

# Whittom reveals coolness to race for Congress

*Id. Feb 3, 1982*

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William F. Whittom, Rupert mayor and Idaho Farm Bureau state information director, said Tuesday he likely would not enter the 2nd District congressional race as encouraged by some Democrats but didn't close the door completely.

"I'm flattered and it may be something down the line but right now I'm busy with the Idaho Farm Bureau business, Rupert municipal affairs, and my own livestock raising operation."

He said the Washington Public Power System plans for terminating two nuclear reactors are adding to the worries of cities in Idaho. Whittom said he is a conservative Democrat and often does not agree with Democrat policies on the national level. He said, for example, he is strongly opposed to any gun control legislation.

He added he is in no financial condition in view of the depressed agricultural economy to consider such an expensive venture. Further, he said, he would need to be assured of adequate campaign financing and no primary contest. Neither of these prospects appear in his favor at this time.

Whittom said Robert Crabtree, Pocatello, with the Idaho State University School of Vocational-Technical Education, is mentioned as a primary candidate and he understands there may be others.

He said offers of campaign funding have been made to him up to the present time.

Whittom agreed that the present Republican, Rep. George V. Hansen, is vulnerable.