

Hansen's impeachment threat held absurd

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Although most Americans are keenly aroused over the Iranians takeover of the American Embassy, they realize that caution must be taken to avoid endangering the lives of the American hostages.

Most of the responsible American leaders generally agreed with the calm approach taken by President Carter, although it would appear more drastic actions are favored, such as a break in diplomatic relations, deportation of hostile Iranian students, and nationals, and, as final extremity, armed intervention.

It is the president in this case who must take the initiative in handling the touchy situation with a strong hand, avoiding the tragic debacle that took place, for example, in Vietnam.

The recent outlandish threat by U.S. Rep. George V. Hansen to impeach the president if he continues a policy of inaction and appeasement in Iran is hardly one that would bring about a solution.

When he uttered this threat in the House, the House Speaker Tip O'Neill was quoted as telling him brusquely to "sit down."

Hansen has distributed a letter he wrote to the president Nov. 9 which contains some excellent suggestions, but repeats the threat that "unless strong and effective action is taken" he intends to introduce a resolution of impeachment.

He suggested such actions as urging the denial of permits for Iranian students to demonstrate in this nation; revocation of all Iranian student visas and deporting or arresting all protesting students; termination of aid, loans, food, grants of money and most favored nation status; cutting off all U.S. imports of oil and halting all economic trade with Iran; considering curtailing activities of the Iranian embassy and consular offices in U.S.; and warning Iran officials they will be held accountable for any injury to the hostages and damage to property.

Carter, of course, has already taken some action along these lines and more likely will follow with others, although it is unlikely that Hansen had any influence.

Even Hansen's Idaho House colleague, U.S. Rep. Steve Symms sidestepped endorsing the impeachment threat, commenting merely that "it would call for action."

The impeachment statement has now induced Hansen's primary opponent of 1978, Jim Jones, Jerome attorney and rancher, to move closer to challenging him again for the nomination.

Actually Jones was leaning against the contest after he withdrew from a contemplated senatorial contest a couple months ago.

At that time, he said if Hansen continued to utter statements and take action along negative and irresponsible emotional lines that he would consider running. He now indicates he is strongly considering the race.

He pointed out, accurately, that Hansen's impeachment resolution has little chance of success. Further it would immobilize the president as commander in chief, bitterly divide the nation, and replace with what he calls a bad president

with an even worse one in Vice President Walter Mondale.

Another absurd statement came from State Sen. Larry Craig, Midvale, at the time he announced his intentions last week to seek the First District Congress seated to be vacated by Symms.

In response to a question, he

said he would have "planes in the air and destroyers at sea," against Iran which is an incredible statement coming from one who seeks a Congress seat.

It's a disappointment from Craig who generally is considered by veteran political observers and legislators as one of the better state senators.