

Stallings blasts Hansen for negative farm bill vote

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

Richard Stallings, Democratic 2nd congressional district nominee, Friday sharply criticized Republican Congressman George Hansen's negative vote on the Agriculture Appropriation Bill last week.

He said "it does not reflect the interests of Idaho's agriculture community, or those concerned with improving the state's environmental quality, or even the citizenry at large."

Stallings said that Hansen's excuse for his negative vote was the fact it contained money for food stamps.

"If there were an objectionable part, Hansen, who claims to have power in the House Agriculture Committee, should have deleted this provision in committee," responded Stallings.

"The overwhelming benefits of this bill far exceed the disadvantages. It funded Food and Drug Administration, Soil Conservation Services, Rural Electrification Administration programs and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services. There was even some funding for development of overseas markets which in my opinion is the ultimate way of solving the agricultural crisis."

He noted that despite Hansen's negative vote,

the bill was approved by an overwhelming 264-105.

"The funding of the Food and Drug Administration helps enforce quality standards for food production and safety standards for drug research, as well as various food programs for the truly needy," added Stallings.

Stallings also questioned Hansen's no vote because of the implications such a vote has on improving the state's and nation's economy.

Stallings also drew a sharp contrast between their approaches in solving the problems of Idaho.

He described Hansen, to use a football analogy, "a defensive player. He breaks up plays. He votes no.

"He is a very poor offensive player. He cannot get the whole team to work together to complete a long pass. He's too much a loner, too much in the spotlight by himself.

"I believe the problems of today need some offensive plays, some positive actions. Some 75,000 Idahoans are looking, or have given up looking, for jobs."

Stallings noted that Hansen also voted no on the entire appropriation bill for the Department of Transportation.

Palisades faces fund problems

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
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The question of whether enlarging Palisades Dam is possible will depend on funding, U.S. Sen. James A. McClure, R-Idaho, said Wednesday.

McClure, in a telephone interview from his Washington office, expressed doubt whether the federal funding can be obtained in the next session of Congress in the face of an economy drive.

"If this is the case and we don't get federal funding, then we must go back and try to reinstitute the project though the Idaho Department of Water Resources," said McClure, chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Resources Committee.

McClure noted the bill authorizing the project has passed the Senate but is languishing in a House committee.

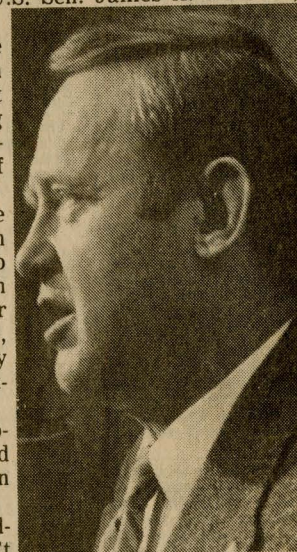
"I'm doubtful about the funding," said McClure. "We don't know what we will have in the budget for fiscal 1984 which we will get in January when the new Congress opens.

"We will have this project one way or another. We need the power in spite of what many people say that we have a surplus of power. This is nonsense."

He noted the Senate last year passed an authorization for a project to add 90 megawatts of generating capacity at the 119-megawatt hydropower plants on the Snake River about 50 miles east of Idaho falls. The estimated cost of the project last year was placed at about \$65 million but inflation could place this at much more now, McClure noted.

Under the multiple approach, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will design and operate the project and the Idaho Water Resources Board will pay for it with revenue bonds. The two agencies are working on a memorandum of understanding listing what issues need to be addressed in a state-federal contract. Legislation authorizing the federal-state concept was passed in the 1980 Idaho Legislature.

McClure said a new bill will need to be introduced in the new Congress but what form it will take will depend on the federal funding possibilities.



U.S. Sen.
James A. McClure