

MX vote splits Dems, GOP

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Michigan's Democratic representatives just couldn't buy the president's argument that spending \$235 million to develop and flight test the MX missile would encourage the Soviets to stop their nuclear arms build-up.

But despite their opposition, both Congressional houses last week approved spending the funds to base 100 MX missiles in existing underground sites in Nebraska and Wyoming. The Senate voted 59-39 and the House voted 139-114 to develop the missile.

All of the state's Republican legislators sided with the president.

Republican Congressman William Broomfield, of the 18th District, said the flight testing should "threaten the Soviet missile forces."

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BUT MICHIGAN'S Democrats don't agree. They

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— U.S. Rep. William Broomfield

contend that the 10-warhead MX, which is now in the development stage, will become the mainstay of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Rep. Dennis Riegle, D-Detroit, whose district includes southern Troy, favors spending the money on the Trident submarine instead of the MX.

"The MX is a total waste of money, because it is totally vulnerable and by the time we're finished we'll spend \$20 billion on it and have no defense. It'd rather see the money put into the submarine research," he said.

Democratic Sen. Donald Riegle said the MX is an "enormously costly system presented at a time when federal deficits are out of control and resources are needed."

"If Michigan has 4 percent of the nation's population, then it should only be required to pay 4 percent of the cost. If you took 4 percent of the MX missile price we could pay off our deficit," Riegle added.

Riegle also told his colleagues that he doesn't believe more nuclear warheads are necessary to arm the nation.

"We already have 8,000 nuclear warheads. We're armed to teeth with a nuclear weapon capability that can destroy every vestige of life in Soviet Union many times over," the senator added.

Riegle's COLLEAGUE Sen. Carl Levin called the MX a "dangerous and costly fraud."

"It will serve as a deterrent in no better way than cheaper weapons. It could alarm the Russians," he said.

County to expand trusty camp

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners last week voted to increase the capacity of the jail's trusty camp and expand its work release program.

After more than a year of examination by the county's Jail Study Committee, it was the commission's final move to reduce the jail population.

Oakland County is under federal court order to reduce the jail population to avoid overcrowding. The committee has been studying alternatives to building a new facility.

COMMISSIONERS unanimously approved spending \$175,000 to increase the trusty camp capacity from 50 to 100 inmates.

In addition, \$35,408 was budgeted to pay the salaries of a corrections officer, two detention officers and one cook who must be hired when the camp increases in size.

Presently, the county is housing about 50 inmates in the Allegan and Washtenaw county jails, which costs Oakland about \$50,000 a month.

Inmates in the trusty camp are serving time for

non-violent crimes. It is a minimum security facility where work and program activities are emphasized. An inmate must be sentenced and not be a parole violator to be considered for the camp.

Operating cost of the additional 50 beds will be about \$193,000 to \$257,000. That will save the county approximately \$300,000 in fees had to house inmates in Allegan or Washtenaw jails.

HOWEVER, commissioners said that if the camp fails to reach the 100-person capacity by the time the 1984 budget is approved, or if it falls below that figure by more than 20 percent, the board may reconsider the staffing levels.

Commissioners also unanimously approved increasing the capacity of the work release facility from 75 to 94 inmates. Inmates employed in the program must pay \$42 of their earnings per week to the county to offset operating costs of the program.

Commissioners amended the rule requiring paying part of their earnings to the county to allow

persons unable to find salaried jobs to do community service work as an option.

Approximately \$35,000 was budgeted to fund the additional personnel (one corrections officer) and related operating costs for September through October 1983. The money will come from the county contingency fund account.

As with the trusty camp, the board reserved the right to reconsider the staffing level during the 1984 budget sessions if the number of participants drops below 70.

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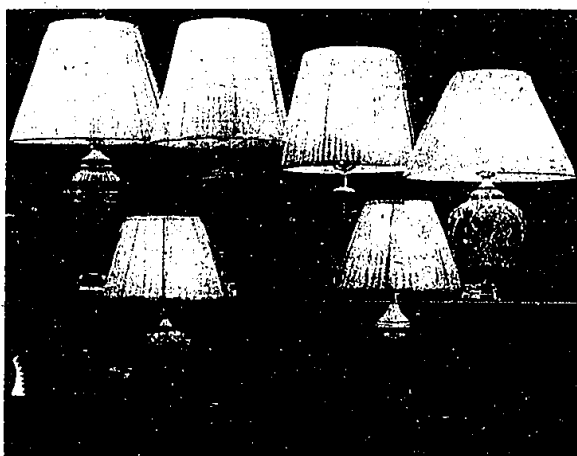


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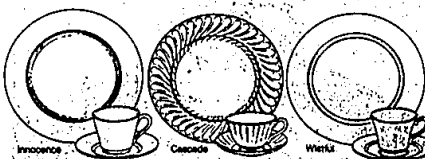
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