



*Ben Plastino*

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# Opinions of candidates same

ree Idaho men with ties to poli-  
and Congress and who keep their  
s on the national political pulse  
nation's capital have similar  
ns on presidential prospects.

ho's 2nd District Rep. Demo-  
richard Stallings, and two of his  
cessors, Republican Orval Han-  
nd Democrat Ralph Harding,  
at that Vice President George  
will win the Republican nomi-  
n over what they think is the  
serious challenger, Senate  
ity Leader Robert J. Dole, of  
as.

ey also believe that none of the  
nt announced Democratic chal-  
ers will be nominated, but  
ad the national party conven-  
will be deadlocked, forcing the  
ates to pick another candidate.  
e named as the most formidable  
Georgia's Sen. Sam Nunn, New  
y's Sen. Bill Bradley, New York  
ernor Mario Cuomo or former  
nia Governor Charles Robb.  
ey also forecast that either Bush  
ole could defeat any of the pres-  
announced Democratic candi-  
t. However, if another contender  
lected it might be a different

story.

Stallings, now serving his second  
two-year term, expressed hope the  
Democratic National Convention  
this summer will choose a not-yet-  
announced nominee from among  
Nunn, Bradley, Cuomo or Robb.

Hansen probably takes the keenest  
interest in national politics as a  
Washington-based attorney and head  
of a political research institute.

Hansen served 10 years in the  
Idaho Legislature in the late 50s and  
early 60s and then six years in Con-  
gress, 1969-74. He remained in  
Washington to practice law.

"President Reagan," he said, "is  
still personally popular on the Wash-  
ington scene," but he added in an  
understatement "there has been lots  
of criticism in the way his policies  
have been implemented."

"People in Washington have dif-  
ferent opinions on political questions  
than the rest of the states," which  
raises the question whether those in  
power at the nation's capital are in  
tune with the times.

Hansen said he believes Republi-  
can prospects are much brighter than  
most people view them.

He pointed out both Bush and  
Dole are representatives of the cen-  
ter. He added Bush actually is much  
more acceptable as an individual  
than he projects himself to be as a  
public speaker.

"On the other hand, all of the pres-  
ently announced Democrats come  
from the left. However, if Nunn can  
be persuaded to change his mind  
from his earlier statement that he is  
not a candidate, he is one 'sleeper'  
who must be watched," said Hansen.

Nunn, said Hansen, could become  
the prime beneficiary of delegates  
pledged to Jesse Jackson, a candidate  
he believes never could be nominated,  
much less elected.

Hansen hinted that if Nunn were  
the Democratic nominee, he could  
defeat either Bush or Dole. Hansen  
said he personally supports Bush.

Harding, who visited relatives in  
this area recently, also believes Bush  
holds the edge over Dole. He also  
opines that Nunn, despite his "owl-  
ish" look, could be elected if chosen  
by the Democrats.

Harding has been a lobbyist for the  
Philippine sugar interests the past  
five years. A high-pressured pro-

moter, he still keeps his hand in  
political cauldron in Washington  
as well as Idaho. He served in the Id-  
aho Legislature and also four years  
in Congress, 1961-65.

Harding also believes the Nati-  
Democratic Convention would  
deadlocked among the pre-  
announced candidates, who he  
labels as too far to the left.  
result, another Democrat should  
elected the presidential nominee  
said. Unlike Stallings and Han-  
however, Harding doesn't be-  
Cuomo should become a viable  
pect.

"I don't believe his backgrou-  
could stand a close check," he  
He declined to explain further. H  
ing did hint that Cuomo could  
the same troubles that plagued  
husband of Democratic vice pres-  
ential nominee Geraldine Fe  
in 1984.

Only recently, Idaho Demo-  
Gov. Cecil D. Andrus sugge-  
House Majority Leader Tho-  
Foley of Washington as a fav-  
son from the Pacific Northwest.

*(Ben Plastino is a Po-  
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