

Hansen pushes for tax cut now

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U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, said Wednesday that there are many "lame duckers" — those who are serving this session but will not return next year, such as those defeated for re-election, retiring, or filling temporary appointments. The number is large, about 15-20 in the 100-member Senate and possibly 80 or more in the 435 member House.

"We find there is a decided trend to let people know there is a new latitude for them," said Hansen, referring to aftermath of the election conservative Republican sweep.

Hansen said he will be at Boise this weekend to fill two speaking engagements, one to the Idaho Woolgrowers and another at a Republican rally.

Hansen said he planned no return trips to Iran this year, noting he had given up much of his Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays a year ago to make two trips to that beleaguered nation.

Hansen said he felt the administration is doing everything possible to get the hostages back home as soon as possible.

He said he is pleased Secretary of State Ed Muskie is using some of his suggested proposals in this regard.

One proposal he said, is to create a special claims commission that would remove encumberances on Iran's frozen assets, pointing out the president does not have that power.

Another is a procedure to deal with the return of the shah's wealth that could be under jurisdiction of this nation. He said, for example, this could involve kickbacks by Lockheed to the shah.

In other matters, Hansen expressed pleasure that the 2nd Congressional District he represents gave Steve Symms a 12,000 majority to win the Senate race against Frank Church, most of it in East Idaho; that he felt elated over his 59 percent victory margin over Democrat Diane Bilyeu; and that as member of the House Agriculture Committee he plans to press for essential agriculture legislation that will encourage a free market, rather than subsidies, adding much of the current farm bills terminate this year.