

Budge asserts no boundaries now valid

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BOISE — Senate President Pro Tem Reed Budge, R-Soda Springs, said Tuesday that in the present legislative reapportionment, the "legislators must remember legislative boundaries are no longer valid and they must be redrawn."

Budge said he always felt the current session would take the full three weeks and it is no surprise to him it already is in the third week with no definite plan in sight yet.

Budge said there are two main points to consider: (1) there must be an initiation of a statewide pure numerical plan, and (2) when that is done, there must be a look at the areas of social and natural impact.

"We must consider a numerically pure plan and what are the percentages in each district so that we can avoid a challenge in the court," said Budge.

Budge conceded that some of the incumbent legislators may not like some of the proposals as it could pair them against other incumbents or drastically change their districts.

Moving of the Cassia County line and the north-south line and revamping of the Boise area likely are the most touchy problems, he said.

He asserted, however, there is no widespread support for giving Boise an extra district but instead include Boise with outlying rural areas.

Budge said there was overwhelming support for simply transferring 15 Boise districts from the 1st to the 2nd district to equalize congressional reapportionment. Only some of the Democratic senators objected but the bill passed the House with only two dissenting votes and hurdled the Senate 22-13.

Budge said he did not expect a gubernatorial veto in view of the wide vote margin and there is no overwhelming support for not dividing Ada County as Gov. John V. Evans has favored.

Budge also advocated passage of a Senate-passed resolution calling for investigation of the Boise Redevelopment Association. He said the state has financial interest in the project and is vitally concerned.

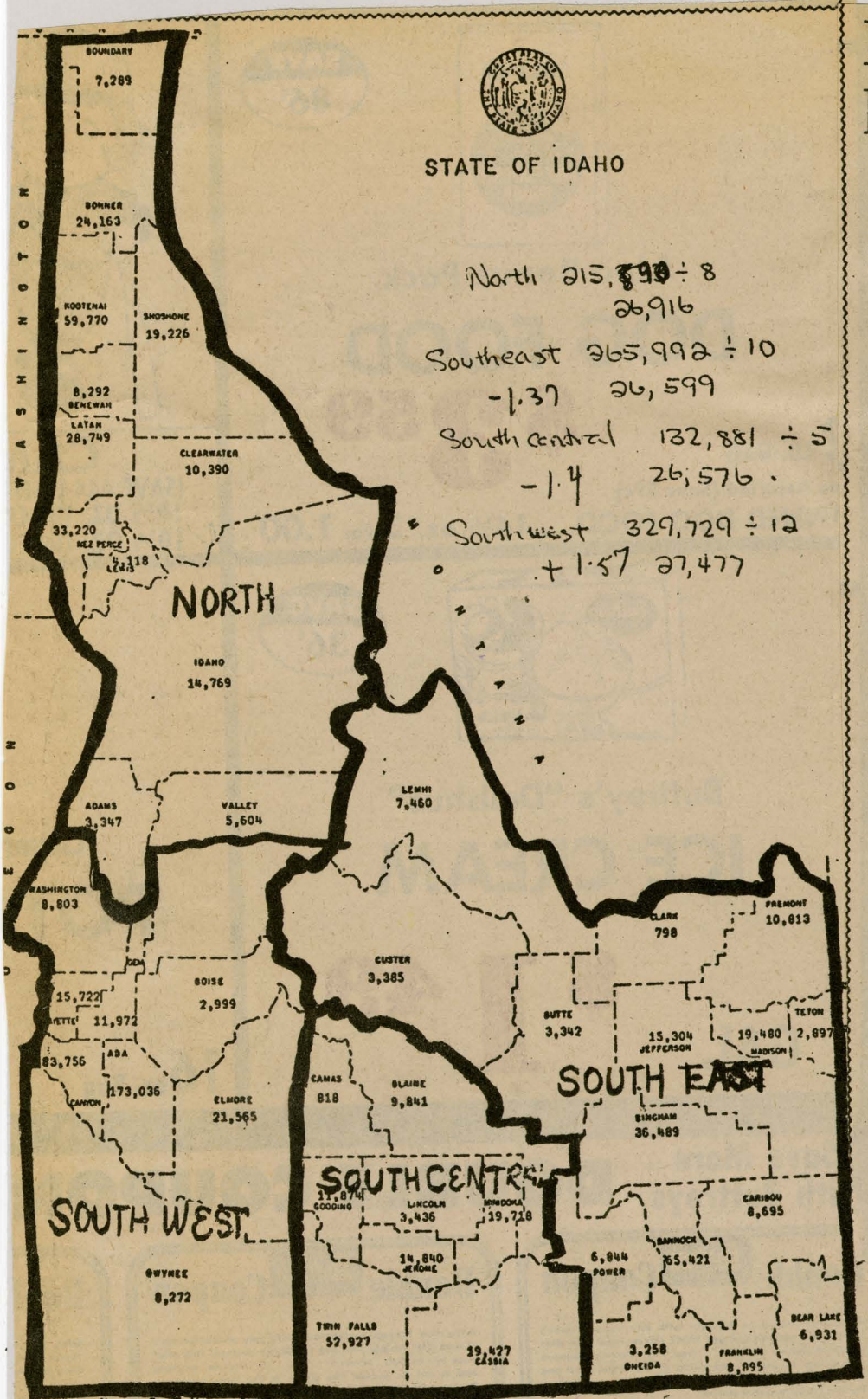
He said the resolution passed the Senate with only four dissenting votes but is now held in the House State Affairs Committee and he said he has been told there is strenuous objections there.

Budge said he was pleased the Legislative Revenue Projection Committee was proved right again when it was announced the state general fund revenue surplus reached only \$1.7 million.

"All this is tied to the economy and I don't see a bright spot," said Budge.

He said the timber industry is in a slump where workers are laid off a week of each month.

"The economy has got to show an improvement before we can get away from tight state financing," said Budge.



Regional boundaries

BOISE — THESE ARE THE four regional boundaries proposed by Sens. Mark G. Ricks, R-Rexburg, and William L. Floud, R-Idaho Falls, for legislative reapportionment. The lawmakers, however, must draw their legis-

lative district borders within these regions. Controversies hinge on whether the Cassia County line should be moved further west and whether the north-south line should place Adams and Valley counties to the south.