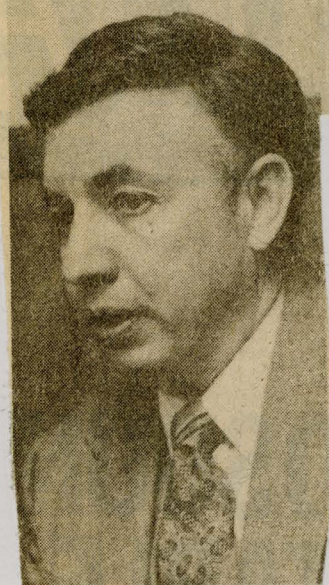


Olsen says GOP to stress 'basic values'

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BY BEN J. PLASTINO
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A low-key Idaho Falls attorney who is the Idaho Republican Party chairman believes the party's state convention next weekend will underscore what he calls "the basic and fundamental values in our society" in its platforms and resolutions.



Idaho Republican
Chairman
Dennis M. Olsen

Dennis M. Olsen, who has served at the helm of the party two years and is seeking another two-year term, said he doesn't know the exact details of what the platform and resolutions will take because these won't be disclosed until convention time.

He did say, however "I am concerned about the smothering of human initiative as result of government bureaucracy. I'm concerned over the erosion of fundamental elements of our society. This includes such things as the importance of working for a living, rather than surviving

on the dole.

"Those are some of the issues which we must turn our attention to."

Olsen agreed Republicans may take diametrically opposite stands than did Democrats in their state convention last week but added they also plan to address themselves to other topics they consider important.

Olsen said he believes there will be a strong resolution "evidencing patriotism of Idaho to register for the draft if necessary," contrasting with the Democrats opposition to the

draft.

Olsen said he anticipates Republicans will take what he calls a "balanced view" concerning the maintenance of quality of life in Idaho, of job opportunities and for development of essential natural resources.

"I don't think we will create a rich man's paradise," he said in referring to wilderness protection, adding "I doubt we will endorse some of these wilderness proposals."

"I also think we are concerned about the human job environment as we are on the Birds of Prey," he said, indicating opposition to enlarging this area's acreage.

Olsen said Republicans are deeply concerned about the farming economy and likely will support planks to encourage efficient farm development practices.

In other observations, he said it appears the Equal Rights Amendment issue is settled in this state by the Legislature's approval of rescission; that in the matter of welfare services, the Republicans are interested in providing assistance within the capability of its natural resources but will pay special interest in avoiding waste in these programs.

He also said Republicans are concerned with inflation and soaring taxation, some things the Democrats did not appear to be interested in.

He believes a plank likely will call for bolstering the present weakened defense posture, noting the advance of Soviet Russian's influence in South and Central America and other nations.

He said that has brought a lack of confidence in this nation's allies "as far as our support in the world power structure is concerned."

He added "We believe it essential that we take off the shackles of efforts to develop energy resources."

On education, he said "the Republicans believe in adequate funding for education, again within our capabilities taxwise."

"We also encourage teaching of some of the fundamental principles of our schools, such as honesty, patriotism, importance of work, basic integrity and appreciation for freedom."

He once again came to the defense of the Idaho Legislature, asserting "it is to be commended for its accomplishments in implementing the 1 percent initiative without crippling our education system and other vital services."