# Fuller sees burning issues at convention

Sat June 11 1980

**BY BEN J. PLASTINO**
**Post-Register political editor**

Wayne Fuller, Caldwell, Idaho Democratic Party chairman, said recently there will be a number of controversial issues considered at the party's state convention. The meeting will open in Pocatello Thursday and continue until Saturday afternoon.

Fuller said among the major issues is action on public lands to counteract the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion that would, he said, "amount to a land steal by various interests at the expense of the people."

"This Sagebrush ideal is a guise wrapped up in rhetoric. But the issue is whether the people's interest is to be served," said Fuller.

Fuller said the important platform and resolutions committees are headed by Rep. Gary Gould, D-Pocatello. Subcommittees are chaired by Rep. Roger Guernsey, Boise, natural resources; Sen. Lester Clemm, Troy, economic resources and Sen. Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, human resources.

Fuller said other issues which may evoke considerable debate include policies regarding the Snake River acquifer, abortions, Equal Rights Amendment, primary elections and state convention system, a taxation system that will shift from residential property, wilderness designation, particularly regarding the River of No Return; and interest rates and other fiscal policies.

Fuller contended the new wildlerness designation releases more area for lumbering and mining and the Republican charges to the contrary are incorrect.

Fuller said the reason for the timber depression is due to lack of demand because of high mortgage housing rates, not lack of timber. He pointed out, however, that with influx of people into Idaho there will be increased demands for housing and other essentials.

Some 500 persons are expected to attend the convention, including 330 delegates.

Preliminary activities open Thursday with registration, meetings of the rules committee at 9:30 a.m, the executive committee at 2 p.m. and voter identification program workshops in the afternoon.

The fund-raising event for congressional nominees Diane Bilyeu and Glen Nichols is scheduled at 7 p.m. with U.S. Rep. Pat Williams, of Montana, as the speaker. This will take form of an outdoor barbecue, followed by talks in the convention hall.

Friday's schedule includes credentials committee meeting at 8:30 a.m., reports of committees and welcome talks at 9 a.m. then state Senate and state Representative workshops in the afternoon, and also platform, resolutions and standing committe meetings.

The evening program includes at banquet at 8 p.m. in honor of Sen. Frank Church.

Saturday's program lists adoption of platform and resolutions, committee reports and talks by Auditor Joe Williams and Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon in the forenoon, and state central committee reorganization and business and election of delegates in the afternoon.

Post-Register/Ben J.Plastino

## *Democratic senators*

**These veteran Idaho Democratic senators are expected to take prominent roles at the state party convention at Pocatello Thursday,Friday and Saturday. From left are Sens. Israel Merrill, Blackfoot, chairman of the human resources subcommittee; Ron Twileger, Boise, who is slated to assume Senate leadership in the next session; and Chick Bilyeu, Pocatello, host senator helping in arrangements.**