

Symms says vote will reduce deficit

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U.S. Sen. Steve Symms, R-Idaho, declared Wednesday his vote against the original Reagan budget proposal will further reduce future deficits.

Symms comments came in reply to criticism on his vote, including a Post-Register column written by this writer last week, that the vote delayed budget approval and that Symms was clouding the issues by his statements.

In a telephone interview from his Washington office, Symms predicted that his stance will bring further budget cuts.

He said from looking at his mail from his Idaho constituents following his vote, "I see confusion but I read between the lines that people are glad because they want the Reagan budget expectation with tax cuts in 1984.

"I think I hated to have to wait until after the Easter recess but it will slow down the budget only about a week, and at the most 10 days. What I'm saying is I think we are going to have a balanced budget with a tax cut, as result of my vote in committee."

Symms' vote, along with two other conservative Republican senators, Bill Armstrong of Colorado and Charles Grassley of Iowa, helped defeat a Senate

budget resolution 12-9. They joined a solid bloc of nine Democrats in opposition.

In the long run, said Symms, a far better budget will come out that will cut billions of dollars.

He said the Democrats have their own budget plans, which call for a balanced budget next year, but with a 76 percent income tax increase.

Symms said he was elected to hold down government costs but he felt the White House budget did not go far enough. He said it would bring deficits in the next four consecutive years, respectively, of \$60 billion, \$55 billion, \$50 billion and \$45 billion, a total of \$200 billion.

Symms said if the budget is cut \$15 billion more he would not regret his action and the delay.

He said President Eisenhower went so far as to cut 8.7 percent of the budget from a preceding year.

"I'm not saying I'm 100 percent against the resolution," said Symms, "but I don't believe the Republican Party should have to consider such a resolution on the eve of Easter. It would have then placed the Democrats as the party of fiscal conservatives. I don't believe this is acceptable."

Symms said the resolution had \$10 billion more than the president had sought. The committee voted two

weeks ago on the resolution authorizing the White House budget.

"We need to cut taxes," said Symms. "When Congress returns from its Easter recess, the budget committee will meet again to reconsider the budget resolution and adopt additional spending cuts that will be identified and proposed by the White House and Budget Director David Stockman.

"The Reagan Administration has stated it will work with the Senate Budget Committee to formulate additional spending reductions so as to further reduce and eliminate the projected budget deficits in the 1983 and 1984 fiscal years."

Symms said, "I believe an expansion of the economy will result from better incentives and higher after-tax rates of return. It is the focus on incentives that makes the tax cut the centerpiece of the president's program. A balanced budget will help pass the president's tax proposals."

Symms said his negative vote "is only a temporary bump in the road" when compared with the benefits it will bring in savings.

Symms said he predicts a balanced budget in five years because the people will not accept increasing deficits immediately.

"We cut but we didn't cut enough" was the way he put it in referring to the present budget.