

Legislative deals may delay session

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
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BOISE — There's some horse swapping going on in the Idaho Legislature that promises to further delay adjournment.

State Sen. Reed Budge, R-Soda Springs, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, said the committee would not put out the motor vehicle registration fee increase bill until it received the bill increasing the diesel tax from 8.5 to 9.5 cents per gallon.

"I think it is only fair that the truckers be taxed equally with passenger car drivers," Budge pointed out. The Legislature has already approved a one cent gas tax increase, which has already

been signed by the governor.

State Sen. Cy C. Chase, R-St. Maries, Senate minority leader, however, is opposed to any diesel tax increase. He contends that truckers do not want this tax.

Budge, however, says that he finds the majority of the truckers feel it is fair for the tax increase.

There is rumor the Senate Democrats will impose a slow down in case if the highway funding is not acted on immediately.

State Rep. John O. Sessions, R-Driggs, House Transportation Committee chairman, said he had hoped the diesel tax bill would have been acted on first in the Senate, but instead the Senate and House leadership referred it to the House for first action. This bill has now cleared the House Ways and Means Committee and is awaiting action on the House floor possibly later on Wednesday. This bill will provide \$5 million.

Church, followers reach Boise Wednesday night

March 18, 1976
By BEN PLASTINO
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BOISE — U.S. Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, arrived in Boise Wednesday night under cloudy skies to officially launch his presidential campaign.

Church was accompanied by his wife Bethine and a retinue of 50 staff members, news representatives, and others in a chartered United Airline plane.

He said that even though that he was getting off to a late start, none of the present Democratic candidates would have a majority at the National Democratic Convention in New York City in July.

He said it was his plan that, even though he was a late comer, he would be gaining momentum and win the nomination.

"People will say that this would be my plan," he said. "Then if I am wrong they would say that I was too late."

He then read a comic strip which said a candidate by delaying his announcement would save thousands of dollars in the security salary.

He quoted the Missouri senator as saying that he had to run because he had exposed

corruption on a national level. He jocularly remarked that by running he was giving the Secret Service a chance for employment.

He contended this is still a wide open race and that nobody had established a decisive lead.

He also contended that by entering in the late primaries, he would build a momentum that would carry him to victory.

An estimated crowd of 700 were at the Boise airport to greet the senator and his party, said Carl Burke, Boise attorney, Church's national campaign manager.

The evening activities culminated with a Basque fund raising dinner.

Gov. Cecil D. Andrus also hosted a reception for some 100 Idaho and national press representatives.

Thousands are expected to attend the historic Church announcement for the presidency at Idaho City on Thursday.

The Idaho Legislature will recess Thursday before noon to permit Democratic members to attend the Idaho City event.

Legislative leaders indicate adjournment may be forthcoming Friday or Saturday.