

Mitchell contends Evans runs solid ship of state

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

State Sen. Mike Mitchell, D-Lewiston, lieutenant governor candidate, said here Wednesday Democratic Gov. John V. Evans, unlike Republican governors in neighboring states, has been able to steer the ship of state without calling for new taxes.

Mitchell, who was here for formal opening of the Bonneville County Democratic headquarters Wednesday at the Rogers Hotel and campaigning at the Eastern Idaho State Fair at Blackfoot, said "Idaho is still a state which appreciates a good campaigner. The governor is one of the best as he visits every nook of the state."

Mitchell scoffed at claims by national Republican Governors Association leaders that Evans is vulnerable because of the way he had handled the state.

Mitchell pointed out both Oregon and Washington Republican governors needed to call for tax increases to meet state operation costs because of shortages in revenue as result of the slumping economy.

"Governor Evans is right in not calling for a special session but to work out programs with the funds available," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said of his own campaign he feels he is gaining on his Republican adversary, Attorney General David H. Leroy.

"If Evans had called a special session as Lt. Gov. Philip Batt urged, we would not have been able to act in light of the recent drop in of VA and FHA loans, lower interest rates and an upturn in the stock market," continued Mitchell.

"It would have been premature. As it is, Evans

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is going along in hopes the economic good news will continue. The governor is wise in buying time under the circumstances."

Mitchell pointed out in Oregon three special sessions were called to cope with the problem of reducing state costs by a half billion dollars, eventually resulting in raising taxes.

In Washington state, a special session was called and it missed the target by \$164 million to meet state operation costs. As a result, Washington needed to restore a 5 percent food sales tax, said Mitchell.

"We had none of that happen in Idaho for which the people can be grateful to Governor Evans," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said he does not favor the present lame duck Legislature to meet but instead to have the newly-elected legislators who take office Dec. 1 to cope with the financial problems.

"If the governor were to call a special session, the present Republican Legislature would not cooperate," said Mitchell. "The governor saved the state the cost of a special session."

Mitchell declared the new legislators will know more accurately the financial state picture in December on what they need to do for the current 1983 fiscal year.

Mitchell attended a regional Economic Development Agency meeting Monday in Idaho Falls where he explained the industrial revenue bonds which provide tax exemption revenue bonds for business development. He pointed out he wrote the original legislation and Idaho is the only state in the nation now without this business incentive. It is to be voted on as a constitutional amendment in the Nov. 2 general election.

The Post-Register The political pulse

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C-11

The election eye

Politics hike tempo for election campaign

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

It didn't take long after the Labor Day weekend for politics to accelerate its tempo for the expected bruising campaign leading to the Nov. 2 general election.

On Wednesday, nearly all of the leading politicians were on hand in Idaho Falls which is expected to be the key territory in deciding many expected close races. The occasion was the formal openings of the county party headquarters of Republicans and Democrats. This is the first time that can be remembered that the occasions took place on the same day.

It fittingly signaled off the formal campaign in eastern Idaho.

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Most of the leading contenders of both parties were present to sound their political views to partisan supporters and also gain public exposure. It was a proper setting that will launch the candidates for congressional and state offices on a rigorous two months tour of the state.

On the scene were Democrats Gov. John V. Evans; Auditor Joe Williams, State Sen. Mike Mitchell, for lieutenant governor; and J.D. Williams, for attorney general; and Republicans Congressman George Hansen, Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt, and Jim Jones, nominee for attorney general. The Republicans formally opened their headquarters at Shoup and B St. Plaza at 9 a.m. while two hours later the Democrats threw their headquarters' doors open just a block away at the Bonneville Hotel.

Of the leading candidates for contested offices, only Richard Stallings, Rexburg, Democratic congressional nominee, was unable to attend because of appearing Wednesday morning for the wedding of his brother-in-law at Ogden. Stallings opened his own campaign headquarters Friday night at Rexburg at the former Porter printing complex at 20 N. 2nd East near the Madison County Courthouse.

Some 75 well-wishers attended, including Williams, the attorney general nominee.

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The Wednesday activities in Idaho Falls are significant because they underline the importance of eastern Idaho as a decisive battle ground. As so often in the past, close elections likely will be decided in Bonneville County and eastern Idaho.

All of the contested offices appear fairly close, although the crucial battles are yet to be fought. The two headline races, those between Evans and Batt, and for 2nd District congressman between Hansen and Stallings, could be tight. Most give slight edges to the incumbents, Evans and Hansen, but this could change before the campaign is over.

The other battles also are not runaways. They pit Republican Attorney General David H. Leroy against Mitchell for lieutenant governor, Democrat Auditor Williams against Nolan G. Young for state auditor; Democrat Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon against Doyle Miner; and Democrat J. D. Williams, Preston, against Jim Jones, Burley, for attorney general. Unopposed are Republican Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa and State School Supt. Jerry Evans. The incumbents must be given varying advantages while the attorney general race could be a tossup at this time.

Also to furnish added interest are the many legislative and county candidates, most of whom face contests.

The past summer activities were comparatively placed with the gubernatorial, congressional and attorney general candidates the most active. There was the Republican barbecue and Democratic picnic and the brief appearances of U.S. Sens. Robert Dole, R-Kan., and James A. McClure, R-Idaho. A number of big national names likely will appear during the campaign.