

Party line votes on House issues

Thursday, May 10, 1994

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Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes April 26 through May 2.

HOUSE

NUTRITION: The House rejected 194 for and 270 against, an amendment to hold spending for several child nutrition programs at present levels. This cleared the way for increases of \$1.1 billion over three years. It occurred during debate on HR 7, which later was sent to the Senate.

At issue were Administration-backed cuts in the program for feeding pregnant and nursing mothers and infants (WIC), the school lunch program and other nutrition programs. HR 7 restores some cuts made under the 1991 Gramm-Rudman budget reconciliation bill, a compromise of Republican.

Sponsor Steve Bartlett, R-Texas, said child nutrition programs "are being assisted... quite well" at current levels.

Opponent Carl Perkins, D-Ky., said "There is nothing in this bill that is extravagant anywhere along the line."

Members voting no wanted to increase child nutrition spending.

Voting yes: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit, and Rander Levin, D-Southfield.

METRIC: By a vote of 146 for and 143 against, the House adopted an amendment to delete \$500,000 for further study of U.S. conversion to the metric system.

The amendment was attached to a National Bureau of Standards funding bill (HR 5173) that later was sent to the Senate. The vote took place on a Thursday after scores of members had left town, and the high absenteeism enabled sponsored to score an unexpected victory.

Sponsor Eldon Rudd, R-Ariz., said "I strongly oppose government's unwarranted promotion and costly imposition of metric on the American people."

Opponent George Brown, D-Calif., said the government should assist any industry that wants to improve its stake in the world trade by voluntarily converting to the metric system.

Members voting yes wanted to delete money to further U.S. conversion to the metric system.

Voting yes: Broomfield.

Voting no: Hertel and Levin.

SENATE

JUDGES: The Senate adopted, 87 for and 28 against, an amendment giving federal judges the same 4-percent pay raise that was awarded to other federal employees at the beginning of 1994. This occurred during debate on HR 2163 (below).

The amendment benefits all 700 or so federal judges, at an annual cost of \$1.7 billion. Their salaries presently range from \$55,000 to the \$100,700 paid Chief Justice of the Judiciary.

Sponsor George Mitchell, D-Maine, said federal judges are "highly deserving... men and women entrusted with the most serious responsibilities."

No opponent spoke against the amendment.

Senators voting yes favored a 4-percent pay raise for federal judges.

Both of Michigan's Democratic Senators, Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

BUDGET: By a vote of 39 for and 57 against, the Senate rejected a plan to cut in half the \$260 billion in deficits projected for fiscal 1995-97. This was the most drastic of three major plans before the Senate for attacking upcoming deficits, which each year

will raise the national debt by at least \$20 billion in added interest costs.

It called for deferring tax indexing, freezing most domestic spending for one year at 1994 levels, and slowing military spending to an after-inflation growth rate of 5 percent. The Senate later rejected another of the major plans (below), leaving center stage to President Reagan's proposal.

While the Reagan plan would raise military outlays by 8 percent and retain tax indexing, it would not spending cuts and tax increases to slash \$14.7 billion from the \$400 billion figure. Its legislative vehicle is HR 3163, which awaited final passage.

Mark Andrews, R-N.D., who sponsored the plan rejected by this vote, called Reagan's proposal "a half-way solution," and no match for "the monstrous deficits which stand poised to... kill our economy within a few short years."

Opponent Pete Domenici, R-N.M., "Nobody wants to balance the budget on Social Security or on Social Security recipients."

Senators voting no disabbed this plan for halving the next three years' deficit growth.

Levin voted yes. Riegle voted no.

FREEZE: By a vote of 53 for and 45 against, the Senate rejected a plan to freeze nearly all domestic and military spending for one year at fiscal 1994

OCC to sponsor automation seminar

A day-long seminar on "Automation and the Labor Force" will be conducted Thursday, May 17, at the Auburn Hills Campus High Technology Center of Oakland Community College. The campus is at 2000 Featherstone, Auburn Hills.

Topics will include the future capabilities of robotics, incorporation of automation in production plants, the social impact of robotics and the effect of high technology on Michigan's economy.

The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be followed by a question-and-answer period. For registration information, call the Auburn Hills conference center at 853-4341 by May 14.

Speakers will include Eric Mittelstadt, president and chief executive officer of GM/FANUC Robotics Corp.; Paul F. Guy, director of Ford Motor's manufacturing engineering and systems office; Peter Unteweg, research department of the United Auto Workers union; and Doug Ehl, president of the Metropolitan Center for High Technology.

levels. During fiscal 1994-97, the proposal would have caused an estimated deficit reduction of \$260 billion. It clamped down on virtually every area of federal spending, from defense to Social Security.

When the vote occurred, the House was the only remaining alternative to the president's line-item veto plan, which called for \$144 billion in deficit cuts over three years.

Opponent Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said a drastic remedy is needed because "the unfolding fiscal disaster may reach unmanageable proportions."

Opponent Pete Wilson, R-Calif., said a freeze "has an appealing simplicity about it (and) is commendable for the members of Congress because it excuses us from doing the harder job" of making selective budget cuts.

Senators voting no were opposed to a one-year freeze on virtually all federal spending.

Levin and Riegle both voted no.

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