



*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: Letter to Governor Nelson Kraschel from President Franklin Roosevelt, regarding the Council of State Governments**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Council of State Governments (CSG) was founded during the Great Depression and for more than 75 years, CSG has worked to provide state leaders with what they need to succeed in difficult times. The members of CSG include every elected and appointed state and territorial official in the United States. Through committees and task forces, supported by the council's team of policy and research specialists, the council considers and makes recommendations on promising approaches to public policy.

The council is a strictly nonpartisan organization that brings state leaders together to share capitol ideas, providing them the chance to learn valuable lessons from each other. The council also fosters innovations in state government and shines a spotlight on examples of how ingenuity and leadership are transforming the way state government serves residents of the states and territories. CSG believes the states and territories are the vibrant laboratories of democracy and all states can benefit from a robust dialogue among state leaders.

**- David Adkins**  
Executive Director CEO  
Council of State Governments

**JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE**

January 10, 1939

The White House  
Washington

December 23, 1938.

My Dear Governor:

Any movement which has for its objective a greater cooperation between various governments within the United States deserves to be encouraged. The need in government everywhere, whether federal, state, or local, is efficiency. Only through practical demonstration that democracy is the most efficient form of government can we hope to perpetuate the institutions to which we owe all greatness.

I am pleased to know that the Fourth General Assembly of The Council of State Governments will consider the problems of federal-state cooperation in many fields of general activity. The plan to discuss the growing menace of trade barriers between the states is a splendid idea.

I do hope that every state legislature will be represented at the Fourth General Assembly and that the Governors of several states will appreciate, as I do, the importance of this movement and lend their support.

I trust that as a result of the Council's deliberations in Washington the aims and objectives of good government everywhere may be encouraged and advanced.

Very sincerely yours,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt