



Post-Register/Bob Schweiger

Olmstead opens campaign

HOUSE SPEAKER Ralph Olmstead is campaigning in east Idaho part of this week in his quest to seek the Republican gubernatorial nomination. He is opposed by Lt. Gov. Philip

E. Batt and the winner will meet Democratic Gov. John V. Evans in the Nov. 2 general election.

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Olmstead favors cutbacks

BY BEN J. PLASTINO

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House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, R-Twin Falls, said while campaigning in east Idaho Tuesday that one of his thrusts is to cut state government.

"It is time Idaho had a governor who believes in fiscal responsibility," said Olmstead. "The people of our state expect and need a lean and responsive government."

Olmstead pointed out during the last 12 years under Democratic governors, Idaho has seen a rapid expansion of government.

"It is time to reverse that trend, to put a stop to the spiraling of unneeded tax burdens," he said. "We must find better ways to get the job done with fewer dollars."

Olmstead said he plans to cover all of the 44 counties of the state in the campaign leading to the May 25 primary election.

Olmstead noted that while he may be trailing in some polls, there is a large percentage of voters undecided and he is relying on them to nominate him at

the May 25 primary election.

Olmstead has served 10 years in the Idaho Legislature, the past four as the speaker, the top job in the lower chamber.

Olmstead said he will campaign the remainder of the week in the Twin Falls and Boise area. This will include attending a session of the Legislative Council at Boise Friday.

Olmstead said his next east Idaho appearances will be as honored guest at an open house at the home of Rep. John O. Sessions at Driggs April 20 and at the home of Rep. Elaine Kearnes in Idaho Falls April 21.

Olmstead emphasized he has worked for progressive causes, especially economic growth in Idaho, adding "the record proves I am pro business."

He added Evans is attempting to attract new business to Idaho, saying "Now he realizes his past mistakes but he is a part of the problem.

"Jobs, or lack of work, is the number one problem facing Idahoans," said Olmstead.

Olmstead pointed out that in

the late 1970s and early 1980s several national corporations looked at Idaho as a new site but they could not be guaranteed an uninterrupted power supply and thus located elsewhere.

Olmstead said "since the 1970s, the liberals in the Statehouse have taken a now growth point of view and said we don't want Idaho to grow. Well, you and I are paying for those decisions now."

Olmstead pointed out that Idaho lost prospective employers like Eastman Kodak and National Semiconductors.

"The message is clear," continued Olmstead. "We need a new Republican administration for Idaho."

Olmstead said he doesn't accept the view that it is Phil Batt's "turn to run for governor," adding "if we keep taking turns we may never have a Republican governor."

Olmstead then compared voting records between himself and Batt which showed that Olmstead voted against but Batt voted for 15 bills that cost the taxpayers \$7,826,300.