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Golden Jubilee Convention

The first fifty years of the Iowa Congress were brought to a colorful close with the Golden Jubilee Convention held in Des Moines, November 16-18, 1950. Speakers of national renown, special features, beautiful decorations, and the festive spirit of a thousand delegates from the local units combined to make this convention a real celebration, one to be remembered for many years.

While the general program was built around the idea of celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary, the past was dwelt on only as inspiration for the future. The program theme "The Citizen Child — His Destiny, A Free World," which is the theme chosen for study during the three years of the present administration of the National Congress, was a very forward-looking and challenging one.

"A Backward Look" was taken by Mrs. B. C. Hopkins, Des Moines, who as a girl attended the meeting of the National Mothers Congress in Des Moines in 1900. Other special features emphasizing the Jubilee were planned, including a pageant entitled "Through the Years" staged by the Des Moines Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. Square dancing in the recreation hour also brought back thoughts of past years.

At the opening session on Thursday afternoon, President Virgil M. Hancher, of the State University of Iowa, definitely placed the thinking of the convention on future problems with the challenging address "Tomorrow Belongs to You." This was followed by a group discussion of the Citizen Child in his home, his school, and his community, led by Dr. Guy Wagner, Director of the Curriculum Laboratory of Iowa State Teachers College.

One of the convention highlights was an address on "Children and Freedom," by President Harold Stassen of the University of Pennsylvania, on Thursday evening at KRNT Radio Theater. This meeting was co-sponsored by the Iowa State Education Association. Appearing as platform guests were the Governor of Iowa, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a representative from the Iowa State Board of Education and the Iowa Education Association, and the presidents of our three state institutions of higher learning.

Another timely phase of the Citizen Child's life was considered Friday morning when Dr. Wayne Hughes, Director of the School and College Education Division of the National Safety Council, discussed the driving problems of young America. The discussion that followed was presented by high school students and revealed the modern viewpoint of youth.

A further discussion of the Citizen Child centered around his health, his safety, and his education. It was presented Friday afternoon by a panel of state leaders under the chairmanship of Mr. Carl Gernetsky of the Iowa State Board of Education.

The consideration of the Citizen Child was brought to a climax at the Golden Jubilee banquet when Mrs. John E. Hayes of Twin Falls, Idaho, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, discussed the convention theme in its entirety. Dean Bruce E. Mahan of the State University of Iowa Extension Division was master of ceremonies.

The banquet appointments, the flower girls in their authentic old costumes, the introduction of the members of Mrs. Isaac Lea Hillis' family and of the past presidents of the Iowa Congress, and the presentation of fifty golden roses, symbols of fifty golden years, to Mrs. Hayes by Mrs. S. E. Lincoln, a past president of the State Congress, brought the Golden Jubilee theme of the convention to a dramatic close.

The State Life Membership Luncheon was held Friday noon, at which time many life memberships were presented to leaders who had given service to the organization. Dr. Agnes Samuelson, assistant editor of the *NEA Journal*, Washington, gave an inspiring address on "Hold High the Torch."

The final session on Saturday morning was concerned with modern trends, the use of visual aids and of radio in education. Contributing to this program were several leaders in their respective fields, including Thomas D. Rishworth of Austin, Texas, Chairman of Radio and Television for the National Congress, and Dean Bruce E. Mahan and John Hedges of the State University of Iowa.

"Forward to the Future" was the theme of the luncheon following, with an address on "Television in Education" by President Charles E. Friley of Iowa State College, and some scenes from the Golden Jubilee on TV, through the courtesy of WOI-TV.

The first fifty years of the Iowa Congress were brought to a close with the installation of the newly elected officers by Mrs. John E. Hayes, national president. To these new officers comes the privilege and challenge of starting the history of the next fifty years of the Iowa Congress.

MRS. FRANK S. ROOT