Craig urges reduction in federal spending

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BY BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

State Sen. Larry E. Craig, R-Midvale, 1st District Republican congessional nominee, said in Idaho Falls he would press for federal spending cutbacks.

Craig, who defeated former Attorney General Wayne Kidwell for the nomination in the May 27 primary, said he advocates a move towards a federal balanced budget and with fiscal constraints.

Craig said he proposes $30 billion cutbacks that he contends "would revitalize the economy."

Craig said a $100 billion increase is proposed for the new fiscal budget which means the raising of new tax dollars. He said the new budget funnels $11 billion to social services.

The added money comes from the windfall profit tax and from wage earners who move into higher income tax brackets.

Craig contends President Carter did not offer a lasting solution to economic problems by lowering interest rates.

"This didn't answer the question of establishing a strong capital formation and creation of private jobs that are critical to a strong economy," said Craig.

He said he believes the economy will continue to soften, adding Congress also seems unwilling to enact beneficial economic programs.

Craig, who finished serving a third two-year term in the Senate, is a rancher and realtor. He helps operate the family farm of about 800 acres, plus 400 more acres in ranch property

Craig barely lost his bid for Senate leadership in the last two legislative sessions. He is chairman of the Commerce and Labor Committee and a member of the Agricultural Affairs and Health, Education and Welfare committees.

"I was very pleased with my election," he said. "I believe my victory surprised a few people. However, I think I put together a good organization and won by nearly 4,000 votes.

"I knew Kidwell had a better name identification but I worked hard and I was right in believing that I would forge ahead late in the campaign. I was successful in raising money.

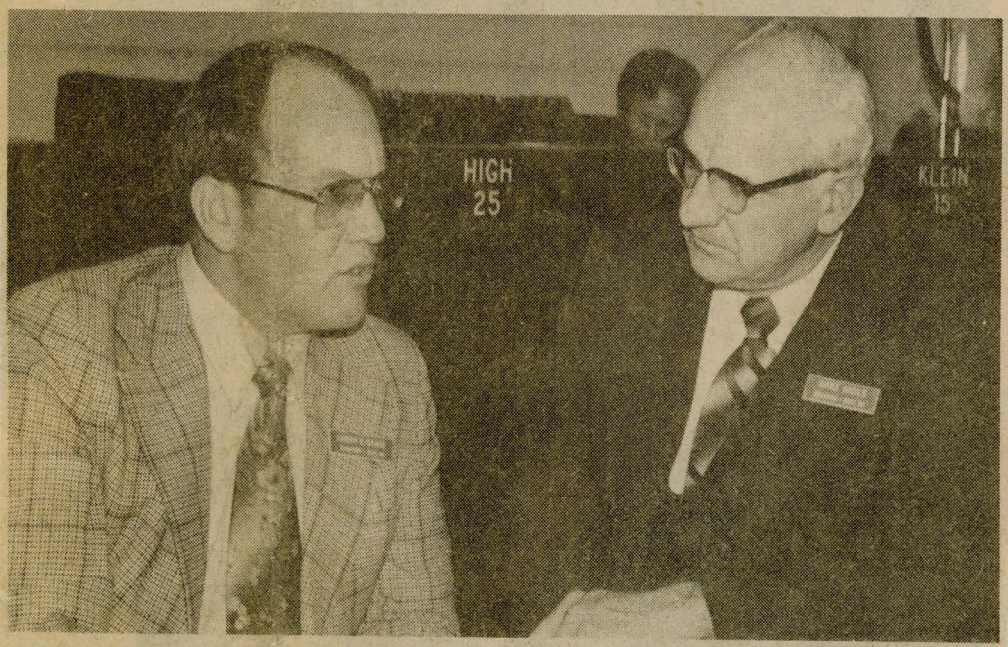
Craig said he spent about $100,000 in the primary and expects to spend as much in the general. He said he expected a tough fight against Democrat Glen Nichols, former director of the Idaho Department of Employment.

Craig said he looks on the 1st District as about one third Republican, one third Democrat and one third independent.

Craig said there appears to be a strong conservative tide and he is hopeful the swing third will favor him in the general election.

Craig said he expects to rest over the summer and work on the family farm but will be engaged in fund-raising and organization. He plans to resume his campaign in August at county fairs and increase his activities until the Nov. 4 general election.

Craig said he favored a May primary, pointing out he had joined Sen. Ron Twilegar, D-Boise, in promoting a bipartisan effort for such a system.



In the Senate

Post-Register

BOISE — STATE SEN. LARRY E. Craig, R-Midvale, left, who won the 1st District congressional nomination, chats with Sen. Mark G. Ricks, R-Rexburg, during a break of the Idaho Legislature session.