

Poor, education, foreign aid get squeezed in cuts

WASHINGTON: Before beginning its current session, the Senate passed and sent to the House legislation setting the framework for the massive federal spending cuts advocated by the Reagan administration and its supporters in Congress.

In recent weeks, this newspaper reported the years and says cast by senators on final passage of the measure and on some of the amendments voted on during the lengthy debate. Altogether, there were votes on 35 amendments, offered mostly by Democrats challenging the administration's radical budget surgery. The following covers other important votes that occurred during debate on the measure.

"WASTEFUL SPENDING." The Senate rejected, 35-65, an amendment directing the Appropriations Committee to find ways to cut \$2 billion in fiscal 1982 spending by agencies for consultants, office supplies and other items coming under the broad heading of procurement. The fiscal 1982 procurement budget is about \$100 billion. Sponsor David Pryor, D-Ark., said "a long, hard look" is needed at expenditures for "consultants, furniture purchases, fancy audio visual materials and any unnecessary luxuries that the taxpayers of this country can no longer afford."

Opponent Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., sympathized with the objective but said

roll call report

the amendment burdened the committee with a vague task that in some respects exceeded the committee's jurisdiction.

Senators voting "yes" favored a \$2 billion across-the-board cut in federal procurement spending in fiscal 1982. Democratic Sens. Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted "yes."

HOME HEATING AID: By a vote of 37-61, the Senate rejected an amendment adding \$400 million in fiscal 1982 to the federal program that helps the poor and needy elderly pay home heating bills.

Supporter Joseph Biden, D-Del., said heating costs will soar as a result of the administration's decontrol of oil prices

and planned decontrol of natural gas. He said, "I do not think this president really understands" the importance of the federal program to help the poor cope with rising energy costs the administration is contributing to."

Opponent John Tower, R-Tex., praised the administration's plan to let the states assume much of the federal program. This "will help assure that the states target the available money instead of spreading it around to a great many people who are not in such great need," he said.

Senators voting "yes" favored the \$400 million addition for federal home-heating aid. Levin and Riegle voted "yes."

SCHOOL LUNCHES: The Senate rejected, 35-64, an amendment to increase fiscal 1982 and 1983 budget outlays for the school lunch program by \$450 million.

Sponsor Jim Sasser, D-Tenn., said "let us not cut to the bone on the school lunch program or we will find (it) going out of existence . . . and all children — poor, middle and upper income — may be without a hot lunch program."

Opponent Robert Dole, R-Kans., said "parents are also concerned about inflation, high interest rates, unemployment, over-regulation, the economy in general and high taxes."

Senators voting "yes" wanted to lessen the administration's planned cuts in spending for school lunches. Levin and Riegle voted "yes."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: The Senate rejected, 46-52, an amendment to restore \$100 million of the administration's proposed budget cut for vocational education. The restoration covered fiscal 1981-83.

Supporter Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., said "we all recognize that unemployment, particularly for the disadvantaged and minorities, is a major national problem."

Opponent Peter Domenici, R-N.M., said states and localities have been greatly increasing vocational education spending and "this suggests that (they) may make up a proportion of the reduction in federal expenditures for vocational education."

Senators voting "yes" favored restoring some of the administration's planned cut in vocational education spending. Levin and Riegle voted "yes."

FOREIGN AID: By a vote of 70-26, the Senate cut \$200 million from fiscal 1982 foreign aid outlays. This was coupled with a separate vote adding \$200 million to child nutrition programs.

Sponsor Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said his amendment "is taking some money which otherwise would go to foreign countries and applying a small part of it for school lunches for American children."

Opponent Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., said he is "all for school lunch programs" but that the Helms amendment "sends the wrong signal around the world as to what our priorities are" in foreign aid.

Senators voting "yes" supported transferring \$200 million from foreign aid to child nutrition programs. Riegle voted "yes."

Levin voted "no."

EDUCATION SPENDING: The Senate rejected, 33-65, an amendment to restore \$135 million in fiscal 1982 outlays for the part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title I) directed at educating poor children.

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