Lieutenant Governor Evans, President of the joint convention presiding, then presented Governor Blue, who delivered his inaugural message.

GOVERNOR’S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, SENATOR HICKENLOOPER, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, STATE OFFICIALS AND MY FELLOW CITIZENS OF IOWA:

In the midst of the mounting fury of the greatest war of all time, we have proven to ourselves and to the world that we are able to conduct a vigorous political campaign for the election of our leaders without any slackening of our united effort and determination to press the war forward to an early and victorious conclusion. Here in Iowa today and in Washington the chosen representatives of the people meet to demonstrate that representative self-government is the best form of government in the world. That without any permanent loss or weakening of our fundamental liberties we can, as a republic, fight and win a two ocean global war and assist in writing a peace which will aid in the reconstruction of a war torn world.

I congratulate you upon your election. Your selection for the high public office, which you hold, is a testimony of the high esteem in which you are held in your local community. It is a recommendation on the part of your friends and neighbors of their confidence in your ability, honesty and sense of fairness to perform the difficult task which confronts you. I share that feeling of confidence. I know that when the final record of this session is written and the book is closed that you will have added another constructive chapter to the great history of Iowa.

Fearing a concentration of power, our forefathers wisely divided the power of government between the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. Like an intricate machine, the three gears of our government must smoothly mesh together, if sound and efficient government is to be provided for the people. I seek your cooperation. My time and my energy are always at your command. We are all servants of the people. We must all strive diligently to perform the task entrusted to our care.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the many other people throughout the state, who have expressed their confidence in this administration. I approach my task most humbly. I realize full well that only with your help, the help of many state and local officers throughout the state can success in my trust be achieved.

Seldom has a legislature been confronted with more diverse and difficult problems. You are a war legislature and as such must consider the problems of war affecting our citizens. You are a reconstruction legislature, we hope the war will be over before the next session of the legislature in 1947. You must consider the problems of peace and reconstruction. You are confronted with the solution of the usual problems incident to the operation of the state and proposals to make substantial changes in some of the fundamental laws of the state.

With this thought in mind, I should like to briefly discuss with you a few of the many problems which confront you.

WAR

Iowa has been making her full contribution to the war effort. Today it is estimated there are nearly three hundred thousand of our Iowa boys and girls who have answered the call to arms. No words we can say, no deeds we can do, can add to their glorious record in advancing our flag and the ideals it symbolizes on battle fronts around the globe.

I want to say a word of appreciation for the splendid, unselfish service which many groups have been rendering on the home front. They have been serving without compensation or hope of reward, except the satisfaction of a task well done. Red Cross, Draft Boards, Ration Boards, Bond Drives, U. S. 0., Iowa State Guard, Civilian Defense, Civil Air Patrol, and Scrap Drives are but a few of many such services. Without this voluntary work, our war effort would falter and fail. The nation and the state owe them deep gratitude.

The feeling of undue optimism which prevailed last fall has been largely dispelled. Today we know that a hard and costly war lies ahead of us. We know that this is no time to slacken our war efforts. Rather it is the time for our greatest exertion. The war must not be prolonged nor must any boy lose his life because of any neglect on our part.

When we look at the shattered homes lying in ruin on foreign lands, we are grateful that our own America has been spared this cost. Yet we shall not escape unscathed. Thousands of lives of our best young men are being snuffed out. Thousands more will go through life bearing shattered bodies and tormented minds.

Following every great war, there is always the social and economic debris and wreckage on the home front, moral decline has accompanied every war. It has taken months or even years to train our boys in the horrid art of war. Not all will forget it. It will take months and perhaps years for many who return apparently unscathed to be rehabilitated in the ways of civil life. Great as was the task of converting our industry from war to peace, the task of rehabilitating our sons and daughters will be greater and vastly more important.

Although combat will cease, the effect of this war will continue throughout our lives. The ideals we struggle to preserve today will be challenged again in future years. Tomorrow, as today, the price of liberty will be eternal vigilance. In the words of General Logan: “Let no avarice of neglect, no ravage of time testify to the present or succeeding generations, that we as a nation have forgotten the cost of a free and an undivided republic. [Needs end quote?]

SURPLUS COMMODITIES

There will be at the end of this war large amounts of surplus commodities which the federal government has purchased. There must be a disposal of these. A board is being set up in Washington to determine the method of distributing these surpluses. During the last two years our Board of Control has received substantial gifts of surplus food commodities which have been used in our institutions. At the end of the last war carloads of surplus commodities were shipped by the federal government into Iowa without charge, to be distributed in the state because no storage facilities had been provided or provision made for distribution. An unsatisfactory condition arose. If surplus commodities are to be given away, provisions for storage and distribution should be made in Iowa. The surplus commodities have been purchased with taxes paid and bonds bought by Iowa citizens. The state of Iowa should avail itself of any benefit arising from the disposition of these surpluses that can be had without working an injury or hardship to any factory, workman or distributor within the state.

AVIATION

With the rapid progress made in the science of aeronautics and the certain increase in air travel following the war, it behooves Iowa to review present statutes on aviation and to make such corrections as may be needed to meet the problems of tomorrow.

Our Civil Air Patrol has made an outstanding record of service. It is recognized as one of the finest in the country. Our Aeronautic Commission has likewise been keeping abreast of the times.

Adoption of a new aviation code however should be enacted to regulate new airport construction and to provide adequate and sensible regulation of this expanding field. If the states fail to meet this problem, it is certain that the federal government will occupy the field and regulate local air traffic.

SCHOOLS

Throughout her history, Iowa has been greatly interested in the cause of education. She is proud of her high literacy rate and the high percentage of her sons and daughters who not only finish high school, but avail themselves of opportunities of attending our universities and colleges.

The last session of the legislature provided for a committee to study our school law and report to this legislature suggested improvements in our statutes affecting schools in Iowa. You received their report in ample time for study before the convening of this legislature. I know the people of Iowa want their school system to keep pace with progress. We all desire to give to our children every advantage that we can reasonably afford, taking into consideration all of our necessary obligations.

Time does not permit the discussion of the twenty separate proposals contained in this report.

From talking with many of you, I believe you feel, as I feel, that this report ought to receive early, careful and sympathetic consideration, and action. I have confidence in your ability to wisely and equitably deal with this report.

Let all citizens realize the part we play in the education of our youth.

In the final analysis our young men and women are the finished product of our representative form of government. A fair share of the burden of education must be borne by the home, the church, the school, the school board, city council and every other civic organization that goes to make up the community. Mere law alone will not solve every problem in the training of our youth. Let us each ask ourselves: Are we doing our part?

APPROPRIATIONS TO INDUSTRIAL AND DEFENSE COMMISSION

The Industrial and Defense Commission inaugurated by the 49th General Assembly prior to the outbreak of hostilities has rendered an invaluable service to this state. It has carefully husbanded and expended the appropriation given to it and will return over ninety thousand dollars unused. It has brought to labor and to the established industries of the state, large war orders. It has assisted in bringing to Iowa some of the new war industries which have located here. Viewed broadly, this has resulted in large financial benefit to the state government and to many of the communities in which these industries were located. The work of this committee has profoundly affected the economic welfare of Iowa during the time of its existence. With the ending of the war, this committee doubtless will pass out of existence.

The imperative necessities of war have resulted in great changes in the industrial picture in America. With the ending of this conflict, new economic dislocations will occur. Congress recently has reported that the eastern states, if permitted to reconvert to peace time production, might produce over ninety per cent of goods manufactured in America. They previously produced about 60 per cent. This results from placing so large a portion of new war industries along our eastern shore.

Reports indicate that large industry desires to decentralize. Already some of the large industrial institutions are investigating the advantages of Iowa as a possible location. Iowa should be prepared to encourage and assist them to locate here. Many natural advantages of location in the center of the country, unsurpassed facilities of transportation by rail, motor, air and water ways favor us. We are favored by large coal deposits. Iowa is commonly known as a great agricultural state. Too few of our citizens at home, as well as those outside the state, realize that Iowa is also a great industrial state, ranking 17th among the states of the nation.

The great trio which forms the arch of economic security are labor, agriculture and industry. In Iowa we very properly expend a large sum of money for the encouragement and promotion of agriculture. We have established a department of labor as well as a department of agriculture. To date, we have largely overlooked and neglected our natural resources and have made little or no attempt either to attract or hold industry within the state.

When this war is ended, the great crying need confronting us will be jobs—jobs for eleven million returning veterans and other millions of war workers. States will be competing with each other to attract new industry. Iowa must be prepared to meet this problem, to hold the great industry which is already started, and to attract additional industries to provide jobs for our sons and daughters.

The time has come when Iowa must stop losing to other states the most valuable product she produces—our sons and daughters who are leaving our colleges and universities to find employment in other states. I believe it to be a part of wisdom and of statesmanship to have the vision necessary to solve this problem.

The work of the Iowa Industrial and Defense Council must be continued. The opportunity to encourage the permanent development of the natural resources lies before you.

I believe that some organization to stimulate and encourage industry in Iowa will produce large dividends for labor and for agriculture, as well as for the industry concerned. Local governments, as well as the whole state may profit from such action.

Your vision and determination in meeting this challenge may well determine the future of Iowa for the next century.

LABOR

I want to repeat what I said a few minutes ago. Iowa is a great industrial state. Great, new war industries have come to Iowa. Existing industries have converted from peace to wartime production. Items of great importance to the war effort have been produced in our state. Many army and navy awards have come to us. When the story finally can be told, it will be a brilliant chapter in Iowa’s contribution to the war effort.

It has been my privilege to visit several of our war factories and see first hand the job being done by both management and labor in this field of war production.

Iowa has had a minimum of labor difficulty and is to be congratulated on the record of continuous production. Labor and management have earned commendation on their spirit of cooperation and common sense which has made this record possible. Production experts are high in their praise of the ability and the record made by Iowa labor.

WORKMEN’S COMPENSATION

In keeping with the increasing importance of industry to the state of Iowa, I recommend that you give careful consideration to the necessity of the revision of some of the labor laws in this state. At the present time, Iowa has no occupational disease law. The liberal interpretation given by the industrial commissioner to our present laws fails to cover many of the diseases contracted by workmen, resulting from the type of employment in which they are engaged. Occupational disease laws are complicated, different conditions exist in different states. I recommend the enactment of an occupational disease law in the state of Iowa. If sufficient information is not now at hand to permit the enactment of such a law at this session of legislature, I suggest that provision be made for the gathering of such information for presentation at the next session of the legislature. The provisions of the workmen compensation law and unemployment compensation might well be liberalized in this state. Such a liberalization might in part meet some of the problems which may confront us at the conclusion of this war. I earnestly recommend to you careful consideration of such liberalization.

AGRICULTURE

Iowa agriculture has faced a most difficult and trying year. The farmer faced the necessity of increased production to meet the demands of the war. Adverse weather conditions hampered him in the planting of his crops. Some fields were replanted three or four times. Short of help, short of machinery, hampered by the weather, confused by a multitude of red tape and governmental restrictions, our farmers on the food front came through with a smashing victory. They produced one of the largest crops in history. I have seen tractor lights in the middle of the night as our farmers faced an emergency of planting or harvest. Fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, were combat teams that turned in a thrilling and a successful performance.

Next year will be an even more difficult one. Machinery is growing older. Man power is growing shorter. Dad and mother are four years older and worn by the strain of these war years. We have confidence they will face the task in the same resolute spirit they have in the past. They will get the job done.

While the condition of Iowa agriculture is prosperous, the end of the war is certain to bring readjustments. We must look to the future to preserve the stability and prosperity of this vital industry in Iowa.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Iowa’s greatest natural resource is her fertile soil. In 1939, the Iowa legislature had the wisdom and foresight to pass a soil conservation law. Today 16 million acres are in soil conservation districts and 47 of the 99 counties have county wide districts.

The demands of war are depleting our soil, despite the progress made. During the flash floods of the single month of May last year, it is estimated that 154 million dollars worth of top soil washed from our sloping fields and was lost forever. Losses ranged as high as 200 tons of top soil per acre.

The problems of drainage and flood control are closely related to soil conservation. River valley control measures enacted by the federal government will not solve this important problem. It must be solved farm by farm, creek by creek, and county by county.

When the soil of a farm is depleted, the income from that farm is lowered. The farmer becomes less able to hire help, buy new machinery, or provide the necessities and comforts of life for himself and family. Labor suffers, the local merchant suffers. The ability of the farmer and merchant to pay taxes for the support of the city, county and school district is impaired. The economic stability of the community and the state is lessened.

We have made a splendid beginning. We must increase our effort at the earliest opportunity.

ROADS

The transportation system of any nation is the arteries through which the life blood of commerce and business flow. In the last two decades we have made a tremendous progress in the building and maintenance of the road system of this state. In the beginning the urgent necessity of first building the primary road system and providing hard surface roads to compose a trunk system of roads was recognized. This program was instituted with the understanding that, as soon as possible, additional provision would be made for the building and improving of our other rural roads.

Substantial progress has already been made in this direction by the adoption of the farm to market road program. Funds have been accumulating, in both state and county road funds, because war restrictions have prohibited road building. It is hoped that by 1950 the primary road debt may be completely paid off. With the payment of the balance of the road bonds and the ending of the war, it would appear that a larger portion of the motor vehicle and gasoline tax might be devoted to the building of farm to market roads, and the building and the maintenance of roads within cities and towns.

When it is possible to build roads again and new road programs are considered, I recommend that among the first roads to be built and improved should be those roads used by our mail carriers and for the transportation of our children to school.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

It is difficult for the average citizen to visualize the institutions of Iowa. He is apt to see the Capitol building and think of it as the principal building aside from our universities and colleges. Iowa is a great state with public institutions and property scattered throughout it. We have been building a splendid system of parks within this state. There are fifteen Board of Control institutions which house some 15,000 unfortunate citizens. There are men and women in our penitentiaries. In our orphanages and in our training schools at Eldora and Mitchellville, we have neglected and unfortunate boys and girls. Approximately ten thousand unfortunate men and women are confined in our mental hospitals and our institutions for feeble minded and epileptics. Too often these unfortunates tend to be the forgotten boys and girls, men and women, of Iowa. During the last few months I have visited many of these institutions. What I have to say in no way is a reflection upon the Board of Control—they have been doing a splendid job. During the last six years, the Iowa Legislature has been appropriating increased sums of money for new buildings and for the rehabilitation of these institutions and those confined within them. Some of this money is still on hand, unspent because of war time restrictions. In spite of the progress of the last six years, a very large program of remodeling and new building is necessary at most of these fifteen institutions to place them in a condition of which we can be proud. Substantial numbers of the buildings at these institutions are 60 to 80 years old or even older. They have had hard usage; they have served their day well, but many of them are out of date and should be completely replaced. Others can be rehabilitated. Several of these institutions are greatly over-crowded and additional space to house these unfortunates should be built as soon as building restrictions are lifted. Time does not permit me to go into detail with reference to the good features of these institutions—and they are many—or the faults that need to be remedied. A careful and thorough survey by experts of housing conditions has been made for the Board of Control and will be placed upon your desks. This report and the askings of the Board of Control merit your careful and sympathetic consideration. Forty to sixty years of depreciation and obsolescence should be taken care of. I urge you to carefully consider the problem, the need of rehabilitation of old buildings, the providing of new buildings for the housing of our unfortunates, the providing of adequate living quarters and support for the employees at these institutions and for providing an adequate staff of psychiatrists to meet the needs of our mental institutions.

In addition to the fifteen institutions under the Board of Control, there are five institutions of higher learning. We are proud of the young men and young women they have produced. With the end of the war large numbers of our returning soldiers are going to seek to finish their education and to prepare themselves for the future. These institutions will have to meet an abnormal condition. I am sure that you will lend a friendly ear to the problems which confront the universities and colleges of Iowa.

Iowa has a beautiful Capitol building. To preserve it, funds should be provided to make the repairs which become necessary in any building as the result of age and constant use. This large building investment can be protected by making repairs in the near future. “A stitch in time saves nine,” is a good adage to observe in both public and private affairs.

Competent architects and contractors can estimate the usual depreciation in a building of any kind of construction. A careful survey of the properties owned by the state and provision by a permanent statute providing funds to meet such depreciation and wear is worthy of consideration. It is a business practice followed by successful business today. With the burden of other legislative problems, it is impossible for each Legislature to inform itself and wisely provide for the necessary maintenance of state property. Economy does not always consist in pinching pennies. It also consists in the wise investment of money. Funds are available without the levying of new or additional taxes to make extensive improvements. Such use of surplus monies should be classed as an investment which will yield substantial dividends. Such a program of capital improvements should be set up, not only to meet the needs of the institutions, but to aid in meeting the problem of reemployment after the war.

POST WAR PLANNlNG

Another report into which a tremendous amount of work has gone is the report of the Post War Planning Committee.

The reverses which we have suffered on the western front in recent weeks have largely dispelled the undue optimism and wishful thinking in which we were indulging. Thoughtful men are ceasing to predict when the war will end. We hope it will be over before 1947—when the next Legislature meets. Today our job—the job of every able bodied man and women, boy and girl, is to make an increased effort in the field of production and of self sacrifice. No effort on our part must be spared to shorten or to end the tremendous sacrifices and losses the war is now causing. No word we can say or deed we can do can add lustre to the heroic record our sons and daughters are writing in flaming red on battlefields around the world.

We can and we must preserve for them good, honest, efficient, representative self government at home. Federal, state and local units of government must make any sacrifices necessary to keep our government on a sound basis. We have no right to ask these sons and daughters to fight the war, shoulder the burden of paying two-thirds of the cost of the war when they return, and pay a public debt incurred by needless public extravagance and waste. These times call for patriotism and unselfishness at home, as well as on the battle front.

We must consider and plan for the future. The old maxim is “in timeof peace prepare for war.” I say in time of war, we must also prepare for peace. I recommend to you the consideration of the report of the Post War Planning Committee. It contains many worthy suggestions. Let us not forget, however, in planning and financing such programs, that, to a very large extent we shall be spending the potential wages of those we are seeking to aid—the returning veteran.

Let us make sure that we are really benefiting our returning heroes and not doing something in their name that will primarily benefit others. Let us remove the patriotic wrappings of such legislation and examine what is really inside.

SALES AND USE TAX

Since the adoption of the Sales and Use Tax in this state, the burden of this tax has been imposed upon the political subdivisions of the state, such as, cities, counties, and school districts. These taxes have been paid out of monies collected by these local subdivisions for the support of these units of government. In a sense it constitutes a tax upon a tax. Local communities are having and will continue to have difficult financial problems to meet. It is my belief that the imposition of this tax by the state upon these units of local government is both economically unsound and unnecessary. It is difficult of administration and a burden upon the several subdivisions of state government, seemingly out of proportion to any desirable benefit.

Provision should be made to relieve them of the payment of any sales or use tax in the future. It is estimated that the elimination of this tax will remove a burden upon the cities, counties and school districts of the state of approximately three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

TAXES

The problem of taxes is one of the oldest and most controversial subjects of government. Mary and Joseph were on their way to Jerusalem in response to the command of a Roman tax collector, when Jesus was born.

“Taxation without representation is tyranny,” was a slogan of the founding fathers of this country.

Today the American taxpayer is faced with the greatest tax burden and debt in history.

A great deal has been said during the last few months about the balances in our State treasury. Fortunately the State of Iowa as a unit of government is in a sound, prosperous condition. This is the result of careful budgeting by Legislatures, economical administration of funds by officials and increased receipts in certain funds as a result of the war. This has given rise in some instances to an unwarranted feeling of great wealth. Iowa is not a wealthy state. Before the war our per capita income was neither the greatest nor the smallest. Iowa financially is a middle-class state.

A substantial part of the funds accumulated is pledged under our constitution and laws to specific purposes. Unemployment compensation funds and road funds are examples. They cannot be spent for any other purpose. Part of the surplus must be used to replace worn out equipment which cannot now be replaced because of the war. I shall not attempt to quote figures to you. They are available in the reports of the treasurer and different departments.

Sound though the condition of our state finances are, there is another side to the picture. We are partners with the federal govenment in the most costly war of all time. As partners, we as a state are liable for the debts incurred by the federal government either for fighting this war or for political pork barrel appropriations.

The President has told us that the cost of this war is approximately 250 million dollars a day. Iowa’s share each 24 hours is about five million dollars. We are paying about one-third the cost of the war and going in debt for two-thirds of it. Iowa’s share of the debt for war today and every day the war continues will be about three million, three hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars. By the end of January—one month’s share of the war debt for Iowa will be one hundred million dollars, an amount several times that of our surplus. It is a debt Iowa must pay.

Let us use another yard stick with which to measure our financial condition. The federal debt by the end of the war will be approximately 300 billion dollars. Iowa’s share of this debt will be 6 billion dollars. The assessed valuation of all the real estate in Iowa, assessed at sixty per cent of its actual value is two billion, four hundred and sixty-five million, four hundred and three thousand dollars.

Today Iowa spends for the support of her public school system and for the cost of every city and county government in Iowa, 100 million dollars. Iowa’s share of the interest upon the estimated federal debt at two per cent would be 120 million dollars a year. Further comparisons might be made, but time forbids.

It appears that the problem of public financing for the federal government, for our state and for our counties, cities and school districts, will be one of our most perplexing and vexing questions after the war. The part of wisdom suggests that a careful survey be made by experts of Iowa’s tax system and of her resources. Such a survey should be available for the consideration of the next legislature. Although the receipts in some Iowa tax funds are increasing, others are decreasing. Both increases and decreases result largely because of the war.

Some people seem to have the belief that the state treasury is an inexhaustible source of money. Iowa owns no money and does not have primarily within itself the means to produce wealth. Neither can we print or coin the token we call money. Money is created only by the creation of goods, or the rendering of service. After the farmer, the laborer and the factory have created wealth, the government demands a part of it for the protection it has given to the individual or the business. Iowa can have, within its means, whatever the citizenry is willing to pay for. For every appropriation of public money, for public service, there must be a tax for the citizenry to pay—a tax that must be paid by the widow, the orphan, the weak and the old, the poor man as well as the rich man.

Many demands will be made upon you. They will earn your sympathy. Most will carry advantages of definite worth. They will suggest services and comforts of great appeal. I can only suggest. You must legislate. I humbly remind that when you legislate, you should act in the interest of all the people. Public money is a public trust. Much of the surplus we have accumulated is the result of the war. It is in a sense “blood money” and must be administered as a sacred trust.

I suggest that before you begin to appropriate money for specific purposes, you carefully determine just how much you have to spend; that you carefully total all the askings of money that are made of you, then see if there is money enough to go around before commencing to spend. If there is not enough money, two courses lie open before you. You must either make an equitable distribution of the funds you have among the different askings, or levy additional taxes. Personally I feel that we should cut our pattern to fit our cloth.

Let us not forget the story about the dream of the old king who saw the seven fat cows followed by the seven lean ones. The war-created fat years we have today are bound to be followed by the lean years of depression tomorrow. Our watch word may well be “Waste not, want not.”

The cost of state and local government is increasing just as is the cost of operating any business. Some of the increases are caused by competition between industry and the federal government for man power.

Today no one knows the length or final cost of the war. No one knows what new or additional taxes the federal government will have to levy to support the war. Our patriotism and determination to win the war and a proper sense of prudence and caution indicate that no new or additional taxes should be levied during this emergency.

The surpluses now on hand, together with revenues in funds increased by the war, should be sufficient to meet all of the needs of Iowa government during the next biennium. I believe that thrift and economy in government, in business, and in personal affairs is a prerequisite to public or private success in time of either war or peace.

LIBERALISM

We are living in an age of change. While the war is raging, great social changes are going on in the world. Some are good and some are bad. In the name of liberalism many experiments are being tried in governments around the world. Many of them have been tried in principle thousands of years ago and have repeatedly failed. They will fail again. Things are not necessarily bad because they are old. Neither are they necessarily good because they are new.

Our American system of self government, while new, has given us one of the most stable governments in the world. It stands as one of the oldest governments in continuous existence in the world today. It is based on the theory of division of power—division of power between the Federal and State governments. Division of power in both Federal and State governments was also made by the establishment of three coordinated branches—the legislative, the executive and judicial.

Today we face the danger of government becoming too big. Vast new powers have been given to or assumed by Federal authority as a result of the depression and of the war. A few years ago liberals feared Wall Street and the financial interests vested there. Wall Street was accused of using the power of wealth to influence elections, to control legislation, and to direct public affairs, all for its own selfish benefit. Today every charge made against the dangers of the concentration of great power in the hands of Wall Street and the money barons can be made against Washington. Great concentration of power in the hands of any small group of individuals, whether it be industry, government, or some other group, is a threat to liberty.

Here in Iowa, government in the past has kept in the middle of the road. We have tried to avoid getting to the right or to the left of center. We have tried to follow a common-sense middle-of-the-road course.

The world today, like the Tower of Babel, is confused by the sound of many voices talking in many tongues. In all of this confusion Iowa can make a real contribution to the world of tomorrow by adhering to time-proven principles. Let us be neither the last to discard the old nor yet the first to put on the new. Standing on the isthmus of the present, we shall take stock of our situation, look back for guidance to the failures and successes of the past and then press on to the future. Let us all strive to keep government in Iowa on a common-sense, middle-of-the-road course.

Sound State government is the foundation upon which our Federal government was built. To preserve it is a matter of primary concern. If we are to resist the trend toward centralization of government in America and around the world, we here in Iowa must face the responsibilities and opportunities that times like these present to us.

CONCLUSION

Time does not permit the discussion, or even mention of all of the problems which shall confront you. From time to time I shall be glad to visit with you and listen to your views on the various problems of legislation and to express to you my views upon these subjects. The latchstring to the Governor’s office is always out to the members of the Legislature and the door is open wide. The most important task which shall confront me during the next two years shall be that of rendering whatever assistance I can give to you during this session of the Legislature. I want you to feel free, at all times, to come to my office for a discussion of the problems that you must consider.

You are meeting during historic times, during a troubled period in the history of the state, the nation and the world. You will not always be able to satisfy the demands of every group. Compromises may have to be made which will be unsatisfactory, even to yourself, in order to reach a solution to a pressing problem. But if you seek to fully inform yourself before taking action and in the light of that information seek to act for the benefit of all of the people in the State of Iowa as distinguished from a particular group or class, I am sure you will be rewarded by the satisfaction that can come only from a task well done. Your tasks call for the wisdom of a Solomon, the courage of a Daniel, the strength of a Sampson, the fidelity of a Ruth and the compassion and tenderness of the Master.

In conclusion I bring you the words of Kipling:

*“If you can keep your head when all about you*

*Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,*

*If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,*

*But make allowance for their doubting too;*

*If you can wait and not be tired of waiting,*

*Or being lied about don’t deal in lies,*

*Or being hated don’t give way to hating,*

*And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise!*

*If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken*

*Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,*

*If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,*

*Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch,*

*If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,*

*If all men count with you, but none too much:*

*If you can fill the unforgiving minute*

*With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,*

*Yours is the earth and everything that’s in it,*

*And—which is more—you’ll be a man, my son!”*

And when the final gavel shall have fallen on this session and this session shall have passed on into history, may you hear those welcome word, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”