

Hansen opposes SALT pact

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
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political editor

U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, a leading House opponent to financing the Panama Canal treaty, isn't exactly excited about the SALT II arms treaty either.

Hansen, now looked on as one of the most formidable opponents for House approval for financial implementation of the Panama Canal treaty, said he sees two serious flaws in the SALT II agreement.

He defined these as a lack of adequate monitoring capacity due to the overthrow of the friendly Iran government, and exclusion of so-called backfire bombers and SS-18 missiles from the treaty, both of which have capabilities for hitting United States targets.

In a Post-Register telephone interview, Hansen said the USSR contends the missiles are for use against China in case of open warfare with that country, but that they are also capable of hitting U.S. targets.

"If I were a senator," said Hansen, "I would not vote to ratify the treaty."

Jackson opposed

Hansen also pointed out that one of the most powerful senators, Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., is opposing the treaty.

Hansen observed that only 34 senators can stop ratification and polls he has seen indicate President Carter doesn't have that much support so far.

The Idaho congressman also remarked the Soviets have warned they don't want changes in the signed treaty, a condition that does not meet the approval of many senators.

"I think the philosophy to limit arms manufacturing is commendable," said Hansen, "It could save money. We are all hopeful for open dialogue rather than force of arms."

"When we have an open society like ours compared with a closed society like their's, it makes such a treaty shaky from the start."

Panama treaty

Regarding the Panama Canal treaty monetary implementation, Hansen said a vote is scheduled this week, but this could be delayed.

The reason the vote has been delayed in the past is because the Carter Administration did not have the votes, he added.

"We want the administration to live up to its promises that the treaty will bring no charge to the taxpayers," said Hansen.

Hansen contended Panama would get a \$2 billion windfall from the tolls.

In all, said Hansen, the treaty cost will amount to \$4 billion to the United States.

He explained Panama gets \$2 billion from the interest, amortization and early annuities from the Panama Canal, which eventually will go to Panama. The Panamanian government will then get all the income.

"I'm trying to stop this cost to the American taxpayers," said Hansen.

He noted the State Department placed the cost at only \$893 million, which is to be reimbursed, but Hansen challenges these figures as erroneous on the basis of those

coming from accurate governmental sources.

In other matters, Hansen said he is pressing a fund-raising campaign on behalf of Taiwan, so that it is not ignored in the U.S.-People's Republic of China treaty.

Hansen explained this campaign was not intended to raise a great deal of money, but mostly to "identify the issue." He noted there is a strong movement in the Senate to make certain relations with Taiwan are retained.

He pointed out the OSHA campaign also started slowly, but that \$160,000 was raised to carry a successful lawsuit to the U.S. Supreme Court, requiring OSHA officials to get court orders on justifiable ground for inspection.

Hansen also said his campaign fund for 1980 is in good shape, estimating it to be at about \$20,000. He said about \$8,000 was raised by mailing appeals earlier in the year.

Hansen feels he won more than lost in treaty votes

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Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, admittedly disappointed that his so-called "Honesty Amendment" failed to pass, said Friday he felt he had won more than he lost in House voting on the Panama Canal treaty implementation Wednesday.

Hansen pointed out that many of the safeguards in his bill to protect American interests are expected to be inserted in the final version of the measure.

Hansen said a number of votes were so close that it will be necessary for the Senate to make concessions to get House approval on the final bill to be hammered out in a Senate-House conference committee.

Hansen had predicted that his amendment would win by 15 to 40 votes, but it was defeated 220-200 in a historic closed House session. His amendment which Carter and his supporters feared most would have required Panama to pay \$870 million or more U.S. costs connected with the treaty.

"I think American people are disappointed we have a spendthrift Congress to give away a \$20 billion installation (the Panama Canal)," said Hansen.

In a Post-Register telephone

interview, Hansen said it will take close to \$5 billion to transfer the canal.

In the final vote the House approved the bill 224-202. The closest vote of 313-210 defeated an amendment that would have required Panama to pay about \$75 million for U. S. military equipment it will get in the year 2000.

Carter supporters contended

the amendments would have wrecked the treaties.

Hansen said Rep. John Murphy, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, which is handling the bill, warned the Senate to comply with House changes or else face defeat.

Hansen said testimony by Lt. Gen. Dennis P. McAuliffe, commander of the U. S. Southern Command to Panama, told of many revolutionary activities by Panama in Latin America, including supplying guns to Nicaragua's Sandinistas and in El Salvador.

"It shows Panama is in league with Cuba," said Hansen.

"I think this treaty is still up in the air," Hansen said. "This bill still has to come back the same route for House approval."