

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."