

# Hansen Pleads Guilty To Campaign Offense

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Rep. George V. Hansen (R-Idaho) pleaded guilty in federal court here yesterday to charges of failing to file one campaign financing report and lying on another that he filed during his 1974 congressional race.

The plea to the two misdemeanor counts—each of which carries a possible jail sentence of one year and possible fine of \$1,000—was only the third time since World War II that a sitting congressman has admitted a criminal act in court.

Hansen, who served two terms in the House in the 1960s in addition to the current term to which he was elected last fall, said in a statement issued following his plea that he viewed the charges as "technical violations" and that he felt he had been the victim of a "political witchhunt."

Asked by reporters if he would resign his congressional



REP. GEORGE V. HANSEN  
... refuses to resign

seat because of the plea, Hansen replied, "Heavens, no. . . . I don't think I've done anything to leave Congress for."

Hansen entered his plea to a criminal information filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian W. Shaughnessy after an in-

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vestigation by the Justice Department and the FBI.

The first count charges that Hansen did not file a report with the Clerk of the House on June 10 as required by law.

The second count charges him with filing a sworn report on July 22 in which he claimed he had received no money from June 1 through July 15, when he had actually received \$2,150 and knew it.

In a three-page "statement of facts and law" to which Hansen agreed, the prosecutors said the report Hansen should have filed on June 10 would have shown that he had received and spent approximately \$14,000 from March 1 through May 31, 1974.

He then filed the July 22 report.

The prosecutors noted that Hansen and his campaign committee had filed amended reports in September that were a substantial compliance with the law.

Hansen admitted his guilt in a firm voice before U.S. District Court Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.

But afterwards he released a statement to the press in which he complained of the problems of putting together a campaign with volunteers and inexperienced people.

He complained further that during his campaign he had been the "object of a vicious smear effort and political witchhunt."

Specifically accusing House Administration Committee Chairman Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) of issuing "damning and belous statements" about the Hansen investigation, the Idaho congressman said that he had been "singled out to be a test case for (Hays') purposes regarding campaign law reform."

Hays denied the charges and said Hansen was "a little off his rocker, if you ask me."

"I think he's got a lot of all," Hays told the British news agency Reuter. "He got off easy. I don't know what he's talking about."

No sentencing date has been set for Hansen, a Pocatello businessman with five children. A former Agriculture Department official, Hansen has been called a conservative by political observers. He defeated incumbent Republican Orval Hansen (no relation) in a primary and Democrat Max Hanson in November.