

Idaho Statesman, Sunday, June 27, 2010 – by John Miller, The AP

## Obama, Pelosi and Reid push Idaho to the right, GOP says

*'The solutions are here with you,' Sen. Jim Risch tells delegates at the state convention in Idaho Falls.*

IDAHO FALLS - Republicans at the 2010 state convention said their shift right over the weekend had its roots not just in homegrown GOP ranks, but in the man many in Idaho's dominant party see as their arch political enemy: President Barack Obama. Add a healthy dose of Democratic U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Idaho GOP leaders say there's a trifecta of villains in Washington, D.C., to rally against. That has the state party's most-faithful hewing even more closely to their conservative roots. Take the party's new platform. It was updated Saturday to include:

- A loyalty test for candidates.
- A provision recommending Idaho withhold taxes from the federal government.
- Further efforts to limit marriage to "naturally born" men and women.
- An admonishment for residents to stock up on gold and silver to gird against the ravages of U.S. dollar inflation, should it come to that.
- A recommendation to revise Idaho's Constitution to give Idaho the right to take over federally managed U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management territory.

"It does reflect a change," said Rep. Marv Hagedorn, a GOP legislator from Meridian and a delegate. "But it's not a change in our party, it's a change in the White House."

Saturday's meeting, with red-meat speeches by U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, drew to a close the third and final day of the state Republicans' biennial confab. "As bad as you think Washington is, it's worse," Risch said, calling it a haven for "mindless spending."

"Washington, D.C., is literally stealing the dreams of our children, right before our eyes," Idaho public schools chief Tom Luna said. Rep. Mike Simpson of eastern and southern Idaho's 2nd District wholeheartedly stumped for Raul Labrador, an immigration lawyer and state representative from Eagle hoping to unseat freshman Democrat Walt Minnick in western Idaho's 1st District. "If we can't win back Idaho's 1st Congressional District, we probably can't take Congress," Simpson warned. Labrador strode onto the podium to chants of "Labrador, Labrador, Labrador."

In other action, the delegates re-elected state Chairman Norm Semanko of Eagle by acclamation.