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## Roger Hanson; was a former state legislator

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Roger Hanson, a former Minnesota state senator who extolled the virtues of small-town living and fought efforts to intrude on rural independence, died of a heart attack Monday in Fargo, N.D. He was 79.

Hanson, of Vergas, served the Otter Tail County area for one Senate term and two House terms between 1968 and 1976. He was an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor in 1978, and he also served on the Public Utilities Commission. In Vergas, he was a longtime fire chief.

In 1986, Hanson resigned from the PUC after a Star Tribune investigation showed that he had received more than \$30,000 from Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. Most of the money went to him in an 11-month period when he was not a commissioner, but the payments raised questions about impropriety.

Hanson, a Republican, was a hardware store owner who made a name for himself in the Legislature with a memorable speech opposing a bill that would have imposed a statewide building code. The speech was credited with turning the Senate tide against the bill.

"Roger was a man of honor and integrity. He was a hardworking legislator who developed a reputation for fairness and understanding complex issues," said Sen. Cal Larson, the Fergus Falls Republican who succeeded Hanson.

Services are planned for 11 a.m. Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church in Vergas. Survivors include his wife, Donna, and five children.

*Associated Press*