

THE ELECTION EYE . . .

Recall Effort Against Crapo Appears Bogging

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The recall effort against State Rep. Terry L. Crapo, R-Idaho Falls, in Legislative District 29, appears to be bogging down and it now seems highly doubtful that enough names will be garnered to force a recall election.

In fact, many of the 21 names obtained in the first petition were taken at about the time petitions were floated against State Sen. W. Fisher Ellsworth and State Rep. Aden Hyde, and many of these people say they now decline to work in behalf of the recall movement.

Richard Bowman, bread company sales representative, has been the leader in the movement but since has moved to Kearney St. in Bel Aire Addition, in District 31, although he says he is helping in the movement.

Some 1,440 names must be obtained to bring a recall election but there is no deadline on how soon this can be done, except a recall election must be scheduled at least 90 days before the next regular election, which is Nov. 2, 1972.

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Crapo represents District 29, embracing the west side of the city and Bonneville County. Ellsworth and Hyde were recalled in District 30, the central section of the city.

This means the names could be handed in as late as next June but actually there is little purpose in calling a recall election after the legislature meets early next January.

In view of this, unless peti-

tions with the required names are filed within the next two months and force an election late this year and before the legislature convenes in January the removal of Crapo would have little meaning.

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This writer is highly skeptical that a recall movement will attain any success; in fact, it is questionable whether enough signatures can be obtained.

Both Ellsworth and Hyde barely squeezed through to victories in District 30 in the 1968 and 1970 elections but Crapo has led the ticket in his district and won by overwhelming margins. He is an LDS Church leader and draws the general support of people of that faith — something Ellsworth and Hyde did not have — in addition to the so-called intelligenzia, such as League of Women Voters, AA-UW, and business and professional leaders.

Bowman insists that the petitions are being circulated but a check indicates that if this is the case, it is being done on a small scale so far.

Contact with others who signed the petitions, at least the more prominent people, indicate they are lending little or no support.

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Other recall movements are under way in at least two other districts, one in neighboring Bingham County District 27 against State Rep. Wilbert Cammack, D-Blackfoot, and the other in District 2, in Kootenai County, against two Democratic state rep-

resentatives, Robert M. Haakenson and Larry Looney both Coeur d'Alene teachers.

Looney, incidentally, is a former teacher in Rexburg and Idaho Falls.

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Reports indicate the recall movements in both these districts have chances for success.

Petitions in both these districts are now in circulation but it is assumed they must be filed in time to schedule a recall election before the 1972 State Legislature convenes in January or else it would have little purpose.

There are rumors of recall efforts against other legislators but unless this materialize into action soon such activities likely will need to be delayed until the 1972 campaign leading to the Nov. 2, 1972, general election, which is the proper place, anyway.

Rumors indicate such a recall movement is planned against State Rep. Helen McKinney, R-Salmon, but a comprehensive survey indicates mostly talk and no concrete action so far.

In the 11 East Idaho counties, State Sens. Ellsworth and Joe Allen, American Falls Republican, and State Reps. Hyde, Crapo, Cammack and McKinney were the only ones to vote for the legislative pay increase.

Most South Central (Twin Falls area) and East Idaho legislators, Bannock County excepted, voted against the pay raise; but most Boise Valley Republicans and all North Idaho Democrats voted for the pay hike.