

Evans's resolution on nuclear waste adopted by governors' association

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

The National Governors Association unanimously adopted a resolution made by Idaho Gov. John V. Evans encouraging wider state participation in high-level radioactive waste storage, he said Wednesday.

The governor, who returned Wednesday morning from the three-day conference at Portland, Maine, told the Post-Register in a telephone interview all governors heartily backed the resolution.

Evans, chairman of the association's energy and natural resources committee, said his proposal received full backing in both the subcommittee session Monday afternoon and later before all governors.

Only Wisconsin Democrat Gov. Anthony Earl expressed concern about storage of commercial and defensive radioactive waste in the same repository.

"I told him this was done for economic reasons and there really isn't any difference in where the radioactive waste comes from," said Evans.

Evans further reported all states are anxious to participate in the decision-making process on the high-level radioactive waste problem. Evans said Idaho is joining in such a program.

Evans also said it was revealed the Department of Energy officials have placed on the back burner any proposal for interim storage of commercial radioactive wastes at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

"This has been discussed but we have been now informed that any recommendation along this line will not be pressed," said Evans.

Also emphasized was the fact that interim storage of commercial radioactive waste and retrievability should be the main responsibility of the industry, not government.

In other matters, the governor said education and reduction of the mounting federal deficit received the most attention.

All actions favored upgrading the American education system to prepare citizen for the future.

Evans said the governors' action will further strengthen his hand in seeking adequate education funding in Idaho from the kindergarten through the university level.