

Frank Church — he's doing great in busy private life

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And how is former U.S. Sen. Frank Church doing these days?

"Very well, thank you, and looking forward to a bright and prosperous future," he said in a recent telephone interview from his law office in Washington.

Church, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a political power in the upper chamber for 24 years, concedes he is personally far better off today.

Church was narrowly defeated for re-election by Republican Steve Symms in 1982.

He admits he is earning four times the salary of a U.S. senator, which would place his earnings at close to \$200,000 a year.

He travels all over the world, frequently in behalf of American businessmen, occasionally giving lectures. He enjoys a life free from political stress and the demands of thousands of his constituents.

An analysis would indicate if his term had not terminated in 1982 when the Republicans and Reagan strength was at its zenith, he likely still would be sitting in the Senate.

Church said he acknowledges he would not enjoy serving in the present Republican-controlled Senate, adding "what is going on there now would be frustrating in getting anything progressive done."

He is a member of the prestigious law firm of Whitman and Ransom with its main offices in New York City and a branch office in Washington.

"I like my present life," Church said. "I'm engaged in a very challenging law practice that focuses on the international side."

"I have traveled a good deal throughout the world, to Asia and western Europe, mainly in behalf of American businesses. They are engaged in securing contracts abroad or looking at investment opportunities."

Church strongly reaffirmed he will never seek a high political office again, but said it doesn't mean that he is not interested in politics.

"I have no further interest in any elective office," he said. "Serving 24 years is enough."

He said about the only political office he might be interested in would be serving as secretary of state or in some other high cabinet post under a Democratic president, but it would be at a personal financial sacrifice.

