Harold E. Hughes was elected to the United States Senate in 1968 after serving three terms as Governor of his home state.

He is a member of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, the Armed Services Committee, and the Committee on Veterans Affairs. His Democratic colleagues have awarded him positions as Assistant Majority Whip, as a member of their Legislative Review Committee, and as one of their representatives on the Democratic National Committee.

In April, 1969, he was named Chairman of the newly created Special Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics, established to focus attention on the extent of alcoholism and drug dependence in this country and on the absence of adequate programs for treating and rehabilitating victims of the diseases.

The Subcommittee's investigations led to the introduction by Mr. Hughes of landmark legislation in the fields of alcoholism and drug abuse. The Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970, passed both Houses of the Congress unanimously and was signed into law on December 31, 1970. The Federal Drug Abuse and Drug Dependence Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Act of 1970, passed the Senate unanimously on November 24, 1970, and was later incorporated in an omnibus drug abuse bill passed by Congress in 1972. These important bills contained authorities for establishing broad programs which deal with alcoholism and drug abuse primarily as medical, rather than criminal, problems.

The Senate was recently appointed Chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee's Special Subcommittee on International Programs and as Chairman of the Armed Services Subcommittee on Drug Abuse in the Military.

In the last session, he served as a member of the Select Committee on Equal Educational Opportunity, created by the Senate to analyze and report on the effects of racial imbalance and other factors on school systems in every section of the country.

Even before his election to the Senate, Mr. Hughes attained nationwide recognition. His fellow Democratic Governors twice elected him Chairman of the Democratic Governors' Conference, first in 1966 and again in 1967. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Governors' Conference for two years (1965-67). He was a member of the Public Officials Advisory Council to the United States Office of Economic Opportunity (1966-68) and a Trustee of the States Urban Action Center (1967-68).
During the summer of 1968, Mr. Hughes served as Chairman of the Commission on the Democratic Selection of Presidential Nominees, a group organized to promote reform of the Democratic Party's nominating process. At the 1968 Democratic National Convention, he led a successful fight for historic reforms to give the people more voice in nominating a President. He was Vice Chairman of the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, which was appointed by the Democratic National Chairman to carry out the 1968 Convention's mandate for open participation in the delegate selection process, conducting the entire process within the year of the convention, and representation of minority views at every stage.

Mr. Hughes, now 50, won his first term as Governor in 1962 at the age of 40. He was the only Democrat elected to statewide office in Iowa that year, just as he was in 1968 when he won his Senate seat.

In 1964, he was re-elected by 429,000 votes, the largest plurality the voters of Iowa have ever given any candidate for statewide office. In 1966, he became the first Iowa Democrat ever elected to a third term as Governor, winning by nearly 100,000 votes against a powerful Republican tide.

Mr. Hughes' three terms as Governor were characterized by emphasis on the humanitarian issues, solving the problems of people.

Capital punishment was abolished; state financial aid to public schools was quadrupled; a statewide system of vocational-technical schools was established; programs for the mentally ill, retarded and physically handicapped were improved; emphasis on rehabilitation was strengthened at the state correctional institutions and mental hospitals; tax relief for the elderly was enacted, and subsistence for dependent children was increased; state commissions on civil rights and the aging were established; fair employment and open housing laws were enacted.

He personally provided the leadership to establish a state alcoholism treatment center and set up a statewide pilot program with federal support to combat the causes and effects of alcoholism.

The state's dry laws were replaced with realistic and enforceable liquor statutes; reapportionment restored equality of voting rights to all Iowans; state employees were given civil service protection; and reorganization of the antiquated state government structure was begun. During this period, Iowa experienced unprecedented economic growth, and the state's tax structure was completely overhauled and modernized.

His administration also was characterized by an awareness of the problems of the country and the world and their relationship to his home state. During his six years as Governor, he inaugurated and led a series of "Sell Iowa" delegations to the financial centers of America and foreign trade missions to the far corners of the earth, visiting 20 countries on four continents.
Mr. Hughes had ascended to the office of Governor after four years as a member of the Iowa Commerce Commission. Elected to the Commission in 1958 after becoming convinced that state trucking laws were not being adequately enforced, he brought with him more than a decade of experience in the motor transportation industry. He served as chairman of the Commission in 1959-60 and 1961-62.

As a small-town youth, an ardent outdoorsman, a businessman dealing with farmers, and as a public official, Mr. Hughes has learned to know his state and its people. Except for his World War II combat service in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, he lived in Iowa from his birth, February 10, 1922, on a farm near Ida Grove until he became a member of the United States Senate. He attended Ida Grove High School, where he was a star athlete in football and track, and the University of Iowa. In 1941, he married Eva Mae Mercer. They have three daughters-- Connie (Mrs. Dennis Otto), Carol (Mrs. Gerald Medlin), and Phyllis-- and two grandchildren.

Mr. Hughes is a Methodist and a member of the American Legion, Knights of Pythias, Masonic Lodge, Royal Arch Masons, Mizpah Commandery, and Abu Bekr Shrine.