

Larsen ponders race for governor's post

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BLACKFOOT — Former House Speaker Allan F. Larsen, who farms west of Blackfoot, said Wednesday he hasn't made up his mind whether he will again seek the governor's office.

Larsen said other prospective Republican contenders have sounded him on his views but he gives them the same answer.

"I have had more more people ask me this time than they did the last time I ran," said Larsen. "This has encouraged me to make the race."

Larsen said it may be several months before he will decide, perhaps as late as a year from now, especially if the primary is moved back from May to August or September as appears probable.

Larsen said two leader Republican contenders, House Speaker Ralph Olmstead, Twin Falls, and Attorney General David Leroy, Boise, in asking about his intentions, told him they would not run if he decided to again enter the contest.

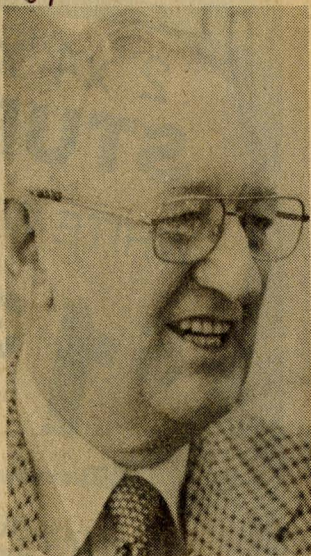
Larsen won the Republican nomination in an overcrowded field of six in the 1978 primary but lost to Democrat Gov. John V. Evans in the general.

"I know that if I do run I won't make the same mistakes I made the last time," he said.

By that he said he meant he will discard a negative theme and conduct one that is aggressive and positive.

"I may make some new mistakes but I learned from the past campaign," he said.

Besides Olmstead and Leroy, the only other prospective Re-



Allan F. Larsen

publican contender is Vernon F. Ravenscroft, now a Boise consultant, a former legislator, and who finished a close second to Larsen in the 1978 contest.

Ravenscroft also said he is undecided.

Larsen said he has no firm opinion at this time on an Idaho Republican Central Committee proposal for requiring 25 percent endorsement by convention delegates at their biennial party convention for congressional and state elective office candidates.

Larsen served 12 years, or four terms in the House, serving as speaker four years and chairman of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee before that except for the first two-year term.

Evans is expected to be unopposed for the Democratic nomination.