The election eye...

GOP expected to take hardline right stance

BY BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

The Idaho Republican platform and resolutions are expected to veer as far to the right as the Democrats swerved to the left in their state conventions.

That is to say that both parties will not occupy the extremist positions in either direction but neither will they hover near center.

It is hoped the Republicans will clearly define their positions on the myriad of issues, just as did the Democrats, even though this is not the most popular thing to do. At least it will give the voters a definite choice of candidates, based to much extent on the philosophical differences.

* * *

Views expressed by Idaho Republican Chairman Dennis M. Olsen in another story appearing on this page pretty well confirm what party delegates will do in their state convention at Boise nest weeekend — take a hardline right stance.

They can be expected to adopt resolutions that will call for the maximum multiple use development of wilderness, Forest Service and other public lands; warmly support the Sagebrush Rebellion intended to turn much of public lands to state control, and for full development of natural resources with the environment to take second position. These are positions diametrically opposed to the Idaho Democrats'.

It's rather academic in taking position on the Equal Rights Amendment but the Republicans likely will overwhelming favor its rescission, just as the Democrats supported the ratification by a 3-1 voice vote margin.

It would be no surprise if Republicans seriously consider and adopt the Liberty Amendment which even Olsen, Sen. James McClure and Rep. George Hansen view with less than enthusiastic support. U.S. Rep. Steve Symms is a leading advocate of this proposal, which, in effect, would put the federal goverment out of business.

* * *

The Post-Register
The political pulse

A-10 Idaho Falls, Idaho, Sunday, June 22, 1980

The Republican platform and resolutions can be expected to contain such phrases as "constitutional government" (what other kind is there in the U.S.?), and some others used by Olsen such as "basic values" and "fundamental principles" and others that underscore the philosophical avid conservatism of the majority of leaders.

The Republicans, as contrasted with the Democrats, also are expected to come to the defense of the Legislature, and their own congressional delegation.

This will clearly draw the line for this fall's general election.

Missing will be the colorful fight for national convention delegates because Ronald Reagan is virtually alone, following the withdrawal of his rivals. As matters stand, Reagan likely will get all of Idaho's 21 delegates, now that John Anderson virtually forfeited the meager two he won by becoming an independent candidate. Actually most of Anderson's votes came from Democrats who crossed into the Republican primary to vote for Jim Jones and against Hansen, and the moderate Republicans who are now in the abject minority.

* * *

The Republicans do have a headline speaker in House Minority Leader John Rhodes of Arizona. Two bitter retired generals, Maj. Gen. Jack K. Singlaub and Lt. Gen. Daniel O. Graham, are expected to fuel controversies against the nation's foreign and military policy.

The convention committees, however, are headed by capable and moderate leaders which might temper somewhat the phrasings. Rep. Jack Kennewick, R-Boise, the assistant House majority leader, aided by Senate Majority Jim Risch, Boise, head the platform committe, and Rich Hendricks, Preston, former administrative assistant to Rep. Hansen,is chairman of the resolutions committee

After attending both state conventions more than a quarter of a century, there appears little question the Democrats really do have more fun. Maybe it's because they don't take themselves too seriously—something the Republicans could well follow.

Hopefully, the Republicans will streamline their platform and resolutions to a workable quantity and quality. The Democrats bulky 18 pages resembled a copy of the day's proceedings of the congressional journal, and were just about as interesting.