

\$53.1 billion for weapons; MX missile rolls on

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes May 8-21.

HOUSE

MX MISSILE — By a vote of 319-42, the House refused to cut \$1.6 billion from next year's Pentagon budget for researching and developing the proposed MX intercontinental missile. The amendment was offered to HR 6974, a defense spending bill later passed and sent to the Senate. The MX system is to be the nation's next generation of nuclear missiles, for defense or attack. The missiles may be housed in underground launch sites in western states.

Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., who favored doling money for the missile, predicted the MX will prove too expensive and will "die of its own weight."

Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, an opponent of cutting the funds, said that by developing the MX while negotiating with the Soviet Union, the U.S. would retain the "option of having an adequate counter to their new generation of missiles."

Members voting *yea* oppose the MX. Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Flymouth, and William Brodhead, D-Detroit, voted *yea*.

Reps. William Ford, D-Taylor, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Brodhead, R-Birmingham, voted *no*.

FOOD STAMPS — The House approved, 345-56, an emergency appropriation of \$2.5 billion to keep the food stamp program alive through fiscal 1980, which ends Sept. 30. The Department of Agriculture provides the stamps to the poor to increase purchasing power at food stores. About 21.4 million persons benefit from the stamps. The average recipient gets about \$35 monthly in purchasing power at grocery stores.

Rep. Richard Bolling, D-Mo., a supporter, said that without the emergency funding "the secretary of agriculture will be forced to order states to suspend all food stamp benefits, effective June 1, to millions of poor and near poor Americans who cannot afford an adequate diet."

Rep. Robert Michel, R-Ill., an opponent, said "We all know about the amount of waste, fraud and abuse in the food stamp program."

Members voting *yea* want to keep the food stamp program operational through Sept. 30 or later.

Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Brodhead voted *yea*. Pursell did not vote.

THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS. By a

FREE FOOD STAMPS — By a vote of 289-112, the House refused to resume government charges for food stamps. Since 1979, individuals and families fitting the government's definition of poverty have been able to get the stamps for free. The vote came during debate on S 1309, a food stamps funding bill later signed into law.

Rep. Steven Symms, R-Idaho, a supporter, said that before the purchase requirement was abolished the food stamp program cost \$5.5 billion annually. "Now, without the purchase requirement, it is nearly \$11 billion."

Rep. Fred Richmond, D-N.Y., an opponent, said that reinstating the purchase requirement would "actually reverse our entire food stamp program, increase fraud, increase error rate, and take the poorest of the poor people off the food stamp rolls."

Members voting *yea* want the government to resume charging for food stamps.

Brodhead voted *yea*. Pursell, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted *no*. Bonior did not vote.

DEFENSE SPENDING. By a vote of 338-62, the House passed a bill to spend \$53.1 billion next fiscal year for weapons. This bill only authorizes the money. Separate legislation must be passed to actually spend it. The \$53.1 billion is \$6.2 billion more than President Carter had requested. Although it could help to unbalance the fiscal 1981 budget, it reflects the congressional ground swell for high defense spending.

Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., a supporter, said "Since the slow process of neglect of our defense began early in the last decade, we have watched our military power drift into a state of uncertain readiness."

Rep. Andrew Maguire, D-N.J., an opponent, said the bill "represents nearly a 31 percent increase" over the fiscal 1980 weapons authorization bill, and that "fully half of this increase was not requested by the Department of Defense."

Members voting "yea" favor the \$53.1 billion weapons outlay for the fiscal year that begins next October.

Ford, Blanchard and Brodhead voted "yea." Pursell, Bonior and Brodhead, voted "nay."

roll call report

vote of 253-115, the House rejected an amendment awarding financial compensation to World War II Philippine Scouts or their survivors.

Under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the scouts fought with the U.S. Army at places like Bataan and Corregidor but were paid only half of what U.S. soldiers received. Costing an estimated \$8 million, the amendment sought to provide scouts or their survivors with lump-sum payments to equalize salaries, as well as increased disability and retirement benefits. The amendment was proposed to HR 6974 (see preceding vote).

Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Calif., the sponsor, said his amendment "simply authorizes equal pay for equal risk."

Rep. Bill Nichols, D-Ala., an opponent, said "There was no inequity perceived at the time by the Philippine Scouts, and no inequity exists today."

Members voting "yea" want to provide financial compensation to the Philippine Scouts or their survivors. Bonior voted "yea." Pursell, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Brodhead voted "nay."

MX MISSILE. By a vote of 250-152, the House refused to abandon the so-called "shell-game concept" for deploying the MX missile. The vote left untouched money for developing a plan to conceal the MX system by shutting its rockets among underground launch sites in the West. The amendment called for studying other deployment modes, and was viewed by many as an attempt to jettison the MX system. The vote came during debate on the Pentagon weapons bill (see preceding votes), which, as later passed, contained \$1.6 billion for the MX.

Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., a supporter, said the shell-game concept goes against the "common sense of the American people," and that without popular support the MX system will never be built.

Rep. Richard Ichord, D-Mo., said House members "should get down on their knees and pray that the Russians are nice people" because the Soviets are far ahead of the U.S. in modernizing their missile systems.

Members voting "nay" want to continue developing an MX missile system whose rockets would be continually tested among underground launch sites.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford and Brodhead voted "yea." Blanchard and Broomfield voted "nay."

SENATE

FOOD STAMPS — The Senate approved, 70-18, an appropriation of \$3 billion to continue the food stamp program through Sept. 30. The House approved a similar measure (see preceding votes), and the emergency money was headed for final congressional approval.

Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., a supporter, called food stamps "a humanitarian program" that meets "the needs of the hungry and the poor... the most vulnerable citizens in our society."

Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, an opponent, said "one out of every 10 Americans is now drawing food stamps. That has to be a sign of something basically and fundamentally wrong in our society and with this kind of a program."

Senators voting *yea* want to fund the food stamp program at least through Sept. 30.

Sens. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, both Democrats, voted *yea*.

FEDERAL PENSIONS — The Senate killed, 50 for and 43 against, a pro-

posal to preserve the current semiannual cost-of-living pension increases for retired federal workers, including congressmen. The proposal, which would have cost taxpayers \$400 million in 1981, was offered to the fiscal 1981 congressional budget blueprint (H Con Res 307). This vote means the cost-of-living hike is to be awarded only once annually.

Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., who favored killing the amendment, said that to balance the budget, Congress "must do away with expensive luxuries like the semiannual increases."

Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., who opposed killing the semiannual increases, said, "The Senate cannot condone holding the federal retirees hostage in its push to balance the budget."

Members voting *yea* favor only one cost-of-living increase per year for federal pensioners.

Levin voted *yea*. Riegle voted *nay*.

FTC. By a vote of 74-15, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a bill that keeps a weakened Federal Trade Commission alive through fiscal 1981. The bill limits the FTC's ability to regulate children's advertising on television and the insurance industry, and gives Congress power to veto FTC rules if both houses okay the veto.

Sen. Harrison Schmidt, R-N.M., a supporter, said "the possibility of a legislative veto at the end of the regula-

ry pipeline will insure that the FTC considers our concerns at the beginning of the pipeline."

Most opponents wanted even more restrictions on the FTC. However, Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, opposed the bill as too restrictive. "The overburdened people of this country need a diligent Federal Trade Commission that serves as a watchdog in the market place," he said. "Senators voting 'yea' favor the bill. Riegle and Levin voted 'yea.'"

AID TO NICARAGUA. The Senate rebuffed, 41-33, an attempt to send to committee and perhaps kill legislation providing \$75 million in foreign aid for Nicaragua and \$5 million for Honduras. The Senate later passed the bill and sent it to the White House.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., voted "yea" and said that "the situation in Nicaragua is not hopeless. The country has not yet become a Marxist state." Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who led the attempt to sidetrack the bill, noted the leftist bent of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and said he wants to make sure "that the U.S. taxpayer's money is not being poured down a Communist rat-hole."

Virtually all senators voting "yea" favored passage of the foreign aid bill for Nicaragua and Honduras. Riegle and Levin voted "yea."

Finding homes for the elderly

Communities in southeast Michigan are beginning to work toward a three-year goal that calls for federal and state assistance to 15 percent, or 32,000, of the 215,000 inadequately-housed households.

The goal is set down in the Housing Opportunity Plan recently adopted by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), a metropolitan planning organization composed of 137 units of government in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

According to the plan, 65 percent of the housing assistance granted over the next three years should be rental assistance and rehabilitation of existing housing.

"This is in line with SEMCOG's overall philosophical position of making the best use of existing, paid-for structures in the region," said SEMCOG Executive Director Michael M. Glusac.

"Rehabilitation of existing housing and rental assistance for existing rental units are the most cost-effective means of helping the elderly, female-headed households, and persons with fixed or lower incomes."

THE REMAINING 35 percent of the goal is aimed at providing new owner or renter housing units for inadequately housed households.

Housing needs of the elderly and female-headed households are of primary concern in the plan. The plan identifies 46 percent of the region's inadequately housed households as elderly households, and identifies 47 percent of the region's inadequately housed households as female-headed households.

"It is crucial to understand what 'inadequately housed' means," said Glusac. "An elderly person forced to spend too much income for housing in order to have access to public transit is inadequately housed."

"A widowed or divorced mother, struggling to care for a couple of youngsters on a limited income, can be inadequately housed."

"Victims of the recent auto layoffs, who mortgaged a house based on two incomes, can be inadequately housed." The U.S. Department of Labor reported last Wednesday that the average family of four in Detroit spends nearly \$21,000 to maintain an average standard of living.



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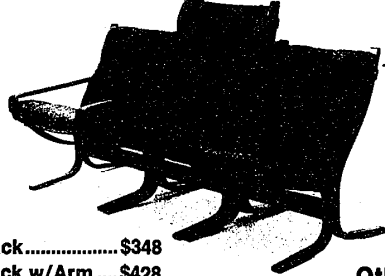
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