

Risch ~~has~~ ^{had} opposes Mar. 17, 1980 tax hikes

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Majority Leader James E. Risch, R-Boise, is considered the ramrodder in the upper chamber to push legislation and his fiery arguments with another sharp-tongued Boise attorney, Ron Twilegar, Boise, now the Senate Democratic Senator minority leader, may enliven the proceedings this year.

Risch serves as the front for the Senate Republicans while the head man, Senate President Pro Tem Reed Budge generally hover in the backgrounds and has little to say in floor debate. Budge says it his policy to direct party politicies behind the scenes but the majority leader should take responsibility for seeing they get enacted.

Risch is a rigid conservative but at times kicks over the traces to back what is considered liberal legislation.

Risch is another legislator who feels the budget freezes should continue and the 1 percent stay on the books just as enacted with minimum changes.

To nobody's surprise, he fervently opposes any general fund tax increase, and to keep the tax relief program as constituted at present, which means the senior citizens circuit breaker and the home owners exemption.

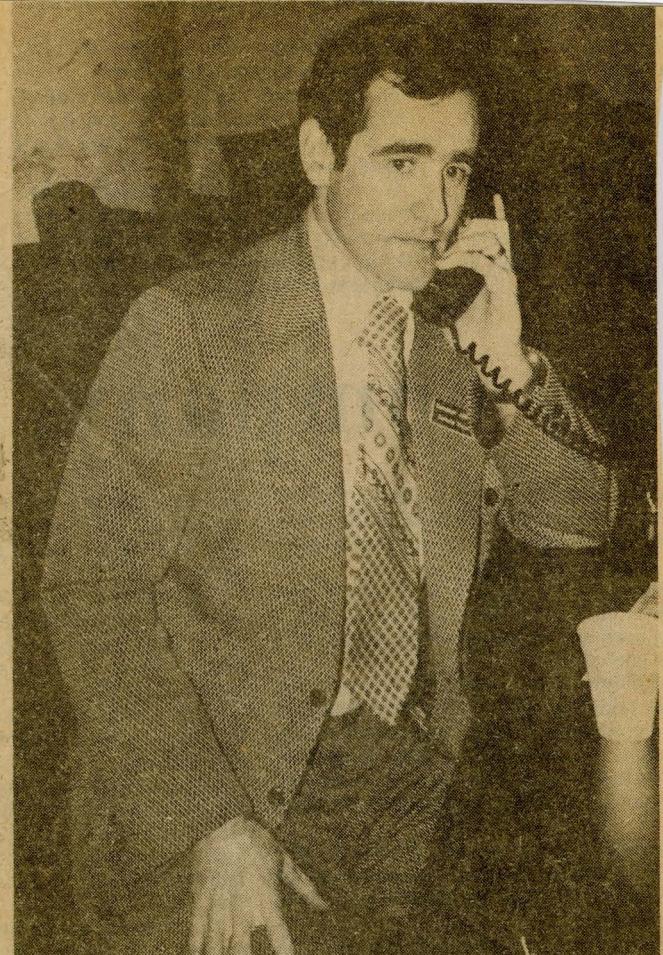
Regarding budgets, he says to "spend only what we have on a basis of the highest priority first until the money is gone."

The veteran Boise senator says he is opposed to any state gasoline tax increase but doesn't mention his stand on vehicle registration or other vehicle legislative hikes.

He also takes a staunch negative stand against increases for higher educationns; with no changes, only cost of living increase, for public employes, and a firm "no" for more city home rule; full-fledged Department of Energy; fish and game increases and program expansion; and licensing for day care centers, shelters or other such institution.

He also said he favors the concept of the Sagebrush Rebellion that would turn federal lands back to the state, and also the Right to Work Law.

Opposition is extended to any changes in the general election laws but he said he might favor changes in the party convention systems that would require approval of convention delegates for party nominees for gubernatorial and congressional contests in the primary.



James E. Risch
Senate majority leader