

Hansen prefers shifting more of Ada in remapping

Sun. June 14, 1981

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Rep. George V. Hansen, R-Idaho, said Friday he preferred shifting more of Ada County to the 2nd congressional district to equalize the population between 1st and 2nd district for redistricting.

Hansen, in a telephone interview with The Post-Register from his Washington office, said this would be the most logical and simple thing to do when the Idaho Legislature convenes for its special reapportionment session July 7.

"It all boils down to shifting several precincts from the 1st district to the 2nd district in Ada County," said Hansen.

Hansen said it would be preferable to find some natural barriers to make such division, suggesting the Boise River or the Interstate highway in Boise, to transfer areas south of these to the 2nd district. He mentioned the possibility of also transferring Owyhee County and south Ada to the 2nd District.

Hansen said the official 1980 census now gives the Idaho population at 943,935, of which 492,688 are in the 1st district and 451,247 in the 2nd District. The increase is 32.4 percent, the seventh highest of any state in the nation, from the 713,008 population in 1970.

To equalize the districts it would involve shifting some 21,000 from the 1st District to the 2nd

District. The perfect division would be 471,968 in each district, he said.

Hansen said there are about 35,000 people in the northern and eastern sections of Boise and Ada County presently in his district, of the 171,000. Shifting 21,000 would place the figures at about 100,000 in the 1st district and 70,000 in the 2nd District or about 60-40 percent in favor of the 1st.

"This gives Ada County a voice in both districts," said Hansen. "There certainly should be no objection to this as there are many cities in the nation represented by more than one congressman. For example, there are some 20 in Los Angeles alone."

Hansen said he felt like he is a stepchild in Ada County but that transferring more of Boise in his district will remove that onus.

"When I campaigned before, I did not believe it was worth buying expensive television and newspaper ads in Boise and I didn't run too well," he said. "With the transfer I feel it will be worth my time and money to campaign more extensively in Boise."

He noted the opposition party, the Democrats, have held the governor's office the last several years, making it more difficult for a Republican.

"Getting more voters of Ada County in my district will justify my doing a better job in campaigning," he said.