

According to Murphy

Legislature Said Doing Good Job⁷²

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
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Lt. Gov. Jack M. Murphy said Saturday that up to this point the Republican-controlled Idaho legislature had done a good job.

Noting the legislature and Democratic Gov. Cecil D. Andrus are of opposite political faith, he said, "The legislature had to institute its own program of revenues and taxes. They would not buy the massive tax increase."

The No. 2 man in the state government said the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee has faced a particularly difficult task.

This has centered on defining a continuing budget.

Some, he said, believed a continuing budget is one which continues the past year's budget with increased pay system. Others interpret this as one which also added new programs and new personnel.

"The committee has been forced to go over each department and agency budget meticulously and find out if they have an actual continuing budget or if they have new programs and services," he said. "The committee has then had to sort out those programs which were new."

Murphy also said it is essential for this legislature to create a special state sewer treatment fund. This is to furnish state funds to match federal and city funds to enable cities to build sewer treatment plants to eliminate waste.

Murphy suggested a 50-cent increase on wine that would raise \$600,000 and additional cigaret tax of 2 cents that would provide \$500,000 or about \$1.1 million annually. This could increase each year with state growth, he pointed out.

The lieutenant governor said there are already requests for \$900,000 for state matching funds for sewer improvement and that others are pending.

Murphy noted that Idaho Falls received about all of the initial 1970 state funds of \$1.350 million to match city and federal funds for its \$5.5 million secondary sewer treatment project for which construction began with a ground-breaking ceremonies Tuesday.

Murphy also said he is confident that the revenue projection of upwards of \$133 million is accurate.

"Idaho seems to be entering a good healthy economy," he

said. "Sales tax receipts have increased better than 13 per cent in the last quarter."

Murphy also said a bill has been introduced that will require inter-account money to revert to the general fund.

He explained, for example, that a department or agency sets up its own budget but in additional charges for a service it may make to another department or agency. He contended this is not necessary; that it only encourages unnecessarily overloaded staffs.