roll call report

· Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the Memorial Day recess.

nount. Reps. Carl Pursell, David Bonior, William Ford, William Brod-

head and James Blanchard voted "yea." Rep. William Broomfield voted "nay."

TAX LOOPHOLES — The House rejected, 164 for and 246 against, an amendment to force the House to formally include money lost through "axe expenditures;" or tax loopholes, in its annual budget, computations. The \$770 billion that the Treasury loses annually as a result of some 104 loopholes — from mortgage deductions for homeowners to massive corporate writeroffs in ot counted as an expenditure or potential revenue source in the annual budget resolution. Critics say this is fiscally irresponsible because Congress is relinquishing control over a major "expenditure" that greatly affects spending, revenue and deficit levels. The vote occurred during debate on H Con Res 345 (see preceding vote).

vote). Sponsor David Bonior, D-Mich., called revenue lost through loop holes a "hemorrhage" and he said it was time for Congress to "deal with the tax expenditure within the budget itself." Opponent Dan Rostenkowski, D-III., chairman of the Ways and

Opponent Dan Rostenkowski, D-IIII, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that writes tax laws, said the amendment was out of place during debate on the fiscal 1983 budget and should be offered instead in committee consideration of changes in the congressional budget act.

Members voting "yea" wanted the congressional budget process to reflect their concern that tax loopholes need to be better policed

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

FEDERAL PENSIONS — The House adopted, 327 for and 94 against, an amendment providing full cost-of-living increases in the pensions of federal civilian and military retirees. This removed a 4 percent cap from the fiscal 1983 budget plan sponsored by Republicans and the White House. The GOP and Democratic budget plans did not cap other annuities such as Social Security. The vote came during debate on H. Con Res 345 (see preceding votes)

votes).

Sponsor Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., called it "unfair to single out

federal . . . retirees for an arbitrary 4 percent cap" when neither the GOP nor major Democratic budget plans contained caps for Social Security recipients, railroad retirees and veterans who get U.S. pensions.

U.S. pensions.

Opponent Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said the amendment would worsen the federal deficit, and he added that "we have been warned that control of entitlements is the key to control of the budget. If we vote for this amendment, we give away the key."

Members voting "yea" were opposed to limiting at 4 percent the cost-of-living hikes in federal military and civilian pensions.

Ford, Brothead and Blanchard voted "yea."

Pursell and Broomfield voted "nay."

SENATE

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MEMBERS' TAXES — The Senate adopted, 70 for and 23 against, an amendment to repeal the higher tax deductions for Washington living expenses that senators and House members approved for themselves in late 1981. The amendment restored the previous \$3,000 per year flat deduction, thus abolishing the new 475 per diem system that enables members to deduct as much as \$119,000 for expenses associated with being in Washington. The House has not by et considered the repeal legislation. The amendment was attached to an appropriations bill (HR 9522) that was sent to conference with the House. Sponsor William Proxmire, D-Wis., said "the public well understands and disapproves of the action Congress took in the clsoing days of last year" and has responded with "almost universal condemnation" of the higher deductions.

Opponent Robert Dole, R Kans, said the vote "will give the media another round of shots. The million dollar anchorman will be taking about our \$4,000 savings, but hey will say it is a \$15,000 tax. that they may be acting whether the properties of th

penses. Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted "yea."

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SUBSIDIZING HOME BUYERS — The Senate adopted, 69 for and 23 against, an amendment to appropriate \$5.1 billion over five years for a program subsidizing the mortgage interest paid by years of new homes. Tens of thousands of buyers adming less than \$37,000 annually could get up to four percentage points of their interest paid by the Treasury. The amendment was attached to HR 9522 (see preceding vote).

Supporter Henry Jackson, D-Wash, said "This is not just a housing bill. This is an attempt to ignite a spark to start to turn the economy around."

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Opponent S.I. Hayakwa, R-Cailif., called the measure an expensive "quick fix" and said "the only way to reduce interest rates is to reduce spending and reduce the deficit."

Senators voting "yea" favored subsidizing interest payments to spur the housing industry and help home buyers.

Levin and Riegle voted "yea."

BUTTER VS. GUNS — By a vote of 61 for and 30 against, the Senate tabled and thus killed an amendment to spend \$18.9 billion less on defense in fiscal 1983-\$5, \$4 billion more on domestic programs such as Medicare and unemployment compensation, and to reduce the deficit by about \$14.9 billion. The amendment was proposed to the budget resolution (S Con Res 92) for 1983 and bary years. The resolution later was passed and sent to conference with the House.

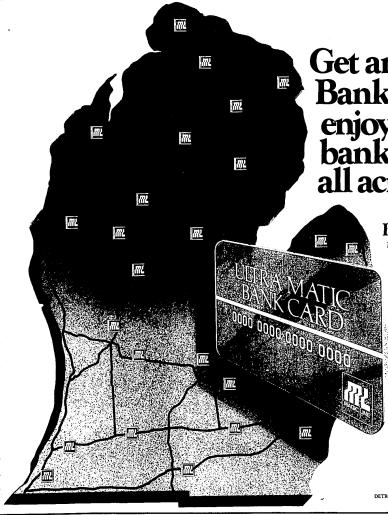
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years. The resolution later was passed and sent the House.

Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, who voted to kill the amendment, said it would "cripple our (defense) modernization program and jeopardize our national security."

Levin and Riegle voted "nay."





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