

For Senate Andrus says he won't run

May 1983

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

Former Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus, said today he will not run against Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, in 1984. Andrus, a former Idaho Democratic governor, made the announcement at a Boise luncheon.

He said he would take a look at the 1986 gubernatorial contest, but added it is too early to make a final decision. Democrat Gov. John V. Evans has announced he will not seek re-election.



Cecil Andrus

Andrus criticizes James Watt on coal leases. Page A-14.

Andrus, who prefers living in Idaho, also ruled out opposing Sen. Steve Symms, R-Idaho, in 1986. Evans, however, has said he may enter that race.

Although Andrus said he would not oppose McClure, who is expected to seek re-election, he said the senator is vulnerable on at least three issues.

Andrus said these are McClure's vote to increase federal debt limits and deficits; his stand in favor of selling Forest Service lands but not Bureau of Land Management lands; and his vote for natural gas deregulation, which Andrus said would increase costs to Idaho households.

"There has been a great deal of speculation as to whether I will be a candidate for U.S. senator," Andrus said in his prepared speech to the Idaho Press Club. "Admittedly, this is a difficult decision to reach because I have always enjoyed serving the people of Idaho and a challenge to make a political race has always been stimulating."

He said he and his wife, Carol, came back to Idaho after he was done serving in Washington.

"It has always been my choice to live close to our family and our friends in Idaho," he said. "Home is where the heart is and our heart is definitely in Idaho."

"The only problem with the U.S. Senate is where you live and work. I

have always enjoyed serving the people of Idaho and I would again but to serve them in Idaho, not move 3,000 miles away.

"So for that reason I will not be a candidate in next year's election for the U.S. Senate."

Andrus was Idaho's governor for six years, resigning in 1976 to serve as interior secretary under former president Jimmy Carter.

Since then, he has owned and operated his own private consulting business in Boise. He served in the Idaho Senate before running for governor.

In his talk he said, "Jim McClure and I came to the Idaho Senate in 1961 and we have known one another since that time. It is true we have been political adversaries on some issues but throughout the years he and his wife and me and my wife have remained good friends. In my opinion, however, he is more vulnerable next year than at any time in his political career."

He said, "McClure's voting record on fiscal matters became extremely liberal during this administration. He has voted to increase the debt limit more than a trillion dollars and he continues to support a budget that creates a \$200 billion a year deficit. These votes are uncharacteristic but they are certainly damaging when we are in a depression situation in Idaho."

On the public land issue, Andrus said, "McClure has been very pointed in his opposition to legislation to sell U.S. Forest Service Lands while at the same time he has been curiously silent on the proposal for sales of vast amounts of BLM lands."

On the natural gas deregulation bill in McClure's Natural Resources and Energy Committee, Andrus said, "Any proposal by the administration

will be devastating to Idaho if it passes in its present form."

He added it would affect 110,000 households in Idaho. At present because of negotiations with Canada, rates have decreased slightly.

"But if this proposed bill would deregulate the gas rates, in my opinion it will escalate the prices and end up being a boom to the major oil companies which own most of these gas," he said. "There would be a tremendous increase in the monthly gas bill of Idaho citizens."