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## Opinions of candidates same

See Idaho men with ties to political Congress and who keep their fingers on the national political pulse at the nation's capital have similar views on presidential prospects. Democratic Idaho's 2nd District Rep. Demetrius Stallings, and two of his predecessors, Republican Orval Hansen and Democrat Ralph Harding, all agree that Vice President George Bush will win the Republican nomination over what they think is the most serious challenger, Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, of Kansas.

They also believe that none of the presently announced Democratic challengers will be nominated, but that the national party convention will be deadlocked, forcing the delegates to pick another candidate, one named as the most formidable Georgia's Sen. Sam Nunn, New York's Sen. Bill Bradley, New York Governor Mario Cuomo or former Indiana Governor Charles Robb. They also forecast that either Bush or Dole could defeat any of the presently announced Democratic candidates. However, if another contender is elected 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 Congress, 1969-74. He remained in Washington to practice law.

"President Reagan," he said, "is still personally popular on the Washington 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 different 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 Republican prospects are much brighter than most people view them.

He pointed out both Bush and Dole are representatives of the center. 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 presently 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-like" 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 Idaho Legislature and also four years in Congress, 1961-65.

Harding also believes the National Democratic Convention would be deadlocked among the presently announced candidates, who he labels as too far to the left. As a result, another Democrat should be elected the presidential nominee, he said. Unlike Stallings and Hansen, however, Harding doesn't believe Cuomo should become a viable prospect.

"I don't believe his background could stand a close check," he said. He declined to explain further. Harding did hint that Cuomo could have the same troubles that plagued the husband of Democratic vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro in 1984.

Only recently, Idaho Democratic Gov. Cecil D. Andrus suggested House Majority Leader Thomas Foley of Washington as a favorite son from the Pacific Northwest.

(Ben Plastino is a Portland Register columnist.)