Lieutenant Governor Nicholas, President of the Senate, presiding, presented Governor Loveless, who delivered the following inaugural address:

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES, STATE OFFICIALS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is with a profound sense of humility that I assume my duties as Governor of Iowa. I appreciate deeply the honor conferred upon me by the people of Iowa in electing me to this position. But I also recognize that in taking the oath of office I have assumed responsibilities to all Iowans.

The program for my administration will be based upon certain fundamental principles. We must work together to improve the effectiveness of state administration by recognizing the distinction between policy making and administration and by clearly assigning responsibilities for each function to the proper branch of government.

The specific recommendations which I shall make do not represent any radical break with long recognized needs for governmental reform in Iowa. The Fifty-seventh General Assembly has at its disposal the results of several special study committees, as well as research reports of the Iowa Legislative Research Bureau. This vast amount of information, compiled at considerable expense, should be utilized, wherever possible, to facilitate the development of sound legislative programs.

With these general principles in mind, I respectfully submit the following recommendations covering the major areas of state governmental responsibility:

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the past half century, two sessions of the General Assembly have altered senatorial districts. In 1941, changes were made affecting four of the 50 districts; again, in 1953, four districts were modified. But the changes made have failed by a wide margin to satisfy the constitutional requirement that senatorial districts be apportioned according to population. Representation in the House has also been altered four times since 1904; but these four changes have not materially reduced the underrepresentation from the more populous counties.

On the basis of current representation, the 26 less heavily populated senatorial districts contain about one-third of the population, with the remaining two-thirds of the citizens of Iowa being represented in the Senate by only 24 members. In the House of Representatives, the disparity is even more pronounced. Continuing shifts in the state’s population from rural to urban areas indicate that, in the future, underrepresentation of the growing population centers will become even more serious unless positive action is taken to modify the present pattern of representation. Moreover, a technique should be developed which will facilitate future adjustments of representation to population shifts without the lags which have persisted in recent decades.

There is no lack of information on the inequities of the present pattern, nor on the methods available for the attainment of a more representative Assembly. We do not need further time-consuming special studies of this matter. Rather, the need is for action to restore adequate representation to a large segment of our population, and thereby to regain the widespread public support for the legislative branch without which representative government is in jeopardy. Therefore, I strongly urge the Fifty-seventh General Assembly to:

1. Take action designed to correct the present lack of balance in representation; and
2. Establish a dependable method which will facilitate future adjustments in representation without the lags which have persisted in recent decades.

ORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

In 1949, the Fifty-third General Assembly provided for the establishment of the Governmental Reorganization Commission generally known as the “Little Hoover Commission.” The Commission was directed to examine the organization and operation of the various state agencies and departments and to recommend such changes as would accomplish the following purposes:

1. reduction of expenditures and promotion of economies;
2. increased efficiency of governmental operations;
3. reduction of agencies by a consolidation of those having similar functions; and
4. elimination of overlapping and duplicative activities.

After a detailed study of the organization and functions of the more than 80 administrative agencies, the Commission concluded that “the machinery of the present state government is adapted to times and conditions that no longer exist.” The Commission, in its 1950 Report, made a series of recommendations for the reorganization of state government agencies and departments, and for the regrouping of functions to eliminate duplication and overlapping. The Committee concluded that the adoption of its recommendations would not only improve service to the public, but would also permit “a substantial savings of up to $5,000,000 annually.”

Three General Assemblies have met since the Report of the Governmental Reorganization Commission was submitted. Yet, very few of the recommendations of the Commission have been enacted. In the meantime, appropriations from the General Fund of the State of Iowa have risen from an annual rate of slightly over 80 million dollars in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, to an annual rate in excess of 136 million dollars during the current year. The time has come when the consideration of measures designed to improve the efficiency of state government can no longer be delayed. The taxpayers of Iowa are already carrying a tax load far heavier than that borne by the residents of most states. While every reasonable effort must be made to maintain and improve the quality of essential governmental services, the State of Iowa can not move forward under the handicap of obsolete governmental structures. Nor can the taxpayers be expected to continue, indefinitely, to provide increased financial support for duplicative activities and overlapping functions arising from faulty organization and the absence of clear cut lines of administrative responsibility.

In order to provide improved public services, and to promote efficiency in state government, I strongly urge the Fifty-seventh General Assembly to enact legislation which will implement the following recommendations of the Little Hoover Commission:

1. The abolition of the Commerce Commission and the transfer of its present activities to other agencies of state government. The present appropriation of the Commerce Commission is almost one quarter of a million dollars per year. While some additional expenses might be incurred in other areas to which the functions of the Commerce Commission would be transferred, substantial savings could be effected.
2. The establishment of a Department of Labor, with a single administrative head appointed by the Governor. The proposed department would be responsible for the functions now assigned to the Industrial Commissioner, the Bureau of Labor, and the Division of Mine Examination. In addition to the consolidation recommended by the Governmental Reorganization Commission, I respectfully suggest that the Iowa Employment Security Commission be placed in the proposed Department of Labor, and that the present three-member Commission be replaced by a single Commissioner of Employment Security.
3. The establishment of a Department of Public Welfare, with a single Commissioner, appointed by the Governor. The proposed Department would be responsible for the functions presently under the Board of Control, the Board of Social Welfare, and Commission for the Blind. All of the multi-member boards would be abolished. Within the proposed Department, subdivisions should be established along the general lines recommended by the Governmental Reorganization Committee.
4. The establishment of a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with a single administrative head appointed by the Governor. The proposed Department would be responsible for the related functions now scattered through several agencies, including the Conservation Commission, the Geological Survey, the Natural Resources Council, and the Soil Conservation Commission. While the economies which could be achieved with the consolidations just noted would be substantial, the improvement in the coordination and integration of the activities would be no less significant. The increasing urgency of the state’s water problem, and the highly interdependent nature of the various aspects of conservation are important reasons why we should take immediate action to bring about the coordination suggested above.

Certainly the needs for improved governmental services and economy in operation are no less serious now than they were when the recommendations of the Commission were made.

PERSONNEL POLICY

The quality of state services and the efficiency with which such functions are performed depend, in large measure, on the quality of personnel. The recommended reorganizations and reallocation of functions will fail to accomplish the desirable results which might be expected of them unless positive steps are taken to improve the quality of the personnel who will operate the reorganized agencies.

In order to facilitate the development of an efficient, dedicated, professional state civil service, I strongly recommend the immediate establishment of a nonpolitical civil service for the state government. It is not enough merely to pass a law specifying that appointments to positions in state government shall conform to merit system standards. It is necessary to establish a personnel agency with the technical competence to develop standards, the legal power to enforce respect for these standards, and the administrative energy and efficiency to translate them into practice. Through the establishment of a Department of Civil Service we shall be in a better position to attract able, competent persons to state service, and retain the efficient personnel so desperately needed in government. State government has become “big business” in terms of the amount of expenditures involved. The duties which key employees are called upon to perform require highly skilled people in a wide variety of technical fields. It no longer seems consistent with the best interest of all the people of Iowa to regard state appointments on a political basis.

Therefore, I call upon the General Assembly to join with me in the establishment of an effective merit system for the State of Iowa, by creating a Department of Civil Service. I propose, further, that the Department be administered by an appointive Director of Personnel, whose regulations would be subject to the approval of a three-member Civil Service Commission, which would also be empowered to hear appeals in cases of dismissal.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Since 1948, Iowans as a whole have failed to enjoy the rapid growth in income which has characterized the national economy. In fact, from 1948 to 1955, the income of the citizens of Iowa increased by only slightly more than 7 percent, while income in the nation as a whole was rising by over 46 percent. Since 1940, Iowa’s population has increased only 6 percent, while population in the nation has risen almost 25 percent. From 1940 through 1954 the State of Iowa retained less than 30 percent of its natural increase in population.

Although the factors responsible for Iowa’s lagging rates of economic and population growth are varied and complex, two basic reasons stand out:

1. First, the state’s agricultural economy, like the agricultural segment of the national economy, has failed to keep pace with growth in nonagricultural industries.
2. Second, the rate of growth in the commercial and industrial components of the Iowa economy has not been sufficiently rapid to afford adequate opportunities for employment of the natural increase in population.

The future progress of the State of Iowa depends upon the attainment of a more rapid rate of growth in economic opportunities for the youth of the state. To encourage economic development on a broad base, and to stimulate expanded employment opportunities I urge the establishment of a Department of Commerce which will function as 1) a developmental agency, 2) a sponsor and coordinator of business and economic research, and 3) a service agency to Iowa’s business and commercial establishments.

The proposed Department of Commerce and Industry would be under a single administrative head with an advisory council, both appointed by the Governor. The Department would be responsible for the activities now carried on by the Iowa Development Commission. In addition, it would coordinate, promote, and sponsor research designed to improve business opportunities and development in all areas of the state’s economy. The actual research might be carried on in the state institutions of higher education, in other departments of state government, or by private organizations and firms. A third vital function of the proposed Department of Commerce would have to do with the dissemination of information and advisory services to Iowa’s business firms along lines similar to those of the agricultural extension services.

Although Iowa has gained some important new industries in recent years, the overall growth in job opportunities has not been sufficient to retain the natural increase in the state’s population. While we must intensify our efforts to obtain suitable new industries, we must facilitate the natural development of the state’s “homegrown” businesses—large and small. In too many cases, existing enterprises fail to reach their full facilities. A Department of Commerce and Industry can supply vital assistance to business in meeting such problems.

A Department of Commerce and Industry is the logical agency to guide and accelerate Iowa’s participation in the industrial applications of atomic energy. More specifically, the proposed Department would:

1. Coordinate research activities within Iowa, and sponsor joint projects with the Atomic Energy Commission;
2. Assume the initiative in securing a research reactor for use by the state’s institutions of higher education for basic and applied research directed to the use of atomic power in Iowa’s industrial plants;
3. Serve as a clearing house through which research findings are made available to prospective industrial users.

The people of Iowa have contributed, through Federal taxation, more than 100 million dollars to the development of atomic energy. It seems appropriate that we should take immediate steps to participate in the benefits to be derived from the peaceful applications of atomic power.

AGRICULTURE

The economy of Iowa is based primarily on agriculture. Directly and indirectly the economic well-being of a large proportion of our citizens depends upon a prosperous farm economy. Although the major factors which determine the level of farm income are national and international rather than statewide in scope, there are significant areas in which State action can be of assistance. Because of the importance of agriculture in the Iowa economy, and because of the postwar trends in agriculture’s share in the national income, I recommend that the General Assembly give special attention to:

1. An expanded research program designed to enlarge the markets for Iowa’s agricultural products, and to stimulate the development of a greater degree of food processing near the centers of primary production. Much of the needed research and development can be accomplished by shifting emphasis from activities designed to increase output, to those designed to the expansion of markets, and the retention of a larger portion of the consumer’s food dollar for the Iowa economy.
2. The adequacy of credit available to agricultural producers. At prevailing interest rates and farm income levels, many of our farm producers are hampered by inadequate credit.
3. A program for the efficient utilization of water, through the development of more effective conservation measures, more adequate information on the availability of water resources, and a sound, comprehensive “water rights” law which will protect the interests of all water users.

LABOR

Well over one-half of the total income received by residents of Iowa is made up of wage and salary payments from nonagricultural occupations; over sixty percent of the labor force is employed in nonagricultural industries. Thus, the terms of employment, working conditions, and employment security vitally affect the livelihood of a substantial proportion of our total population. Because of the growing importance of nonagricultural wage earners in our economy, I have already urged the establishment of a Department of Labor.

I also recommend that the General Assembly modify three features of the laws of Iowa dealing with labor:

First, the prohibition of “union shop” contracts between employers and employees should be abolished. It is, among other things, an infringement on the freedom of contract. Moreover, it provides an opportunity for “free-loading” which allows a minority to share equally in benefits obtained by the efforts of the majority. Where joint action is taken to promote the interests of large numbers of individuals in other areas of Iowa’s economy, these activities are usually financed from contributions from *all* the individuals benefiting therefrom. It does not seem consistent that the sovereign powers of the State of Iowa should be used to forbid effective joint action by labor, while—at the same time—such powers are used to enforce joint action for the benefit of individual members of other groups.

Second, the unduly restrictive nature of the disqualifications for unemployment compensation should be modified to bring practices in Iowa into line with those in most other states. Unemployment compensation should never be allowed to become a source of income for the individual who simply doesn’t want to work. But the present law on disqualification has the effect of excluding many individuals with perfectly legitimate claims and imposing penalties in the form of loss of past credits for workers. Because of technical features of the law, it also slows down the payment of benefits. In fact, the percentage of first benefit payments within two weeks in Iowa is one of the lowest in the country.

Third, in view of the increased cost of medical and hospital services, and the higher cost of living, I recommend that the General Assembly revise the schedule of workmen’s compensation benefits.

TAX REVISION

The Fifty-sixth General Assembly, by Senate Joint Resolution 7, established a special taxation study committee “*to make a study embracing the adequacy and equity of the entire structure of state, county, municipal and school methods of raising revenues.*” The findings and recommendations of this committee have now been made available to the members of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly.

It is recognized that the tax structure of Iowa could be improved by eliminating existing inequities, and by removing some of the obsolete forms of taxation which produce much taxpayer resentment, but little revenue. Later, in the Budget Message, I shall present a suggested tax program. However, because of the public interest in the matter, it seems appropriate to recommend here, that the temporary, additional one-half of one percent sales and use tax be allowed to expire as scheduled at the end of the current fiscal year.

While I cannot agree with all of the recommendations reached by the taxation study committee, I respectfully suggest that the General Assembly give early attention to the Report of the committee for the following reasons:

First, it will be well for the General Assembly to give careful study to matters of equity and tax structure before taking up questions involving the level of appropriations and the amount of revenue to be raised. Although questions of tax structure cannot be separated entirely from those of revenue, many of the more or less obvious defects and sources of inequity can be corrected in the early weeks of the session.

Second, in view of the fact that the Report of the committee includes background materials and proposed bills, it will be possible to act on the recommendations with a minimum of delay. As this can be done during the period when the General Assembly is normally engaged in preparatory work, the action I am recommending will contribute to the effective use of the time of members of the General Assembly.

EDUCATION

The people of Iowa are justifiably proud of the State’s educational achievements. The public school system and the institutions of higher education, together with the many excellent private educational institutions have established an enviable record in training the youth of the state for positions ofleadership in Iowa and the entire nation. But we must not rest on our laurels. The needs and standards of education are constantly advancing; Iowa must move forward with other states, or see its educational system relegated to an inferior position.

The people of Iowa are already making substantially greater than national average contributions for the support of public schools. While I know that Iowans want better than just “average” education for the children of this state, we must make renewed efforts to achieve all possible economies consistent with sound educational practices. The presence of inefficiencies in the Iowa public school system is suggested by the facts that: (1) relative to the size of the population, and total public school enrollment, the number of employees is about 25 percent above the national average, and (2) although the average salary for Iowa’s public school teachers is substantially below the national average, the cost per pupil in average daily attendance is higher in Iowa than in the nation. These facts reflect the lack of efficient utilization of teachers in some parts of our school system.

In order to maintain and improve the quality of educational services in Iowa, to equalize the costs of education among the several categories of taxpayers, and to promote economy and efficiency in operation of the educational system, I respectfully urge the Fifty-seventh General Assembly to:

1. Revise the laws covering school reorganization, to the end that existing uncertainties in the composition of reorganized districts are removed. At the same time we must keep in mind the traditions of local control, and the right of appeal to the courts.
2. Require that all areas of the State be included within some high school district at the expiration of a reasonable period of time. At present, a substantial number of our citizens are deprived of an effective voice in the determination of the policies under which their children are educated. This is not consistent with Iowa’s tradition of local control of schools.
3. Establish formulas for the distribution of present school aids which will encourage adequate educational standards, efficiency in operations, and a more equitable distribution of public school costs. The quality of education, and the efficiency with which educational services can be provided are not exclusively and uniquely determined by the size of the schools. Area, transportation distances and time, adequacy of the tax base and population density—as well as number of students enrolled—must be taken into account in the determination of the “optimum” size of school districts. However, there is rather clear and unmistakable evidence that costs per pupil are excessive in very small school units, particularly in the smaller high schools. The extent to which all the people of the state should be required to subsidize the continued operation of such “high cost” units through existing or increased state aids is a debatable question. But it is respectfully suggested that the time has come when the chosen representatives of all the people should arrive at a clearcut policy decision on this vital matter.
4. Erect safeguards in the distribution of state aids which will facilitate the attainment of legislative intent that such aids shall relieve local property taxes.

Our state institutions of higher education are confronted with sharply rising enrollments which will require additional staff and physical plant if the opportunities of higher education are to continue to be made available to all the youth of Iowa. Yet, confronted with a shortage of competent, trained college teachers, with active demands for their services from institutions in other states, and from industry, the salary levels at Iowa’s institutions of higher education are among the lowest to be found in comparable institutions in the Midwest. Iowa’s institutions cannot hope to hold their established position as leaders in education, research, and public service at existing salary levels. The Budget Message will contain specific proposals for coping with this critical situation.

In the matter of capital improvements, the needs are also urgent. It cannot be expected, however, that the State can wipe out the accumulated backlog of almost twenty years of inadequate capital expansion in one biennium. But we must assume the joint responsibility of providing at least a temporary solution until a longe range program can go into operation. And we must also initiate the long range program in the current session to avoid further “stop-gap” financing for capital expansion.

In higher education—no less than in the public schools—we must take the necessary steps to ensure efficiency in the use of taxpayers’ dollars. To this end, I urge the General Assembly to give consideration to the study of ways of promoting more effective use of personnel and physical plant.

HIGHWAYS

Over one-third of all public revenues in Iowa are spent on the state’s highways, roads, and streets. Because of the nature of the Iowa economy we must have an integrated network of primary, secondary, and farm-to-market roads and urban streets which will adequately serve both the rural areas and the growing industrial centers. The traffic congestion in and around cities is a pressing problem for which an early solution must be found.

The large increases in revenues for highway purposes, resulting from the action of previous sessions of the General Assembly and, more recently from the inauguration of the long run Federal interstate program, will make it possible for the State of Iowa to move forward toward a modern highway system. But we must be alert to the dangers of waste and inadequate planning in the expenditure of such large and rapidly increasing funds. On the one hand, we must not fall into the error of building 1930 highways in 1957 and 1958. At the other extreme, we must recognize that the construction of a few miles of “roads of tomorrow” will not solve the state’s highway problems. The need for careful planning for the state primary system will not be eliminated by the construction of the interstate system.

Above all, we must retain a high degree of flexibility in our construction program in order to cope with changing needs, and advances in techniques of construction and design.

In order to secure the maximum, longe range benefits from present and prospective levels of expenditures, and to secure a modern system of highways within a reasonable period, I recommend that:

1. The General Assembly enact legislation establishing a long-range highway planning program.
2. The General Assembly reexamine the present method of allocating highway-user revenues to determine if funds are being allocated to those parts of the system where the needs are most pressing. As the economy of the state changes, the demands on public transportation facilities also change. Adherence to an outmoded allocation formula will almost certainly result in excessive funds going to some uses, and inadequate funds to others.
3. The General Assembly examine the potential savings which might be realized from the standardization of design.
4. The General Assembly enact legislation providing for the establishment of an urban highway department. The functions of such a department would be primarily research, planning, and advisory.
5. The granting of contracts for construction in the primary system be geared to a reasonable and prudent estimate of funds available. Excessive commitments at any one time can result in loss of flexibility.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

The tragic loss of lives on Iowa’s highways is a matter of serious concern to all of us. The public has rightly come to expect that action will be taken to promote highway safety.

Yet, there is no magic formula, or single piece of legislation which will automatically make our highways safe. The problem is a complex one, and a satisfactory solution requires a coordinated attack along the following lines:

First, we must strengthen our driver education and testing programs in order to discover accident-prone drivers *before* they are involved in serious accidents.

Second, we must devote a larger share of our highway resources to new highways of modern design, built to carry today’s traffic, rather than to temporary, stop-gap expedients which frequently serve only to create a false sense of security on the part of the driver, and to postpone the eventual day of basic reconstruction.

Third, the enforcement of traffic regulations must be improved. To this end, I urge the General Assembly to examine the organization and operations of the Department of Public Safety, and to inquire into all matters affecting the morale and efficiency of the Highway Patrol.

Fourth, I recommend the enactment of legislation establishing a reasonable speed limit. While a “speed limit” law will not automatically reduce accidents and fatalities, it can be a useful part of an overall program.

Finally, we must make more effective use of widespread citizen participation, under effective leadership, to promote safety consciousness. In the final analysis, our highways can be made safer only as we can change the habits and attitudes of the driving public.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

The present Liquor Control Commission and the state-owned system of stores were established in 1933, after the people of the state had voted by a margin of more than 3 to 2 in favor of the repeal of prohibition. At the time the present package plan of distribution was established, there was little recent experience to serve as a guide in setting up of a system of control. Although a vast amount of experience has accumulated in Iowa and in other states in the past quarter of a century, the Iowa system has not been modified substantially since it was established.

An adequate system for the control of the sale and use of alcoholic beverages should be based upon a careful consideration of several factors:

First, the system of control should provide adequate safeguards for the general welfare of all the citizens of the State; second, the system should encourage moderation in the use of alcoholic beverages; and, third, the system of control should protect the State’s legitimate revenues from the sale of alcoholic beverages. All of these objectives must be sought within the framework of a system of laws for which public support call be secured. In the final analysis, law enforcement in a democracy rests upon public opinion and widespread social support for the law of the land. An attempt to enforce laws for which support is lacking invites the methods of the “police state”; if enforcement is not attempted, the equally fatal danger of contempt for law is ever present.

Because the “liquor control problem” raises issues about which Iowans have quite different and strongly held views, a solution equally satisfactory to all groups will be difficult to achieve. Therefore, I strongly urge the establishment of a joint legislative committee which will reflect the views of all groups in the state. This should be done at the earliest possible date, in order that the findings and recommendations of the committee may be available for consideration by the Fifty-seventh General Assembly.

WATER RESOURCES

The recent Report of the Iowa Study Committee of Water Rights and Drainage laws calls for the enactment of new legislation and amendments to existing legislation governing the use of water, and a series of changes in existing laws controlling the formation and operation of drainage districts. The general findings of this Committee bring out two significant points: (1) there is need for more adequate data; and (2) the efficient utilization of the state’s water resources can not be considered separately from related aspects of an overall resource development program, such as soil conservation, flood control, and the recreational use of water resources.

I urge the General Assembly to proceed with caution in the establishment of restrictions on the use of water. Much information is needed before we are ready to cast the mold for future economic development. Hastily drawn legislation may well impair industrial development and urban growth.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Committee has recently completed a detailed report on the problem of mental health in Iowa. This report, and the recommendations contained therein are based on careful studies by professionally competent persons and by lay leaders from all parts of the state. As is recognized in the report, the goals or objectives which the recommendations are designed to attain are long-run in nature. Not all of them can be accomplished in a year or two, even if unlimited funds were available.

Taking the priority set forth by the Committee, I recommend that the General Assembly enact the necessary legislation to effect the reorganization of the Board of Control, as outlined earlier. This reorganization would include the establishment of a Division of Mental Institutions headed by a director to be selected on the basis of professional qualifications. The effect of the proposed reorganization would place the direct administrative supervision of Iowa’s mental health program in the hands of a professional expert, rather than in a lay board.

Secondly, I recommend an expansion of the research and training program in the medical facilities at Iowa City in order to increase the knowledge available for treatment of the mentally ill, and to enlarge the supply of trained personnel available to apply the knowledge. As is explained in the recommendations of the Committee, professional leadership and increased knowledge and trained personnel for the treatment of the mentally ill must have top priority in any program designed to achieve long-run success. I concur in the priorities established, and respectfully commend the report for your consideration.

VETERANS

Through the action of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly and the citizens of Iowa, a bonus was authorized for Korean veterans. I pledge my efforts to secure the prompt payment of the bonus to which the General Assembly and the people of Iowa have given their approval.

While the payment of the bonus is a token of appreciation for the sacrifices of members of the armed forces, we must also remain alert to the longer run needs of our veterans, and to the maintenance of services to meet these needs.

IOWA’S OLDER CITIZENS

Advances in health and medical sciences have extended the life span of our people. In the nation as a whole, the number of people over 65 has quadrupled since 1900, while the total population has only doubled. In Iowa almost 11 percent of our total population is composed of persons over 65 years of age.

In order to cope with problems arising from the increase in the number of older citizens in the State of Iowa, I recommend that the General Assembly:

1. Enact a Public Housing Act which will make it possible for Iowa to benefit from the recent revision in the Federal Public Housing Act providing that a percentage of new public housing be set aside to meet the housing needs of elderly citizens;
2. Strengthen and clarify the laws governing the operation of nursing homes, and provide for the operation of boarding homes for the aged.
3. Provide for a research program to determine the precise needs of Iowa’s older citizens. This is vital, if we are to devise forward-looking programs that will promote increased opportunities for participation by our elder citizens in the educational, recreational, social, economic and spiritual life of the community.

CONCLUSION

The recommendations which I have just presented have been formulated with one purpose in mind: to provide the people of Iowa with improved governmental services at a tax cost they can afford. We have no acceptable alternative but to move forward, if the citizens of our state are to share in the rich promise of America. I pledge my wholehearted cooperation to the members of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly, and to state officials to the end that we may accomplish what is good for all Iowans. Regardless of party affiliation, we have all been placed in positions of trust by all the people, and it is to them that we owe our first loyalty.