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The political pulse

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Young says Williams bungles auditor job

By **BEN J. PLASTINO**
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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.

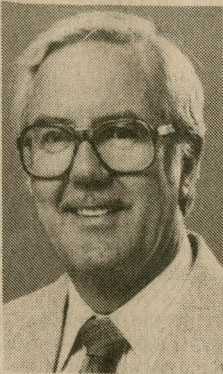
Young said he has joined the Phil Batt caravan from time to time and found in discussions that the economy is the top issue.

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