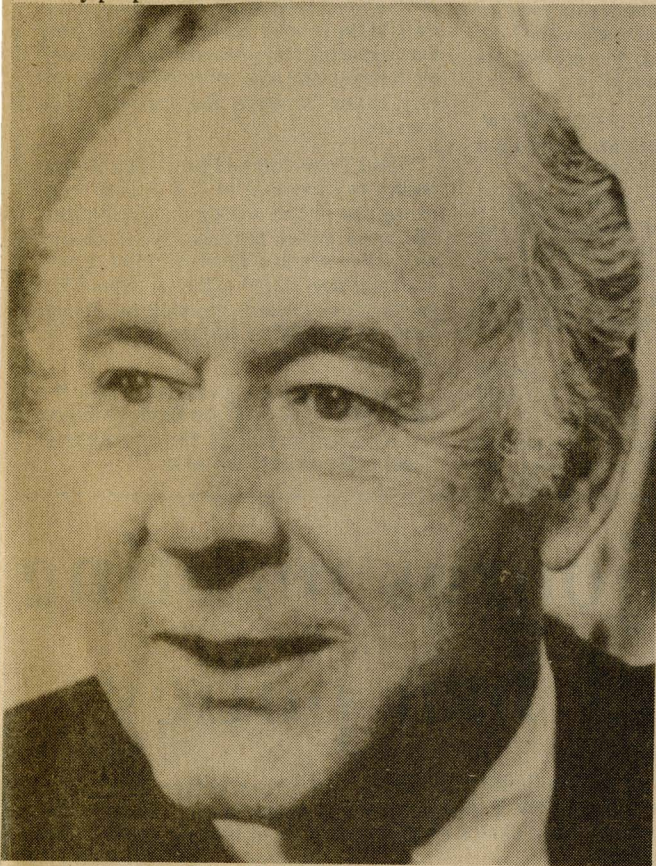


# to be in beloved Idaho

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In his frequent travels, he said he found among people "there is lots of confusion and frustration about the economy. Reagan campaigned for a balanced budget and no new taxes. The budget now has the largest deficit in history.

"When people look at the economy they realize this administration is not in the corner of the average working person or the small farmer. Everything Reagan has done to date is slanted to the wealthy people of America.



Cecil D. Andrus

"I believe people will see repercussions against this in the election this fall. I think that Stallings has a very good chance against George Hansen. I think LaRocca could replace Larry Craig.

"Reagan recommended the large tax increase in spending and Congress voted for it. All four members of the Idaho congressional delegation voted for it. They voted for a tax reduction last year that was way out of balance with the budget."

Andrus observed that the national polls show that Reagan is running even lower than Carter at the corresponding time four years ago.

Andrus observed Reagan is "an expert communicator and comes across well in television," adding "but when people look at the facts they simply see a recommended budget with the record high deficits, more bankruptcy, high interest rates, and the highest unemployment in more than 40 years. It is bringing total devastation to the economy. People are now starting to think."

About James Watt, his successor, Andrus simply said "he is continuing to make strong statements but really hasn't changed anything. He is not doing anything to improve the oil or gas climate. In the last sales, he got bids on only 10 percent of the property that was up for bids. He has a lot of bombastic rhetoric but little action."

Andrus was surrounded by a powerful staff in the governor's office, most of whom went to Washington with him. They all have climbed to high office since he left Washington, a city he never particularly liked. He yearned always to return to Idaho. In fact, he had announced beforehand that he would return to Idaho, regardless whether President Carter was re-elected.

Among his former top Idaho assistants and their last known jobs are Chris Carlson, press secretary, and John Hough, both public relations executives in Seattle; Rollie Bruning, with a Denver management firm; Gary Carton, consultant with Columbia Political Reserve Institute, an organization formed by former Idaho U.S. Rep. Orval Hansen; Jerry Gilleland, director of communication with Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Keith Higginson, engineering consultant at Salt Lake City; Billie Jeppesen, still Andrus' private secretary in Boise; Leo Krulitz, vice president for an engine company in Columbus, Ind.; Larry Meierotto, who also returned to Idaho and now heads the Mitchell campaign; and Joe Nagel, regional service manager for the Department of Health and Welfare at Coeur d'Alene.

But for Andrus, he belies the adage, "they never return to Pocatello," meaning former U.S. Sen. Glenn Taylor, who went to Malbrae, Calif., after being defeated for re-election. He later became a millionaire as a wig manufacturer of "Taylor Toppers."

But Andrus did come back to Idaho. And he loves it.