Olsen asserts Republicans must take new direction

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Idaho Republican Chairman Dennis M. Olsen, who guided the Republicans to one of the most smashing party victories in Idaho, said Friday that with the triumph also comes the responsibility to move in a new direction.

"It's obvious the voters wanted a change," said Olsen. "Now it is up to the Republicans to accept the challenges to change Deocratic policies in a sensible and carefully throught out manner."

Olsen said he was pleased with the election results, which had Republicans winning all of the top senatorial and congressional offices in Idaho, increasing their margins in the Idaho Legislature and also scoring gains in county offices throughout Idaho.

About his own future, Olsen said he plans to serve out the remainder of his party chairmanship, which ends in June 1982.

He said he has no political aspirations at this time for a political appointment or running for office.

"For the future, we will leave that for what happens," said Olsen. "I will continue my interest in the political arena. Maybe under the right circumstances it might be interesting to run for political office."

Olsen, an Idaho Falls attorney, said the only possible positions he would consider for running in the future would be for governor or for the Legislature. Perhaps if a current Republican in Congress should lose a seat in the future he might be interested but this is a long distance view, he said.

Olsen said he is being consulted for recommendations for appointments to federal political offices.

He said Bonneville County Sheriff Blaine Skinner, one of the few Republicans defeated, has applied for U.S. marshal for Idaho, but that there are a number of other applicants.

He said other political appointments in Idaho include U.S. district attorney, director of the Farmers Home Administration and other federal agency state directors.

The biggest turnover, however, is at Washington where all directors of bureaus, divisions and departments will change, not to mention those in the Cabinet and other high places.

Olsen said he has a number of persons to suggest for appointments but declined to reveal them at this time.

Also to change are a number of committee staff positions in the Senate as the result of Republican control. He pointed out there will be a third more positions opened for the Republicans as a result.

Olsen said he plans to visit Washington in about a week for what he described "consulting in the political arena."

This is expected to include discussions on political appointments.

Olsen said he may suggest some people who could serve well in goverment, those who could be recruited, rather than just considering those who are applying.

"We have a tough job ahead" he said, "and from my contacts with various people on the national scene it is apparent that action is already underway to adopt policies which will bring this new direction."

Idaho Republican Chairman Dennis M. Olsen