

The Post-Register

The political pulse

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Sunday, September 26, 1982

C-11

The election eye

Leroy assumes key role in campaign

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

The irrepressible Attorney General David H. Leroy is the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, a comparatively minor office, but nevertheless he is taking a prominent role in this year's Idaho election campaign.

Leroy, of course, has always been a political animal, revels in the spotlight, is personally popular with most, has a warm, outgoing personality, is in high demand as a speaker, and is clever at getting the maximum public exposure.

Only 35, he typifies best "the young man in a hurry."



Most lieutenant governor candidates in the past kept a low profile and have been barely known to voters, but not Leroy. He ranges far and wide, even upstaging the Republican's gubernatorial nominee, Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt.

Leroy is indeed a phenomena in Idaho politics, using his office frequently for political purposes in issuing legal opinions.

Leroy is accused by his critics as being a stalking-horse for Batt. A stalking-horse is

defined by Webster's unabridged dictionary as "a candidate put forward to divide the opposition in the interest of some faction or to conceal the real candidacy of some other person."

In this case, there is little question that Leroy is actually aiming for the governorship in the future. He had said he wanted to try this year but apparently decided to wait after Batt started early and tied up the big Republican money.

* * *

Leroy's activities give strong credence to the claim of Leroy's opponent, Democrat State Sen. Mike P. Mitchell, Lewiston businessman, that he is actually running for governor, not the No. 2 post. Leroy hotly denies this, declaring it is his aim to make the lieutenant governor position an important one.

In Mitchell, Leroy has an extremely capable opponent, one who is rated by veteran political observers as one of the best Idaho state senators. Mitchell is extremely well versed in state affairs, is viewed as a champion of the trodden and is a successful businessman.

Mitchell is nonplussed about how to combat Leroy's flamboyant style and in combatting an incumbent's prerogative in getting maximum in-office exposure. Mitchell, 57, emphasizes his business background; and as semi-retired, he is willing to devote fulltime to a parttime job.

Most observers view Leroy as the strong favorite to win election but his forays into the gubernatorial campaign might be overplaying his hand.

The Post-Register

The political pulse

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Thursday, September 30, 1982

B-7

Young says Williams bungles auditor job

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

An Upper Snake River Valley native who would like to become state auditor said here Wednesday the Democratic incumbent had failed to properly discharge his duties.

Nolan G. Young, who has lived all of his 54 years in the Idaho Falls area before moving to Boise last year, accused State Auditor Joe Williams of sloppy management.

Young said he is emphasizing his professionalism as a certified public accountant, and also the fact the state auditor system is in a state of shambles, as the two main points for his seeking office.

"What we need is consolidation in the management of state finances," said Young in a Post-Register interview.

"The state code says the state auditor should be supervising the state's fiscal affairs but the financial management seems scattered among the governor's budget people, the state auditor and the legislative auditor. There does not appear any single person who is the chief financial officer.

"The state code puts the chief responsibility

on the state auditor for management of the state fiscal affairs. We need a strong man for the position"

Young noted Williams has now come up with a reform plan to get the help of the governor and legislative auditor to bring about better financial reporting.

"I would say he is a little late in this," said Young. "He should have done this 24 years ago when he took office."

Young cited Williams' lack of knowledge by his announcing Saturday that the state general fund budget could be 18.5 percent short, or \$84 million. He pointed out the governor's budget office denied any figures that could even remotely suggest that. The governor has ordered an 8.5 percent holdback.

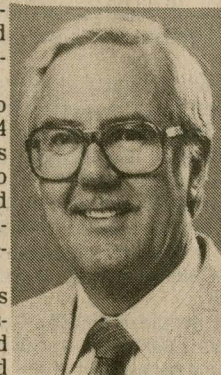
Young said he has joined the Phil Batt caravan from time to time and found in discussions that the economy is the top issue.

In Silver Valley in north Idaho, Young said, he found many miners are incensed that the big eastern union bosses did not let them vote on whether they wanted to go back to work.

"I find there is a lots of sentiment against Gov. Evans there," said Young.

Young said Lt. Gov. Phil Batt who seeks the governorship is getting good response on the caravan tour which started two weeks ago and will wind up in eastern Idaho Saturday. The tour is to be in Bonneville County and eastern Idaho Friday.

Young pointed to his 27 years in CPA practices in Idaho Falls.



Nolan G. Young