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Evans wants tax cheaters to pay

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Gov. John V. Evans said here Friday he is particularly desirous for stemming the loss of the \$90 million estimated lost to Idaho tax cheaters.

The state, he noted, has about the same problem as at the national level where billions of dollars are lost from taxpayers who fail to file returns, deliberately giving lower income figures or otherwise failing to pay their fair share.

"I'm going to ask the next Legislature to make an massive effort for the state to collect state income, sales and corporates taxes that are due," he said in a Post-Register interview while in Idaho Falls.

He noted the State Tax Commission has met with the Legislature to ask for increased auditing process. The legislature appropriated money to hire a few more auditor but woefully short of the amount needed, said Evans.

Evans noted that at least \$30 million could be easily collected with an expanded auditing system, and it could be much more.

"I don't suppose we could collect all of the \$90 million now lost but we can do better than at present," he said. "The additional auditors would be cost effective and it is an effort that is economically feasible."

Evans reiterated he will not ask for a general tax increase but he said he will urge the elimination of a number of tax exemptions, many of them that are granted for services. He observed there are more than 200 tax exemptions now.

Evans estimated at least \$9 million to \$10 million more could be collected in this manner.

In other matters, Evans said:

- Idaho is rated as having the fifth best business climate in the nation and is the sixth fastest growing state in the union which nullifies the charge of his opponent that he is anti-business. Evans asserted he has always encouraged business and has consistently advocated business oriented legislation. For example, he said, from 1970 to 1982, 120,000 new jobs were created in Idaho to indicate the business strides in Idaho.
- That he endorses the Residential Tax and Denturist tax initiatives to appear on the Nov. 2 general election ballot but needs to study and analyze the pro-nuclear tax initiative which is sponsored by the John Birch Society.
- He expects business, the economy and Right-to-Work issues will be among the main ones in the coming campaign. He pointed out, however, that Idaho has been looked on as a attractive business climate state. He said regarding Right-to-Work that management-labor relations are excellent and that less than 15 percent of the non agriculture work force are union members. He gave solid backing to the INEL which he said is an ideal clean business in the electronic field but expressed hope a permanent depository can be found for radioactive waste so that the nuclear industry can accelerate.