

Ricks says JFAC advancing at good clip

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By BEN J. PLASTINO

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BOISE — State Sen. Mark G. Ricks, R-Rexburg, member of the Legislative Joint-Finance Appropriations Committee, said Tuesday the committee is making significant strides in approving appropriations for the 1983 fiscal state budget.

Ricks said the informal subcommittee meetings held by JFAC last week would result in

shortening the budget-setting process.

Ricks explained committee members have been consulting with state department analysts, executives and others to study the proposed budget requests.

The general account update showed that for fiscal year 1982 which is for the current year ending June 30, the revised revenues are placed at \$425,930,00.

The fiscal 1981 surplus is estimated at \$1,743,200 while the potential impact of conforming to the IRS Code will bring a loss of \$3 million, placing the fiscal year revenue at \$424,673,200.

The expenditures are listed at \$421,293,900 in appropriations while supplemental approvals reached \$748,400, or a total of \$422,042,300.

This leaves a projected surplus of \$2,630,300, said Ricks.

Ricks said the fiscal year revenue is now estimated at \$459,789,900. This is arrived at \$463,420,000 estimated revenue, \$3,269,900 in transfer of health and welfare cash surplus from capital outlay, and \$2.1 million in Department of Revenue and Taxation enhancement but subtracted is \$9 million in expected loss from the IRS code compliance.

Ricks reported JFAC approval of expenditures to date total \$65,004,700, plus \$3,269,900 for capital outlay, or grand total of \$68,274,600.

Ricks said the general account budget for education totals \$328,847,700 as reported to him.

Major items listed include \$214 million for public schools, \$72,850,000 for colleges and universities, \$9,341,800 for agricultural research and extension service, \$14,643,300 for vocational research, \$2,250,600 for State Department of Education, \$705,000 for State Board of Education, \$2,719,600 for School for the Deaf and Blind, \$4,303,000 for Junior College Support, \$1,690,400 for WAMI, \$875,300 for veterinary education, \$822,700 for special health education programs, and \$1,969,200 for vocational rehabilitation.

Ricks hastened to add "there may be some alterations to these proposals but basically they won't vary much."

"Maybe public school support increase may amount to \$216 million said Ricks. "Junior colleges may be reduced about \$50,000 because I plugged in an extra

\$50,000 for North Idaho College.

"We also were informed that the University of Utah Medical School will guarantee the five medical seats under the WICHE funding program so I plan to sell this concept to the committee."

Ricks said motion sheets on all the education programs was ready for all committee members Monday.

Ricks also reported the motion sheet calls for \$13,457,800 for Idaho State School and Hospital. This is below the \$13,907,200 recommended by the governor but some salary increases were not funded because there is a cost-saving due to attrition and thus were not needed, Ricks said.



Post-Register/Reb J. Plastino

Study finances

BOISE — STATE SEN. MARK G. RICKS, R-Rexburg, member of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, studies figures at his Senate desk.