

Batt says good organization won for him

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BY BEN J. PLASTINO

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Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt, flushed with his decisive victory for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in Tuesday's primary election, said here Friday he credited his "excellent campaign organization for the success."

Here to attend the Fisherman's Breakfast at St. Anthony Friday and a fund-raiser Thursday night at the Emma Achley home at Ashton, Batt said he and his wife, Jacque, plan to take a next week off for a vacation trip to New York City.

Asked what he attributed his victory to, Batt said "my organization work paid off. People recognize that I can give

John Evans the stiffest competition in the general election.

"I'm pleased with my showing in Bonneville County."

Batt said he had an excellent county chairman in Mike Crapo. Batt said he personally worked door-to-door in Idaho Falls the Saturday before the election and this helped him capture the county.

"I consider this area of vital importance in the general election," said Batt. "I will be campaigning frequently and vigorously in eastern Idaho for the next five months."

Batt said much of his summer and fall campaign will be concentrated on

attending fairs, rodeos and other community events.

He said he will attend the Idaho Republican Convention at Coeur d'Alene June 24-26.

"My immediate objective is to solidify the party so we can go ahead to unseat Governor Evans," said Batt.

The Republican gubernatorial standard bearer said he was gratified there were no serious rifts that developed between himself and House Speaker Ralph Olmstead during the Republican gubernatorial primary campaign.

"I think Speaker Olmstead ran a good clean campaign. After the election, he pledged me his total support," said Batt.

Batt, who rolled up a 63 percent victory margin, or 63,766 to 36,028 votes, said that at the state party convention he will use his influence "to build a platform for a strong pro-job and pro-economy position.

"That will be my key issue in the coming campaign," said Batt. "The economy will overshadow other concerns but adequate support for schools, strengthening of our criminal justice system and right-to-work will probably follow in that order.

"I intend to run a positive campaign against Governor Evans, emphasizing my leadership capacity and refraining from any personal attacks," he said.