

# Williams won't seek another Senate term

By BEN J. PLASTINO  
Post-Register staff writer

Sen. J. Marsden Williams, R-Idaho Falls, announced late Friday afternoon he would not seek a 10th term.

Michael D. Crapo, Idaho Falls attorney, said Saturday he would try to replace Williams.

The Senate, racing to a Saturday adjournment, took time out to honor Williams late Friday afternoon.

"It's been 18 years now and two heart attacks later," the Idaho Falls Republican told the Senate on Friday. "I feel like maybe I'm pushing my luck . . . We've decided we will not run again for the Senate."

Williams and his wife Phyllis, who, like other legislative wives, has filled in for her husband in the Legislature, got several standing ovations.

Williams is Senate majority caucus chairman.

Williams, 67, told The Post-Register he had been planning on running again until this week, deciding after consultation with his family that he would relinquish the position.

He has been Senate majority caucus chairman two terms, and before that chairman of the Resources and Environment Committee 16 years. He also was a member of the Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee for 12 years and sat on the Senate State Affairs Committee.

"It has been a choice experience and I have made some choice friends," he said.

His father, Elmer Williams, had previously served in the Senate six terms, four of them as the Senate

president pro tem.

Williams said he plans to spend much of his time operating a farm at Milo, northeast of Idaho Falls.

Crapo, 32, said he had talked with Williams Friday afternoon as the Legislative District 29 chairman, and decided he will run for the position.

He is an Idaho Falls native, a graduate of Idaho Falls High School and Brigham Young University and a graduate cum laude with a juris doctor law degree at Harvard University.

He served as law clerk with a U.S. appeals judge in California a year, and has practiced as an attorney with the Idaho Falls law firm of Holden, Kidwell, Hahn and Crapo since 1979.

He has been active in Republican Party politics, and besides being legislative chairman, is county vice chairman.

Crapo said the main three legislative points he stresses are education, water rights and maintaining budget controls.

"I think we need strong leadership in the Senate," he said.

He said he will file in District 32 under the latest reapportionment plan which Williams said appears due for approval. District 32 provides for election of two state senators and four state representatives in Bonneville and Teton counties, plus a senator and two state representatives for a floterial district made up of Bonneville, Teton, Madison and Fremont counties.