

Evans shuns query on Senate race

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Gov. John V. Evans deftly sidestepped a question of whether he is considering opposing Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Symms in 1986 at the end of his present term.

He did say in a Post-Register telephone interview that he is not ruling out any possibilities at this time, except he will not seek re-election to a third gubernatorial term.

"I don't have any plans" he replied to a question of what he will do after 1986. "I'm dedicated in terms of the next four years to go ahead with state government."



Gov. John V. Evans

Political observers have felt there is a strong possibility that Evans is the logical Democratic candidate to oppose Symms four years hence when both their terms expire. Evans said he is primarily interested in the emphasis on high technology development.

"Idaho Falls is a good example of this," said Evans. "There is a high technology at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and its related industry to help develop those programs.

"I don't think it is time to think of politics when we are caught in this recession. We must all work together to move ahead."

Asked who he considered his probable successor for the governorship, Evans said some of the leading Democrats are former governor and U.S. secretary of interior Cecil D. Andrus, now a Boise industrial consultant; former Senate Minority Leader Ron Twilegar, Boise attorney; present Senate

Minority Leader Kermit Kiebert, Hope contractor; and Sen. John Peavey, Carey rancher.

Among the Republicans he named Lt. Gov. David H. Leroy, who has indicated strongly he would be a contender; his 1982 opponent, former Lt. Gov. Phil Batt, Wilder onion grower; House Speaker Tom W. Stivers, Twin Falls insurance executive; Sens. Mark G. Ricks, Rexburg farmer, and Dane Watkins, Idaho Falls businessman. He hastened to add "there could be many late bloomers" in the present Legislature who also could be candidates.

Evans acknowledged that with no plans for seeking re-election, it may make it easier politically to work with the Republican leadership in the next four legislative sessions.

He repeatedly underscored his aspirations to serve as governor for the best interests of Idaho, regardless of political consideration.