

Political activities at low ebb for rest of 1983

By BEN J. PLASTINO

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Now that the Idaho Legislature and school elections are over this year, political activities will take a breathing spell until the general election campaign in 1984.

Remaining will be city elections but in most cases this is an off year for the mayors and the interest is accordingly at low level.

Politics

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There also will be some political gatherings and perhaps some early campaigning by presidential political candidates and announcements later this year for senatorial and congressional offices.

In Idaho Falls, the terms of three councilmen will expire and all three have indicated they will seek re-election. Mayor Thomas Campbell and the other three councilmen will hold over for two more years.

Councilmen Sam Sakaguchi, Wesley Deist and Art Chandler have all indicated they will seek re-election, although they are not yet ready for formal announcements.

Considering the present city administration apparently has the

strong support of a majority of the voters, a challenger would face an uphill fight to oust any of them. The three won four years ago in a tough field of a record 14 entries.

The first day for filing is Sept. 29 and last day Oct. 11 for a parttime job which pays \$4,800 a year. They must get petitions signed by at least 40 qualified voters to get on the ballot.

The holdovers are the mayor who draws a \$35,568 salary and Councilmen Ralph Wood, Melvin Erickson and Paul Hovey.

Other cities of Idaho also will be hold elections and in most cases only councilmen will be elected. There are a few which will name mayors where there are vacancies or where they elect mayors on odd years.

Fall should see the formal announcements by all of the congressional candidates, Sen. James A. McClure and Reps. George Hansen and Larry Craig, all Republicans. Also expected to announce are Democratic contenders, Richard Stallings, Rexburg, and Larry LaRocco, Boise, for a

rematch of last year against Hansen and Craig, respectively.

Democrats are seeking a formidable candidate to oppose McClure, who appears virtually unbeatable at this time. The only name mentioned seriously is Pete Bush, Lewiston, a comparatively unknown retired Marine officer and now engaged in real estate.

Four others who could be strong challengers have all indicated they will not run. They are former Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus, former state senator and 1983 lieutenant governor nominee Mike Mitchell, Lewiston; Sen. John Peavey, Carey, and State Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon.

U.S. Sen. Steve Symms is a hold-over until 1986.

A north Idaho judge, Dar Cogswell, threatened to call a new legislative election this fall in view of holding the present reportionment proposal unconstitutional but opposing attorneys say appeals, possible trial and other delaying legal actions would preclude this possibility.

Aside from these few activities, it is probable that a few of the presidential candidate may trod the Idaho turf in quest for primary votes. Ron Twilegar, Boise, state campaign chairman for Ohio Sen. John Glenn, already announced Glenn plans to make a speedy one-day tour of Idaho, including Idaho Falls, in September or October. The East Idaho Republicans also plan to hold their annual barbecue in late August when outstanding figures are usually booked for speaking.

Bateman lists key issues for 1984 Legislature

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State Rep. Linden B. Bateman, R-Idaho Falls, said educational financing will be the salient issue in the 1984 Legislature but that there are a number of important issues.

Bateman, who is the House majority caucus chairman, said one of the main proposals is action for subordinating Idaho Power Co. water rights to those of water users.

This measure, House Bill 367, passed the House 41-29 but failed in the Senate 16-19. All eastern Idaho legislators voted for it except Sen. Dane Watkins, R-Idaho Falls, and Reps. Gary L. Paxman, R-Idaho Falls, Ray Parks, R-Blackfoot, and Cornell Thomas, R-Pingree.

Bateman noted that because of this there water rights have not been

issued on the Snake River this year and there is a backlog of about 500 applications.

"Unless this legislation is passed this coming year, many Upper Snake River farmers face trouble," said Bateman.

Bateman said the main argument against the bill is that it tampers with water rights, though those of a private utility.

Bateman said he also sees a need for legislative input to the Idaho Energy Plan including provisions for development.

"The present one adopted by the Idaho Water Resources Board is environmentally oriented and that is the reason the Legislature would not act on it," said Bateman.

Bateman said he has discussed plans for the 1984 session with other politicians.

Bateman said the Republican leadership is holding a series of regional meetings to discuss key issues.

He agreed higher education can use more funding but said he thinks there has been some extravagance among the state institutions.

"Students should have to pay more of the cost in the way of increased fees," he said.

He also favor hikes for vocational education.

New sculpture

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—There's a new sculpture on the front lawn of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

The work, "Trace" by Alexander Liberman, was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Q. Davis.

Constructed of varnished steel, "Trace" is a rectangular panel with a looping linear element attached over the rectangle.