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Legislative limelights . . .

Emotional proposals sharpen partisanship

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The 46th Idaho Legislature is off to a rocky start by first tackling two deeply controversial issues that will leave a bad taste for the remainder of the session, no matter how they are finally resolved.

The first, which was expected, is legislative reapportionment which only the lawmakers and political leaders are mainly interested in an effort to increase their strength for the next Legislature. It is, however, of no more than passing interest to most other people who likely don't even know the number of their district, what area it embraces and their senator and two state representatives who represent them.

The second is far more reaching and was not expected to be acted on so soon or not at all. It is the Right-to-Work Law which most voters are deeply interested in and could be one of the main issues in the coming campaign.

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Democratic Gov. John V. Evans has vowed to veto both the present reapportionment and Right-To-Work bills which have vaulted the House by almost identical votes, reapportionment by 49-20 and Right-to-Work by 50-20. The Right-to-Work bill passed the Senate Friday 21-14 but faces an almost certain veto Monday by Gov. John V. Evans. The legislature likely will reach a compromise on legislative reapportionment by juggling a few boundary lines in the three districts in the Pocatello area and the Senate will not even act on the House-passed version.

The announced Evans views now indicate what the the Legislature has done to these two bills this session has been wasted motion. His anticipated veto on Right-to-Work will be easily overridden in the House but will be sustained in the Senate where the Democrats have a majority of one to prevent a two-thirds over-

ride vote. In fact, it would be no surprise to see some Boise Republican join the Democrats to sustain the veto. Two of these, Sens. Edith Klein and Vern Brassey, voted against the measure Friday.

The Republicans control the House 56-16 and the Senate 24-12 but these figures are misleading. On frequent occasions, between 15 and 20 moderate Republicans join the Democrats in the House to pass what many view as progressive legislation while in the Senate some six to eight of the more moderate Republican senators cross party lines on some matters.

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It thus appears that what the legislators are doing in many matters are highly politically motivated and seeking to gain advantageous position for the coming election campaign leading to the May 25 primary election and the Nov. 2 general election.

The Right-to-Work Law is wrapped up in many ramifications that should furnish considerable fodder for the coming campaign.

The Republicans believe they have a prime issue which could oust Evans but this is a two-edged sword as such an emotional issue will attract many heretofore disinterested voters among the laboring people that could work against the Republicans. Anyway it happened in 1952 when a Right-To-Work proposal was presented to the people and was narrowly defeated but it also led to ouster of many Republican incumbents.

It will be with relief that these two proposals be settled so that the legislators can get down to the more productive task of settling the budget. This year, the financial controversy should not be as divisive. The revenue projections of the governor and the Legislature are less than \$3.5 million apart. This isn't much, as compared with the \$16 million difference last year.