

# Agreement near on new farm bill, Hansen reports

*Undated*

By BEN J. PLASTINO  
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A top level meeting at the White House Wednesday morning has brought general agreement for a comprehensive bipartisan 1981 farm bill to settle differences between the House and Senate versions, Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, told The Post-Register Wednesday by telephone.

Hansen, a senior Republican member of the House Agriculture Committee, said the meeting was intended to bring an agreement on provisions of the bills that will come under the budgetary guidelines of the Reagan administration, yet furnish the necessary help for the beleaguered farmers of the nation.

"It was agreed we would encourage the president to do whatever is possible to commit the resources of his administration to fulfilling a bipartisan agriculture commitment that would be adopted by both parties," said Hansen.

"We felt by doing this, we could get away from talks of vetoes or anything else that would defeat the bill."

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Hansen said it is possible the Senate version will be more closely adopted because its cost is some \$5 billion less than the House-passed measure.

Hansen said he also personally plugged and received support for a sugar program that at least will retain the sugar economy left in Idaho and possibly in the distant future may encourage it.

The discussions also favored inclusion of a peanuts program which was excluded in the House bill.

Generally, it was agreed to have most major farm commodities included that will need some type of market programs, such as subsidies or others.

"It is the first time that I can remember that we got all of this under one roof," said Hansen.

Among those attending were President Reagan, who encouraged a strong bipartisan agriculture effort which he said should not be identified as strictly that of the administration; Vice President George Bush; presidential advisors Jim Baker, Ed Meese and Max Friedersdorf; Secretary of Agriculture John Block; Budget Director David Stockman; Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker; House Minority Leader Robert Michel; and chairmen and members of the Senate and House agriculture committees.

Reagan and his staff also had met earlier in the morning with Senate and House Democratic leaders and agriculture committee chairmen to get a commitment for the bipartisan effort, reported Hansen.