

Hansen observes House budget pleases nobody

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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.