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

GOVERNOR’S INAUGURAL MESSAGE

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Fifty-second General Assembly of Iowa, Honored Guests and Citizens:

This is an historic session. Iowa is entering upon her second century of statehood. The nation and the world are entering upon a period of postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction. Two years ago when you met, the dark clouds of war still hung low o’er the world. Millions of helpless men and women were in prison camps. The torture chambers and the murder factories of unforgettable horror such Buchenwald were daily claiming hundreds of victims. The mighty engines of destruction which modern science had created were everywhere spreading death and destruction. Christian civilization was reeling under the impact. The hearts and souls of men everywhere were gripped with fear.

Now the war is over, and the victory is ours. We give thanks to the Almighty whose mercy and strength were our refuge and shield in those dark days of trouble. No longer do our young men and young women face the hazards and horrors of modem war. Once again most of them are at home. To those who suffered and sacrificed, to those who paid the supreme sacrifice and will never return home again, we owe a great debt and a sacred obligation. We meet here today as a free people because their devotion and their sacrifice to the noblest ideals of Americanism saved us from enslavement by the dictators.

Once again the sons and daughters of Iowa on battlefields round the world wrote in flaming deeds with crimson blood the motto of the State, “Our Liberties we prize, and our Rights we will maintain.” We shall be worthy of their great sacrifices, and the sacrifices of those who fell before them only if we consecrate ourselves to the task before us of building a just and lasting peace.

We should also pause and pay tribute to the Iowa men and women, boys and girls who stayed at home. In the home and in the school, on the farm and in the factory, they loyally supported every war effort. Cooperation between labor, agriculture, industry and government won the war. Cooperation between the statesmen and the nations of the world can win the peace.

You meet here in this Fifty-second General Assembly during one of the most crucial periods of American history. Added to the neglects and omissions of the past are the problems growing out of the war. The people who placed upon your shoulders the mantle of authority had confidence in your integrity and ability to face the problems of the hour. In accepting the respective offices to which we have been chosen, we are assuming a heavy burden of responsibility. We are likewise afforded an unusual opportunity for constructive service of enduring worth to future generations. The task will not be easy. The cost of things most worth while, most precious, is always great. The military war is over. The war against intolerance, greed, monopoly, dishonesty and social injustice begins anew.

Seldom, if ever, has any Iowa legislature been confronted with more difficult financial problems. Many cities, counties and school districts are in financial distress. Our state educational institutions are crowded with the greatest number of young men and young women seeking a college education in the history of the state. Our hospitals for the mentally ill, suffering from the accumulated omissions and neglects of more than a generation, claim your consideration.

Mounting costs resulting from unwise federal financial policies add fuel to the blaze. Today state and local governments are harvesting the bitter fruits of national waste and extravagance. They are paying with compound interest the cost of some of the so-called federal gratuities for which a few short years ago they so eagerly clamored. (Quote) “Whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap” (unquote). This is the eternal law of life which is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

You are all familiar with what has happened to your family budget. The constantly increasing cost of food, clothing and shelter has reduced the amount you can save or to spend for luxuries. The same inflationary forces loosened by reckless spending in Washington and by the war which unbalanced your family budget, have created financial difficulties for every local and state government throughout the land. Under such circumstances, government must follow the same course which an individual would find wise to adopt. It must make provision for the necessities of government before considering expenditures for the luxuries of governmental services.

Shortly after the termination of the fighting in Europe, a great editor, Malcom Bingay, visited Germany and inspected its prison camps. In an address to the Chamber of Commerce upon his return home, he made this statement: (Quote) “Everything that has happened in Europe can be explained in just three words,—No Moral Law” (unquote). The spirit of communism and the spirit of socialism abroad in the world today is the spirit of materialism and greed. Our defenses against the forces of materialism depend not alone in armies and navies, in aeroplanes and bombs. They depend to a very substantial degree upon the moral and spiritual forces which motivate the thinking and acting of our citizens. We can best preserve the ideals of Americanism and assist in achieving the peace of the world by practicing the principles of Americanism and preserving peace in Iowa.

True Americanism finds its doctrines of equality, tolerance, and service, proclaimed by the Christ in the New Testament. These teachings are the very foundations upon which all human liberty rests. The formula for peace was proclaimed 2000 years ago. Communism is the spirit of atheism and materialism. Democracy is the spirit of Christianity, unselfishness and peace.

Let us stand upon the high ground. If we shall take our position and plant our standards upon high ground, no enemy will be able to dislodge us.

These are times that try men’s souls. Public service today calls for courage and fortitude just as service in the country’s armed forces called for courage and fortitude. Men must be willing to suffer political injury and death in the preservation of their ideals on the political battlefield as men faced physical injury and death on the military battlefield. In the last war a hard-boiled marine sergeant called to some men who hesitated going over the top, “Come on you fellows, you don’t want to live forever, do you?” In that same spirit of sacrifice and devotion to duty, let us approach the task which lies ahead.

REORGANIZATION

While government does not exist for the purpose of making money, it is in a very real sense a business, the biggest business in the state. The commodity it has to sell is service to the people. It provides protection of our health. It provides fire and police departments, good roads, education and the like.

Like business, government should always be on the alert for better methods of providing service at a reduced cost. But, unfortunately, government is not always spurred on by the keen competition which exists in the business world. On the contrary, the spur applied to government is too often that of a vested interest seeking to create or to retain some unjustified preference over other persons or groups in return for political support at the polls. Inertia is one of government’s fundamental weaknesses. It is one of the costs of representative self-government.

The need for reform in legislative procedure has existed for years in Washington. At last mild reforms are now under way, but not without opposition. Overlapping and costly bureaus which have long outlived their usefulness are vigorously resisting demobilization.

The record of state government is not spotless. A generally excellent report on the reorganization of Iowa government was prepared in 1933. Yet few of its recommendations have been adopted.

Reform in court procedure, recommended in 1913, did not become a reality until 1943.

Many committees have been provided for by the legislature to study and recommend changes in our tax laws. Scarely a governor in the last forty years has failed to discuss the problem and point out needed reforms. Yet some of these defects have continued for a half century.

Surely it would be wise to pause on the threshold of our second century as a sovereign commonwealth and take stock.

Working with the machinery of government, as the Chief Executive, gives one a very different view of its problems and efficiency than the view which the legislator gets in the short time he is here.

I desire to call your attention to some of the changes which I believe could be made with beneficial effect.

PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

In many respects the operation of state government is similar to the administration of a large business. There are more than fifty departments, and many sub-divisions, employing thousands of people. The war has thus far made it impossible to build a new office building provided for, and thus bring all of these scattered departments together. The authority for fixing and changing salaries is divided and there is much inequality between departments in the salaries paid for work of a similar nature.

There are frequent attempts to pay special compensation to some employees by changing the titles of their positions without changing or adding to their duties or responsibilities. Few records are kept showing when the employee commenced to work for the state, their qualifications and experience, the departments in which they have been employed, their vacation leave, sick leave, and other pertinent personnel information.

The compensation of some employees is determined by the merit council. Each elective official determines the salary of the employees in his own department. Some salaries are fixed by boards. In some instances salaries are now paid in part by federal funds and state funds.

Some departments are not under the budget and insist upon the right of paying higher salaries for that reason.

The present situation is confusing and indefensible. The appointment of a personnel director, responsible to the executive council, would do much to bring order out of a rather chaotic condition. It would ferret out and eliminate unnecessary employees, and end inequalities at a saving to the taxpayers.

FOUR YEAR TERM

After years of observation, and growing out of my own experience of the last two years as governor, I am convinced that a single four year term would provide better government to the people of Iowa than two successive terms of two years each.

The reasons for such a change were forcefully stated thirty-two years ago by Governor Clarke. He said: “As it is, he enters upon his first term with the incoming of a General Assembly. That ought not to be so, but I will not discuss that question. Soon, if not immediately, after the adjournment of the legislature, if the experience of recent years is to be taken as a precedent, he must begin preparations for and eventually enter upon a long speaking campaign for renomination. Securing it he must practically continue his campaign for re-election. He must do these things or, sometimes, surrender all he stood for and abandon all that he hoped to accomplish in the way of public service. All of this constantly distracts his mind from his public duties, prevents him from devoting all his energies to the public good. It all seriously affects his efficiency as a public servant.

“If also, he should be a timid soul, thinking more of office than of public duty, and afraid of his fellow citizens, rather than challenging them to things that make for human betterment, he might move softly, gently, whispering through a first term in the hope of no antagonism for a second. During a second term he might become courageous when there was no enemy in view and nobody could get at him, and might really accomplish something.”

These arguments apply with equal force to other state and county officers.

Since that time state government has grown tremendously, and the work of the governor has more than doubled. We have added the highway department, the social welfare department, with all of its sub-divisions of old age assistance, blind assistance, aid to dependent children, etc., the public safety department with its highway patrol, motor vehicle division, driver license examinations, vehicle licenses and the like, the employment security commission, the liquor commission, as well as others.

They all call for the attention and supervision of the governor’s office. The governor is called upon to undertake this increased burden, with the same sized staff he had years ago.

I suggest that you take the steps necessary to secure an appropriate amendment to the Constitution, and changes in our statutes.

HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

We ofttimes complain of duplication of agencies in the federal government, but the state is sometimes guilty of the same offense. We are maintaining two historical departments; one in Des Moines and one in Iowa City. The one at Iowa City is responsible neither to the university nor to the state officials. Increased efficiency and service to the whole state at a reduced expense should result in merging the department at Iowa City with the one at Des Moines.

The Brookings report makes such a recommendation in this language: “The chief need of the historical, memorial and art department is for co-ordination with the historical society and the university. This can only be accomplished by a partial consolidation. There is unnecessary duplication and waste in the maintenance of two separate historical libraries and two newspaper collections.”

FIRE INSPECTION

The disastrous hotel fires throughout the nation, including the one at Dubuque, have focused the attention of the nation on this subject.

Our law now lodges the duty of making fire inspections of hotels with the Department of Agriculture. Logically this duty should be vested in the fire marshal.

I suggest that it be so transferred and that the whole law with reference to the duties and authority of the fire marshal be revised and strengthened.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCE COMMISSIONERS AND

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Election after election a large number of candidates seek nomination as Commerce Commissioners. Frequently no one receives thirty-five per cent of the votes and the nomination is finally made by a convention. It is doubtful if one out of twenty voters could name the candidates for this office. The work of this commission, which is of great importance, is primarily administrative and not policy forming. It is of no greater importance, however, than that of the Highway Commission, the Board of Social Welfare, the Employment Security Commission, and other commissions which are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

I can see no harm, and do see much good, resulting in changing this office from an elective to an appointive office.

For many years there has been a great deal of discussion of the need for a public utilities commission. One of the principal arguments in the past has been that the individual citizen or the local municipality was not always able to cope with great corporations. To date, however, the rates of utilities have generally been reasonable and compare favorably with other states where there is a utilities commission.

Recent decisions by the supreme court, as well as the action of certain federal departments in attempting to assume jurisdiction of utilities matters in states where there is no state public utility commission, raises the question whether or not it would be wise to enact a state utility law for the purpose of protecting the state against the arbitrary actions of the federal government. If such a law were deemed advisable its administration might well be placed under the jurisdiction of the Iowa State Commerce Commission.

VETERANS

The problems of veterans affect a large portion of our citizenry. At the present time, there are several departments dealing with veterans’ affairs, such as graves registration, the Adjutant General’s office, a records division in the department of history, a bonus board, and the work for the Spanish American War Veterans and the G.A.R. I believe that the interests of the veterans of the state of Iowa would be better served by the creation of a department of veterans’ affairs to deal with all veterans’ problems.

The last session of the legislature passed an annual tax exemption law, which is in effect a yearly bonus. It also passed many other veterans’ laws. Doubtless you will have presented to you for consideration, legislation providing a cash bonus for the veterans of the last war. You can initiate such legislation. Its approval in the last analysis, because of constitutional provisions, rests with the people. I feel confident that all service men, as well as other citizens, would desire this legislature to first consider the essential needs of the state such as education, health, state hospitals, welfare, and other essential needs, which are of primary importance to all citizens, including the veterans and their families.

After you have carefully studied both the financial resources and the basic needs of the state, and have arranged for the revenues with which these needs are to be met, you should then consider the ability and the resources of the state to pay a bonus.

These matters should be considered on the basis of justice and equity, and not on the basis of partisanship.

HOUSING

During the last generation and since the end of the first World War, home building has not kept pace with the needs of our growing population. With the end of the war many young people who had married during the war found themselves unable to find living quarters in which to establish their homes. Those whose economic status permitted them to consider building a home found a shortage of material and of labor as well as exorbitantly high prices to deter them. Those who desired to rent discovered that various federal policies were a restraining influence on those who normally would invest their capital in rental properties. The coming year holds a promise of substantial relief.

Nevertheless, you should consider the problem in all of its aspects. Some cities and towns desire the right to extend sewer and water facilities to new additions at public expense and find they have no authority to do so. Some of our larger communities would find it profitable to embark upon a slum clearance program, but find our legislation inadequate or lacking.

I especially urge you to study the plans which have been developed and placed in operation in other states for the clearing of blighted areas, and drawing upon their experience, adopt those features which you find desirable into our law.

BOARD OF CONTROL

In recent months, after years of indifference, the public conscience has been awakened to some of the needs and problems of the state institutions.

Two years ago I called attention to this problem when I said: “Too often these unfortunates tend to be the forgotten boys and girls, men and women, of Iowa . . . 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 wartime 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. Several of these institutions are greatly overcrowded and additional space to house these unfortunates should be built as soon as building restrictions are lifted . . . 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 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.”

The legislature took heed of the situation by sharply increasing the funds for maintenance and providing over six million dollars for new buildings and repairs. They were then roundly condemned as spendthrifts. Headlines such as “Legislature came, surplus went” were their reward. A few months later they heard themselves condemned ofttimes by the same sources as niggardly. Their actions merited no such condemnation. Not only did they increase support and initiate a building program, but they provided for a study of the mental institutions.

During the last two years, I have instituted several other studies, and reports of vital importance have been made. They include the report on diet made by Capt. Mary O’Neal, who was head dietitian at Ft. Des Moines; the farm report and report on diet made by experts from the Iowa State College; the population survey report made by Dr. Ray Wakeley of Iowa State College; the report of Dr. Frank E. Leslie, psychiatrist, employed by the board; the survey of the penal and corrective institutions, and the report of the district court judges on juvenile delinquency procedures. Without doubt you will gave these reports your careful consideration.

The experience of the last fifteen years, the various reports, my own personal investigations and experience, all point to one conclusion—the need of a thorough revision and reorganization of the machinery and methods of supervising and operating these institutions. Obsolete statutes, impossible of performance, such as the requirement that board members must talk to each inmate every six months when they visit the institution, should be repealed.

Much progress has been made in the administration of these institutions during the last two years, but much remains to be done.

Appropriations have been increased 54.79 per cent since 1933. They must be further increased.

But money alone is not enough. The machinery of administration must be overhauled.

I recommend that provision be made for a superintendent of mental hospitals, a superintendent of penal and corrective institutions and a superintendent of industries. They should be men of special training and experience. They should be responsible for repairing and supervising programs appropriate to their respective positions.

A farm manager to direct the operations on the thousands of acres of state farm lands is needed. A dietitian, who would prepare menus providing balanced diets, as well as uniform recipes is needed in preparing meals for thousands of people. Such a dietitian would be able to improve the diet and reduce the cost, and the existing waste.

I recommend that these superintendents be under the direction or a single commissioner of public institutions and that the present three member board of control system be abolished.

I also recommend that the interim committee be abolished. It has operated primarily to supervise the actions of the board of control.

The most of its activities have dealt with supplementing the funds of the board in the event that the budget provided by the legislature proved to be inadequate because of some unseen problem.

Under the reorganization proposed it is doubtful that they could be of material aid in bettering the administration of the institutions.

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Among the recommendations of the school code study committee was one for making the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction appointive rather than elective.

I believe that this recommendation is sound and worthy of your consideration.

TRANSFER PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Included in the recommendations for reorganization by the Brookings Committee was one for the creation of a public safety department. Such a department was created in 1939 by consolidating many departments. There was a difference of opinion at that time whether this department should be under the governor or the attorney general.

Law enforcement problems should be handled by the attorney general’s office and he should be the chief law enforcement officer of the state. The responsibility and machinery for this purpose should not be divided as it now is. The recommendations of the Brookings report in this respect merit your attention. I quote a part of this report: “The governor is required by the constitution to take care that the laws are faithfully executed; but neither the constitution nor the statutes make it possible for him to fulfill this obligation. In emergencies he may call out the militia, an undesirable and expensive procedure; but in ordinary day-to-day enforcement, which specific duties of departmental administration have been improperly imposed upon him, his power to supervise, direct and control is decidedly limited. . . . Disregarding the courts and clerks of court, there are in Iowa over two thousand officials engaged in law enforcement. . . . Two thousand agents or agencies are operating or nominally operating as independent units. Half of them are responsible to no one but the people. Elected every two years, the good ones are thrown out regardless of merit, and just when they have acquired a few months of valuable training. The bad ones have to be endured; and because of politics or personality are frequently re-elected.

“Parts of the system date from mediaeval England. Neighborhood law enforcement was fairly satisfactory a century go; but today it is as antiquated as the stage coach. Nevertheless the system persists because of the power of habit and of vested interests.”

I recommend that the department of public safety be transferred to the attorney general’s office and that all law enforcement officials be made directly responsible to the attorney general as the chief law enforcement officer of the state.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The material destruction wrought by war is evidenced on every hand. It is easy to see. The wrecks of great cities, the hunger, disease, and misery are clear to every eye. Too few have seen, or paused to reflect upon the decline of ideals and the decay in morals which this war has wrought. Such a decline has followed every war. The delinquency of adults and juveniles alike is a threat to the foundations of our social institutions.

The immortal Lincoln said, “Let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, to tear the character of his own and his children’s liberty. Let reference for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap. Let it be taught in the schools, in seminaries, in colleges. Let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in the legislative halls, and enforced in the courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation.”

During one hundred years of statehood we have tried many plans for the regulation of the liquor traffic. None has proven wholly successful. The present state monopoly system was adopted to take the profit out of hard liquor and suppress illegal sale of it. In some communities it is working fairly well, in others it is not. There is a sharp and almost equal division of opinion as to the course which should be pursued. The state is receiving the profits from the business and at the same time placing the responsibility and the cost for law enforcement upon local governments. There appears to be a growing lack of respect for the law by citizens and a weakening of the enforcement of the law by officers in some communities.

It is the duty of the legislature to initiate new legislation and to amend the old laws in such a manner as to reflect the majority sentiment of the people they represent.

The mere fact that the subject is difficult and fraught with controversy is no excuse for avoiding its consideration.

A law which is not the outgrowth of and representative of the ideals and moral character of a people is scarce worth the paper on which it is written. The safety and the greatness of a nation rests not alone in the wisdom of statesmen and the bravery of soldiers, but rather in the character of the people.

*“Not gold, but only men can make*

*A people great and strong,*

*Men who for truth and honor’s sake,*

*Stand fast and suffer long.*

*Brave men who work while others sleep*

*Who dare while others fly—*

*They build a nation’s pillars deep*

*And lift them to the sky.”*

SCHOOLS

From the day the first school was opened in Lee County to this moment, our schools have been of primary concern to us. The last session of the Legislature made much progress in revising our school law, but much still remains to be done.

We are proud of the record of Iowa schools, but there are ways to advance their efficiency and standards.

In a very recent book “Education—America’s Magic,” Raymond N. Hughes, President Emeritus of Iowa State College, and William H. Lancelot, Professor of Vocational Education, made a careful analysis of the educational program in each state. Their statement, with reference to Iowa schools, is of great interest.

“Iowa, with an income per child of $2,020, ranks twenty-fourth in ability. However, in accomplishment, its rank is ninth, and its rank in the degree in which accomplishment is commensurate with ability is tenth.

“The state puts forth serious effort to secure suitable education for its children, spending 4.65 per cent of its income for education and ranking twelfth in effort. As to efficiency in the use of school funds its rank is eighth. Hence, it ranks in the highest quarter as to both of these criteria, which doubtless accounts for the fact that its accomplishments so greatly surpass its ability.

“Iowa is one of eleven states which rank higher in every other criterion than in ability.

“On the whole, it has a creditable record in education. Its apparent rank on all around educational performance is fifth.”

Thus we find that while President Hughes rates Iowa as twenty-fourth in financial ability to support education that he ranks it fifth in all around performance. His analysis is in contrast with the inference that Iowa is at the bottom of the list of states in the support of education because of the amount of state aid.

The amount of state aid is not a true yardstick by which to measure our support of education. The per pupil cost and the financial ability of the citizenry is a much more accurate yardstick by which to measure our interest in and support of education.

The abandonment of a levy of several million dollars of state property tax in 1942, the assistance to local government by the state to the amount of 55 million dollars, in shared taxes, is a direct as well as an indirect aid to schools.

According to a study recently made of over 100 Iowa high schools by Mr. Leo Howe, there is a wide variation in the way school funds are used. From 1937 to 1946 the cost per pupil in the Des Moines Schools had increased only 33.68 per cent. One Iowa school increased the cost per pupil 178.29 per cent. The average increased cost per pupil in the state for this period was 60.82 per cent. The salaries of teachers and superintendents in these schools during this period was increased 49.74 per cent.

Last year in Iowa, a high school with only four pupils was in operation. The cost per pupil was in excess of $1,200. This was in a community that was below the average in financial ability to support education. Many examples could be given of both grade and high schools in the country and in the city where the cost per pupil is exorbitantly high.

The financial problems of schools are very similar in the most part to those of other units of government. There is, however, one important exception. We are operating a larger number of rural schools and high schools than we can efficiently or economically operate. We are wasting taxpayers’ dollars and wasting teaching ability.

We have counties with only three or four high schools and others with sixteen or seventeen high schools.

There are nearly 5,000 different school corporations following many different plans.

In many respects our plan of organization for schools is as out of date as the township road system.

We need larger economic and political units for our schools. Let me again quote from the Brookings report: “The data gathered relative to local school districts logically and inevitably lead to the conclusion that the whole groundwork of major economies and of major improvements in efficiency resides in the adoption of a larger political unit as a basis of school administration and support.

It is time to not only observe the symptoms of the disease, but to find and treat the cause of the ailment.

A sound assessing system, and a good reorganization, will do much to meet our school needs.

More than thirty years ago a governor of Iowa was saying “ninety-five per cent of the boys and girls never reach high school . . . the necessities of farm life almost preclude the farm boy from the town high school. He cannot start in with the opening of the schools in the towns the first of September, and if he could, he could not continue after the first of March. The scarcity of farm labor and the absolute necessity of the farmers in gathering crops and in preparing for them, and planting and cultivating absolutely forbid.

“This suggests almost necessarily the consolidation of country schools. I can see no escape from the ultimate result.”

Conditions have changed since that time. Power machinery has revolutionized the farm industry. Road conditions and transportation facilities have been greatly improved since the township school was established every two miles.

With changed conditions the need for reorganization and consolidation is much more urgent than it was thirty years ago. Indifference, local pride and selfishness have too often and for too long blocked progress in this field.

We need an acceptable and workable reorganization law. We need to study the economics of education. Local communities should not expect state aid for the operation of schools that are economically unsound without doing their share to correct such conditions. The state should be, and is willing to assume, a share of the cost of education.

As a state as a whole, we spend 4.65 per cent of our income for education as compared to 5.5 per cent by Utah. We rank twelfth among the states in effort to support education. The amount of support for our schools can and should be increased.

The inflation we are suffering from has made it impossible to operate many schools at the per capita cost per pupil now provided by statute. Early action should be taken to raise this limit.

The problems of our schools are inseparably interwoven within our social and economic life. A wise solution of our road problems, our assessment problems, and our tax problems will greatly benefit our schools.

The last session of the legislature was not able to reach an agreement on all of the laws suggested by the report of the school code committee. You should study this report again and give further consideration to these recommendations.

I particularly recommend that you consider the advantages of an optional county unit bill.

CONCLUSION

Members of the General Assembly, the wheel of destiny has placed in your hands a great responsibility and a great opportunity.

You are the first postwar assembly, the first to start off the second century of Iowa’s steady march of progress.

Great problems demand your consideration. Yours is the opportunity of correcting past omissions and neglects. Yours is the obligation of finding solutions for present problems, and laying the foundations of a better tomorrow.

Our English word “candidate” is derived from a Latin word meaning “clothed in white.” It originated out of the custom of the members of the Roman Senate to clothe themselves in garments of spotless white as a symbol of their freedom from personal corruption, bias or prejudice, and their willingness to consider all of the issues coming before them solely upon their merits.

You sit here not as individuals, not as the representatives of any county or district; nor as the representatives of any business, trade or profession to promote their selfish economic welfare at the expense of the general public.

You are the representatives of two and one-half million people. The welfare of their varied interests and the solution of their problems as it affects the welfare of all the people rests upon your shoulders.

You must act wisely for the foolish.

You must be strong for the weak.

You must be generous for the miserly.

You must be prudent for the wasteful and improvident.

You must have vision for the blind.

You must be unselfish for the selfish.

You must avoid the pitfalls of pride and prejudice, of ignorance and indifference and selfishness.

Your collective thought and action can and must reflect the best thought and action of a great people.

By virtue of the assumption of the duties of your office you have become the collective intelligence of Iowa, the very heart, soul and conscience of the state.

The people have trusted you. They believe in you. They demand that you be faithful to the trust reposed in you.

On every hand you will be beset with obstacles.

You will be denounced in the press and on the street corner for doing too little or too much, by men and women who have selfish interests, by those who are prejudiced, and by those who are uninformed and too busy to study all sides of the question.

The repetition of half truths will rise up to plague you.

You will be dined, cajoled and flattered by the selfish and self-seeking. You will be threatened with political death and reprisals by pressure groups.

Yet you will have hidden within you unsuspected and undiscovered springs of wisdom and strength.

High on an arch just outside the door of the Governor’s office, inscribed in letters of shining gold, are these words of truth: “nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.”

If you stand on high ground and always strive to do that which is right you shall need fear no adversary.

The Goliath of accumulated problems of war, of past neglect, of ignorance and selfishness challenge you. But the strength of a David is yours for the asking. You need not and dare not fail.

We stand on the threshold of a new century for Iowa. The world stands upon the threshold of a new age.

By making Iowa the best place in all the world in which to live, we shall help make the world a better place to live in.

*To every man there openeth*

*A high way and a low.*

*And the high soul climbs the high way*

*And the low soul gropes the low.*

*While in between on the misty flats*

*The rest drift to and fro.*

*But to every man there openeth*

*A high way and a low,*

*And every man decideth*

*The way his soul shall go.*

As you embark upon your labors may the spirit of truth and justice attend you. The hopes and prayers of Iowa people go with you!