

The election eye . . .

Craig's philosophies similar to McClure

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The First Congressional District could do much worse than be represented by State Sen. Larry Craig, R-Midvale, who has indicated he will run for the position if U.S. Rep. Steve Symms decides to oppose Democrat U.S. Sen. Frank Church.

Symms has indicated he is eyeing the Senate seat but has left the door ajar in case he should change his mind.

The best clue that he will oppose Church is any lack of announcement in September. If he fails to announce for re-election before the end of this month, it can be assumed he will take the risk for the Senate. Otherwise he would announce for re-election to give other Republicans an opportunity to take a shot at Church.

The other two contenders who have professed a Senate interest are James T. Jones, Jerome attorney, who may compete whether Symms enters or not, and State Sen. Dean Van Engelen, Burley, who has indicated he is interested but unlikely to do so if Symms wants the nomination.

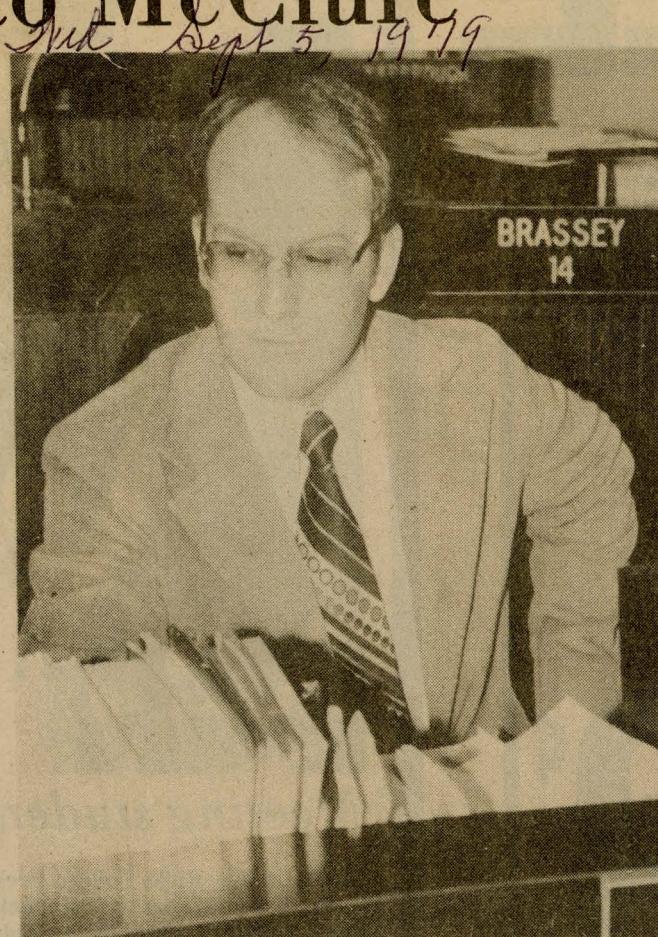
Craig's remarks at a press conference at Boise two weeks ago that his political philosophies are very similar to Symms' hardly square with the facts.

Craig is a bachelor serving his third term and is considered one of four or five independent Republicans who don't hew closely to the party line. As a result he has been beaten in the last two reorganization sessions for leadership role, although considered one of the better Republican senators.

His loss in a state Senate which presently is about as poor in quality as seen in many years would be immense.

Actually, Craig could be considered more to the philosophical level of Sen. James A. McClure who also served in the State Senate. In comparison, many rate Craig as one of the more moderates. He is a conservative but not of the right wing hue usually associated with both Symms and Idaho's other congressman, Rep. George V. Hansen.

In fact, the style and approach used by Craig and McClure are similar. Their backgrounds are different, — Craig is a rancher and realtor while McClure is an attorney.



Seeks higher post

Post-Register

BOISE — State Sen. Larry Craig, R-Midvale, is an announced contender for the First District Congress post if Congressman Steve Symms doesn't seek re-election and challenges Democratic U.S. Sen. Frank Church as appears likely. Craig is considered a conservative along the lines of U.S. Sen. James A. McClure but not an extreme rightist.

Craig, of course, would face both a tough primary and general election contest.

Another mentioned as a possible entry is former State Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter, Caldwell, a close third-place finisher in the 1978 gubernatorial race and perhaps better known as the son-in-law of Jack Simplot, considered Idaho's leading indus-

Others mentioned as possible Republican contenders are Don Chance, Boise, the former controversial chairman of the Idaho Property Owners Association which successfully sponsored the 1 Percent Tax Initiative in 1978, and James Crowe, Coeur d'Alene building developer, who competed for governor in 1978 but did not make a good showing.

trialist: Former Attorney General Wayne L. Kidwell has taken himself out of contention.

Because of name identity Craig at present would be ranked below Otter for victory, but this could change during a primary campaign.

with the Department of Employment, and Rand Lewis, Coeur d'Alene broadcaster, none of whom have wide name identifications. State Sen. Mike Mitchell, the ebullient Lewiston legislator, said he is not interested.

The Democrats now see an excellent opportunity to pick up a Congress seat if a formidable contender enters. Symms was considered a leadpipe cinch for re-election after scoring decisive victories the last two elections.

Among the Democrats mentioned so far are Jan Hammer, a legislative assistant to Gov. John V. Evans; Glenn Nichols,