

Stallings sees victory with moderate voters

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By BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

Richard M. Stallings, Rexburg, Ricks College instructor, said in his formal announcing for the 2nd District Congress race here Friday that he is depending largely on capturing the middle-of-road voters to beat Republican Rep. George V. Hansen.

Stallings said he will shun personalities but instead concentrate on what he considers viable issues.

He added that people well know Hansen and the electorate is fairly evenly split with the hard conservatives solidly in the Hansen corner while the Democrats and more moderates against him — and presumably for Stallings.

"There is a middle group of independents, moderates and others who can judge for themselves who they think can best represent them," he said, obviously bidding for their support in an election would could go down to the wire.



Richard H. Stallings

Stallings said Democrats were bucking a Reagan Republican landslide in 1980 in Idaho, but the situation could be different this year and any change can be considered a Democratic trend.

Stallings sought to portray a conservative image, agreeing some government cuts are needed. He said those of Reagan are slanted for the rich and against the lower economy group, adding they should be fair for all segments of society.

"I believe government deficits contribute substantially to high interest rates," he said, adding that Reagan has not solved the economic problems by a record military spending increase.

"Until interest rates come down there will be no economic turn-around," he said. "With the present high cost of money, small businesses and farmers are being driven to the wall. The American dream of home ownership may not be possible for our children."

The said there is need for a broader and more equitable cuts but none that would hamper the heart of the Social Security program for the retired elderly.

"Only by bringing people together and working for the common good can we resolve the problems of jobs, agriculture and get this country moving in the direction that you and I desire."

Harris defends proposed criminal parole measure

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Jim Harris, Ada County prosecutor and Republican attorney general candidate, defended Friday a bill he sponsored on criminal parole procedures against the criticism of his primary opponent, Jim Jones, Jerome attorney.

Harris said in a Post-Register interview here the measure was endorsed by both the Idaho Prosecuting Attorney Association and the Idaho Sheriff Association and was intended to more clearly define the appeal process.

He rejected the charge of Jones that it would expand the appeal rights of convicted criminals.

"It is obvious the state prosecuting attorneys and the sheriff would not endorse a bill that would expand the rights of criminals," said Harris.

The bill, he said, passed overwhelming in the House and would also have been approved in the Senate but was held by the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee by a single vote.

"The bill was built on input of both the prosecutors and sheriffs on the parole-making function," said Harris.

The bill, he explained, requires a parole board



Jim Harris

to issues written opinions and decisions which is not done presently, and it would allow appeal process by the governor in cases where appeals are brought.

"It is true that not only can prosecutors and attorney generals appeal but it grants that rights to the inmates," Harris said. "Any first year law student knows that both sides have the right for appeals. It allows the governor to summarily dismiss appeals without hearing after a review of the written findings by the State Parole Board.

"The prosecutors of the state didn't see the bill as posing threats to paroles. It proposes to build a safety valve in a system in those minor cases where the parole board had made a previous mistake."

"I think what concerns me most is my opponent's position of siding with the defense, chairman of the parole board, the Public Defenders Associations and against the prosecutors and sheriff associations. The attorney general should have a close working relations with county prosecutors and sheriffs.

In other issues, Harris said he has raised about \$20,000 so far in his primary contest, that he is gratified over his broad-based support throughout the state but acknowledge he lacks name identification in east Idaho; and that he is happy over passage of a bill that places on the ballot for the November general election to increase the prosecuting attorney terms from two to four years, same as other major county offices.

Harris said there is an urgent need for a consumer protection bureau in Idaho, believing this state is the only one that lacks this.