President Nicholas then presented Governor Beardsley, who delivered the following address :

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIFYY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FELLOW IOWANS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am, indeed, happy to be with you on this occasion, and to have the privilege of bringing to you the biennial report which is of historic record in our great state.

It is the good fortune of the chief executive on each biennium to have the privilege of reporting to the General Assembly.

First, I want to congratulate you of the Fifty-fifth General Assembly on your election to these legislative halls. I have a high regard for the splendid traditions of our great state, and a sincere appreciation of the great contribution which the General Assembly makes to the progress, growth and development of our state.

So to all of you ... my heartiest congratulations, and I wish to state my firm belief, to my oId colleagues who are here … to the members of the former sessions … and to the new members … that I have every confidence that you will maintain with distinction the high traditions of the Iowa General Assembly.

When the General Assembly convened two years ago, certain forces were loose in the world, which contributed much to the disquiet and concern of citizenry everywhere, and made difficult the problems of the Fifty-fourth General Assembly. The uncontrolled inflationary forces which have run riot through our economy have, during the past two years, made the problems of government difficult, in the same proportion and in the same manner, in which the problems of the citizenry generally have been made difficult.

I am pleased to report to you, that the state government has been able to carry forward the business of the state within the bounds established for it by the Fifty-fourth General Assembly, and has been able to meet the problems from time to time as they arose, and has met those problems within the limits of the funds provided by the Fifty-fourth General Assembly. I wish to report to you that the state finances are in sound condition. We have a balanced budget, and in this biennium, it has not been necessary to touch the stabilizing reserve which was so wisely created by the Fifty-third General Assembly.

These have been busy years in state government, and, in my judgment, the various departments of state government have made great progress, not only in the quality of service rendered to the citizens of this great state, but in adding to the efficiency of state government, and in all those benefits which flow from increased efficiency and good service.

In the past two years, the new state office building has been completed, and many administrative departments of our state government transferred to these fine and efficient quarters. This has had a pronounced effect on the quality of service rendered the citizenry of our state. I say to you, in these active years in the history of the State of Iowa, by virtue of these finer facilities and the devotion to duty of the state employees therein housed, they have rendered a finer service, have handled a heavier volume of business, with actually fewer employees than in former years.

This has been salutary, I believe, in improving the functions of government in the State of Iowa, for we must realize that, in the final analysis, our State of Iowa is subject to the same conditions, and must find the same solutions to the problems which confront it, by the application of sound business practices, and with the same techniques and good management, which are found necessary in the conduct of all business. I am grateful to all the administrators, to the fine employees of the state, to my colleagues in the Executive Council and other capacities, for the cooperation and the great contribution which they have made to this record of achievement.

Our Tax Commission has an important function of government, and there, by improved methods of operating, and by the addition of necessary modern office equipment, they have made material increases and advances in the quality of service rendered to the people of our state.

As much can be said of all other departments. In the Department of Public Health, the services rendered the people of the state have gone forward in a satisfactory way. The General Hospital plan inaugurated six years ago has been carried forward with success.

Our Board of Social Welfare in administering the programs which fall within their province, have done an outstanding job. In comparing the situation with other states in the Union, we must recognize we have a splendid department in our state. Aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, old age assistance and other programs have been carried forward in an able and satisfactory way.

I am firmly of the opinion educators have made their proper contribution to the growth and development of our state. In the field of advanced education, our splendid educational institutions through their administrators and the able Board of Education have made pronounced progress. I might mention also those smaller institutions under the board of education ... the School for the Deaf ... the School for the Blind … which have augmented their programs and made advancement of benefit to the citizenry. In the field of elementary education, the fine teaching force and school administrators have made definite progress in meeting the educational requirements of modern times.

So I am happy to present to you a report of progress and accomplishment in all these fields … fields which affect the well being of the citizenry of our state, not only in our time, but in generations yet to come.

Our road building program which was wisely planned by the Fifty-third General Assembly has made pronounced advancement during the past two years. There has been more construction of highways during the last twelve months, than in any other given period in the history of our state. Favored by favorable weather in the season of 1952, construction went forward in this state at a rate of more than one million dollars per week. As a result we have depleted the primary road construction fund and materially reduced the farm to market funds, but I think it was proper to do this, because as I told the Highway Commission months ago, we are not running a bank. These funds were paid into the road construction fund by the citizens of the state, and it was our duty to give them roads as rapidly as possible under that plan. As we look at the modernization which has been attained and the expansion of the farm to market and the secondary roads in our state, I think you will agree that these past two years have been fruitful ones in highway construction.

In the field of conservation we have made progress. The State of Iowa continues to pace the nation in conservation work. In the past two years in our conservation districts and in the work of the natural resources council, a work which, as a matter of fact, Iowa pioneered, we have established the pattern, and the technical principles which will guide us in formulating a program and mastering the problems of conservation … conservation of soil and water which will give us sound guidance in the future. What we must do now is to draw on the experiences of the past. Appraise the methods and programs for their actual worth and by virtue of these experiences, we can plan more constructively and for better use in the coming years.

It is of primary importance, and I am confident you will agree, that such advancement and growth in conservation of our natural resources is essential, our experiences in Iowa demonstrate the value of cooperation of various agencies and the desirability of control at the grass roots level.

Under happy circumstances, we have made progress in Iowa in the field of highway safety. The legislature, wisely, in 1951, provided for an expansion of the highway patrol in our state. This has been completed, and the highway patrol in our state is one of the finest ... yes, I am firmly of the opinion, it is the finest in all the land. They have placed increased emphasis, not only on law enforcement, but in the important field of safety education. Numerous private organizations have joined hands in this joint endeavor, and made a major contribution to the advancement in the field of safety, not only on our highways, but in the schools, on the farms, in the industries of our state. We have a favorable position in our state as compared with other states of the Union, but nevertheless, when we consider the appalling numbers of fatalities and the accident rate, we find a challenge, which urges us to do more and more, to make every contribution humanly possible to

greater advancement in this great program of education.

Law enforcement in our state is at a high level, thanks to the cooperation of all agencies. It is, I think, of primary importance that we have cooperation, because it is the duty of state and county and municipal officials to cooperate in every way humanly possible. We have in our state in all fields of endeavor, whether municipal or county or state, a joint responsibility. We have helpful cooperation, all of which is conducive to the betterment of our state.

We have been free of any great tragedies, these past two years. Last year, we witnessed the great river floods on the borders of our state, and there again, all agencies working together met the challenge of nature and avoided loss of life and reduced property damage.

We saw this demonstrated in the city of Council Bluffs, where team work saved a great city. We saw, too, the necessity for a dike system for flood control. We saw that flood prevention programs like those of the lower Mississippi are needed on the upper Mississippi and Missouri as well—both the agricultural levees, and levees to protect the cities and towns. The city of Dubuque was involved in these floods. Ninety per cent of her industry was in the flood area. Naturally that has a pronounced effect on the entire city under such conditions. It is much to the credit of Dubuque’s spirit that more than one-half million dollars of private funds have been expended and the entire municipality is alerted to this work, in seeking programs to prevent future recurrence.

Within our state, conservation programs are reaching the stage where we can look to greater advancement. Our rich farm resources have maintained stability. Harassed by many problems, nevertheless, the farming plant of this great state is substantial and growing more so.

Our industries have made a continued improvement in the over-all pattern, and I am of the opinion we have much to be thankful for. I am even more firmly of the opinion that by working together in all good faith and understanding, we can serve the common good … we can chart a course for an even greater improvement in the future and in doing, we will prove ourselves not only worthy of the rich and great heritage which is ours, but can lay a pattern and construct a program which will provide wisely and well for generations yet to come.

Again, my heartiest congratulations to all of you of the Fifty-fifth General Assembly. I have the feeling that the next hundred days will be beneficial days for the people of this state. I have every confidence in your judgment and wisdom, and that you will find solutions for the problems to come before you. In the final analysis, it is the responsibility of all of us to serve to that end, and I deem it a great privilege to have the good fortune to work with you in every possible way to that end. I hope during these days you will come to see me often. The Governor wants your counsel, your help, your cooperation. Thank you.