

Leroy shuns answer on future plans

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Attorney General David H. Leroy recently sidestepped questions on whether he would run for governor in 1986, but he also would not say he wouldn't.

The youngish Leroy — he's only 35 — said doggedly "I'm interested in being lieutenant governor for each day the coming term. I'll try to do a great job each of those days."

The closest he would hint that gubernatorial aspirations may be in back of his mind was to say "...I'll worry about future races far down the road. We have a governor elected for four years and we only have one governor at any one time," ...and that was that.

Leroy pointed out in a Post-Register telephone interview from his office in Boise he had considered making the gubernatorial race this year but decided to wait after Lt. Gov. Phil Batt and House Speaker Ralph Olmstead entered and took a major chunk of campaign donations.

He laughed at an Associated Press article last Friday picking him as a front runner for 1986, adding "there are at last five men who are scheduled to become the next governor, including myself."

Leroy said he was pleased on what he labeled as his strong Nov. 2 election showing, pointing out "it was the largest margin



David Leroy

in the state for a Republican state candidate."

Leroy said his Democratic opponent, State Sen. Mike P. Mitchell, Lewiston, "made a good vigorous well financed race. He was an energetic candidate.

"I think he contributed important issues that served well for discussion on a statewide office."

He complimented Mitchell for his vigorous campaigning, adding "he is a winner in my book. He was articulate."

Leroy added "I think my concept of state business planning and a more active lieutenant governor's office were attractive to voters."

He then said "I think some of the negative campaigning that pictured me as a mere lawyer and suggested me as a political climber did not sell particularly well with voters."

Leroy added that Mitchell and his campaign manager, former Gov. Cecil C. Andrus, "greatly misstated the public land issues among ranchers and farmers and others who are working extensively with public lands. The misstatements were not accepted by the voters."

The statements were to the effect Leroy favored indiscriminate sale of public lands.

Leroy said he felt he ran "a mostly good strong positive campaign."

Campaign expenditures reached \$53,000 at the last report but he said that in the closing period it probably will rise to about \$65,000.

Asked how he would get along with Democrat Gov. John V. Evans, Leroy replied "I work fine with the governor. The governor

and his staff and I have often worked on issues of mutual interest.

He pointed out that he and the governor made a joint appearance at the North Idaho Chamber of Commerce meeting at Coeur d'Alene last week and spoke from the same platform.

"I think the spirit of cooperation will be the essential element of our relations," he said. "Of course, we will disagree from time to time on major issues but with the thought in mind to keep the issues carefully defined and with no personal animosity."

Leroy said he is joining the office of John Runft, a longtime Boise law firm. He pointed out it is necessary he be associated with other lawyers so that he can spend part of his time to carry out his lieutenant governor duties.

He added he will spend most of his time in the lieutenant governor's office during the legislative session and at other times as the occasion warrants.

"Basically I will be available fulltime as the needs demand. I will be in constant contact with my office, even when I'm at the Runft law firm."

Leroy said he liked Mitchell's proposal for getting student interns to help in the office and may himself adopt such a program.

Leroy said he plans to work on business development and identifying issues that are close to cities, counties and chambers of commerce. As such, he plans to have close liaison with the Association of Idaho Cities, Association of Idaho Counties, and the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry which is the state arm of the chambers of commerce.