

# New Lawmaker May Not Be Seated

By Jack Anderson

In the first such case since the late Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-N.Y.) was unseated in 1967, a certified congressman may be barred from the House.

He is George Hansen, an Idaho Republican, who served two terms in the House during the mid-60s and has been elected again to his old seat.

Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), the formidable House Administration Committee chairman, will ask Hansen to stand aside until criminal charges against him are resolved.

This means he won't be sworn in with his colleagues next January. If the charges against him stand up, he may never be permitted to take his seat.

Federal auditors have turned up at least 30 apparent violations of the campaign laws by Hansen. These include the acceptance of 21 illegal corporate checks, the filing of late and inaccurate disclosure reports, the use of six secret cash accounts for his campaign and the funneling of money into his primary campaign through an unreported committee.

So serious are the charges that Hays has written two letters to the Justice Department about the case. His committee wrote the campaign law and investigated the Hansen campaign.

Yet Justice Department sources tell us that, despite

overwhelming evidence, the federal prosecutors have no plans to act on the case. Indeed, the Hansen case, although the most serious, isn't the only one which the Justice Department is sitting on.

Under the campaign spending law, the clerk of the House and the secretary of the Senate are supposed to refer suspected violations to the Justice Department.

When the law was enacted in 1971, there was skepticism that the House clerk and Senate secretary, who are under the control of Congress, would ever be able to police Congress.

In fact, they have done a scrupulous, nonpartisan job of administering the law. More than 10,000 alleged violations, including about 1,800 this year, have been sent to the Justice Department for action.

Yet, with the exception of cases developed by the Watergate special prosecutors, the Justice Department has brought only seven cases to trial. And 30 to 40 more prosecutions have been pressed in recent years under another 1925 law. This amounts to massive failure to enforce the campaign laws.

Footnote: We were unable to reach Hansen, but a spokesman declined to comment on the case. He said Hansen expected to be sworn in along with the rest of the House in January. A

Justice Department spokesman emphasized that most of the alleged violations submitted for prosecution were minor infractions, such as late or incomplete filings. Most of these errors, he said, have been cleared up when the department asked for an explanation. "We're doing one hell of a good job enforcing the law," he insisted.

**Mismanaged Economy?**—President Ford's insistence that inflation is the nation's No. 1 problem, in the opinion of some of his own economic advisers, is pushing the country into a dangerous recession.

These advisers, who for obvious reasons have asked not to be identified, have come to the regretful conclusion that the President is mismanaging the economy.

The confusion inside the White House over how to cope with economic problems, they tell us, is worse than it was during the last days of President Nixon. They cite these developments:

- Several weeks ago, the President's economic advisers delivered a confidential forecast to him that unemployment would hit 7 per cent this year—a sure sign of recession. Yet this wasn't even taken into account by the Economic Policy Board which, under presidential prodding, went ahead with its strategy to fight inflation.

- While the President is call-

ing upon Americans to spend less in order to curb inflation, they are already spending far less than most industries would like. New car sales are down drastically. The housing industry is paralyzed. Merchants across the country are reporting drops in their sales charts.

- The economic crunch has shaken the foundations of several banks. A few more bank failures could cause a run on banks reminiscent of the Great Depression, when depositors lined up for blocks to withdraw their precious life savings.

- Mr. Ford's economic policies are tilted toward big business. At a secret White House session, one consultant confronted the President bluntly: "Mr. President, you've asked us to reduce waste by 5 per cent, reduce driving by 5 per cent and increase taxes by 5 per cent. Could we ask the big oil companies to reduce their profits by 5 per cent?" The suggestion was rejected.

There is one hope. President Ford as a former Michigan congressman is close to the auto tycoons. They desperately want Americans to spend more, not less. The nation's No. 1 problem, they are pleading, is not inflation but recession.

When the auto tycoons speak, Mr. Ford out of habit listens. If the economy continues to weaken, he may belatedly take their advice.

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