McClure says Liberty Amendment is doomed

The Post-Register

The political pulse

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Thursday, Feb. 28, 1980 C-3

By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, said the Liberty Amendment, which has lately resurfaced, in his opinion "has no serious chance of being passed."

The Liberty Amendment would eliminate federal income tax and bar any revenue raising measure that is not provided in the Constitution. It would slash the federal government's budget by more than half.

McClure said in a Post-Register interview that the Liberty Amendment "is an expression of opinion to get out of bonds of constitutional amendment."

He said people are using this to protest mounting governmental costs, and they feel this can be done by eliminating the federal income tax, which supplies 40 percent of federal revenues.

On draft

McClure also said, "although I am opposed to the Selective Service draft, should it occur, I have no doubt, given current laws, that women would be called to duty, as well as men."

McClure said, "If our security requires more manpower than can be met through an all-volunteer military service, then universial military training is a better course to follow. In that instance, I would favor, for example, that everyone, after high school, be required to take basic military training for a few months.

He said this would accomplish three things: (1) It would give the United States a larger depository of trained personnel, should a crisis call up be needed; (2) military training for everyone for a period of only a few months would not seriously disrupt the lives of our citizens; and (3) by requiring brief universal military training, enough individuals, once introduced to the military service, would decide to remain in the service as a career.

He opposed drafting women into combat, however.

Reagan choice

McClure contended that Ronald Reagan has a good chance of winning the GOP presidential nomination, despite early setbacks.

McClure, who is Reagan's campaign manager in Idaho, said the real test will come in primary voting and delegate selections in the south and the border states.

"Regardless of who will be the Republican nominee," said McClure, "he will win the West, except Washington State, and possibly Oregon and California."

He also predicted that Carter wouldn't have much difficulty in winning the Democratic nomination.

"I like Senator Ted Kennedy personally," said McClure "but he simply has not gotten his act together, and he never will."

Nuclear attack

He also lamented what appears attacks by the press at Boise and Lewiston against nuclear power and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

He said, "The Lewiston Morning Tribune appears to be engaged in a crusade against nuclear power, dredging up old out-of-date information, and somewhat trying to give them credibility."

"Many of the people at Boise and Lewiston are newcomers, who don't understand the INEL. "It's a dangerous game they are playing."

McClure said he had read Allied Chemical's report on the radioactive waste management program at the INEL, and that many of the Tribune's reports were fabrications.