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Evans will stress state issues

By BEN PLASTINO
Post-Register columnist

Gov. John Evans will stress his close relationship with Idaho people in his quest next year to unseat U.S. Sen. Steve D. Symms.

The U.S. Senate race in Idaho is looked on as a crucial one in the United States as the Republicans defend 22 seats, including that of Symms, in the 1986 general election. The Republicans presently hold a slim three-vote lead, 53-47, in the U.S. Senate and Democrats are hopeful of regaining a majority after a four-year lapse.

"We are going to wage an aggressive campaign," said Evans in a Post-Register telephone interview. "We are well organized on a statewide basis. We will have campaign committees in every county."

Evans said he is encouraged by two recent polls. One by the Senate Democratic Senatorial Committee shows Symms ahead by only a 48-44 margin, while one taken recently by a Los Angeles professional polling firm gave Evans a two-point lead.

In Evans' words, those polls show Symms, the incumbent, is highly vulnerable when he is about even with a challenger. It is a seat the Democrats hope to win to help regain control of the Senate.

"Economy will be the main issue in this campaign," said Evans.



Gov. John V. Evans

"There have been grave economy developments nationwide."

Evans pointed out that Symms has done little to help in bettering the economy. Evans noted he has gone ahead in the state to help in how he can bolster the sagging agriculture, mining and timber industries.

One of the bright spots, he noted, has been in tourism where Evans led in creating a new Department of Commerce to help tourism. He said it is now one of the leading industries in the state. He said already the recreation industry in Idaho is 7 percent ahead of a year ago.

While Evans has been working for Idaho, little has been heard from Symms in the state, Evans said.

"He has Potomac fever," said Evans, referring to Symms' penchant of paying little attention to Idaho issues. Evans asserted Symms is more interested in pressing for shallow national issues, such as an amendment to make English the official language.

"He should be devoting his attention to Idaho farmers," said Evans.

"Potomac fever" is no better illustrated by Symms' sponsoring a fund-raising cruise of the Potomac River with a fee of \$10,000 per couple, said Evans. It raised about \$400,000 but Symms refused to name those in attendance.

"That's where he is getting most of his money, from outside corporate interests," said Evans. "I would rather have 10 people donate \$1,000 each for my campaign than have one for \$10,000."

Evans wages a campaign with high credentials. Now 60, he will have

served as governor 10 years at the end of next year, the second longest in the state. He also served as lieutenant governor two years and in the Senate 14 years. In that time he served as majority leader in the 1957-58 session and six years as minority leader.

His background includes rancher and banking. He is a business graduate of Stanford University.

"Symms should be busy trying to bring down the exchange rate so that the American dollar does not ruin our export market," said Evans. "Instead, he has done nothing."

Evans said a U.S.-Canadian Task Force of which he is co-chairman can do something for Idaho timber. British Columbia Prime Minister William Bennett is the other co-chairman. Evans said a task force meeting is planned in early October in hopes of hammering out recommendations to reduce Canadian timber import and helping the American timber industry, including Idaho.

Evans said Symms' timber tariff bill to reduce Canadian imports by 30 percent "is not the responsible way to support free trade. He is not willing to do anything to solve problems brought about by the high dollar."

"Symms also has sidestepped the issue of addressing to a balanced budget," said Evans. "He has done nothing about reducing the huge budget deficits. He wants to cut out a lot of programs that help people. He is also out to cut Social Security."

Evans said he strongly supports cost of living increase for Social Security clients, while Symms has

agreed with the Senate leadership in freezing increases.

While Evans is for beneficial farm legislation, Symms has backed Reagan in cutting farm aid.

In other matters, Evans said he supports strong sanctions against South Africa for its apartheid policies, while Symms backs Reagan's policy of so-called "constructive policy" and limited sanctions.

Evans two weeks ago ordered a 2.5 percent budget holdback of \$14.7 million to keep the state budget in balance.

The governor said it was the Republican legislative leadership which appropriated \$5 million more than was available in revenue early this year which helped bring about the latest actions.

He dismissed Lt. Gov. David Leroy's recommendations for enacting the holdback earlier as "political". The governor said he wanted to wait until later in the current fiscal year beginning July 1 to ascertain whether the holdback were necessary.

He also pointed out he has named a task force to help bring the huge Superconducting Super Collider facility to the INEL. This task force of 22 members is headed by James Bruce, Idaho Power Co. president. It includes four prominent Idaho Falls men, J. Robb Brady, Post-Register publisher; William Botts, Energy, Inc., president; Troy Wade, manager of the Idaho Operations Office of the Department of Energy; and Jim Zane, manager of Idaho EG&G. The project would create 10,000 new jobs in Idaho if stationed here.