

Mitchell contends Evans runs solid ship of state

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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

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.