

Idaho Legislature lauded at GOP con

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By BEN J. PLASTINO

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BOISE — The Idaho Republican Party Convention came to an end early Saturday evening after two legislative leaders praised the Legislature and the central committee elected Anne Rydalch, Idaho Falls, as the party's second vice chairman.

Mrs. Rydalch, supervisor of procurement for Catalytic Inc., an INEL operating contractor, won the position over Rich Hendricks, Preston, 69-34 in a vote in the central committee. The two had lost earlier in the convention for first vice president to Lee Shellman, Coeur d'Alene, who had gleaned 174 votes to Mrs. Rydalch's 102 and Hendricks' 88.

Olmstead

At a Saturday noon luncheon, House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, R-Twin Falls, said he was proud of how the Legislature gave education a 13 percent increase compared with 8.2 percent asked by the governor.

He also noted the Legislature did well in implementing the 1 percent tax initiative because it

means all property owners will pay a lesser tax, achieve a statewide uniform appraisal and effectively stop the "rampant unnecessary growth of state government."

He also pointed out the Legislature funded two persons for independent state monitoring of the INEL radioactive wastes to determine whether or not there is a problem.

He said he was disappointed in the governor's vetoes on legislative staff appropriations and for local control of the 1975 Land Use Planning Act.

He also chided Gov. John V. Evans for establishing an Office of Energy by executive order, commenting "We will have to live with the problem surrounding energy until we get a new governor."

He noted that finances for the coming fiscal year appear bleak because of a probable \$15 million loss in federal revenue sharing increase and the need to dip into the surplus of the past year.

Senate Majority Leader James Rish, Boise, said despite news media reports, the Senate

and House generally got along well and that the Legislature did well in implementing the 1 percent initiative and tackling many tough issues.

He noted the coming Legislature will be important because it will need to handle legislative reapportionment.

Vernon F. Ravenscroft, Boise, who presided at the luncheon attended by more than 500, said the 1980 Legislature would have been a disaster if Evans were in control.

Carter attack

At the Idaho Republican Federation meeting preceding the state convention, Norene Bunker, Fargo, S.D., national treasurer of the Republican Women Federation, charged President Carter repeatedly broke campaign promises made during his victorious 1976 presidential race.

She said the Carter administration has showed it to be one of "incompetence, conflicting views and confusion, promising too much and delivering little."

She said Carter tried to balance the 1981 budget by raising

taxes, not by cutting spending.

State Sen. Larry Craig, Midvale, the 1st District congressional nominee, promised to support legislation allowing homemakers to set up their own retirement accounts.

"The housewife can't develop her own independent retirement program," he said.

He added that money invested in these additional retirement accounts will make more money available for loans, helping the economy as it helps individuals.

At the meeting, Enid Davis, Idaho Falls, was elected 2nd Congressional District director and Sheila Olsen, Idaho Falls, was elected state chaplain.

Jerry Evans, state school superintendent, asserted in a talk at the general sessions, that the Idaho Legislature has solidly supported public education and given it more money than asked by the governor.

He insisted "that members of the Idaho Education Association will realize the Republican legislators are their real friends."

McClure

Sen. James A. McClure, who was unable to attend because of voting on defense appropriation bills, pointed out in a telephone hookup talk, Idaho got more revenue sharing because of the defeat of a House recommendation that called for drastic cuts.

McClure also deplored what he called the decline of U.S. prestige abroad because of weakened military strength.

He also said, "We are in serious trouble because of the economy and many families are in trouble because of inflation, especially the weak, ill and old."



Republican leaders

Post-Register/Ben J. Plastino

BOISE — Among the luminaries at the Idaho Republican Convention at Boise over the weekend were, from left, Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt and Rep. George V. Hansen, seated; and,

standing, State Chairman Dennis M. Olsen, Idaho Falls; and House Minority Leader John Rhodes of Arizona, the keynote speaker.