Thousands crowd local school

BY BEN J. PLASTINO
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Republican presidential contender Ronald Reagan told a cheering throng of more than 5,000 people at Bonneville High School Tuesday afternoon that two of his main goals are water conservation and energy development.

Calling repeatedly for election of Rep. Steve Symms, R-Idaho, to the Senate, he said he needed a support team in Congress to help him enact a program to restore the nation's fiscal responsibility and to curb inflation.

He said, "Let us restore a dream. Let us make America great."

He bitterly criticized Carter administration policy on nearly all foreign and domestic fronts, vowing he would change this by removing hampering governmental regulations, stopping deficit spending and encouraging productivity.

He underscored the importance of Idaho and the West in bringing about great agricultural, mining and timber productivity to overcome energy shortages.

He accused President Carter of placing the West on a "hit list," pledging he would never turn his back on the West or on farmers.

"Westerners are far better in handling the allocation of their precious water than those hundreds of miles away in Washington," he said.

He said his goals would reflect the values and the goals of the Sagebrush Rebellion, which, he said, would result in a sagebrush solution.

"Symms will be a valuable addition," he said, stressing the importance of the Idaho senatorial race.

Reagan said it is wrong for the Democrats to have been in power as long as they have, declaring it brings on corruption. He said this also would be the case if it were his own party.

Reagan said that while governor of Califoria, he vetoed $16 billion in appropriations and when one of the chambers of the California Legislature had a Republican majority, he was able to get through 40 anti-crime bills.

A majority of one would give Republicans the important committee chairmanships, he said, adding Republicans needed to win only nine of 24 Democratic seats up for election.

"No president can rein in runaway federal spending and cut back runaway federal taxation and eliminate needless and stifling federal regulations single-handed," he said. "He must have strong congressional support. Even without an actual majority in the Senate or House, a president can still do a lot by using the veto — provided there are enough courageous leaders like Steve Symms to uphold the veto."

Reagan said, "The water policy must meet the needs of the West." The election of Symms to the Senate will help him in bringing greater cooperation between executive and legislative branches, he said.

Reagan said no such cooperation exists at present, even though Carter has a Democratic majority in both houses.

"Conservation and development of water resources is vital, not only for the West and for Idaho, but for our nation, because the West is more and more providing direction and leadership of our nation," he said. "If the nation thinks the energy crisis is bad — and it is — then what will we think if we ever get to the point when we find our water policies had led us to a crisis?

"The Carter administration simply does not understand this. But I do and we are going to work to see that a water policy that meets the needs of the West and of Idaho and the American people become a reality. We will develop a partnership between the federal goverment and the state governments, which will respect the traditional role of the states in water law."

He then called for development of multiple-use projects, and clean lakes and rivers to meet the needs of irrigated agriculture, and achievement of a workable balance between the many competing demands on water resources.

"Carter closed lands that we need for development," he said. "For example, Idaho has enough cobalt to provide 20 percent of our needs.

"We must place a premium on the beauty of Idaho. There is a common sense way to do this."

On energy, Reagan said there is no shortage if the vast potential of coal, oil, hydroelectric and geothermal power and natural gas is fully developed.

"Idaho and the West can play leading roles in nuclear energy, which I think we can succeed in making even safer," he said. "I know that George Hansen, Steve Symms and Jim McClure have been fighting the Carter administration and those in Washington who would do away entirely with nuclear power."

His pro-nuclear remarks drew applause from the audience.

He said the Democratic platform called for nuclear plant phaseout, saying "America needs it. We want nuclear energy but with the proper safeguards."

In his 40-minute speech, Reagan said Carter broke promises to curb inflation, to form partnerships between farmers and consum-

Cont Reverse Side

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to see Reagan

ers and to institute a coherent farm policy.

He said Carter vowed to increase the farmer's net income of $25.1 billion but that now it's less than $10 billion.

He charged the grain embargo against the Soviet Union harmed U.S. farmers more than it did the Soviets, adding he would be willing to support an overall embargo, not just for farm produce.

He jokingly referred to Carter's "misery index," which Carter placed at 12.5 percent and vowed to reduce. Reagan said the index is now 20 percent and has become an "agony index."

Reagan said he resented "the smugness of the Carter administration," pointing out that inflation has risen from 4.8 percent when he took office to 12.2 percent.

He pledged a program that called for cuts in federal spending and tax rates; removal of regulations that restrain growth; a depreciation allowance and a general reduction in federal government.

He described the family farm "as an endangered species," subject to a killing estate tax.

He emphasized the need for farming of fuel-producing products, mentioning the need for production of alcohol and other such products.

"Farmers need more voice in government but they also need the ears of the government," he said.

"The 1981 farm bill is to make farming profitable. That is my goal."

"Carter," he said, "has turned his back on the farmers and the people."

He asserted his program would have enough fat to restore military capability.

"Work to see that Steve Symms becomes your voice in the Senate," he said. "He needs your help. Work to see that the next administration is one that recognizes that voice and understands it. I need your help.

"Together we will build a new spirit that reflects the best that Idaho and the West has to give." he said.

At the high school preceding the Reagan appearance, Rep. George Hansen keynoted a rally for Reagan. He called for Reagan's election and that of a Republican team to support him and said Reagan is "the future of the United States of America."

He denied Symms is a representative for Exxon and blamed the Carter administration for the country's "chaotic condition."

Hansen also said Church was one of the senators to "give away the Panama Canal," which he said will cost taxpayers $26 billion.

He also criticized Robert Hansberger, head of the Businessmen for Church Committee, who was here Monday boosting Church, saying, "He probably wasn't much of a Republican to begin with."

Hansen said a Symms victory would give Idaho two votes in the Senate, rather than the present situation where Church cancels McClure.

State GOP Chairman Dennis M. Olsen also called for election of a Republican team to help Reagan. He touched on the national convention theme "There is a new beginning."

"It is time for the Republican Party to restore this nation to its former prestige," Olsen said.

He said GOP control of the Senate would give McClure, R-Idaho, chairmanship of the Senate Energy Committee, which would be important to Idaho.

Lt. Gov. Phil E. Batt, Attorney General David Leroy, State School Superintendent Jerry Evans and Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa all called for the election of Reagan, Symms and Hansen, saying they would change the direction of this country for the better.