

The election eye . . .

Value of appearances of notables doubtful

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It's an old political game, and perhaps it is window dressing, but the value of appearances of prominent political figures in behalf of Idaho candidates is extremely doubtful.

Last week's appearances by two of the most outstanding U.S. Senators in the nation, Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., in behalf of Sen. Frank Church, and Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., in behalf of senatorial candidate Rep. Steve Symms this week are good cases in point.

Both Jackson and Baker have impressive credentials and both have unsuccessfully entered the presidential sweepstakes, Jackson in 1972 and 1976 and Baker only this year.

More important, they are each a leading power in the upper chamber, Jackson due to his long seniority and as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Baker due to his positions as Senate minority leader and member of the prestigious Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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The impact of the visit's of these two is difficult to analyze, except it did serve to place in greater focus the campaign issues between Church and Symms. Jackson stressed the theme that Church is a powerful voice in the nation for furthering the interests of Idaho and the nation while Symms has little respect and little influence. Baker underscored the point that Symms does have strong conservative voting pattern that would better represent Idaho's interests and would lend support to Reagan if he is elected president. He said Symms' voting comes closer to his moderate views than does that of Church.

Although this is a superficial over-simplification, it likely is the main reason why voters will cast ballots for one or the other.

There are other issues which are part of the campaign but they likely will have little influence on the way Idahoans vote on this titular race, considered one of the top ones in the nation.

Essentially, such issues as the Panama Canal which even Baker said is not an issue, "womanizing", CIA and FBI probes, how they voted on particular issues, likely will have

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little influence on how the voters will cast their ballot.

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The appearance of Ronald Reagan in Idaho Falls Tuesday is something different, but whether it will influence voters, for example, to switch from Church to Symms, is questionable.

For example, President Carter coming to Idaho would harm rather than help Church's chances. Church has attempted to remove himself from the Carter administration as much as possible. He has opposed Carter on many fronts, such as development of the nuclear breeder reactor, reclamation project and others that relate to the environment.

Symms has made no secret that he intends to continue to follow a negative policy, voting

against governmental spending and big government because that's what he thinks the bulk of the Idahoans want.

At this point, the results heavily favor the Republicans in the presidential and congressional races unless there should be some unforeseen factor develop. Undecided now is the senatorial race, which in the 37 years this writer has been on the political scene is easily the most costly and intensive in Idaho election history.

Hansen to tour Eastern Idaho

U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, is scheduled to come to Idaho Falls Monday when he will speak to Bonneville High School students at 7:50 a.m. and Skyline High School students at 10 a.m.

He plans to spend the remainder of the day in Idaho Falls at receptions and other activities.

He will stay overnight to be on hand to greet Ronald Reagan who is scheduled to arrive in Idaho Falls Tuesday noon for a talk at the Bonneville High School Gym.

Hansen's itinerary includes a talk Tuesday night to the Credit Union Legislation Dinner at Pocatello.

He then returns Thursday noon to speak to the Idaho Falls Kiwanis Club at the Bonneville Hotel and again Saturday night, Oct. 18, to appear at the Pro Family rally with Rep. Steve Symms and Sen. James McClure.

His schedule call for attending a Fremont County Fund Raiser at the St. Anthony City Building Oct. 20.