Olmstead sees no problem

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BOISE - House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, R-Twin Falls, said Tuesday he does not believe his forthcoming gubernatorial announcement Sept. 8 will harm his effectiveness as a House speaker in the current special reapportionment session or the 1982 regular session.

Olmstead said that in the current session he is not seeking re-election as state representartive and can view the present reapportionment proceedings free from personal interests.

"Whatever reapportionment proposal is enacted will not directly affect my gubernatorial campaign," he said.

Olmstead said he likely will announce from his home base in Twin Falls and then follow with trips to other sections of the state but this has not been definitely determined as yet.

In a Post-Register interview while at the special session, Olmstead said of his dual role as speaker and gubernatorial candidate "I feel that I can act fairly without any political overtone."

Olmstead said there is not enough support to give Boise an extra legislative district outright but there is opposition to combining Elmore and Owyhee counties into a single district, along with a small porton of south Ada county. Such a consolidation would pit two veteran Republican Senate leaders against each other, Caucus Chairman Walter Yarbrough and Assistant Majority Leader Wilson Steen, Glenns Ferry.

Olnstead expressed hope suspension of the rules can be obtained to let the special session to complete its legislative reapportionment task this week.

Olmstead said the rules suspension which calls for a two-thirds majority is necessary if a reapportionment measure is to pass, or else it would take five or six days more. The rules suspension enables three readings of a bill in a single day or else it would take six days—readings on three successive days in each chamber.

He said the Senate-passed joint resolution calling for study of the Boise urban renewal project is not necessary, adding if such an audit is necessary it could be done by the Joint Finance Appropriation Committee. The House State Affairs Committee killed this resolution 13-4 Friday.

Olmstead said his campaign will emphasize the need for a choice to "elect a governor who will work well with the Legislature and to provide an environment to improve the business economy."

He said he will soon be selecting campaign coordinators in each county. He also said he is not optimistic about the state's economy.

Olmstead said that education will continue to get top priority and that the Legislature will strive to appropriate more money for education.

He also said Les Purce, new director of the Department of health and Welfare, should be given a chance to work out the abbreviated regional management system.