

Hansen observes House budget pleases nobody

Wed. June 16, 1982

By BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

Rep. George Hansen said the House-approved budget probably pleased nobody but it was the best that could be obtained under the circumstances.

The budget which the House passed 220-207 drew the support of 46 conservative Democrats but it was opposed by 15 moderate Republicans.

"We had to put a budget together and try to get the country straightened out and business stabilized," Hansen said in a Post-Register telephone interview from his Washington office.

"Nobody is pleased with the bill but it probably is the best we could get at this point."

The budget calls for a budget deficit of a little under \$100 billion but Hansen pointed out the Democratic plan called for an even larger budget deficit of about \$107 billion, plus tax increases.

Hansen said he was pleased that President Reagan called him from Bonn, Germany, at the time the bill as being debated last week to express interest in his flat-rate income tax proposal.

Hansen said Reagan "did not give support but he did express interest as one of the ways to help solve the budget problems."

Hansen said his bill has the cosponsorship of 110 House representatives ranging from conservatives to liberals of both parties.

Primarily it would call for a 13 percent across-the-board income tax, with 2 percent added to retire the national debt.

"It still would not tax as much as the average person pays now," said Hansen. "It includes a single rate of the flat tax."

Hansen contended one of the prime values of his bill is in requiring everyone to pay, as contrasting with the present practice of large percentages of citizens not paying their full amount or not paying at all.

Hansen said he also talked at length with Secretary of Treasury Donald Regan on his tax plan.

Hansen said Regan also expressed keen interest in the plan as one way to help solve the long-term budget dilemma.

For those who say the across-the-board tax plan is tilted against the low wage earner, Hansen said he has an exemption which grants \$3,000 for each parent, and \$1,000 for each dependent, or \$8,000 for a family of four.

The bill has been submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee for hearings, he said.

Hansen emphasized his so-called "Fair and Simple Tax" plan will get every income earner to pay and is especially aimed at the rich who presently take advantage of tax shelters and do not pay their fair share, and in many cases, no tax at all.

The Post-Register

The political pulse

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Sunday, June 20, 1982

B

The election eye

Efforts commended for filling vacancies

BY BEN J. PLASTINO

Post-Register political editor

Political committees are to be commended for wanting to fill vacancies on the election ballot which provides for a more healthy and interesting situation.

Incumbents usually experience little competition once they are elected. This is not a desirable situation because it does not give the people the opportunity to judge whether the office holder has performed to what they consider at least acceptable levels.

At the same time, many prospective candidates can't be blamed for not spending time and money seeking to oust incumbents when history shows that such efforts are rarely successful. This occurs even when most agree that many incumbents show a woeful lack of ability.

* * *

In looking over the ballot nearly half the incumbent county officials and legislators in east Idaho are unopposed but the competition this year is greater than it has been in the past.

Perhaps that speaks well for the incumbents because possible challengers are not going to run unless they feel they have a fairly good chance for election.

It's also sorrowful to relate that many qualified men and women who might be interested in holding public office can't afford the time nor money. Furthermore, they are unwilling to take the abuse from the public which is one of the hazards that go with the territory.

In the past 20 years in eastern Idaho, there have been only a half-dozen incumbent legislators who have been defeated for re-election. The casualty rate among county officials is much higher, particularly county commissioners, and in a few cases, sheriffs.

Republicans do a much better job filling their tickets and that is understandable.

East Idaho is strongly Republican. All factors being about equal, the Republican will win in most counties with the possible exception in Butte, Custer and at times, Bingham.

In Bonneville County and the state, Republicans have completely filled their ballot. The Democrats have done a better job than in the past but unopposed Republicans are Reps. Gary L. Paxman, Idaho Falls, in District 30, and John O. Sessions, Driggs, in District 31, County Clerk Ron Longmore, County Treasurer Mabel Bingham and parttime County Coroner Vernal G. Rydalch.

On the state level, the Democrats have no challengers against Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa and State School Supt. Jerry Evans but incumbent Democrats Gov. John V. Evans, Auditor Joe Williams and Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon must be considered decided favorites for re-election.

The Republicans must be applauded for prevailing on Doyle Miner, a former St. Anthony legislator and now Board of Pharmacy director at Boise, to qualify as a write-in state treasurer Republican nominee to oppose formidable Miss Moon.

Galen Williams, 32-year-old Ucon farmer and Mason, also must be praised to qualify as a write-in Republican nominee to oppose the popular Democrat County Commissioner Clyde A. Burtenshaw.

Contests in nearly every congressional, state, legislative and county race give citizens a choice and help stir interest for the Nov. 2 general election. This was badly missing in the May 25 primary for both parties, but particularly the Democrats. As a result there was a light turnout of only 26 percent in Bonneville County and 27 percent in the state, the lowest in years.