

Reaganomics helped Hansen, pair say

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The two congressional gladiators, Republican Rep. George V. Hansen and Democrat Richard Stallings, generally agreed Thursday that east Idaho voters want to give President Reagan more time for his economic program — likely the deciding factor in Hansen's reelection.



Rep. George Hansen

It was Hansen's 11,000-vote edge in the 10 east Idaho counties that gave him the cushion needed to serve a seventh term. He won by some 7,300

votes, 83,910 to 76,601, or about 53 percent to 47 percent, on the basis of unofficial returns of all of the 437 precincts.

The two candidates split sharply on other issues but both agreed they are glad the election campaign is over.

Hansen complained that an unusually strong labor-oriented Democratic vote shaved his margin drastically from what he considered a normal edge of some 58 to 59 percent.

Stallings registered keen disappointment that his own home base in the Upper Snake River Valley did not support him better, adding the remainder of the congressional district did about as well as he expected.

Ironically, Hansen and Stallings each lost their home counties by 2-1 margins, Hansen in Bannock and Stallings in Madison.

Hansen, in a Post-Register interview from his Pocatello home, said, "I attribute my victory to the many local hard-working people to get the message across that we were representing the interest of the people in Idaho. I think our voting record reflects that.

"There was a strong effort on the other side, probably the strongest I have ever seen, to register labor oriented Democrats by the labor unions. I understand that some places like in Pocatello, they had nearly everyone register and get out and vote."

Hansen said "this effort made the difference in Governor Evans' victory."

"There was an unusual amount of labor money in this election," continued Hansen. "These labor unions were out to compensate for the loss of Frank Church two years ago and not lose the governor's chair. It did much to get these people out of their apathy. It wasn't only the labor unions, but it was also such people as the teachers and others."

While the labor unions did well in Bannock, Hansen said he was happy the Republicans got out the vote in Bonneville.

He noted Democrats swept Bannock County in the congressional, state, legislative and county races but the reverse was true in Bonneville where the Republicans did the same.

"I'm satisfied with my election," he said. "Any time the other side rolls out their big artillery they way the did Tuesday it makes my 7,500 vote margin look like a landslide when Evans won by only 3,500."

Hansen said he would return to Washington this weekend and generally support the Reagan policies. He added, however, he also did not agree with Reagan on some issues, such as he, Hansen, wanting to cut the budget deficits more than at present, and cut more spending.

He also said he hoped the end of the election did not mean that inflation and interest rates would not continue to drop but might rise.

He said his two main legislative concerns are for changes in the immigration bill that will help Idaho farmers get alien labor and for the flat-rate income tax.

Stallings said that he never did have personal contact with Hansen who he said constantly ignored him but that he would send him a note of congratulation.

"I think the entire campaign boils down to the fact the majority of the people were in favor of the president to stay on course and give him a chance and more time to see if his economic programs will work," Stallings said in a Post-Register interview from his Rexburg home.

"I felt we were neck-and-neck until the the shift against me the last day or two," said Stallings.

Stallings pointed out a 4,000-vote shift in

east Idaho would have been enough to get him elected, but it didn't come about.

"As long as Reagan runs a huge deficit there will be no economic recovery," predicted Stallings. "Many felt I would oppose Reagan and vote with the Democrats. I am supportive of much of Reagan's programs but I certainly opposed his proposal to sell much of the public lands to pay off the national debt and I would have asked to cut back on the military budget to reduce the deficit. I preferred this rather than proposed deep cuts in the social programs, including Social Security."

Despite his narrow loss, Stallings said he was pleased in the way he campaigned.

He said he spent about \$100,000, mostly

from small contributors but that Hansen spent twice that much besides getting national help, such as Vice President Bush coming here Friday and Reagan stumping neighboring Western states.

"It made a difference in my defeat," he said.

Stallings, who took leave as chairman of the Ricks College history department to campaign this summer and fall, returned to his position Thursday.

He said he had no future plans at this time but would wait and see what the situation is in 1984.

"I never felt I was way ahead and I never did say we would win," said Stallings, "but I always felt we had a good chance."