

in seeking Senate seat

thing as an inflation-proof Social Security check. Those huge federal deficits are the major cause of inflation," states Symms.

Symms biography

Symms describes himself as a strong advocate of the free enterprise system and he believes in the principles of limited, decentralized government. Since he was first elected to the United States House of

Representatives in 1972, Symms has become a nationally recognized spokesman for the limited government, free market

philosophy. He is regarded as one of the most pro-freedom members of the House.

The congressman was born in Nampa on April 23, 1938. He grew up in the Caldwell area and now makes his home in Sunnyslope.

Legislative limelights...

Cities face same dark outlook in Legislature

Id. July 25, 1979

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

Cities clamoring for a safety valve to ease their increasing financial plight will find the same unfriendly faces seated at the 1980 Idaho Legislature.

This 45th Legislature proved itself unsympathetic to the cities in the first regular session early this year, and there is no reason to believe it will move much from its position when it reconvenes for the second regular session in January.

One of the key compelling points must hinge on the fact that if the legislators, in all their wisdom, are convinced the cities' financial squeeze is as serious as they say, they may take some remedial action.

There is another factor that also may bring a change of mind. That's the early May primary, when legislators will be held to account on their 1980 voting record, which will be fresh on the minds of the electors.

The cities' financial distress was sounded last week at the annual convention of the Association of Idaho Cities.

Mayor Thomas Campbell of Idaho Falls observed local communities face reduced police, fire, library and other services under the restrictive 1 percent property tax freeze. He noted such important services as police patrols, fire equipment and library hours would have to be cut.

Eagle Mayor Jerry Deckard was even more forceful in stating bluntly fast-growing cities, such as his, can't live with even a 5 percent safety valve, much less the established 2 percent escalator.



Post-Register photo

City panel senators

BOISE — Two East Idaho senators who are members of the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee which handles bulk of city-oriented legislation are from left, Sen. Dane Watkins, Idaho Falls, ranking majority member; and Pearl Crystal, Rigby, both Republicans.

Idaho Gov. John V. Evans, who fought for the cities and even threatened to call the legislators back to a special summer session during the last session, offered some relief proposals.

He suggested state-local government revenue sharing may be the best solution.

He observed truthfully two other often discussed alternatives, local-option taxing powers and override levies, don't have much public support.

Why the legislators don't give cities power in their own right is most mystifying. Such expand-

ed city taxing powers would be subject to the vote of city residents affected, and certainly would place no onus on legislators.

It's a long established fact city-elected legislators seem to forget the municipal problems.

In looking back over recent years from Eastern Idaho, only Sen. Israel Merrill, D-Blackfoot; and Reps. Elaine Kearnes, R-Idaho Falls, Wendell Miller, D-Idaho Falls, and Melvin Hammond, D-Rexburg, have consistently voted for city-oriented measures.

Others who also frequently lend their vote for city legislation are Sen. Dick Egbert, D-Tetonia, Rep. John O. Sessions, R-Tetonia, and Rep. Coyle C. Miner, R-St. Anthony, who as

chairman of the House Appropriation Committee is in a keyposition to help, and often does so.

It's ironic that when Idaho Falls city and chamber officials want help, they rely extensively on out-of-county lawmakers, such as Egbert and Sessions, along with Kearnes, Miller and Merrill.

In years past, Idaho Falls was strongly represented by such outstanding legislators as Orval Hansen, Don Pieper, Eugene Bush, A. W. Naegle and Terry Crapo, who were all in the leadership and properly and effectively represented the city Crapo, who were all in the leadership and properly and effectively represented the city interests. It's not that way now.