

Ex-congressman Odin Langen dies

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Odin Langen, 63, who served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, died Tuesday morning of an apparent heart attack at his farm near Kennedy, Minn.

Langen, a Republican, represented Kittson County in the Minnesota House from 1950 to 1958. He was elected to the U.S. House in 1958 from the Seventh Congressional District.

He served in the U.S. House until 1970, when he was defeated by Rep. Bob Bergland, D-Minn. Langen was the last Minnesota incumbent to be unseated while seeking reelection.

After the 1970 defeat, he dropped out of state politics, but was ap-

pointed by the Nixon administration as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Packers and Stockyards Administration. He retired from that post in 1972 and then divided his time between Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and his 1800-acre farm in northwestern Minnesota.

Langen was born in Minneapolis, but shortly after his birth his family moved back to the original home at Kennedy. He graduated from high school there and then spent two years at Dunwoody Industrial Institute in Minneapolis.

During his first race for the U.S. House, Langen received national attention when his Democratic opponent, Coya Knudson, was asked by her husband to give up the of-



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ice. The request led to the much-publicized "Coya Come Home" campaign, and Langen won the

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South Minneapolis.

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election by a narrow 2,400-vote margin.

In the U.S. House he served on the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Agriculture, and he was chairman of the House Republican Task Force on Agriculture.

Langen was a past chairman of the Red River Farmers Club and the Red River Town Board, as well as a past president of the Kennedy School Board and the Kennedy Parent-Teacher Association. He was an honorary member of the Citizens for Decent Literature, and for several years he was given the "Watchdog of the Treasury" award by the National Businessmen's Association.

Survivors include his wife, the former Lillian Clauson, of Kennedy; a daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Pagnac, of Stephen, Minn.; two sons, Lynden and Wyne, who operate the family's farm in Kennedy, and nine grandchildren.

Services will be Friday in the Red River Lutheran Church in Kennedy.