

JUN 16 1983

Evans eyes hike in budget

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Gov. John V. Evans, undaunted by legislative rebuffs, said here Wednesday night he will ask the 1984 Legislature to increase the state budget.

While here to address the annual Harry S. Truman Banquet, Evans said it is too early to hazard a guess at what he will recommend.

"It certainly will be above the \$451 million finally approved by this year's Legislature," said Evans in a Post-Register interview.

He said the state of the economy is uncertain but if it continues to improve and revenues escalate above anticipation, he said a \$475 budget figure would not be out of line. It is the same figure that he recommended this year.

He lamented the Legislature's refusal to dip into increased revenues to adequately fund education in the coming fiscal year.

Asked if he would still consider calling a special session this year, he replied "no, I don't think I will. I didn't have much success in the last one."

He was referring to the May special session which refused to increased education appropria-

tions by \$13.2 million as he requested.

He substantiated the views of his attorney, Pat Costello, that the two Republican members of the Board of Examiners, Attorney General Jim Jones and Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarussa, acted illegally in not granting his full request for \$4.2 million for more funding for higher education and agricultural research-extension service.

He said he would not press a lawsuit but that the Board of Education is in a position to do so. He said he hoped the education board will be able to get the full amount by independent action.

He said he was concerned a lawsuit would cloud the credit of the \$110 million in tax anticipation notes State Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon floated to help pay off state deficits.

The governor expressed optimism Democrats will win control of the State Senate in 1984 and dramatically close the gap in the House. Republicans presently control both chambers, 21-14 in the Senate and 51-19 in the House.

"I can certainly use some more good friends on the third floor," he said, referring to the legislative chambers at the State Capitol.