Ex-Governor Assays Legislature

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Samuelson Fears Solons Hurt Small Business

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Idaho Falls Post-Register
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Former Idaho Gov. Don W. Samuelson, in an interview here Monday, said he felt the current Idaho Legislature appears to be taking an attitude antagonistic to small business.

Samuelson named a majority of Democrats and a small number of liberal Republicans as responsible for this attitude, adding "they have the majority."

"Much of this legislation they have enacted is discouraging for small business in Idaho," said Samuelson. "I feel this is too bad, and it's not good for the state."

Samuelson said there is little question that in the financial field Gov. Cecil D. Andrus and the legislature are "just setting up for a tax increase next year or the year after. If the legislature had followed the governor's budget recommendations it would have certainly been next year."

Samuelson repreated his earlier views that if the legislature had followed his budget there would have been a large surplus to carry over for this year.

Asked why he had not insisted on this, the former governor replied that many of the appropriation bills were dumped on his desk just before the legislature adjourned.

"I didn't feel I had much choice but to approve them otherwise it would have been necessary to call them back for a special session at a cost of some $12,000 a day. They (the legislators) would probably have overrode my veto in some cases."

Samuelson said he is not concerned about accepting employment for a month or two. He explained Mrs. Samuelson underwent surgery a month ago for cancer and is now convalescing at home.

"Everything appears to be getting along fine," he said in reference to his wife.

He said he presently has plenty to do in answering considerable mail addressed to him.

"I guess lots of agencies and people still don't know I'm not governor, and I get lots of mail I need to answer," he said.

Samuelson said he talked with White House staff members about a month ago. Nothing has been determined yet regarding a position with the federal government. He pointed out there is some reorganization under way in these departments.

Samuelson said he has had a number of offers for private employment but is desirous of using his gubernatorial experience to serve with the government in some capacity.