

Hundreds greet Church on arrival in Boise

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.

Church culminated the evenings activities by being the guest of honor and speaking to a fund-raising banquet for some 500 Basque.

The senator pointed out that four Democratic candidates had already dropped out of the race and he expects a fifth (Sargent Shriver) to drop out. Church invited all the people at the banquet to join him in his formal announcement for the Presidency at Idaho City Thursday.

Church explained he got off to a late start because he had to complete the Senate's investigations of U.S. intelligence agencies. He said he could not abandon that task in order to run for higher office, but would try now to make up for lost time. He said he was busy to see that the U.S. Government is legitimate in the way it conducts its affairs.

We have suffered too much from weak leadership. Too many people have lived over the law," he said.

Church took offense to former President Nixon saying the President is sovereign and can break the law. "Only the people are sovereign," he concluded.

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.

Leaders argue road bills

By BEN J. PLASTINO

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BOISE — The Senate Republican and Democratic leadership exchanged heated words Thursday evening after recess in an effort to crack a legislative logjam.

The Republican leadership consisting of State Sens. James Ellsworth, Leadore; Phil Batt, Wilder; Dick Smith, Rexburg, and Walter Yarbrough, Grandview, insisted the House first pass the 1 cent diesel tax increase bill before it would act on two highway funding bills.

The Democratic leadership made up of State Sens. Cy C. Chase, St. Maries, Robert Saxvik, Burley, and Arthur Murphy, Mullan, wanted immediate action on the highway funding.

Much of the issue was resolved when the House voted Thursday afternoon 46-24 to approve the diesel tax increase.

Chase stomped across the aisle and told Ellsworth angrily, "Let's get that damn highway bill out of committee. All we're doing is fooling around and fooling around."

Ellsworth glared at Chase but said nothing.

The Republican leadership then called a meeting in Ellsworth's office to discuss the situation.

The Democrats called a caucus and just by coincidence

met in the office of Gov. Cecil D. Andrus where they viewed the television account of the Sen. Frank Church announcement for the presidency.

However, the upshot was the Democrats agreed to suspension of the rules so as to speed up the bills.

The Senate Transportation Committee under the chairmanship of State Sen. Reed Budge, R-Soda Springs, has two key bills. One calls for a sliding scale increase in car registration that would produce about \$3.8 million and another for limiting the law enforcement agency to one third of the highway funding which would raise \$1.7 million for highways.

The diesel tax would raise \$500 thousand, of which \$400 thousand would go for highways and \$100 thousand for counties

and highway districts.

Chase is opposed to the diesel fuel tax, contending most truckers don't want it. Other legislators dispute this, saying the truckers agree to pay for their share along with the already approved law for a 1 cent gas tax hike.

This is the issue that will decide whether the legislature adjourns sine die Friday or on Saturday. If it becomes extended it could even spill into next week but this is not probable.