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Major Legislation

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Major Legislation

Governor Ray and Lieutenant Governor Jepsen were at loggerheads much of the time. Republican leaders in House and Senate differed over priorities. Every legislator was concerned over what the new legislative districts would be like when the Supreme Court finished drawing its reapportionment plan. Pressure was on from all sides to end the session quickly, for it was an election year.

Yet, despite these negative factors, the 1972 legislature wrote an enviable record few of its predecessors could match—and in a much shorter time.

Lieutenant Governor Jepsen said flatly that this legislature “did more in less time than any in Iowa history. . . Its track record will be hard to equal.”

Speaker Harbor, so wracked with pain from a troublesome gall bladder that he presided only a part of the session’s final day, described it as “one of the most productive sessions in the history of Iowa. It handled all priority bills in one form or another.”

The Republican leaders, Clifton Lamborn of the Senate and Andrew Varley of the House, chorused “productive” in assessing the legislature’s performance. Each suggested that Governor Ray should be happy with the .600 per cent batting av-

BEHIND THE LEGISLATIVE SCENES



LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU STAFF—(seated) Diane Bolender, Linda Tigges, Jeanne Miller; (standing) Thane Johnson, Burnette Koebornick, Director Serge Garrison, Philip Burks, John Dwyer. Not in picture: JoAnn Brown, Don Hoskins, Mark Soldat.



Secretary of Senate
CARROLL LANE



COMPTROLLER'S STAFF — Comptroller Marvin Selden (seated), Arthur Claus, William Krahl, James Rose.



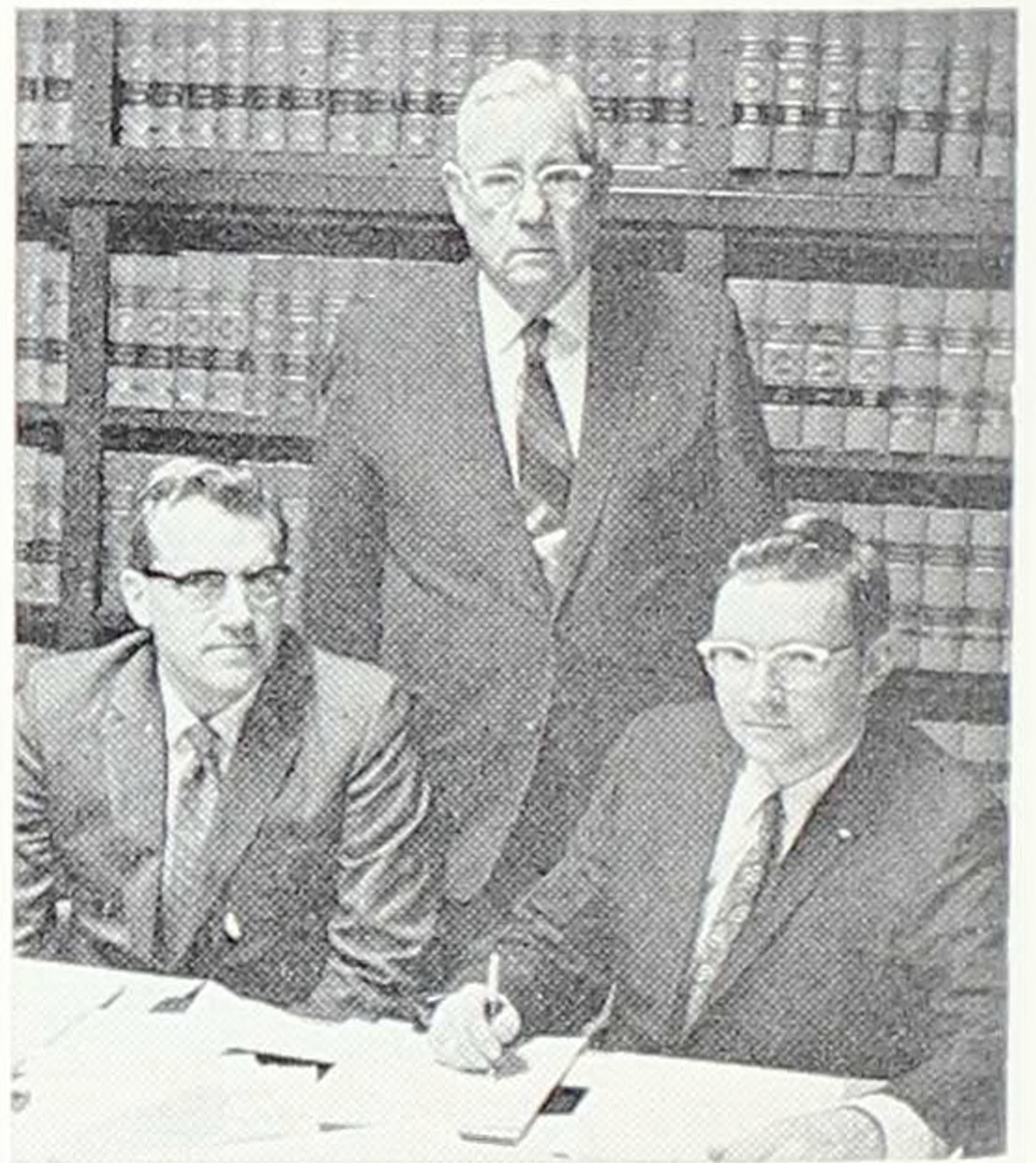
FISCAL DIRECTOR'S STAFF—Charlotte Munson, David Bolender, Director Gerry Rankin.



Chief Clerk of House
WILLIAM KENDRICK



INDEXING STAFF — Terry Pepper, Juanita Swackhammer, Supervisor Maxine Gunton.



APPORTIONMENT EXPERTS — John Liittschwager, Chief Justice C. Edwin Moore, Philip Burks.



Senate Sgt. at Arms
R. K. SHAWHAN



HOUSE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL — Pauline Kephart, enrolling clerk; Counsel Lillian Leffert.



CODE EDITOR'S STAFF — Editor Wayne Faupel, Phyllis Barry.



House Sgt. at Arms
CLARENCE ANDERSON



Chief Clerk's Clerk
DOROTHY POTHOFF



PRINTING CENTER—Shirley Roach, Marcene Walvatne.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S STAFF—
Joyce Ann Johnson, Beverly Dunn.



Speaker's Secretary
MARYJO WELCH



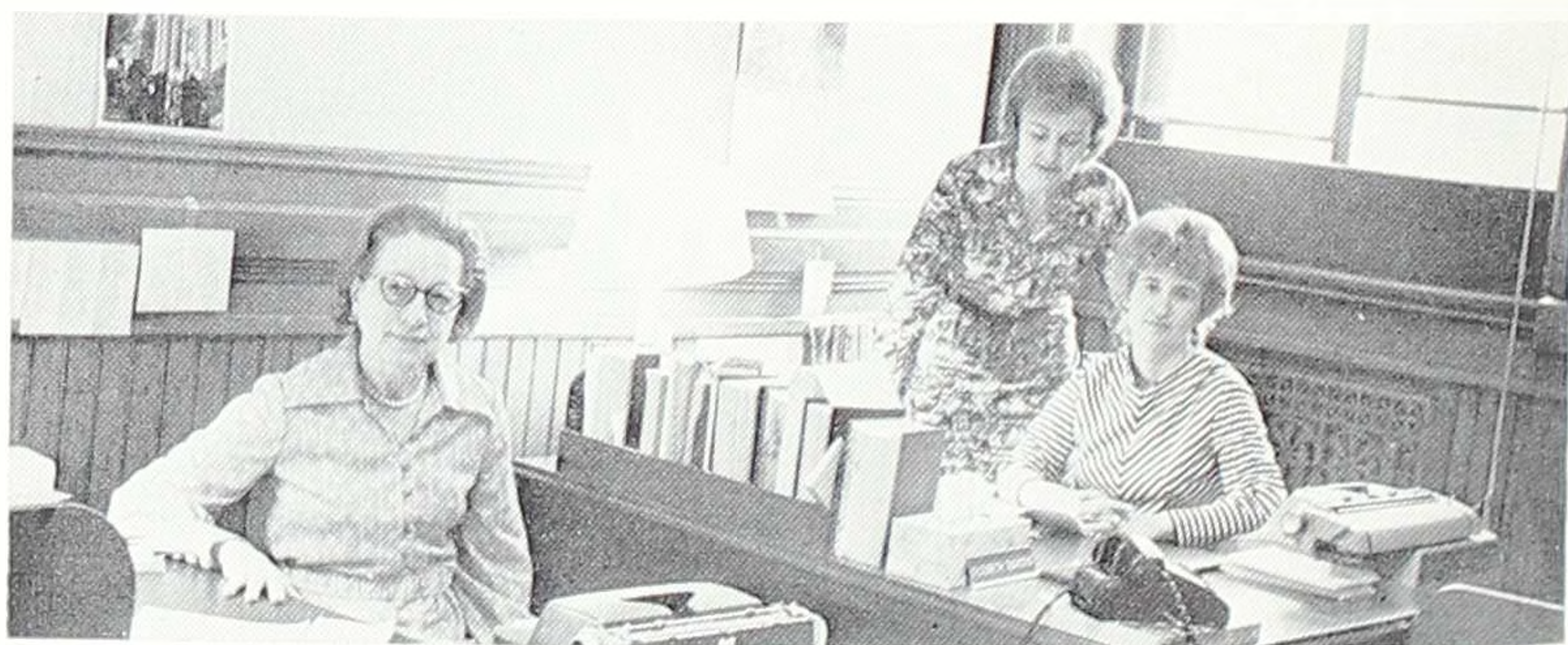
Chief Clerk's Secretary
DOLORES ABELS



SENATE SECRETARY'S STAFF—Marie Thayer, Ruth Fisher, assistant secretary.



SENATE TELEPHONE CENTER—Rosemary Massman, operator; Pages Chris Cobb, Doris Briles; Martha Erickson, operator.



HOUSE JOURNAL STAFF—Sue M. Reed, chief clerk; Alyce M. Elmitt, engrossing clerk; Elizabeth A. Isaacson, journal clerk.



A group of lobbyists in House lounge.



SENATE SECRETARIES IN RELAXED MOMENT—Genevieve E. Snetselaar, Carol Golding, Marilyn Osborn, Phyllis J. Swab, Golda Beals, Elizabeth Ligouri.



Senator Keith's Secretary at Work
PEGGY THOMSON



Senate Bill Clerk
NOLA CARYLL WILBUR



Senate Enrolling Clerk
COLLEEN DILLON



Asst. Sen. Journal Clerk
ROBERTA HICKERSON



Senate Journal Clerk
DOROTHY NEPSTAD



House Payroll Clerk
BILLIE JEAN WALLING



Senate Payroll Clerk
MARY ANN ABBOTT



House Supervisor of Clerks
ELIZABETH J. O'CONNOR



House Supply Clerk
ANN McCARTY



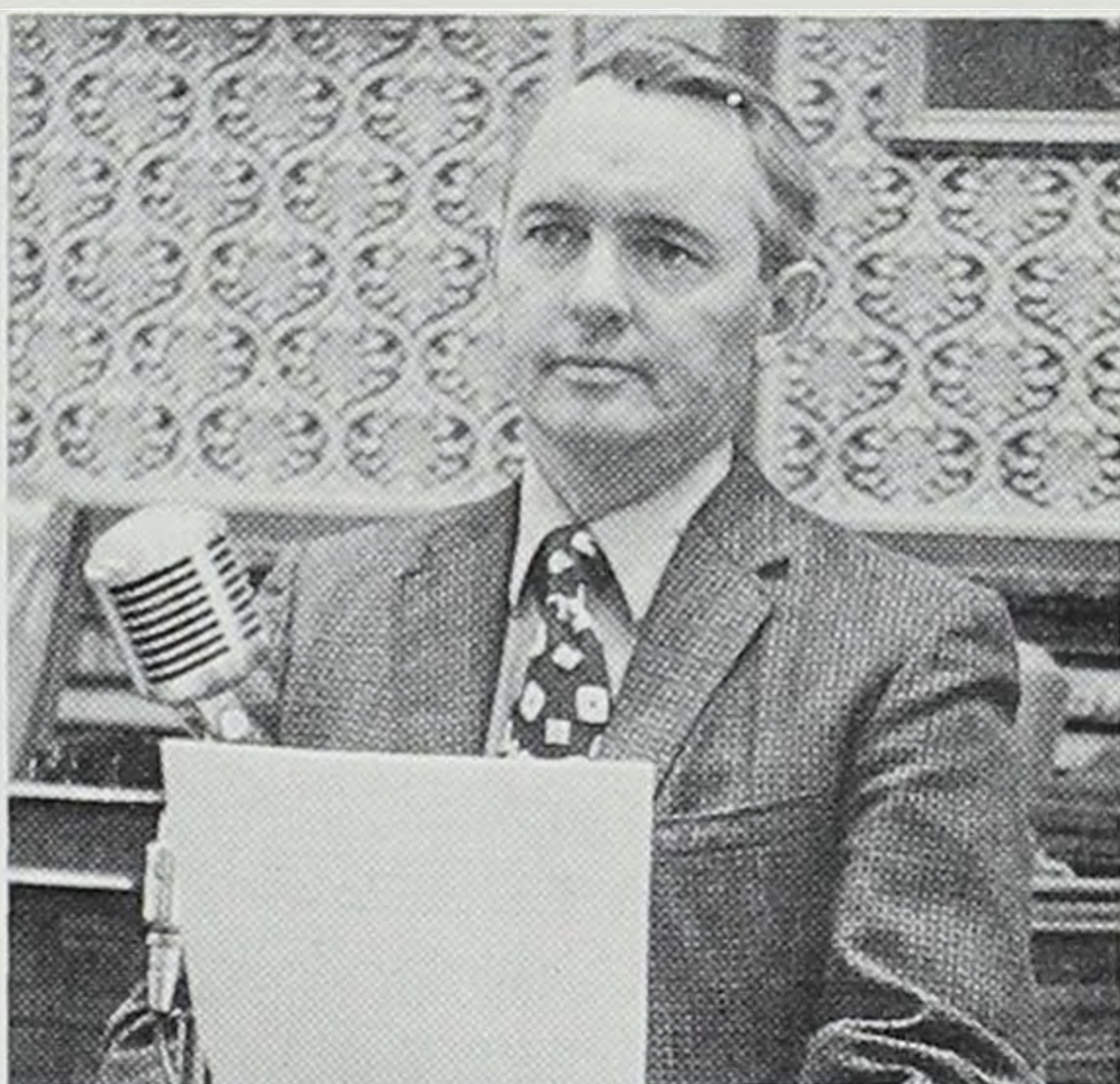
Enrolling Typist
MAXINE ELLIS



Senate Engrossing Clerk
ARDITH B. MARTIN



SENATE QUEEN Jan Ver Hoef, Senator Laverty's secretary; HOUSE QUEEN Connie Eichhorn, Representative Willits' clerk.



Asst. Chief Clerk House
BURL B. BEAM



THE BEARDED ONES—Reps. Joseph Johnston, Norman Rodgers; Senator James Potgeter; Reps. W. B. Monroe, Charles Uban.



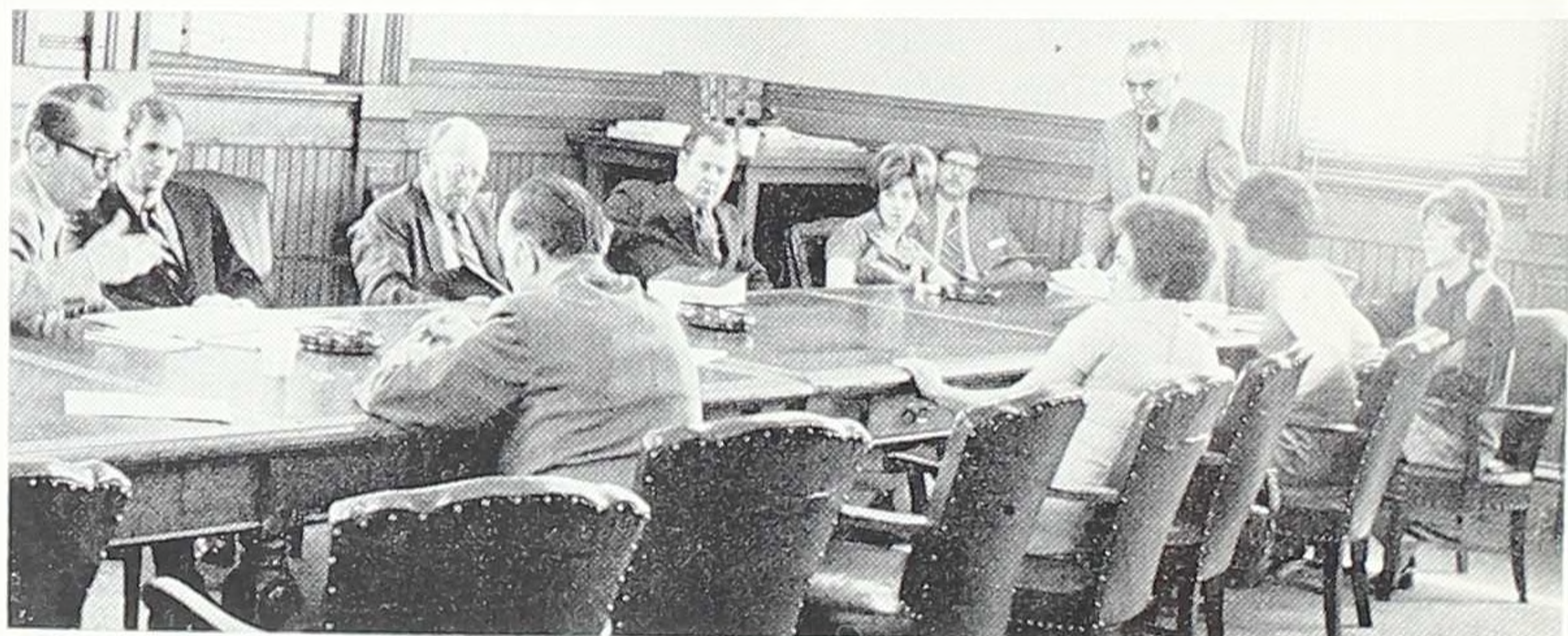
Speaker of the House
WILLIAM H. HARBOR



Lieutenant Governor
ROGER W. JEPSEN

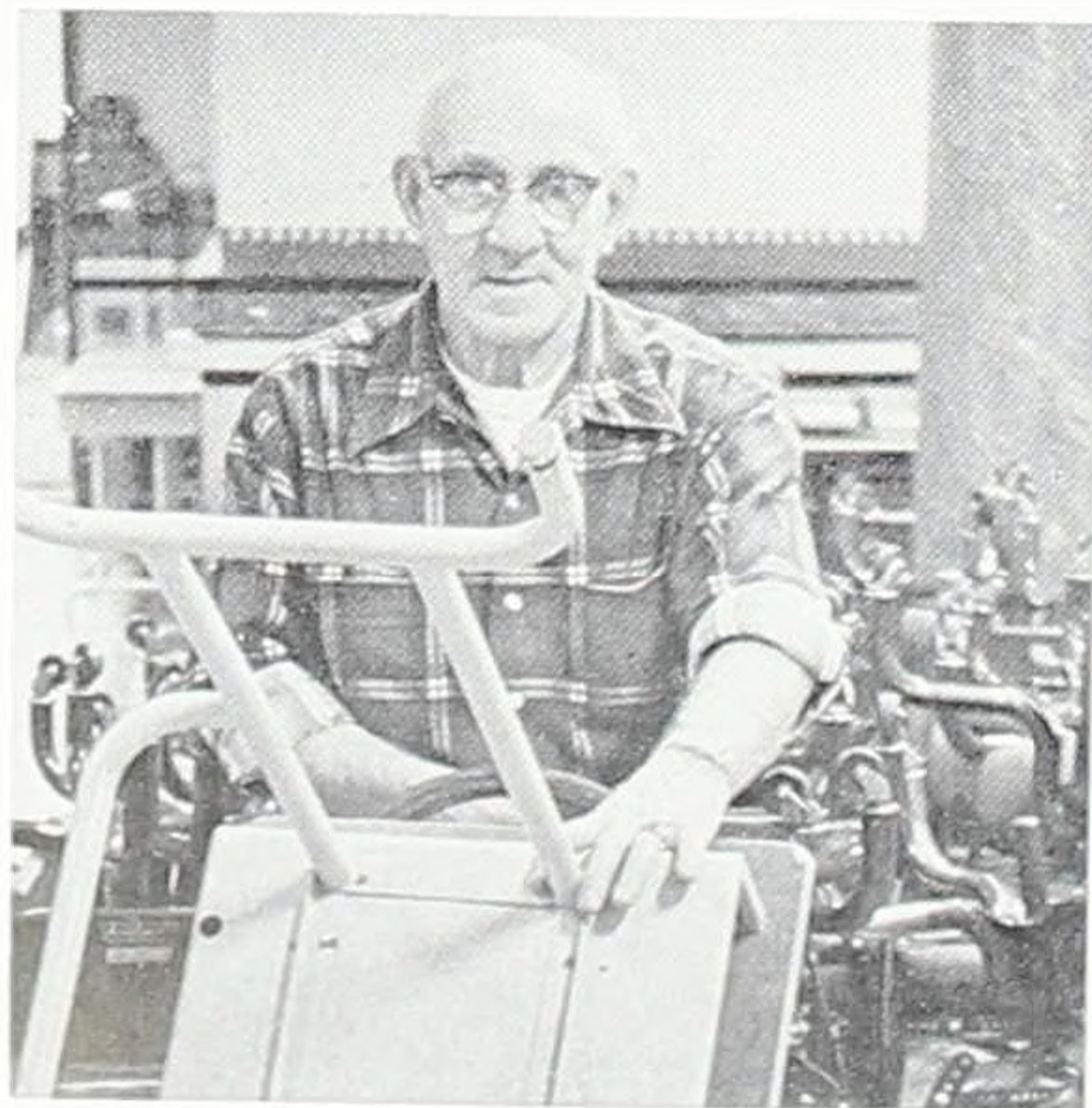


Conference committee on unified court bill headed by Senator Tom Riley.



Conference committee on lowering adult rights age headed by Representative C. Raymond Fisher.

CLOSING THE SESSION



Senate Custodial Worker James "Shorty" Sullivan removes secretaries' desks.



Secretary Peg Backman packs bill books for Senator R. Dean Arbuckle.

erage attained when 15 of his 25 priority bills were enacted.

But these were Republican leaders talking and their party controlled the legislature, so they might be expected to say such things. What about leaders of the Democratic minority, who might be expected to enter strong dissents? They differed somewhat in their appraisals. Senate Democratic Leader Lee H. Gaudineer, Jr., labeled it an "average" session. But House Democratic Leader Dale Cochran, with reservations, agreed with Republicans that it had been a productive session.

Cochran was quick to point out that it would not have been if House Democrats had not helped to make it so. "I have mixed emotions," he said. "I feel we passed good, constructive pieces of legislation only because of the aid of Democrats who wanted to vote for the best interests of the people."

Time and again, he recalled, many of the 37 House Democrats saved Republican priority items that would not have received a majority vote without minority party help.

He charged that Governor Ray and Lieutenant Governor Jepsen spent so much time playing "silly games" in vying for political advantage that confusion and disunity split Republican ranks to the point where Democrats had to step in to rescue some of the Governor's bills.

But Gaudineer said that "generally speaking" the session lacked "the human touch." He was

"thoroughly disappointed" that little heed had been given to problems of fixed-income and low-income elderly and others, including those on old age assistance rolls.

But enough talk. What did the record show?

For one thing, it showed Cochran was right on some bills—they could not have been passed without help of House Democrats. And in the Senate, votes of two Democrats were needed to pass the unified court bill—a favorite of the Governor's.

But the record also showed House Democrats had virtually deserted the majority on the World Food Fair bill, another of the Governor's favorites, which failed to pass by only one vote on the last night of the session. Not a single one of 13 House Democrats, who had supported it much of the way, voted for it on final passage. Needing 51 votes, it got 50.

Aside from bills on the Governor's priority list, the record showed that the legislature considered and passed several other important measures, including one setting a precedent—a direct appropriation to a private school.

This bill allocated \$500,000 in state funds to the College of Osteopathic Surgery and Medicine in Des Moines to buy land and buildings formerly occupied by St. Joseph Academy, for a new college site. Legislators felt the osteopathic college was doing more to train family physicians to serve the needs of rural Iowa communities than the Col-

lege of Medicine at the University of Iowa. So they voted to put up the money over the protests of those who said it violated the constitution.

The legislature also passed bills to:

Expand the state educational television network by 1975 to areas not receiving it. The first of three annual \$800,000 appropriations was voted to prime the expansion pump. Federal funds to match the state's \$2.4 million were expected to complete financing of the project.

Revise election laws and to set the residency requirement for voting at 30 days. Previously the residency requirement was six months.

Limit the percentage of state bank deposits that a bank holding company may control and authorize banks to establish suburban branches.

Initiate a renal kidney disease program with a \$30,000 appropriation.

Authorize use of newly-acquired Terrace Hill mansion in Des Moines as a home for future Governors.

Change the primary election date to August 1 from June 6 to allow more time for candidates and the public to become familiar with new legislative districts.

Of Governor Ray's 25 priority bills, the 15 adopted by the legislature were to:

Unify the state court system by replacing lower courts with magistrates.

Combine four pollution control agencies into a new Department of Environmental Quality.

Lower the adult rights age to 19 from 21, except for voting (where it is 18) and for holding some public offices.

(Governor Ray and the House favored 18 for adult rights to be consistent with the voting age established in 1971; Lieutenant Governor Jepsen and the Senate favored 19, fearing 18 was too young for drinking rights. A conference committee recommendation for 19 was adopted.)

Provide low-rent housing without a public vote.

Require hot lunch programs in all public schools beginning in 1973. An appropriation of \$575,000 was made as the state's share of the cost.

Permit Iowa Commerce Commission to require utilities to pay up to 9 per cent interest on refunds to customers.

Appropriate \$100,000 in matching funds to the Iowa Crime Commission.

Establish a uniform fiscal year for all state agencies and subdivisions, starting July 1 and ending June 30.

Extend to physically handicapped and disabled persons the provisions in the civil rights act to help them find employment.

Establish a uniform state building code.

Establish a new home rule code for municipalities, implementing an amendment ratified in 1968.

Screen junkyards and ban billboards along major highways.

Require state safety inspection of amusement rides.

Establish education courses at area schools for those convicted of drunken driving.

Establish in law the office of citizens' aide (ombudsman), in operation since October, 1970, by executive order.

In addition to these priority bills, the legislature

also completed action on House Joint Resolution 8—the so-called “bingo” amendment—for submission to the people at the November 7 election, along with two other proposed amendments passed in 1971.

HJR 8 got its “bingo” label from groups pushing for legalized bingo. Actually, however, it would not legalize bingo; it would repeal the anti-lottery section in the state constitution opening the way for state laws legalizing not only bingo but other types of gambling, such as pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races.

The other two amendments were:

SJR 1002—authorizing the Supreme Court to remove judges from office with just cause.

HJR 6—extending the length of terms of elected state officials (except Secretary of Agriculture, a statutory rather than a constitutional office) to four years. The terms presently are for two years.

The legislature waited until the fading hours of the final day to pass another resolution—SJR 1008—of historic significance. It was to ratify the women’s rights amendment to the United States Constitution, passed a few days earlier by Congress. With eight of the nine female legislators voting for it, SJR 1008 went sailing through the Senate late in the afternoon of closing day and through the House just before adjournment that night, making Iowa one of the first states to ratify.

Not all measures passed by the legislature made

it into law. Two bills, and seven sections of a third bill, that had been approved met sudden death by way of the Governor's veto pen. The two bills that suffered this fate, and Governor Ray's reasons for disapproving them, were:

Senate File 1190—a bill relating to the inspection of county homes. In vetoing it the Governor said that "dignity of life belongs to all people, not only to those who can afford a choice."

"This bill," he continued, "assumes that county homes need different kinds of health care facilities (than privately-operated homes) and that lesser standards are acceptable for patients of county homes which are not adequate for any of our other citizens. . .

"All citizens of Iowa, including those 5,980 human beings in county homes, deserve the protection of uniform regulation in health care facilities, regardless of their financial status, mental or physical condition. To allow different and special considerations for certain custodial homes in Iowa is to ignore the common human needs of all people living in them."

House File 48—a bill relating to the movement of oversized mobile homes and vehicles on highways. The bill called for allowing mobile homes up to 14 feet, 5 inches in width (present limit: 12 feet 5 inches) to use most highways. Also, to permit larger loads, from 19 to 40 feet wide, up to 10 miles by closing highways temporarily.

In his veto, Governor Ray said the bill had more disadvantages than advantages for a majority of Iowans. A major objection was the safety factor involved in permitting oversized loads to use two-lane highways only 18 to 24 feet wide.

"I am aware the argument exists for allowing increased traffic of these oversized units for the sake of providing additional jobs to build them," he said. "As strongly as I have encouraged economic development in Iowa, there are other factors that must be considered. Safety and convenience of our people are obvious considerations. But, in addition, increased production of big mobile homes could adversely affect jobs of Iowans in the more conventional home building industries."

The third bill, Senate File 1182, was signed into law minus Sections 5 through 11. It was a bill appropriating matching funds to the Iowa Crime Commission and creating a legislative advisory committee to counsel with the commission. Governor Ray used his item veto on the seven objectionable sections, which set up the advisory committee and outlined its responsibilities, on grounds that "they violate the constitutional separation of the legislative and executive branches of government."

Total appropriations by the 1972 legislature, including the \$100,000 in the crime commission bill, were \$3,613,350.

For easy reading, this box score shows the rec-

ord of the 64th General Assembly, including both the 1971 and 1972 sessions:

	<i>House Bills</i>	<i>Senate Bills</i>	<i>House Joint Resolutions</i>	<i>Senate Resolutions</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Introduced	1,044	811	24	18	1,897
Withdrawn	73	101	2	4	180
Indefinitely postponed	3	0	0	0	3
Failed to pass	9	5	0	0	14
Passed one house, no vote in the other	81	70	2	1	154
Substitution made for	26	41	0	2	69
Tabled	1	0	0	0	1
Passed both houses but in different form	3	0	0	0	3
Sent to Sec. of State	0	0	6	0	6
Signed by Governor	221	205	2	2	430
Became law without Governor's signature	0	0	0	0	0
Recalled from Governor	1	0	0	0	1
Vetoed by Governor	1	1	0	0	2
Items vetoed by Governor	2	16	0	0	18
Passed over veto	0	0	0	0	0
New Laws	221	205	2	2	430

True to their word to keep the session short, Republican leaders moved to close it on March 24—75 days after it started. Reversing the 1971 adjournment scene, when the House walked out and left the Senate with a last-minute “take it or leave it” situation on a controversial bill, the Senate quit first this time, at 8:01 p.m. That is when the clocks in both House and Senate were stopped, even though the House did not adjourn until 10:07 p.m.—and then on a dramatic note. Speaker Harbor, still in pain, appeared in the chamber and took a seat beside Speaker Pro Tempore Floyd Millen, who was presiding. Harbor had been in his office most of the day, refusing to leave for the hospital until the House adjourned. He wanted to deliver a

farewell speech before adjournment but now his pain was so intense it was impossible. So it was read for him by Millen, whose voice cracked with emotion in the beginning as Harbor wept while sitting at his side. Harbor was the first speaker to preside over annual sessions and over four consecutive sessions. In the speech he said it had been a gratifying experience and that: "Iowa had prospered and will continue to do so because we have all put Iowa first and our own desires and designs second. This transcends partisan politics, for which I commend you all and thank you . . ."

As Millen finished, Harbor arose with difficulty and banged the gavel to end the session, then beat a hasty retreat to his office.

Two weeks later, on April 7, with legislative clocks still showing 8:01 p.m., March 24, a small group of legislators gathered to formally close the session. Bills passed in the final week had been processed and were ready for signatures of presiding officers before being sent to Governor Ray.

It was 11:42 a.m., April 7, when the clocks were started. All formalities were completed in the next 23 minutes, including the reading in each chamber of a letter from Governor Ray, praising the legislature in part, but expressing disappointment that it failed to pass some priority bills.

Then, with clocks pretending it was 8:24 p.m., March 24, the session came to an end at exactly 12:05 p.m., April 7.