

Idaho GOPers awaits convention

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BOISE (AP) — Since Ronald Reagan has the presidential nomination wrapped up and candidates for top state party offices have no opposition, Idaho's Republican state convention in Boise Friday and Saturday could be a "honey and roses" session.

A four-way contest for the first vice chairmanship may provide the most controversy — since it involves a split between northern Idaho and southern Idaho delegations.

For years the 1st vice chairmanship has been rotated regularly between the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts. When Richard Bauer of American Falls announced he was retiring, some party officials felt the office should be filled with someone from the 1st Congressional District.

But it has developed into a four-way contest between Lee Skelman of Coeur d'Alene, Rich Hendricks of Preston, Ann Rydahl of Idaho Falls and Shirley Strom of Craigmont — with the tradition of rotating the office between the two congressional districts at stake.

There may be some concession to one of the losers. The 2nd vice chairman is appointed by the state central committee — and that office goes to someone in the opposite congressional district from the 1st vice chairman.

Dennis Olsen, an Idaho Falls attorney, has no announced opposition for another term as party chairman. State Sen. David Little of Emmett and Leora Day of Boise have no announced opposition for seats on the national committee. Little is

seeking re-election to a third term and Mrs. Day is seeking to replace Orriette Sinclair of Twin Falls, who did not seek re-election.

Charles Chehey of Moscow is unopposed for another term as treasurer. Sylvia Folkinga of Buhl and Peggy Gossi of Cascade are running for secretary to succeed Ruth Modie of Lewiston, who is not seeking another term.

There may be some disagreements over selection of Idaho's 21 delegates and 21 alternates to the national convention in Detroit next month, but there doesn't appear to be any major conflict over what to do with two delegate seats earned by Illinois Congressman John Anderson in the May 27 primary election.

On the basis of the presidential primary, Reagan won 15 of the 17 delegates at stake and Anderson took the other two. Four other delegates will be selected by the convention.

Anderson had withdrawn from the Republican nomination race prior to the primary election and did not file a delegate list as required by statute, although he remained in the presidential picture as an independent candidate.

Jim Davidson, executive director of the party, said Attorney General David Leroy has advised party officials disposition of the two delegates allocated to Anderson by the primary should be determined by the convention.

Leroy and Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa have drafted a proposed rule change stipulating that if a candidate dies, withdraws or fails to file a delegate list the convention shall fill



JIM DAVIDSON, Boise, executive secretary of the Idaho Republican Party, is in charge of arrangements for the state party convention scheduled Friday and Saturday at the Red Lion Inn, Riverside, at Boise.

those spots in the delegation with uncommitted delegate

That proposal will be considered by the Rules Committee Friday, which will pass on recommendations to the full convention Saturday.

Cenarrusa heads the Nominating Committee which will pick the slate of national convention delegates. Fifteen delegates and 15 alternates must be picked from a list of 42 nominated by the Reagan Committee. It includes most of the state's top Republicans, including Sen. James McClure, Congressmen George

Hansen and Steve Symms, and Leroy.

Virtually all of the national convention delegates will be Reagan backers although some will be officially listed as "uncommitted."

The delegate selection and adoption of a platform and resolutions will come at the main business session Saturday.

The convention opens Friday morning with a keynote address by House Minority Leader John R. Rhodes of Arizona. Symms, who is running for the U.S. Senate, speaks at a banquet Friday night.

Election of state party officers is scheduled Friday and McClure is speaker at a luncheon.

Another luncheon Saturday afternoon will be addressed by House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, R-Twin Falls, and Senate Majority Leader James Risch, R-Boise.

Committee meetings are scheduled Friday afternoon. Delegates not on a committee will hear from Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, who left the Army in the mid-1970s after criticizing the policy of pulling American troops out of Korea.

Preceding the convention, the Idaho Federation of Republican Women held its annual meeting on Thursday. Betty Heitman of Baton Rouge, La., president of the National Federation of Republican Women, Tuesday cancelled her appearance because of illness of her father. Her place as keynote speaker was taken by Norene Bunker of Mobridge, S.D., the association's national treasurers.