



Sen. Frank Church

The election eye...

# Church's Senate defeat may help his finances

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U.S. Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, narrowly lost his bid for re-election Nov. 4 but he now feels he will thrive in the private sector—and indeed he will.

His absence from the U.S. Senate, however, where his voice and influence brought Idaho and the nation numerous benefits for 24 years, will be sorely felt in the years to come.

His office had the reputation of giving prompt and effective service to the people of Idaho. Whatever any may say about him, Church helped Idahoans on an individual basis that has not been equalled by any who has served on the Idaho congressional delegation.

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Church, who just turned 56, will be better off than ever before, personally and financially. His yearly pension will amount to \$39,564 for the rest of his life, plus government insurance and other benefits. He also will not need to spend the many hours of day and night to fill his senatorial duties and likely will earn twice or three times his former salary of \$57,500 in half the time.

Church's status likely will equal that of former Republican Congressman Orval Hansen, who also was unseated in 1974 but switched to a lucrative attorney business in Washington.

When asked recently whether he would run for Congress again, he replied "I couldn't afford it now. Maybe I could do this later after my children have finished college and are on their own."

That would indicate he earns far more than the \$57,500 yearly paid senators and congressmen, possibly twice or more. This likely will apply to Church at an even larger scale.

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Church felt like he was a victim of political circumstances, running in a year where the Republican conservative trend reached an apex. He felt he gave his bid for re-election his best shot, losing

by only 1 percent, or 4,000 votes of some 433,000 cast to Republican Rep. Steve Symms.

His pain at the loss is markedly lessened by the Republican control of the Senate, and, as a result, his deprivation of the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, even if he had been re-elected. He expressed sympathy for the new Republican committee chairman, Sen. Charles Percy, of Illinois, a moderate, who will need to contend with a committee which will veer sharply to the right.

Church said he is ecstatically happy that he can spend more time with his family and have more leisure time.

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Church, at least for now, has no desire to seek political office but could serve in some governmental capacity if it suits him and if offered him. He has a wide choice of options but indicated he may join a leading law firm on international relations, and also affiliate with a leading university for part-time teaching and to participate in a lecture circuit throughout the nation and abroad. One of the nation's outstanding orators, he dearly loves to speak.

Church has left much landmark legislation behind him, in the form of wilderness areas, aid for the aged, and for farmers and ranchers.

Before him, Orval Hansen had done likewise, enacting more legislation to benefit Idaho and the nation in the time he served than any other congressman, even though he was a Republican in a Democratic Congress. His accomplishments contradict the assertions of Symms that a Republican couldn't get bills passed because of a Democratic majority.

In a story appearing elsewhere on this page, Church bids a farewell to his hosts of loyal and stalwart supporters. The radical right won't have him to kick around any more but Church will have the blessings of most Idahoans for success in his private life. He won't suffer but Idaho may.