

roll call report

GOP wins one — House won't discuss tax hike

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the closing days of the First Session of the 98th Congress.

HOUSE

RAISING TAXES — By a vote of 204 for and 114 against, the House refused to debate a bill (HR 4170) to raise an additional \$8 billion in 1984 tax revenue.

Congress thus ended the year having reneged on its pledge in its budget blueprint to trim the 1200 billion annual deficit by raising \$12 billion this fiscal year in the new taxes. It legislated no new taxes.

Nor did Congress, in the session just ended, obey any other key part of its self-imposed budget mandate for \$85 billion in deficit reductions during fiscal 1984-86. House and Senate leaders

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A blood bank rally will be held by B'nai B'rith Men and Women of Metropolitan Detroit from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in Temple Emanuel, 14450 W. 10 Mile, Oak Park.

said they will try again next year. The tax bill killed by this vote drew its most vocal opposition from lawmakers unhappy with a cap on the volume of tax-exempt "industrial development bonds" that state and local agencies could issue to private developers.

Democrats voted 191-85 in favor of debating the bill. Republicans voted 13-149 against debate. Republicans opposed, in part, the bill's increase in certain Medicaid benefits and its softening of a scheduled cut in upper-bracket personal income tax rates.

Members voting yes wanted to approve the rule for debating the tax-bike bill. Voting yes: Dennis Riegle, D-Detroit, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no: Carl Persell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, D-Birmingham.

DEBT LIMIT — The House approved 214 for and 186 against, a measure (H.R. 308) raising the national debt ceiling by \$101 billion to \$1.49 trillion. The Senate concurred and the new limit, which will hold until May, is in effect.

Supporter Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., said voting to permit more Treasury borrowing "may be a regrettable event for

some, but it is a responsible action which we must take."

Opponent Stephen Neal, D-N.C., said that over four years President Reagan's fiscal program will add "more to the public debt than was accumulated by all the previous presidents, George Washington through Jimmy Carter."

Members voting yes favored raising the debt ceiling to \$1.49 trillion. Voting yes: Levin and Persell. Voting no: Ford.

MILITARY — By a vote of 311 for and 99 against, the House gave its final approval of the fiscal 1984 military appropriations bill. The Senate followed suit, and the measure (HR 4185) was signed by President Reagan.

The \$1.49 billion measure is about \$10 billion, or 4 percent, higher than the 1983 Pentagon spending bill. It accounts for nearly 40 percent of the 1984 federal budget. It funds the full range

of Army, Navy and Air Force operations and related military endeavors.

Supporter Jack Edwards, R-Ala., said the bill "can provide properly for the defense of this country."

Opponent Bruce Vento, D-Minn., called the Pentagon budget "certainly the chief contributor to the spending side of the out-of-control, bloated federal deficit."

Members voting yes supported the \$249.8 billion military spending bill. Voting yes: Persell and Broomfield. Voting no: Herfel and Levin. Not voting: Ford.

SENATE

DEFICITS — By a vote of 49 for and 46 against, the Senate killed a proposal giving presidents new power to curb runaway spending by Congress.

The power would be triggered whenever Congress appropriated money at a rate that busted Congress' own deficit limits. Presidents could block spending

at the end of each quarter, but could not inflict more than a 20 percent cut in a given program.

Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., who voted to kill the proposal, said presidents already have adequate power to block spending. And he argued that presidents also contributed to high deficits, citing President Reagan's massive tax cuts and defense buildup.

William Armstrong, R-Colo., who sponsored the plan, said "every president from Thomas Jefferson on until about 10 years ago had a substantial amount of discretion" to impose money Congress wanted to spend.

Senators voting no wanted a president's budget-cutting power to become virtually absolute whenever House and Senate spending exceeded limits set in the annual congressional budget resolution.

Michigan's Democratic senators, Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, voted yes.

CLARK — The Senate confirmed, 91 for and 18 against, the nomination of William Clark to replace James Watt as the new Interior secretary.

Supporter James McClure, R-Idaho, said Clark, the former national security adviser to President Reagan, "has shown himself to be eminently qualified for the job."

Opponent Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said Clark, Watt and Reagan "all have the same philosophy" on the issue of conservation vs. development.

Levin and Riegle voted no.

IMF — By a vote of 52 for and 45 against, the Senate killed an amendment to slash \$584 million from the \$8.4 billion U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund.

Senators voting yes agreed with the Reagan Administration that the U.S. should join other Western Nations in supporting the IMF. Levin voted no. Riegle voted yes.

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