

Williams urges programs on crime prevention

Sun May 9, 1982

BY BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

J.D. Williams, Preston attorney, Democratic lieutenant governor candidate, said the attorney general, should be out promoting effective crime prevention programs.

Here to attend the Democratic-sponsored Harry Truman Birthday Banquet Friday night, Williams said "the attorney general should be an innovator of criminal justice. The leading challenges of the 1980s is to do more with less."

Williams pointed out as chairman of the Idaho Youth Commission, he has found that some of these innovative programs have worked.

He said there has been self esteem or positive action programs from the kindergarten to the sixth grades which teaches the student "the positive things on the reason for obeying, such as letting them know that drugs should not be used because they injure the body."

Williams said such a program was inaugurated in Twin Falls and has been expanded to Hayden Lake, Groveland and Boise schools.

"The results of such programs have been incredible," he said.

The one in Twin Falls showed that in four years, the number of referral crime violations dropped from 38 to only four, he said.

"Another program is in education where students are taught to learn obedience to law and why there are such laws," said Williams.

Williams said the interest in such courses



J.D. Williams

is high in the political center at Boise high schools.

He then mentioned the alternative high schools which are designed for high school dropouts.

"These high school dropouts are the prime candidates for crime and something constructive should be done for them," said Williams.

He mentioned such alternative high school programs for these dropouts are functioning in Idaho Falls and Blackfoot and he hopes they can be expanded to other schools.

Williams added that in the crime area, the attorney general should help county prosecutors in securing convictions and providing assistance. Once the convictions are obtained, he should also help in affirming on appeals.

"I believe strongly that more criminal laws are made by the Supreme Court and the new Court of Appeals than the Idaho Legislature," said Williams. "The courts rule on appeals and thus sets the guidelines for laws."

In other matters, Williams said he is not taking a stand on the right-to-work issue because it is one of "emotional nature."

"Because of the nature of the attorney general office which is quasi judicial, such an issue should not affect the operations of the office," he said. "For an attorney general candidate to take a stand on this would not be proper nor ethical."

He pointed out that he served as deputy two years in the attorney general office and during that time was chief deputy in the criminal division, an experience neither of the Republican candidates possesses.

He is the Franklin County prosecuting attorney in Preston and in addition has an extensive private practice.

As chairman of the Idaho Young Commission he pointed out he has taken a leading role in planning on law enforcement, he said.