

Evans sees Idaho energy benefits

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Gov. John V. Evans said Wednesday he looks for tremendous activities in seeking alternative sources of energy, many which will favorably affect Idaho.

The Idaho governor gave this assessment in a telephone interview with The Post-Register, following talks with President Carter and at Camp David and attending the National Governor's Association at Louisville, Ky., last week.

On the domestic front he said he likely won't call a special session of the Idaho Legislature in view of the improved state financial picture and also the possibility Congress may extend the certificate of need deadline. It was for these two reasons the governor had previously considered calling a special session.

The governor was at Coeur d'Alene Wednesday to talk to the Association of Idaho Cities convention and to also get a better idea on what the cities may want in legislation at the next session to help their financial plight.

Evans expressed hope the president will follow the governors' recommendations to initiate a state planning council to serve as a liaison between the states and the Department of Energy.

Evans said that Carter nodded his head in acknowledging his gasohol, nuclear and geothermal proposals and indicated agreement but that he didn't commit himself.

Evans said he also felt from the trend of the conversation that Carter had advanced nuclear power alternative to the forefront, moving it from the back burner.

President Carter, said Evans,

July 18, 1979

appears anxious to develop alternate energy and nuclear power is one high on the list.

Evans said he talked with Carter at Camp David, along with eight other governors, eight mayors and a number of county commissioners and legislators.

He said Carter repeatedly emphasized the need for developing synthetics, including oil shale, coal and others.

Also discussed was the need for designating a permanent depository for radioactive waste so that development and nuclear power can go ahead.

Evans said most Western governors, including himself, favor decontrol of both gasoline and crude oil; and back a windfall profit tax for oil companies.

"I suspect as result of international pressures on petroleum price the need for nuclear power has surfaced," commented Evans.

In other matters, Evans said he has talked to Montana Gov. Thomas Judge to keep the Western Governor's Conference intact.

He said Judge told him the press misrepresented his views and that Montana will keep its membership in the WGC.

Evans said he also will speak to two other governors who had been reported leaving the WGC, Richard Lamm of Colorado and Scott Matheson of Utah. Evans said he believes the WGC will remain intact but that others may continue with the Western Governors Policy Office.

Evans also said he was much impressed by Carter's Sunday night talk on the energy problems, terming it "a most forceful speech."

Evans said the group who talked with Carter had advised him to use a firm hand on the energy crisis.