Batt has no future plans

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Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt, the Republican nominee who pushed Democrat Gov. John V. Evans to the wire in the tight Nov. 2 general election, said he had no future political plans but stopped short of saying he would never run for office again.

"I feel fine," he said in a Post-Register telephone interview Tuesday from his home at Wilder. "I though we made a magnificent effort. I'm awful proud of my supporters. I'm not mad at anybody."

Turning to the election, he said "I think we gave about all we had."

"In running against an incumbent, a candidate has only about one chance in 10 to win. This was a Democratic year."

Batt said he estimated he spent $250,000 for the general election, plus $280,000 in his successful effort to beat House Speaker Ralph Olmstead in the primary for the Republican nomination, or total of $530,000.

About the Right-to-Work issue, he said "overall it hurt. It was there to begin with and I tried my best to get the benefit."

He noted that although he did well in east Idaho, he lost badly to union forces in Bannock County by 7,000 and in Nez Perce County by 5,000.

"My main plans right now are to do a good job farming," he said. "My onion crop is good but the prices are bad."

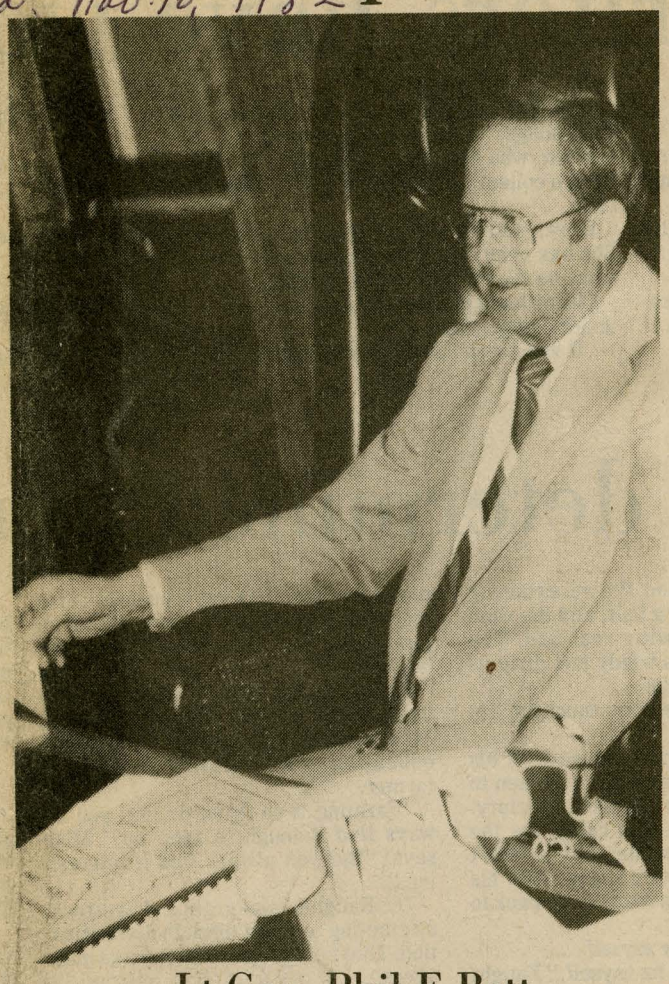
He said although he is still lieutenant governor until inauguration of the lieutenant governor-elect David H. Leroy in early January he will avoid taking active political part the remainder of his term.

He said he may not preside over the reorganization session Dec. 2-3 because he needs to attend a National Onion Convention at San Diego at that time.

He declined to say whether he favored a special session in December as proposed by Evans, saying it is his policy not to publicly comment on speculative state political matters.

Now 55 and with 16 years of experience in state government, Batt said he is still interested in how state government develops.

His public service began in 1965, serving as state representative two years, then state senator 10 years, and lieutenant governor the last four years. While in the Senate he served as majority leader six years and president pro tempore two years.



Lt.Gov. Phil E.Batt

"After the election," he said "I had a nice visit with the governor. We get along well personally but we are apart politically."

He said he felt the campaign was comparatively clean but resented the governor painting him as "a mean guy" as result of the comic books which portrayed him as a labor union puppet and also as lacking leadersip because he did not control the Freedom-to-Work leaders who financed the comic book and the Right-to-Work issue.

"I had no control over the Freedom-to-Work Committee and did the best I could in the campaign," he said.