

For Governor, A Problem—For Senators, No Problem

(Continued from page 1)

unicameral Legislature admit that they themselves as senators might not like the shift. As one party leader who has been quoted earlier put it, "A guy with a full house doesn't ask for a new deal."

HOW THEN DOES IT LOOK from the other side of the fence? How does it look from the governors office?

As one governor put it, "In the Unicameral, the governor ordinarily doesn't try to take leadership in it. He is almost entirely out. If the governor sponsors something, the Legislature looks down on it. He only tries to stay in between politically and doesn't try to exhibit leadership."

All six of Nebraska's living governors agreed that there could be improvements in the relations between the Unicameral Legislature and the governors.

Roy Cochran, who was governor during the transitional period from the two-house to one-house system, describes the change he had to make in his second term with the new Unicameral. From 1935 to 1937, Cochran said that his position of governor was well known in the two-house Legislature through the actions and statements of the Democratic party leaders.

"When I came to the 1937 session, I had the problem of filling this gap," he added.

Unique Plan

Cochran explained the unique way he solved his problem. He said that radio was comparatively new at that time, and he began giving a 15-minute talk over a local radio station once a week.

"During the time the Legislature was in session, I talked about my position on certain matters each Sunday.

"The press services also got a copy of the speech and as a result, the Lincoln and Omaha papers carried it Monday morning," he added.

And, according to the governor, each senator also in turn had a copy of a newspaper on their desks each Monday morning.

"Actually it was kind of a left-handed way of letting my position be known to the senators through the people," Cochran added.

So while Governor Cochran managed to solve his problem, the problem is still there. There are still no party leaders in the Unicameral Legislature for the governors to turn to for help. Where then does the governor turn for support or introduction of a bill? Who are the leaders in the Nebraska Legislature?

All Generals

As Governor Cochran puts it, "There is no formal leadership. It's just like a Mexican Army . . . all generals."

And Val Peterson be-

lieves, "The Unicameral Legislature discourages leadership per se."

The ex-ambassador to Denmark and governor of Nebraska from 1947 to 1953, said that there is no effective way to hold the entire membership in the Legislature responsible for their actions. Instead each member is elected from an individual area and does what the people in that area want.

Lieutenant Governor Dwight Burney feels "one of the weaknesses of the Legislature is that there is no leadership of the group."

Burney served as governor of Nebraska from September, 1960, to January, 1961, after the death of Governor Ralph Brooks.

WHERE DOES THE GOVERNOR go then for support if there is no group leader?

Some Better Leaders

Robert Crosby, governor from 1953 to 1955, said that in each legislative session, some men by reason of personal ability and to a lesser extent their experience, are able to get more accomplished than other members are able to do. Talking about the 1961 legislative session, Crosby said, "I would go to the men who could get the most done because of their abilities." He explained that leadership develops along issues, or in other words several senators may feel strongly about redistricting, or a sales tax, and become leaders on these individual issues.

"With only 43 men sometimes even a first term develops this kind of leadership," added Crosby, who also is a former senator, speaker, and lieutenant governor.

A senator also gains respect on the kind of bill he introduces, according to Victor Anderson, governor from 1955 to 1959. Conduct as a loser helps, he said. If one of his bills loses, he shouldn't carry a grudge. Regardless of these other qualifications, according to Anderson, if the governor has a bill he would like to have introduced, then he approaches a senator who has interest in that bill and would fight for it. To do this, he said, you have to know the senator's legislative record and his opinion on the subject.

"This is so he wouldn't get up before the Legislature and just say that he is introducing the bill for the governor, but so that he would strongly believe in the bill himself and put up a good fight for it," he added.

Governor Frank Morrison believes that leadership develops along the capacity of individuals to know what to talk about and to convince others. He said that the governor can then discuss with the individual senators matters that they are particularly interested in.

And Val Peterson feels that a governor gets to know all the senators as well as he can by visitation and then by persuasion bring them around to the governor's viewpoint on a subject. It also helps, he said, to get other people close to the legislators to help persuade them.

Governor's Power
Dwight Burney, who has watched the legislative process for more than 15 years as a senator and lieutenant governor, feels the governor has some power

through the process of legislative hearings. He said that the governor can go before a committee and testify on a certain bill.

"He can also have a bill drawn up and then ask any senator to sign it. The bill automatically then has to be introduced," he added.

Burney explained that the usual procedure for the governor is to first go to the committee hearing and testify, and then call in individual senators and ask for their support on the bill. He said that it isn't too terribly hard to find out which senators are in favor of a bill since each bill has three signers.

"The leaders of a bill then are usually those who introduced it and signed it. Also if a committee brings a bill out onto the floor, then the committee must be back of the bill and the governor can seek support from them," he added.

WOULD THE LIAISON between the governor and the Legislature be more effective if the Legislature were partisan?

According to Val Peterson, "We could improve membership (in the Legislature) on a political basis only in one area." He explained that this would be in the area of debate during the election campaigns of the senators.

"We would have a more adequate and full debate of the issues during the campaign, and leadership and responsibility would be fixed for the results of legislation."

Bad For State

About partisanship, Robert Crosby said, "In some respects it's bad for the state." Crosby feels that some issues could be developed and pushed better.

"For example," he added, "the governor and the Legislature could take a stand on an issue such as sales tax."

"As it is, not a single legislator thinks about a party platform after coming to Lincoln."

Crosby said that as the situation exists now he "wouldn't think of putting the party into an issue unless you need it in something like redistricting, but not on education, or highway programs."

The ex-governor said that the party plays practically no role in the Legislature now.

"When I was governor, some of my best help came from the Democrats in the Legislature," the Republican said.

Weak Link

Dwight Burney noted that the "non-partisan part of the Legislature is a weak link."

He feels that a partisan Legislature would tend to strengthen partisan politics in the state. In turn, the party would have a platform, and the people would know what they are voting for.

"If we had a partisan Legislature, the liaison between the governor and the Legislature would be closer," Burney said.

"As it is now, the senators don't run on a platform, they run on their standing in their community. You only have to be against most everything to be elected," he added.

The lieutenant governor said that although partisanship was indistinct in the 1961 session, it has been stronger recently. He attributed this to the close race for governor in 1958

when the Republicans asked for a recount of the ballots. "The Democrats felt that they had to line the people up," he added.

Downfall For State

Victor Anderson also feels that "non-partisanship in the Legislature is a downfall for the state."

Anderson said he thought there is more active leadership when there is partisanship, because "a man must run on a campaign and then deliver."

As it is now, Anderson says, the governor must walk a center line and not show any leadership.

"The legislators sometimes feel that the governor shouldn't take part in legislative proceedings, but as in business, the head needs to take active part," he added.

Roy Cochran, who says

he is not a strong partisan, also is in favor of a strong two-party system. Under the old two-party system, Cochran said that if he had some objections to a bill, he would call in the party leader to make certain changes in the bill. He said that he felt this was the best since the governor would do what was the best for the state as a whole, not just for a district. Cochran also felt it was sort of a paradox the way the governor is elected in Nebraska. He said that now "the governor is elected on a party platform and then as soon as he takes office he becomes non-partisan."

Governor Frank Morrison admits that things would be easier for the governor if the majority of the Legislature belonged to the same party, but he added,

"partisanship tends to destroy the judgment of the individual and substitute his party likings."

Which Is Better?

"COLLECTICISM or individualism, which is better?" he asked.

Morrison, who says he is an individualist, said he hates to see an individual submerged in a group, because there are too many disadvantages.

"The political parties will destroy themselves unless they change their approach. Now a party member goes against his own conscience because it is merely against the party platform," he said.

"As such, the Nebraska Legislature is an improvement because the men in it can base their decisions on their own conscience, and not as it is in the other

case, just to destroy others," Morrison added.

The Governor concluded, "It is the test of the governor in the non-partisan Legislature to use the tools the Legislature gives him, and then exert executive power for the betterment of the state."

Liaison between the governor and the Legislature? The definition obviously depends upon whether you are a governor or a legislator. The governors would find partisanship a way to ease their work. The senators find partisanship gives a pleasant sense of independence to their work.

Now, how about the senators and their work? How do they like the job of being a legislator in the country's only one-house legislative system?

Current Opinions On Issue Heard

(Continued From Page 1) worked remarkably well through my term of office."

Lieutenant Governor Dwight W. Burney said, "I feel stronger than ever that the Nebraska legislature should be partisan for the good of the people of Nebraska."

Burney has served the Nebraska legislature as Lieutenant Governor since 1956, except for about a year when he filled the Governor's position after the death of Ralph G. Brooks in September, 1960.

Burney, who will seek the gubernatorial nomination on the Republican ticket in 1964, feels that with a partisan legislature, "We could accomplish more in less time with fewer complications."

The Nebraska Federation of Women Voters, who are presently circulating a statewide petition in an effort to convert the Nebraska legislature from a non-partisan to a partisan body, recently received the support of Senator Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff.

Senator Carpenter said that he recently changed

his views on this question, after having previously opposed the election of legislators as Republicans and Democrats, because, "It is my considered opinion that a partisan legislature would certainly be an improvement, or to say the least, no worse than the non-partisan system which is now in effect."

The Scottsbluff legislator said that, "The organizational methods used in this non-partisan legislature are completely against the public interest, and, as it now exists, the control has fallen into relatively few hands."

Carpenter then continued, "For some unknown reason the present members haven't been able to undo this control, either through fear, circumstances, or lack of desire, to face up to the responsibilities of representing the state as a whole instead of their own separate districts."

"It would seem to me that a partisan legislature, where controls are necessary and leadership is permanent, which is advocated by the Nebraska Federation of Women Voters, is certainly more desirable," concluded Carpenter.



Lieutenant Governor Burney

Governor Calls Youth Conference

Last week at a special news conference, Governor Frank B. Morrison called the third Nebraska Conference of Youth to be held the 18th and 19th of September, 1963, at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education in Lincoln.

The Governor has called this conference on behalf of the Nebraska Council of Youth, and the Nebraska Committee for Children and Youth, developments of the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth held in Washington, D.C.

For the second year the theme of the conference will be "Let Youth Help Nebraska Grow". This year there will be a special emphasis on how youth and adults can work together in their communities for the promotion of better educational, recreational and economic opportunities.

Each year about 3/4 of the delegates who attend the Nebraska Conferences of Youth are attending for the first time. This year these delegates at the conference will have the opportunity to

hear about the many successful projects accomplished as a result of the 1962 Nebraska Conference of Youth.

This conference will enable young people of Nebraska to learn to help their state grow by: (1) increasing their awareness of the problems of Nebraska (2) acquainting youth with solutions to those problems (3) providing an opportunity for youth and adults to discuss and share ideas on projects to help solve these problems (4) arranging for delegates from each community and district to help develop plans on projects which they wish to initiate or further implement (5) instruct-

ing delegates, the adult sponsors and school representatives in methods of leadership and community action.

Over fifteen hundred youth and adults from all Nebraska have participated in the plans for Nebraska through the work of the Nebraska Council of Youth and the Nebraska Committee for Children and Youth.

Over eight hundred youth and adults attended the second Nebraska Conference of Youth held in August of 1962. Hundreds of others participated in the two follow up district conferences held in St. Paul and Scottsbluff, this last year.

Federal School Aid 11% For Nebraska

Nearly 11 per cent of the total money outlay for public school education in Nebraska during 1961 came from federal funds, according to a University doctorate thesis written by Ross P. Korsgaard, school superintendent at Valparaiso.

Dr. Korsgaard, who received his Doctor of Education degree from the University this month, reported that of the \$95 million expended, Nebraska public schools were credited with \$10,399,991 in federal aid to education.

He said, "Federal-aid-to-education programs have made a significant financial contribution to public school education in Nebraska. Nebraska has received federal aid for public school education since statehood in 1867."

The thesis reported the following federal aid in 1961:

Land programs, \$3,278,899.84, 32 per cent; Indian education, \$116,205.53, one per cent; vocational education \$246,951.29, two per cent; surplus property, \$937,342, nine per cent; school lunch, \$2,276,796.13 33 per cent; federally affected areas, \$3,088,507.91, 29 per cent; and National Defense Education Act, \$455,288.32, four per cent.

Among his other findings were:

—Most federal-aid-to-education programs were started during a time of a national crisis. Examples are: Johnson-O'Malley Act, which revitalized federal aid for Indian education, was passed in the depression year of 1934; Surplus Property Act was passed in 1944 and strengthened by the Federal Property and Administrative Service Act of 1949; and the school lunch and milk program, an outgrowth of aid given in the depression years, received formal legislative recognition in 1946.

—Use and conservation of national resources are expressed in some federal-aid-to-education programs. "The federal government now allocates almost twice as much money to Nebraska public schools under the National Defense Education Act (\$455,288.32)—designed to strengthen teaching of technical programs—as under the Smith-Hughes vocational education program (\$246,951.29)."

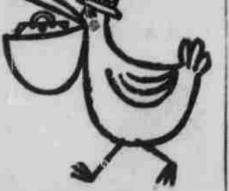
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