

Hansen girds for coming campaign

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U. S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, looks with apparent unconcern for re-election to a seventh term in Congress in the coming campaign against Democrat Richard H. Stallings, Rexburg college teacher.

His latest tiff with the Wall Street Journal which carried a story Tuesday on what it inferred were questionable financial dealings by him and his wife, Connie, left him angry but not worried.

He said in a news conference here Tuesday night he did not believe it would hurt his re-election chances, labeling the whole episode "a slanted rehash of old garbage which appears in the press each election year."

Hansen said John Chaffin, Idaho Falls automobile dealer, will again serve as his campaign manager, just as he did in the 1980 campaign. His campaign coordinator is John Scoresby, Idaho Falls, who will be doubling with his regular duties as his south Idaho field representative. His treasurer is Lee Caldwell, Pocatello CPA.

Hansen said he could not say how much he will spend as he leaves this with his campaign treasurer but predicted it likely won't be much more than the \$60,000 Stallings mentioned as the amount he would like to raise.

Hansen pointed out with accuracy that he doesn't spend much on the news media, television and newspapers, that much of his campaign costs are diverted to literature, billboards, posters and various other campaign activities.

His latest report showed he has raised \$34,000 and records show that in past campaigns he has spent well over \$100,000.

Hansen said that he was relieved he did

not have to spend money for a primary contest this year, noting that Jim Jones, Jerome attorney, opposed him in both 1980 and 1978 primaries.

"The 1980 general election was the easiest," he said, referring to his opposition from Democrat Diane Bilyeu, Pocatello realtor, whom he defeated 58-42 percent.

That campaign, however, was dominated by the senatorial race between Frank Church and Steve Symms.

"It was a relief not to be the main one to take the most flak in a campaign for a change," he remarked.

Hansen likened his coming campaign to a woman who always picked up sticks in the yard to bring to the house in connection with other chores, so that she never had to really haul in wood in one big effort.

"I'll do my campaigning sort of piecemeal, coming to Idaho when I can on weekends," he said.

For example, last Tuesday he left at 2 p.m. from Washington, arriving at Salt Lake City about 6:30 p.m., then took a private plane to Idaho Falls, arriving a half hour late at 7:30 p.m. for a hastily called press conference. He then attended the dedicatory city bulb turbine dedicatory dinner. He left Idaho Falls about 9 p.m. and was back in Washington at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

He remarked this is an example of the tight schedule he follows on the frequent hurried trips to Idaho on many weekends.

He said Congress likely will recess two weeks in late August before Labor Day and again for most of October when he will concentrate on campaigning.

"I just have to campaign on weekends and for the short time Congress recesses or else people will accuse me of not doing my job in Washington," said Hansen.

In reply to Stallings and other opponents who charge he has not sponsored a major piece of legislation, he pointed out his work is confined in committees where he has considerable input.

As the House is controlled by Democrats and has been for many years, he said the Democrats take the credit for much of the legislation.

He cited the Teton Dam flooding fund in 1976 as an example.

He said Sen. Frank Church sponsored the authorization bill, assisted by Sen. James A. McClure, in the Senate but he was the one who spearheaded the first \$200 million appropriation bill and it was ready within 10 days. Subsequently, he worked on an additional \$200 million funding. He noted the committee chairman at that time, Rep. Joe Evans, D-Tenn., gave the bill top priority at his request.

"Perhaps Senators Church and McClure got credit but I did the spadework in the House where appropriation bills must originate," he said. "There were two senators for Idaho but I was the only congressman in this district who worked on this."

Hansen said such an example can be applied many times to other legislation on which he has worked.

He said he recalled one instance in which he was accused by his opposition of not getting any legislation enacted. The Post-Register carried a headline that same day his potato promotion legislation had passed.

"I have had lots of success in my efforts for reform of some of the federal agencies," he said. "I think the people of Idaho feel good about what I have been able to accomplish. I'm more interested in this than what the mega news media say in trashy articles back east."