

Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

THIS WEEK:

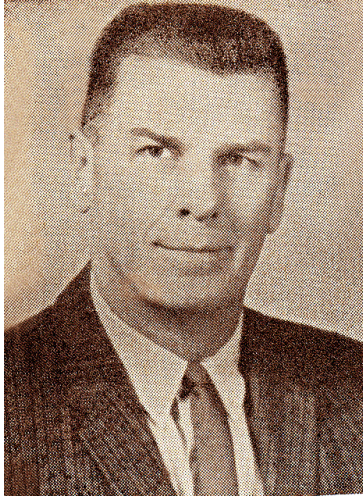
Iowa legislative party affiliations over the years

BACKGROUND:

This information is compiled from *The Iowa General Assembly: Our Legislative Heritage 1846-1980*. By Frank J Stork and Cynthia A Clingan.

Since 1846 when the First General Assembly convened, there have been hundreds of Democrat and Republican legislators. There have also been several other parties represented in the Iowa legislature. During the 1st through the 5th general assemblies, it was not surprising that there were several members of the Whig party. The 15th General Assembly consisted of 12 Democrats, 84 Republicans, and 54 Independents. The 17th General Assembly had two members from the Greenback party. There were six members of the National party in the 18th General Assembly. In 1886, the 21st General Assembly had no Democrats but 59 Fusion-Democrats. By 1890, the Union-Labor party had one member in the Senate and one member in the House of Representatives. In 1898, the House of Representatives had 31 Democrats, 62 Republican members, four Silver Republicans, and three Populists party members. The 64th General Assembly had one member with no party affiliation. Representative Richard Radl was serving his 4th term and had listed his party affiliation as a Democrat until his last term in 1971-1972.

Although collective information regarding the 64th Iowa General Assembly lists one person with no party affiliation in the book *The Iowa General Assembly: Our Legislative Heritage 1846-1980*, subsequent information in the book next to Representative Radl's name lists him as a Democrat. Furthermore, the Legislative website also lists Representative Radl as a Democrat, and his photo caption in the 1971-1972 *Official Register* lists no party affiliation.



Representative Radl

Representative Richard Martin Radl, Linn County. Born August 27, 1911, in Chicago, Illinois. Married Helen Bartlett; five children. Mechanical engineer and owner of Illinois Molded Plastics, Lisbon.