Fuller optimistic over Democratic victores

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Caldwell attorney Wayne Fuller, who as head of the Idaho Democratic Party took the brunt for a crushing defeat, is far from discouraged.

Despite the call from some sources that he not seek another term when the party chooses a chairman Feb. 21, Fuller, said he has not decided whether to seek re-election. Fuller said if he doesn't it will be because of his increased attorney practice, not because of calls for his ouster.

One of these ouster suggestions came from Robert Kinghorn, Boise, AFL-CIO president, who said new blood is needed.

Fuller said the Democrats on an average attracted about 40 percent of the vote, although they did suffer a number of close defeats. His greatest disappointmwent was the downfall of Sen. Frank Church by only 4,000 votes of some 435,000 cast.

One mentioned as a possible successor for state chairman is Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus, endorsed by the Lewiston Morning Tribune, but Andrus indicated to this writer he is not interested.

"I believe the Democrats worked hard and I'm proud of the effort they made in their legislative races," Fuller said. "This also goes for many of the candidates in other contests.

Fuller said he is encouraging many of these same contenders to consider running in 1982 when the political climate likely will change in their favor.

He lauded the efforts of such legislative candidates as Wendell Miller, Cyril Slansky, the late Don Aupperle, Charles Amberson, Mike King, and Doug Holm in East Idaho.

Fuller said he likes a motto suggested to him by a campaign worker after the election, taken from Galatians Chapter 6, Verse 9, which says "..And let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we do not lose heart."

"I'm looking forward at the future, not looking back, and talk about and looking toward the next election," he said. "We will take up the opportunities and challenges that will be presented in the future."

Fuller then recalled that in 1950, the Democrats lost every election on a statewide basis except for secretary of state. In 1952, however, the Democrats started to come back and by 1958, they had captured a majority of the Idaho congressional delegation in Sen. Church and Reps. Ralph Harding and Gracie Pfost, and won control of the State Senate.

"My message to Democrats everywhere is that the Democrats will come back and the party is alive and well."

He then said the people all over Idaho, and especially East Idaho, will be told it is the Democrats who protect the individuals' rights and will continue to do so.

He noted that it was as early as 1974, the Democrats recognized the limitation of large government and has taken action against this.

He then said that at a recent meeting of the executive committee it was decided to hire an executive director to strengthen the party and expand its economic base.

Fuller expressed optimism the necessary support will be forthcoming.

Fuller said out the Idaho Republican congressional delegation is vulnerable. Hansen, as recent elections have shown, has 40 percent or more of the voters automatically against him; Sen.-elect Steve Symms has never shown any effectiveness; and Sen. James A. McClure has shown "a lust for power" that will bring him troubles in the future. Fuller said.

He said McClure even tried to pass an amendment that would give him powers over the Department of Interior as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Fuller said, under the Idaho Democratic Party procedures, the chairman, vice chairman and treasurer are elected one year, while the national committeeman, national committeewoman and secretary are named on alternate years.

The elections are usually held during the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Banquet in February, which this year is Feb. 21. He is chairman, Dorothy Hodgson, Coeur d' Alene,is the vice chairman; John Caylor, Lewiston, treasurer; Carolyn Sealander, Boise, national committeewoman; and John Chapman, Boise, national committeeman.

On other matters, he sharply faulted Ronald Reagan for applying the term "barbarians" to the Iranians, saying that would only aggravate the situation and endanger the American hostages. He said it is better to adopt a foreign policy for such people to save face, rather than taking a stance that would lead to confrontation and warfare at this time.

"If you use language which is insulting to them, as to call them barbarians, it sees to me it will make it difficult to allow them to have an option, to save face, so to speak," said Fuller. "I hope we can reach peaceful solution.

He expressed concern over the nomination of James Watt, Colorado attorney to become secretary of interior but declined comments on the others as he did not know about their background or qualifications.

He said reports indicate that Watt "will not bring a balanced approach in public lands but more likely will take a stand aginst the the individual rights of land users.

"I feel from what I have read Watts will come down on the side of the large corporations. He will put the use of lands for the large utilities, oil companies and large corporations over that of the average person who enjoys the outdoors.

"It would appear to me, then, the average hunter, camper, trail bike rider, skier, hiker, snowomobile user, and packer will suffer in any kind of conflict. The small user will come out on the short end of the stick.

"If I were a small rancher and farmer and other user of Bureau of Land Management property and rangeland in Idaho I would be very much concerned. They might lose out to some oil or mining company on the use of of grasslands and ranges.

"If if were an fisherman I would be concerned about having access to various fishing areas."

He said, out if the American Smelting and Refining Co. had had its way a few years ago for open pit mining in the Castle Peak area in the Sawtooths, there would have been elimination of areas for fishing, hiking, backpacking, and even some hunting.

As for Reagan, Fuller said he wishes him luck and hopes he can succeed.

"I think we will have to wait and see how Reagan and his cabinet do," said Fuller.

He also said there is need to replace many Republican state legislators on a wholesale basis because many of them have shown a lack of performance. He said it was the Democrats who brought about the 20 percent homeowners exemption.