

# Hansen anticipating strong voter support

Thurs. May 22, 1980

BY BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, said here Thursday he felt "things are going well" in reference to Tuesday's primary election.

"From everything that I can gather there appears to be a strong compatibility between me and the voters of Idaho," he said in a Post-Register interview.

"My voting record is what they look for and I think they also know they haven't the same number and kind of congressmen in California, for example. They like someone who is aggressive enough to offset the disadvantages of such large states as California.

"This is how we get things done in Idaho. I've got reimbursements for the Teton Dam victims and for the American Falls water users. It is this kind of effort of mine that counts, such as saving Idaho's egg industry after the PCB contamination.

"I have helped stop the waste of funds such as the General Service Administration wanting to put more than a quarter of million dollars into a building worth less than \$200 thousand, and removing the roadblocks to enable the building of a community center for senior citizens in Pocatello.

He referred to the Idaho Falls Federal Building on the building expenditures.

Hansen said these are just a few of the examples, adding that "I feel I've had the imagination and willingness of getting things done, and I do get things done."

He also pointed his successful effort in beating OSHA in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hansen said he feels next

Tuesday's primary will vindicate his efforts in behalf of the people of Idaho.

He said it is difficult to predict how large a margin he can win by, but he said "it appears I could win by a larger margin than two years ago." It was by about 9,000 votes two years ago against the same contender, Jim Jones.

He pointed out this year the conditions are complicated by the presidential contest, possibilities of high or low turnout and the crossovers.

"There is only one poll that counts and that is on election day," he said.

"I feel that we have a better campaign organization this year and I think this will pay off."

He said a number of counties, particularly in the Twin Falls area, are much more active than they were two years ago. He noted that Eastern Idaho has always been strong in his camp and if an opponent of his can't take Magic Valley he doesn't have much chance of victory.

Hansen said he could not say how much he is spending on the primary because this is being handled by his campaign committee. He estimated it would total about \$70,000. He pointed out the last primary showed his opponent had spent well over \$100,000.

Hansen noted that much of this money goes for raising money, such as expenses for holding banquets, mailings, events and other such activities. He said this would cost about 20 percent of the total raised.

Hansen said most people are talking about the economy.

"They are concerned about keeping their jobs and businesses and their farms in face of 20 percent interest and inflation, high taxes, high fuel costs and

tight money," Hansen added.

"They can't borrow and they can't lend," he said.

Hansen said there is also a concern for national security, adding "that is where the ramparts of our country has collapsed," pointing to Iran, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Taiwan situations.

"There is the concern of insufficiency of our military establishment to guarantee our security," said Hansen.

"Yes, I've had lots of people asking me about Iran. I find that Iran has been the biggest single topic people want to talk about. They express themselves strongly on it. Of course any time you become involved with something like that, you become controversial, but I find the huge majority of Idahoans think my stepping in when the president was floundering to open doors to the hostages, was the right thing to do. They are very strong about coming up to me and expressing themselves to this effect.

"It was a humanitarian act and I think most Americans are touched by efforts to help their fellow man," Hansen said.

There is "a strong dose the Americans have received from liberal exponents in terms of economic chaos, and a shaky national security that has prompted people to move decidedly to the right. They demand a better protection, militarily, and less government controls, less taxes, and a lower cost of living.

Hansen said he has appeared on joint forums with Jones, adding "apparently he is trying to make an issue on debates. I don't think such issues are well founded. I went across the country to appear at an agricultural forum with him in his own home

town, at great expense. He wouldn't even wait around to appear jointly. I did this to demonstrate I was willing to appear but he didn't show up. I don't think there is much point in his talking about him running to Washington with a TV camera to debate me.

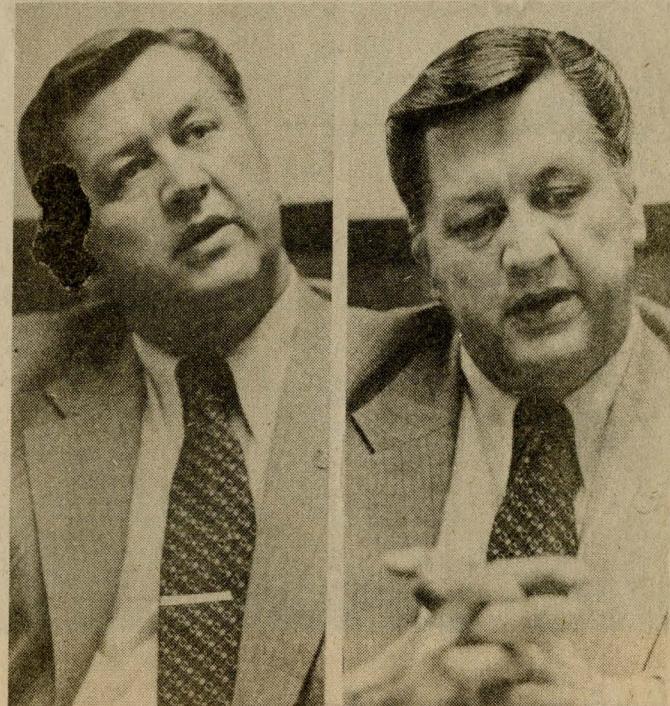
Hansen said he had always scheduled debates with the League of Women Voters for the general election, but he said the League does not want to do this for the primary.

Hansen pointed out he has 26 counties to cover, besides trying

to do his congressional duties at Washington.

Hansen spoke to the Rexburg chamber of Commerce Wednesday on business issues, inflation, taxes and governmental interference. He also talked to them on the deteriorating economy in general.

Hansen noted that the president realizes he has an election to win and has taken some action to get interest rates down. He said, however, it is only "an aspirin to tide him over for the election."



**Looks for victory.**

Post-Register/Robert Bower

U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, expressed confidence that voters will vindicate his congressional actions at the Tuesday primary election.