not going to see its own people suffer.

Just a brief word about the time I spent over on the hill as governor—my term of administration was during the latter years of the war and during the post war period. There were many problems during the war, but the chief difficulty arose during the post war period. These are a few of the highlights. First, there was a great movement in the board of control institutions with a building program and a revision of the control of those institutions by creating the office of director of penal work industries to give these men in our institutions the aid they so badly needed. Another revolution during that time involved the distribution of road money to counties on the basis of need. Still another revolution that came about was the granting of money to cities and towns and to school districts. There was a vast extension and change in the financing of local government. Our schools were in a deplorable status and property could not bear the burden, so supplementary aid was given; but of equal importance was the fact that our cities were in the same situation. Money from gas taxes and other sources was used in financing of local communities, making it possible for cities and towns to have their own street cleaning equipment and other equipment which they needed, and so do a more efficient job.

#### GOVERNOR'S DUTY TO PRESERVE ORDER

One great difficulty in my administration was the problem

which arose in the legislature in regard to labor, when legislation in regard to labor was being considered and thousands of people marched on the state house to influence the legislature in its consideration of that legislation. I might add one little interesting thing to that. Many of you don't know that that was a period of tension. After all, when you assemble thousands of people together all hipped up about some controversial subject, violence can break out. The first duty of the governor and of the government is to preserve order. In this emergency, that presented quite a problem, but this was done and it was never printed in the newspapers.

A conference was called with the National Guard and with the Bureau of Investigation. After that conference had been called, I was visited by a newspaper emissary and representatives of labor who asked me, "Will the National Guard be present?" Knowing how the labor groups have felt about the military and that their presence might provoke trouble, I responded, "No, the National Guard will not be here." I was then asked, "Will the Highway Patrol be here?" And I immediately responded again, "Yes, where we have heavy traffic and large groups of people, we have the Highway Patrol." Then we said to them, "We are glad to have you come, but we expect you to attend to your own policing. If you have among your members those who tend to violence, keep them out of the state house; take care of them, or we will see that they are taken care of." We also said, "You are welcome in the state house, but not with placards or sticks. If you come into the state house bearing banners or placards or sticks, they will be taken away from you." Why? Because sticks often become weapons and arguments and trouble could occur from those things. Then throughout the state house there were placed at strategic places, men with tear gas bombs, so that if a disturbance did arise, the state house could be cleared without damage to that important building. Then, in addition to that, there were placed among the throng that gathered, sheriffs from the county in plain clothes to hear what the attitude of those people was. It wasn't until this had been determined that I decided my presence in talking to that group would not provoke conflict and might influence them towards maintaining order.

As I was about to go out to face them, my secretary (Ed Hill whom many of you knew) said to me, "What will you do, Bob, if they boo?" I said that I didn't know. When I spoke to them, I made some reference to my father who was a railroad engineer and union man, and somebody started to boo. You know what happens then—the tendency is for all the rest of the group to do the same. Here I was confronted with the situation where I did not know what to do. I just stopped because there is



nothing in the world that will bring order quicker than silence, and as I stopped, the booing stopped. Then the rest of the affair was carried off without any difficulty. When people's emotions became aroused, it presents a problem.

The things that every man who has faced the legislature and the problems of the legislature knows, is this: it is not so hard to make a decision between right and wrong. The problem is to satisfy your people, and the greatest difficulty that the governor of Iowa and the government of the nation confront today is the demand from pressure groups for things they are interested in and the need to retain the power and prestige of the government, and when those two things meet and combine, that is when you get bad government. All power corrupts, said Lord Acton, and total power corrupts absolutely. We, as citizens, in these days that lie ahead of us owe a responsibility to see that that power and that balance is still maintained.

During my period of office, the constitution of the United States was amended, that great power could not be too long vested in the president of the United States. There is now another great debate going on in the United States of America over the so-called Bricker amendment, or the right of the United States to enter into executive agreements. In the midst of that argument, the judiciary of the state of Iowa has had an important part because the court has held that a pact of the United States is not superior to the constitution of the State of Iowa, and some of you know that the decision was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and there the decision of the Supreme Court of Iowa was upheld.

You and I as ex-legislators have the obligation to keep up with the problems of the current day and to exercise our influence in the communities in which we live to help guide the citizens of our respective communities to do their part in making the right decisions for today and tomorrow. Thank you.

President McFarlane: Thank you, Bob, that was a fine talk and very interesting.

Next on our program is a former member of the state senate. As a matter of fact, he comes from a legislative family. His father served in both the house and the senate; his brother served in the house, and he served in the senate in the Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth General Assemblies, so he served eight years. I am very pleased to have the Hon. L. H. Doran now. He will reminisce a little on his experiences in the past.

Mr. Doran: Mr. President, it is just like old times to talk with Arch McFarlane presiding and Walter Beam sitting on his right. They were there in the Forty-third. I had a lot of fun when I was down there. You will not go away with a lot of good advice as to what should be done, I just want to tell you one or two funny things that happened.

I want to tell you this in the presence of Senator Francis and General Cosson, who served with my father years ago, when I was permitted to visit the state legislature. I appreciate that these men are privileged by good health to be here today. Anybody here who knew Joe Frailey? Joe had about the sharpest tongue of anybody in the senate. Do you remember Senator Thompson of Muscatine? He had some legislation up and was having a tough time because Joe kept asking questions. Finally, it began to get under the hide of Senator Thompson. He said, "Mr. President, my father was born in Missouri and every time I hear a jackass bray, it makes me homesick!"

Another time I remember was when I had a little bill that provided that an automobile stop when approaching school busses. I thought it was a good bill. I talked it over with some of the others. Finally, it came to the calendar; a few remarks were made, and it was placed on its passage. The first fellow voted "no," and then the rest of them voted "no." I had asked Gus Bergman's advice, and he voted "no." I was green. Gus Bergman struck me as a kindly soul and I walked over and said: "Gus, I thought you were for me." Well, he couldn't keep it in any longer, and burst out laughing. He then asked that the vote be stricken, jumped up and changed his vote, and the bill passed. I think that was one of the outstanding things in my memory.

This is my first meeting as a member of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association. I have here some notes of the ramblings of what you might think as those of an old man or a pioneer.

Since someone gave utterance to the words "Westward the course of empire wends its way," times have changed. That times have changed since your service and mine in the assembly of this state is something no one will deny. The change has produced the modern theme, "Get all you can, as fast as you can, from any source that you can, and stop worrying because that great invisible thing called our government will take care of all." When the bottom of the barrel will be reached apparently is a matter of little or no concern to those people. What may happen to that government tomorrow is of no consequence, but simply a problem for oncoming generations. The "get yours today" philosophy has placed a penalty on thrift and frugality. Dependence upon governmental assistance has

reached the point where no longer do some folks seem to care what the result may be. That attitude is not good for our nation. Our democratic form of government is on trial. Wishful thinking without serious consideration has given rise to the thought that the government, whatever the government is, owes to the people everything and that the people owe nothing to the government. What has caused this condition is a subject upon which there are differences of opinion.

The fact remains that many of our governmental problems have arisen as a result of the back-wash of war. The unrest and tension in the world today in this atomic age has caused a fear to spread over our country that seems to have driven sound judgment and reason into the background in order to escape the definite reality with which our country is faced. An attitude of indifference on the part of the average citizen is too common for the good of our people and our country. Whither we are drifting should be a matter of deep concern for all. May those upon whom rests the responsibility of guiding the course of our ship of state have the courage to resolutely stand fast for what they know to be right in order that our government and our country may be preserved for posterity. With the faith of our forefathers and the help of Divine Providence it will be preserved.

President McFarlane: Thank you very much. I am glad of the selection I made of men to entertain you. I am sure everybody has enjoyed every bit of the talks given here this morning.

The next I have is a man that voted for me for speaker—as a matter of fact, the next two were working for me as speaker in the Thirty-eighth General Assembly. They were among the highest type members of the legislature. They are high type attorneys and citizens. First, I want to introduce to you Harold E. Davidson of Page county. He started as a member of the Thirty-eighth General Assembly. Now he is a judge in Page county.

Mr. Davidson: I am somewhat like Bob Blue. He said, "one of the reasons I am here today is because of my confidence in and friendship for Arch McFarlane." I came to the legislature as a kid and McFarlane and I walked in with uniforms on. I had been out of the army about thirty seconds. Not realizing the war was as near the close as it was, some good friends from my county wrote me not to resign. I was very young—just twenty-seven at the time. As I sat in that session, I voted for Arch as speaker, and have never regretted that. He was one of the finest presiding officers I have ever watched. And,

I never have received any particular criticism from him either.

I had a friend who said he went to New York some years ago, and while in New York visited a friend there who was a great bridge player, so he was invited to play with these professionals and he did. When he went back home, his friends said, "You played with Culbertson and those professionals; did they criticize your playing?" "No, not once," he said. "Once I messed the cards all up and called it a misdeal and one of them said: 'Well, he can't deal either,' but they never did criticize me!"

In that session the famous Pitt-Johnson bill caused difficulty with regard to good roads in Iowa—whether mud roads or improved roads. I was appointed on the roads and highways committee; Santee was chairman of that committee. We had an engineer by the name of McDonald, a very competent engineer, who is still serving nationally in Washington, D.C. I happened to be honored by being on the sub-committee to draw this first road bill. There were five of us, and we spent a good many hours with McDonald. I came from Page county; we did not have road material down there as do some of our northern counties. The people of southern Iowa, like Pitt from Harrison and Larson from Montgomery, who were sitting around me from my part of Iowa, were opposed to this suggested legislation. However, we did, with the help of McDonald, which was important, come out of that meeting with a suggested bill for paving the roads of Iowa. There was a strip of paving near Sioux City, and we were taken up there to see what paving looked like. We got familiar with it, and came back with a good report.

I think I am the only member of the house from that section of Iowa who voted for that bill. Art Williams was there and voted for it. He was from a bigger town, but they said, "How can you vote for that road bill coming from Page county? We don't think the people are ready for it." They said it was because it would carry an assessment against the adjacent property back for a mile and a half. Later that was taken out of the law, and it was paid for out of the primary road fund. In order to get that bill at that time it would require an assessment. They said, "How can you vote for that bill when the sentiment is against it?" I said, "Gentlemen, I think it is right. I think it is sound. I think if Iowa expects to go far, we will need to have good roads, and I am willing to tell my people that I think it is the best thing for the state of Iowa. Then if they don't want me to come back, that is for them to say."

I didn't—I didn't come back, but that isn't the reason. I was just out of the army and just out of law school prior to

that, and my mother needed financial help, and I felt I was not financially able to make the sacrifice. Right after the war the law practice was pretty good, and I felt that I couldn't sacrifice the income from those law suits. It was the biggest mistake I ever made in my life. I should have come back. I had no regrets about what I did, until I realized I got more out of that legislature in those few weeks than any comparable number of weeks in my life. It is the greatest training ground that can be found. I made a talk to young lawyers in Southwest Iowa—they all want to run for county attorney. I said to these men, "I never was county attorney; I never ran for it; and if I were in your place and had it to do over, I would run for the legislature instead of county attorney. There you will get a broad vision of what occurs in the state and nation, and you will understand the people of Iowa, and the greatest gain is the fine and fast friends you will make."

I asked Arch what I should talk about, and he said, "Talk about anything you want to talk about." One other thing that probably is outstanding—at that time it was difficult (it was similar to some of your experiences, Governor Blue), there was tension. You will recall they sat in that session and voted on these situations. Some of these men are here today, there are six or seven here. Well, there was a fellow named Rathbun who a couple of years before that had been convicted of rape and was pardoned by Gov. William L. Harding. The lieutenant-governor was Ernest R. Moore. That situation created a lot of tension and hard feelings, and then it spread. It got into the newspapers in Des Moines. Then the Harding and the anti-Harding people renewed controversy, because there had been a terrific prior campaign, and as you go through those conflicts, usually deep scars are left, and there were scars from this one. Some of those scars developed into bleeding sores, and finally the controversy came into the legislature. A resolution was offered for impeachment of the governor of Iowa, on the theory that he had been bribed to sign this pardon.

My good friend Arch had put me on the Judiciary committee to which this resolution was referred. We spent weeks taking testimony. It was serious business, but there were some humorous incidents. Webb Byers was retained as general counsel at the hearing which continued night after night. The testimony taken covered a wide range. They brought in some of the boys that played poker, and they brought in the record of the bank accounts, also lawyers, businessmen and prominent people. While they were here, some were playing poker and there were one thousand and two thousand dollar checks passing back and forth. The idea of those supporting the resolution was to implicate the governor's office, but I am sure they

never did. Some time after that a good friend, Tad Snell, who had testified in this case (and they had his bank account here), and others were reminiscing about that hearing. He said, "Now I had a hell of a time when I got home to convince my Methodist friends I didn't play poker."

After those weeks, the committee voted 17-14 for impeachment. The *Des Moines Tribune* that night after the report was made, came out and said "these didn't," listing them. I was one of the 14. Then one of the dramatic moments, I believe, in the last days came when we selected the committee of the 17 and the 14 to present the arguments of the majority and the minority. We started at nine in the morning, ten from each side, ten from the majority and ten from the minority. The committee even selected the order in which they would speak. The debate ended at one or two the next morning. Members would sneak out and get a bite to eat and the session ran right through.

In all legislative assemblies there are those who are not too friendly with each other, and there had been a little spat between two proud members of that legislature. I won't mention their names. One said, "I don't want to speak unless so-and-so speaks; if he speaks, I want to speak right after." So-and-so was put on the list, and this second man put on after him. He had an acid tongue, and he used it.

I just want to say one more word, and commend Bob Blue. I want to tell him, "Governor, the courthouses have flags like this one, sitting beside my court bench—we are going to have them in every courthouse in my district."

President McFarlane: The last on this reminiscing program is also another friend of mine, who voted for me for speaker, one of the most prominent lawyers of Council Bluffs in Pottawattamie county. I present to you the Hon. J. A. Williams of Pottawattamie county, of the Thirty-eighth General Assembly.

Mr. Williams: I wish to take this opportunity to say that I want to honor our president of this association because of the wonderful service he has rendered to the state of Iowa over the years that he has been in government service. I got acquainted with him when I first came here, and I knew a great deal about him. I had associations with him a long time ago. Someone was speaking about the methods he used and his dignity as presiding officer of the senate, with which sentiment I heartily agree. He got his training in the house, and he was a wonderful speaker.

Another man I want to call attention to here, is Ora Williams. I had a great deal to do with his work in the Thirty-

eighth Assembly when he was document editor. I think he was a great man. I am glad he was honored by being made a member of this Association. Those of you who read his article in the last *Annals of Iowa*, will be interested to know he wrote that when he was 93 years of age. I commend that article to every citizen of the state of Iowa. It not only shows the versatility of this man but his loyalty to the state of Iowa, his love for the people of Iowa, and the fact he wanted to keep one incident in our history; he wanted to keep that story straight. It was with reference to the election of President Hayes. I hope you can read it.

I was enthralled as I sat here listening to Governor Blue talk. I thought, "He can keep on talking till the time of adjournment." I indorse so many of the things he said. I was particularly pleased with his reference to the use of the Iowa flag. I remember when we had that flag up in the legislature. Then Senator Pitt was opposed to the use of any flag but that of the United States, and use of state flag was discontinued.

The judge has spoken to you briefly with reference to the work we had to do on the judiciary committee. In that session about twenty days was devoted to those impeachment proceedings—a very unfortunate thing. The governor challenged and then we investigated what was being said around the state with reference to the innuendoes that he had taken a bribe. I presume you are familiar with the outcome of that matter, and how it was handled. I was on the minority side with my friend the judge, and we succeeded in getting the minority report to replace the majority report. The majority report was rather in favor of impeachment.

Well, to make a long story short, we vigorously protested; we went through a great deal of agony. There was an immense amount of work entailed with that hearing. Before they got through the session of the legislature, someone urged a resolution that the committee be investigated. I remember the man who was the judge; I had occasion recently to review the testimony in that case. When I read the testimony, I found the governor had acted on the recommendation of the judge and county attorney.

Let's go back a little. We were just getting through a war and we were in a benevolent state of mind. We wanted to do good. We were in this situation. We had ended the war—the war to end all wars. You know the frailty of that conclusion.

Judge Davidson has given you the same reasons I would give for not returning for a second term and the same advice I would give young men, but there are some matters that I thought of why he was satisfied with one term. For instance—Larson was married during the session and I remember the

boys played a prank on him. The boys wheeled a baby buggy up to the rostrum and presented it to him. We granted suffrage to the women folks; we also adopted the 18th amendment which was on the books for thirteen years. I just call your attention to these incidents that consume time in a legislative session.

One of the most interesting things to me in the legislative session was that we started the adoption of a new code. We really got the start made. We hadn't had one since 1897. For twenty-five years we had gotten along with supplements, so the decision was made and the resolution was passed, and we really got started. It was one of those things you couldn't finish in one session. It took the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth and Fortieth extra to finally get the Code of 1924, which I think all lawyers recognize as a good starting point because the sections were numbered, and now we have a Code every four years.

Many other things might be discussed here, but these occur to me to be of interest.

President McFarlane: I want to thank all of those who have taken part in this program and for the wonderful audience today and nothing I can say can make my feeling about this any more clear.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1955-1957

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

For President—Frank Shane, Eldon

For Vice-president—Harold E. Davidson, Clarinda

For Secretary—Walter H. Beam, Martensdale

For Assistant Secretary—Roy J. Sours, Charles City

For Vice Presidents by Districts:

First—LeRoy Mercer, Iowa City

Second—David R. McCreery, Alburnett

Third—Clarence A. Knutson, Clear Lake

Fourth—Lloyd Thurston, Osceola

Fifth—Victor Felter, Indianola

Sixth—G. W. Patterson, Burt

Seventh—Ed L. Newton, Anita

Eighth—O. J. Grau, Newell

For Executive Committee: Frank Shane, Eldon; Arch W. McFarlane, Waterloo; Burton E. Sweet, Waverly; Carl W. Reed, Cresco; Harold E. Davidson, Clarinda; Walter H. Beam, Martensdale

Those nominated were unanimously elected officers of the association for the 1955-1957 biennium.



President McFarlane: There are ten members of the Fifty-sixth General assembly in session at the present time that belong to the Pioneer Lawmakers Association: Frank Byers, Arthur Hanson, Gus Kuester, Dewey Goode, Leo Elthon, George L. Scott, Herman Knudson, Oscar Hultman, W. J. Johannes, including myself, a considerable group yet in legislative service.

The meeting will be adjourned until the hour of the afternoon joint session.

#### JOINT CONVENTION IN AFTERNOON

A Joint Convention of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly convened at 2 p.m. in the house chamber with the president of the senate, Leo Elthon, presiding. The members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association were escorted to the chamber by the committee consisting of Senator Bellman of Warren, Senator Byers of Linn, Senator Walker of Hamilton, and Representatives Dillon of Louisa, Naden of Hamilton and Freed of Webster.

President Elthon extended a personal welcome to the visitors and presented Senator Nolan of Johnson, who welcomed them back to this meeting in the halls of the general assembly, and on behalf of the senate made the following remarks:

It is a high honor to be asked to take a small part in this biennial joint convention in honor of the members of the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa who are assembled here today.

Seventy years have passed since Senator Norman Boardman of Clinton first suggested that Iowa lawmakers of years past, following the custom of the living members of past Vermont legislatures, meet in reunion.

As a result of Senator Boardman's suggestion, some 24 former members of the Iowa General Assemblies sent out a call to a meeting, by published notice and letter, of past members of the Iowa legislature, which meeting was to be held in Des Moines on February 24, 1886.

Such well known men in the annals of Iowa history as Josiah B. Grinnell, Benjamin F. Gue, George G. Wright, Robert S. Finkbine, C. F. Clarkson, Hoyt Sherman and Charles Aldrich joined in the call. Eighty-seven responded and were present, when the reunion opened at 10:30 a.m. on the day assigned, in the old Foster opera house in downtown Des Moines.

Following the discussion for a formal permanent organization and a perpetuation of the reunion, the meeting was adjourned

with the former senators going to the senate and the representatives to the house, on the hill. This was the beginning of your revered association, the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa, and your affections for our state and those who served with you, like the rivers of her borders, "flow on to an inseparable union."

The speeches which were made and the reminiscences that were shared at that first historic meeting of your organization were recorded and published for succeeding generations to read and study. These sacred pages of Iowa history reveal the hopes and dreams as well as the doubts and fears of those early lawmakers. Despite the hardships and sufferings of our founding fathers, optimism prevailed in their deliberations. The same basic problems faced them then that faced you in your days as they do us today—they needed money for schools and roads. Our three state colleges were then long established, as well as most of the institutions under the present-day board of control. This capitol building had been completed and dedicated and these legislative halls occupied in 1884.

Like our forebears who settled Iowa in the 1840's, when Iowa became a member—state of the greatest union of free men in the history of mankind, these Pioneer Lawmakers were not willing to follow the beaten path, to do what somebody else had done because somebody else had done it, or to think the same thoughts of somebody else. No, they were true pioneers, self-reliant, confident and courageous.

Symbolic of these men, you are their rightful successors. Through your courage, your integrity and intense devotion, you have carried nobly forward the torch of vision and intelligent leadership. It took men richly endowed with the attributes of "faith, hope and charity" to mold and preserve for us a great state as we know Iowa today.

It has truly been said that a country which has no pride in its past, loses all inspiration for its future. The mandates which govern us are not the laws in our statute books, but a higher and better bond—a civilization composed of the consciousness and heart and mind of the people of a former time. It is to you our gratitude is due.

May we in the Fifty-sixth General Assembly ever strive in our deliberations and our work to emulate your spirit and purpose for our beloved state, so that it may be said of us as it can be said of you:

"The architect with pride may view  
The edifice his brain has willed;  
A grander temple honors you—  
The commonwealth you helped to build."

President Elthon presented to the joint convention

Representative Clark H. McNeal of Wright, who welcomed the Pioneer Lawmakers on behalf of the house and offered the following remarks:

I wish it were possible for me today to set down the proper words to welcome you on this occasion. Normally, I am not at loss for words, but today I find it difficult to bring proper words to the tip of my tongue to honor you today. Therefore, I have chosen to select from the sages of the writers of the past, the proper phrases befitting this occasion. Thus, feeling we should benefit not only those we honor but that we also should take a lesson ourselves, I quote these passages.

The immortal Shakespeare said:

“Their Crowns are in their hearts not on their heads  
 Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones; nor to be seen  
 Their Crowns are called content  
 Theirs are Crowns that seldom Kings enjoy.”

Surely these men possess such Crowns. They must be crowned with content, for surely they have performed their tasks well.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once stated: “The greatest thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.” It is important to take a stand, and these Pioneer Lawmakers did. But more important they gave motion and direction to this great State of Iowa. It is that motion and direction for which we are grateful today. It is our aim that we the present lawmakers will continue to give purpose and direction in all things coming before us.

Thomas Carlyle said: “If there is a harvest ahead, even a distant one, it is poor thrift to be stingy of your seed corn.”

Surely these men were not stingy with their seed. They were the hardy stock. We hope that they are satisfied with us who are the harvest of their years, and that we in turn may plant for the harvest ahead. An old proverb states:

“There is nothing noble in being superior to some other man.  
 The true nobility is in being superior to your previous self.”

Without a question, these men became superior only in elevating themselves to higher standards than they possessed the day before.

In a recitation of famous authors it would be amiss for me to cease on this occasion without this quotation from Mark Twain, when he said: “I am an old man and have known many troubles, but most of them never happened.”

I presume these notable statesmen here today assembled believed as we believe that the problems then facing them were the most difficult and unmanageable of any problems facing any generation, yet today they would undoubtedly be the first to admit that the problems they presumed to be un-

conquerable troubles, in the main, never really happened. We need not fear these problems and difficulties, if we face them in a true spirit of democracy and possessed with knowledge.

So today, we hallow the memory of those departed from your midst. We honor those of you who visit us here today. We appreciate working with Pioneer Lawmakers such as the Honorable Gus Kuester, the Honorable Dewey Goode, Senator Byers, Senator McFarlane, and others. We welcome you, the Pioneer Lawmakers of Iowa, each and every one. May God bless you all.

President Elthon presented to the joint convention Senator Arch McFarlane of Black Hawk, now president of the Pioneer Lawmakers, who addressed the joint convention as follows:

Before I enter upon my prepared speech, I am very pleased to have the honor of performing a very pleasant duty. At our Pioneer Lawmakers meeting this morning, C. C. Clifton of the *Des Moines Register*, who has been covering the legislature for almost forty years, was unanimously elected as an honorary member of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa. The thought among those gathered was that Mr. Clifton has been very instrumental in assisting in the passage of good legislation and helping to defeat poor legislation. His service to the state of Iowa is equal in many instances to many of the lawmakers, and it is my privilege and pleasure today at this joint convention to inform Mr. Clifton that he was unanimously elected as an honorary member of our association.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I say to you that I appreciate the kind words generously spoken by those who were chosen to give the addresses of welcome, both by the members of the senate and house and by our presiding officer. I further wish to express my very great appreciation for the privilege of appearing before this joint convention and the members of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association and invited guests.

Forty years ago I first entered this assembly as a young man in the Thirty-sixth General Assembly. There were many outstanding members, untiring workers who gave the people their best so that we who follow them should profit by their labors. The members had many complications in those days and it seemed to those of that time that they were insurmountable, yet, they went at their labors in the same manner and with the same enthusiasm that the members of the legislature do today. It was only through their hard work and human understanding that they were able to accomplish the great things that were accomplished following out the foundation

which was laid by the generation before that and leaving a more solid foundation for those that were to follow.

It happens that I have the privilege of serving today as a member of the general assembly in companionship with four members of the house who are sons of pioneer legislators who served with me a good generation ago and that I also have the privilege of associating in the senate with the son and a nephew of former colleagues of mine of many years ago. I make these comments because I wish to emphasize that the Iowa General Assembly is a continuing body; that it has its traditions of service which are being carried on from generation to generation by men of the same type and of the same breeding and lineage of the lawmakers of the past.

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 of the Union.

Iowa has good government, and the laws we have passed help keep it so. Iowa has good schools; established under 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 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.

I do not need to tell you that I am very grateful for this privilege but my duty here today is to introduce the speaker of the afternoon and I do not need to tell you that I appreciate this honor.

I do not need to mention him by name for he is known to all of you. He is probably the most distinguished public figure which Iowa has produced during the last generation of its history. His span of life is a long one, his memory is carried back to the days when northern Iowa was a relatively sparsely settled community, when the covered wagon was still a familiar sight and when the plowshares turned up buffalo horns when they broke the virgin soil.

He served his county ably as county attorney and then took his place in the halls of congress, first as a representative and then, for two terms, as United States senator. He was a pio-

neer in our national program for the recognition of agriculture. He probably has done more than any man living or dead to impress upon the national consciousness the importance of agriculture in our public economy.

It was he, more than any other man, that brought about recognition of the fact that without a prosperous agriculture, the nation cannot develop any very true prosperity. He gained recognition as an outstanding statesman and his abilities were recognized by substantial support in two Republican national conventions for the office of the presidency of the United States.

After his service in congress he returned to his native state to immediately receive recognition as one of the outstanding attorneys of his day, a distinction which he still holds as an active practitioner in the city of Des Moines.

I refer, of course, to the Honorable Lester J. Dickinson; whom I proudly introduce to you.

#### SENATOR DICKINSON SPEAKS

President McFarlane presented to the joint convention the Honorable L. J. Dickinson, former congressman and United States senator from Iowa, who addressed the joint convention as follows:

I never served in the legislature of Iowa. I never served in the house or the senate of Iowa, but I have had a lot of fun teasing the boys as to what they ought to do and I want to say to you that the usual legislative program is a program in which you will be called everything except a worthy servant.

If you are in politics, cultivate a thick hide; if you don't, you will feel that somebody is taking a pot shot at you that you don't deserve, but after you have been through it for time after time, you will find people like you even if they say things you don't like to have them say. In politics you will find a lot of people who are associated with our higher groups will say "he is a politician." Be a politician. If we don't develop more politics and politicians in the United States, we will have a serious situation here because too many people are paying too little attention to what their duties are as American citizens.

I am glad to see a group of worthwhile people carrying on the duties of the legislature in Iowa. I don't care whether you have annual or semi-annual sessions. I often stated in congress that I thought we would be better off if we didn't pass too many bills. I want to say this, that the thing the American people want to do is to get more interested in politics and less interested in some other things. I hate to hear a fellow say: "I don't want to put a school man on my school board." Well, I say to him, "Did you vote?" "No," he says, "I didn't

have time." What chance, I ask you, is there of things going right if we neglect our duty to do the thing we ought to do. Why complain if you don't like what is done?

I have talked to many legislatures and legislative bodies, but I have never talked to the Iowa legislature before. My days on this earth are numbered. Arch McFarlane talked about most of the boys I knew and knew well for many years, and I will say to you frankly, and I believe Arch will bear me out on this, it is easier to make a living in private life than it is in politics; lots easier. There are a lot of people who think that legislative service is just a big vacation. I tell you any man who comes down here and spends his time, or any woman, will lose more than he or she could possibly draw out of the state treasury of Iowa as compensation for their services. I know.

Most important is to have men here who are good men. I am glad to see the younger fellows here. Somebody has got to move in in the place of the old fellows who are getting lame and tired and losing their heart. We, you and I, believe in development. Red Barber on the radio program that you listen to, says that "progress is our most important product." A lot of us folks are old enough to sit around and listen to that philosophy. I like to think that progress is the most important thing in the state of Iowa, and I like to think, too, that we have made plenty of progress. I think the men in this room have helped that progress with their vitality and enterprise.

#### TEXAS AND IOWA CO-OPERATE

I remember once visiting with an old friend in Texas. They had had five drouth years in Texas. I said to him, what in the world can you do in Texas; if we had had five drouth years in Iowa, I don't know what we could do. And he said to me: "You can't do much to Texas that a few good oil wells won't cure!"

Here in Iowa we don't have oil wells, but we do have farming. When they limited the acreage you could plant to corn, what did farmers do? They planted the rows closer together. They used more fertilizer to the acre. They grew more bushels to the acre. Now where they used to grow 30 bushels to the acre they are not satisfied with less than 70 bushels to the acre. In other words, Texas furnishes us gasoline and we furnish the corn to feed the steers. A fair exchange—corn to feed the Texas steers and gasoline for us in Iowa. That is the thing that Iowa is doing all the while. I can remember the time when we used to have these prophets of gloom who said that people will be starving, we can't grow enough crops, there isn't going to be enough food to feed them all. They never thought in those days that the Iowa farmer would narrow his rows of corn

and use more fertilizer. I guess before we are through we will make 100 bushels to the acre a standard crop, and we are going in the right direction.

Legislation is a peculiar thing. There is always somebody that wants something. I read not long ago something about having a legislature of lobbyists in Des Moines. Now I believe in lobbyists, because a lobbyist has got his story learned and will tell it to you and you can believe it or not or get the other side, and that way you get the information you need to get, to make an intelligent decision. The way the thing is publicized you would think a lobbyist is a cruel creature, when as a matter of fact he is one of the best friends the legislator can have. Now, I have been up against real lobbyists.

The next thing, it isn't good to have too much legislation. We have an old system of checks and balances. We should have two houses on this account. I don't want to see them pass any law for unicameral legislation like they have in Nebraska. It's narrowed down to a single house in Nebraska where the fellows carry on year after year and they get in certain channels and get fixed in certain lines. I am a believer in two houses. They are not too large in Iowa. Why? Because over here is one section of Iowa that has something it wants. Over here is another section of Iowa that has something it wants. When you get together, you have a substantial program that is shown by the record of your legislature. It has shown that it is for the best interests of Iowa that you have this interplay of wants.

#### STUDY TOLL ROAD POSSIBILITIES

Perhaps you say I don't know whether or not we should have a toll road. Oh yes, you say, they are nice in Pennsylvania, but I don't know if it would be profitable in Iowa. But if I was in the legislature I would spend a little midnight oil studying whether it would be for the best interests of Iowa or not. A lot of you people here can remember the old mud road fight. It was a sizzler. A lot of you can remember the days of the expansion of the capitol grounds, when that issue almost defeated Governor Clarke. It was that discussion which emphasized it and made it one of the real problems of Iowa, and it was decided in the right way, and it was a good way. A lot of you legislators are too young to remember those things. I can see some of you though that can remember as far back as I can. Our legislatures have always done a good job.

On our taxes now. Sure we are approaching a system where a lot of people will retire when they get to be sixty-five years old. I won't have to work if I don't want to. I am not so sure we ought to quit at sixty-five. I am older than that now, and I still like to work. If you don't believe it, I open the



office every morning a little after eight before the younger fellows get there. Of course I get up in the morning, that helps some. Then I go home right after 3:30 or 4 o'clock and let them work! Divides things up the way they ought to be divided up.

I don't know what we ought to do with reference to our schools. I wouldn't try to suggest anything to this body, but I do believe that Iowa with the least illiteracy of any state in the union has been doing a good thing so far as schools are concerned. I think we will continue to do so. There is one thing I dislike about our school system. We educate good men who immediately move some place else and take a bigger job at a bigger salary than we can furnish to them in this state.

But nevertheless all of these things help make Iowa, the manhood and womanhood of Iowa, the wonderful thing that it is. The thing that I think is the most important, is that whatever Iowa does, let's see that it is for the progress of Iowa that we take these steps. Let's make it forward not backward. I don't recall that Iowa has ever had to repeal many laws, in other words, most of our legislation has stood the test of time, and has weathered the storm, so there is one of the things that is assurance that what you do is for the best interests of Iowa. Of course, there are those fellows who will dispute this!

#### SOME TAX RAISES REQUIRED

I don't know how far you ought to raise taxes. With everybody asking for more out of the government and saying that the government ought to do more for them, then somebody has to raise more money, but it means the people like it. Why, I can recall when the federal government only owed about four billion dollars, now it owes 277 billion! They were just as careless with their change as I was! In other words, we cannot keep on going, expecting that the government is going to furnish us the things we need, when we ought to be able to put our own initiative in it and work it out for ourselves. Any time you have an additional dependent resting on the dole, you have one more problem for the taxpayers of your state.

I have no particular ideas that I want to suggest to you. I have often wondered how things work as well as they do. I have seen eighteen year old boys that never thought they would be as dumb as they thought their fathers were. When they got older, they found these things got deeper and deeper, and they had to find a way to solve them. Let's make ourselves independent of government resources if we can, and work out our problems under this private enterprise system we are all so proud of in this country.

You will find wherever you go, whatever you do, there are

noble leaders. "There are souls that are good and true, and if you give to the world the best that you have, the best will come back to you. For life is just to the king and the slave, it is just what you are and do, and if you give to the world the best that you have, the best will come back to you."

It is a real pleasure to appear before this body. Arch McFarlane gave me twenty minutes. I said I would take only twelve minutes. Actually I will only take ten minutes.

I remember men making long speeches, and the fellow that followed them made a short speech and was appreciated more. I am glad to meet this wonderful group. I believe in politics. I believe in the young men and the young women being in politics. Say that is a compliment to me!

I will do the best I can to keep this government carrying on with the two party system. One more suggestion along that line. I always hate to hear a hardheaded business man say I am going to vote for the man. I don't care about the party. In other words he is putting his individual judgment against all the best thought in his party, and he thinks he knows more about how to run the government than a political party that is working on the job every day.

I don't believe anyone ever changed my Republicanism. I never thought I should be on an independent basis. I thought it should be in the party, in the organization. I have dealt with the Democrats a lot. I had a lot of friends among the Democrats. They often wanted to trade favors with me and I wanted to also. We worked together. You think you can get along with the other fellow, but you know what counts? It's when they call the roll and you have ten more votes than the other side.

I just wanted to make a few friendly suggestions which come from an old fellow plodding along, practicing law, enjoying my life practicing law with the young fellows, but I enjoyed public services too. I believe in public life, in public service if you are qualified for it, and I believe you can do a real service. Don't shrink from assuming responsibility as a public servant, but help carry on the problems of your state and the problems of your nation. Good luck and goodbye!

On motion of Senator Byers of Linn the joint convention then was dissolved and the 1955 sessions of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association of Iowa came to a close.

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