

roll call report

Broomfield lone area supporter of MX missile

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Dec. 2-8.

HOUSE

MX MISSILE — The House adopted, 245 for and 176 against, an amendment to delete all money sought by the Reagan Administration to start building the MX missile.

Objections centered on the administration plan to base the MX in a single "dense pack" situated in Wyoming. Pentagon planners say the dense pack would work because incoming Soviet missiles would destroy one another as they landed on their targets.

The dense pack would consist of about 100 MX missiles housed in hardened silos within a 20-square-mile area. The \$988 million deleted by this vote, from the fiscal 1983 military appropriations bill (HR 7355) was to have bought the first five MX missiles. As later passed and sent to the Senate, the

bill contained \$2.5 billion in MX research and development money. While the vote was a major defeat for President Reagan, it was far from the final congressional word on the fate of the dense pack.

Supporting the cut, Howard Wolpe, D-Mich., said, "Now is not the time to let the Pentagon go on a Christmas shopping spree for sophisticated weapons of dubious utility."

Opposing the cut, Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., said that to delete MX procurement money would give the Kremlin "an early Christmas present... the world will be able to hear the vodka glasses clinking in (Soviet Premier) Andropov's chamber tonight."

Members voting yes opposed the dense pack basing plan or the entire MX missile program. They were Reps. Carl Farnell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, and William Brodhead, D-Detroit.

Voting no: Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham. Rep. James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, did not vote.

GAS TAX — By a vote of 236 for and 169 against, the House adopted an amendment that raises the federal gasoline tax 5 cents a gallon. The purpose is to finance \$5.6 billion a year worth of projects upgrading mass transit, U.S. highways and bridges.

The measure also permits larger trucks to use interstate highways. Sponsors said the measure will create hundreds of thousands of jobs during the first year of the six-year program.

But critics said the projections were overstated because the tax would drain productivity from other sectors of the economy.

The hike of the federal gas tax from 4 cents to 9 cents per gallon is slated to take effect next April 1. The amendment was adopted to HR 6211, later

passed and sent to the Senate.

Supporter Barber Conable, R-N.Y., said that while the tax hike was not a cure-all for the economy and the nation's crumbling infrastructure, "it is appropriate to the time."

Opponent Norman Shumway, R-Calif., said, "For every dollar that the consumer pays in higher gas taxes, less money will be made available for consumer demand in the private sector."

Members voting yes favored the nickel a gallon hike in gas tax. Voting yes: Reps. Pursell, Ford, Brodhead and Broomfield.

Voting no: Rep. Bonior. Rep. Blanchard did not vote.

DEFENSE BUDGET — The House passed, 346 for and 68 against, and sent to the Senate the fiscal 1983 defense appropriations bill (HR 7355).

Although the \$231 billion measure is the highest peacetime military appropriation in history, it is \$18 billion less

than President Reagan had requested.

The bill provides funding for conventional and nuclear weapons systems, military salaries and pensions, and scores of other Pentagon outlays. It represents an increase of 6 percent over 1982 military appropriations, after adjustments for inflation.

Supporter Bill Young, R-Fla., said the measure provides "for the common defense so people back home in our districts can feel safe, can believe that someone, somewhere, is looking after their future security interests."

Opponent Bill Green, R-N.Y., said supporters are "telling your constituents that you are ready to return to double-digit inflation and to 20 percent-plus interest rates."

Members voting yes wanted to pass the \$231 billion defense spending bill. Voting yes: Reps. Pursell, Ford and Broomfield.

Voting no: Reps. Bonior and Brodhead.

Rep. Blanchard did not vote.

SENATE

WIDER TRUCKS — The Senate rejected, 31 for and 62 against, an amendment to retain the 96-inch maximum width for trucks plying interstate highways.

The vote left intact language in the fiscal 1983 U.S. Transportation Department appropriations bill to allow 102-inch truck widths. Coincidentally, the issue arose at the same time Congress is moving to allow larger trucks as part of the new nickel a gallon gasoline tax.

The bill (HR 7019) was passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Thomas Eagleton, D-Mo., sponsor of the amendment, said: "Let those monsters roll down the highways tomorrow. Let them chew them up and do not ask them for a penny... What made America great? Big, bigger, and biggest trucks? Poppycock."

Religion courses double at MSU

Michigan State University's undergraduates are enrolling in religion courses in far greater numbers than last year, reports Robert T. Anderson, chairman of MSU's Department of Religious Studies.

"The stigma of taking religion courses is also easing," he said. "Students are realizing that we're an academic department, not a seminary. Only about 30 percent of our graduates actually go into a religious profession."

He says enrollment in winter term classes is projected to be 549 students, almost double the winter 1982 enrollment of 288 students.

Anderson notes that students can now use religion courses to satisfy general education requirements needed by all MSU students for graduation, which partially explains the enrollment increase.

HE ESTIMATES that about two-thirds of the department's graduates go on to graduate school. Others find jobs in fields ranging from social work to business.

The field of religious studies was quite successful in attracting students at state universities until the 1970s, Anderson said, when the emphasis in education began to shift to training for a profession.

"In the past couple of years, this trend seems to be turning around. The interest is there, and students are beginning to get the message that a liberal-

arts education can be useful for more than teaching," he said.

MARY L. SCHNEIDER, MSU associate professor of religious studies and a Franciscan who is about to take her final vows in the Milwaukee-based Sisters of St. Francis, said students are also beginning to realize they need more knowledge in the area of religion.

"I've never seen so many students who don't know what a sacrament is or who Martin Luther was," she said.

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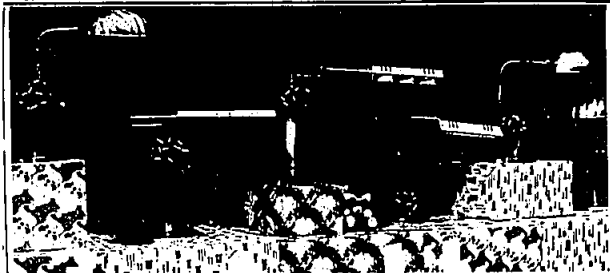
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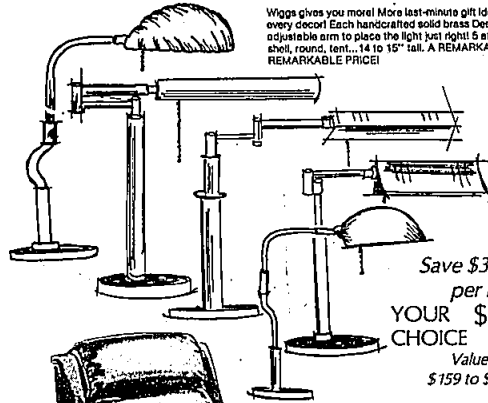
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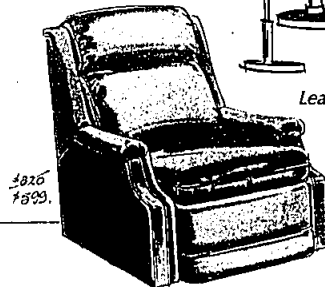
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