

Church takes position with law firm

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BY BEN J. PLASTNO

Post-Register political editor

How is former U.S. Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, doing these days?

Extremely well, he said, in a Post-Register telephone interview from his home at 6704 Pemberton St., Bethesda, Md., a Washington, D.C. suburb, where he has lived most of the 24 years he served in the U.S.

He announced he has accepted an offer with the law firm of Whitman and Ramson at its Washington office with the understanding he will have time for for filling roles on the national and international lecture circuit, some college teaching and what he called "serious writing."

"It's what I have always wanted to do," said the Church, who appears to be happy to have shed his senatorial toga and divert his talents to the private sector.

He said he is eager to plunge into the myriad of legal, academic, lecture and writing businesses to what he said "is relegating to my favorite role of making some money," indicating his earnings will far surpass the \$60,000 yearly salary he received as a U.S. senator.

Now 56, Church gets a \$39,540 yearly pension, plus other federal health and insurance benefits, for the remainder of his life.

He reiterates he will not seek public office again, although he doesn't rule out the possibility of accepting a high government position if one is offered him in the distant future.

He is delighted that his new position will take him on frequent trips to Western Europe and the Orient, particularly Japan.

He will rarely engage in lobbying in connection with his new duties, which is in keeping with his character of opposed to special governmental benefits for the special interests.

As a former U.S. senator, he has special privileges that give him access to Congress but for which he said he does not care to take advantage.

"I don't think much of lobbying and I don't want to become involved in lobbying activities," he said. "I may do so on occasions."

His new legal duties which begin March 1 will involve representing plants in the far east and Western Europe, those engaged in selling products in the United States, or active in direct investment in the United States.

He said his position is fulltime but the law firm executives will give him time for his other interests, and already he has been in high demand as a lecturer in the nation. In fact, the firm will furnish him with a fulltime assistant so that he will be equipped to handle his busy law practice as well as his many other acitivities.

Church was considered one of the top orators in the U.S. Senate, was keynote speaker at a Democratic National Convention, and filled many prominent speaking roles in the nation and on national television programs.

He said he already has lined up a busy schedule of lectures the coming year.

For a starter he will speak Sunday to the Ethical Society at New York City, he will soon lecture at the Woodrow Wilson Public Affairs seminar at Princeton University, and is designated a visiting lecturer as Villanova University at a symposium dealing with foreign affairs.

He has many other offers to fill the same roles in leading graduate schools of the country.

"I want to do some free lance writing, something I couldn't do as a senator," he said. "I might write periodical articles on foreign policies in major newspapers or foreign journals or I might undertake to do a column on foreign policy issues for syndication," he said.

Church, who served in the Senate 24 years, was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the last two years.

"How much time I can spend on this will depend on my legal duties," he said.

He explained Whitman and Ramson firm with headquarters in New York City is rapidly expanding and has about 150 lawyers, with branches in Washington, Bridgeport, Conn., and in Western Europe and the Orient. The Washington office contains some half dozen attorneys.

He said he plans to visit Idaho frequently and is scheduled to be a guest at the annual Jefferson Jackson Day Banquet at Boise Saturday.