

Jim Jones ponders challenging Hansen again

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Jim T. Jones, Jerome attorney, who challenged U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen in 1978, may do it again next year.

He said he is presently surveying what his chances are if he would enter.

In a Post-Register interview, he said a committee under the leadership of former House Speaker Bill Lanting, Twin Falls, has been urging him to run again.

Jones at one time was considering running for the U.S. Senate but decided to forego this in deference to U.S. Rep. Steve Symms, who is expected to announce shortly.

"It's a little early now to definitely decide but I have received encouragement from many people," he said. "I plan on doing more traveling around to see what is the real feeling and the financial backing I would get before I do anything.

"One thing that some of these people are saying — not only would it be beneficial to the Second District representation, my candidacy could actually help Symms in his Senate race. That's because I would be able to hold people on the Republican ticket for those more independently minded who otherwise would cross over

and vote for Church."

Short campaigning

Jones entered the primary campaign against Hansen and campaigned actively for only about two months but received 43.4 percent of the votes in 1978.

"I think it was an indication that people like my style of campaigning and what I stood for, considering that I was a newcomer," said Jones.

Asked how strong he felt about running, he said at this point it might be close to 50-50.

"It will depend on a large part of the response I get," he said.

Jones said the issues could primarily be an approach to the office.

"I would be less inclined to seek headlines and more inclined to do good plain hard work for the benefit of Idaho," he said. "It is my feeling if you are going to be an effective congressman, you must do your committee work and convince your colleagues that your local economic interests have some validity. If you don't do that kind of work you are not doing the kind of work your constituents send you back to do."

He pointed out Hansen has a bad committee attendance record and his voting record has been poor but improved the last two sessions.

Note effective

He noted that Hansen has an extremely poor effective legislative record.

"Some of the people who talk to me are upset that he doesn't do something on the major problems, such as energy,

inflation and Idaho agriculture," he said. "They seem to think more can be done in that area rather than just lip service."

He pointed out Senator McClure, for example, has taken a strong stance on inflation and pushing them.

"That's the type of things that impresses me — to introduce such bills and trying to get them passed, rather than constantly criticizing but doing very little in a positive way," said Jones.

If he did announce, Jones said it likely wouldn't be until mid January. He said he expects to make sure that he would stand an excellent chance of winning. He pointed out the five months

for primary campaign would be more than twice the time he had in 1978.

Jones is an attorney, Jerome County Republican chairman and also works with his family in cattle feeding and farming business.

He is a Vietnam War veteran and was a legislative assistant for Sen. Len B. Jordan for three years.

He attended the Northwest

School of Law and has been a practicing attorney the past 12 years.

Jones said he has found response on his candidacy about 50-50 among the party leaders.

He pointed out many say Hansen is stronger but that he still has the record of not being extremely effective.

Jones said he is just starting in his pulse-feeling tour following the organization of the committee in his behalf last week.

He pointed out he won every county in the Twin Falls and Boise areas against Hansen in 1978 and hopes to strengthen his standing in East Idaho to get the victory. He won 3-1 in his home Jerome County and 2-1 in many other adjacent counties.



Jim Jones

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