

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.