Dems buck Reagan on MX

HOUSE .

MX — The House rejected, 212 for and 218 against, an amendment to halt the MX missile program. If passed, the amendment would have deleted all money for the weapon's continued production from the fiscal 1985 military authorization bill. Schurban representatives split along party lines, Democrats favoring the cut and Republicans opposing it.

ing it.
Although the House later approved a compromise plan for MX production (below), this vote was
a clear test of sentiment. Some members who voted
to delete funding later supported continued production. This amendment sought to eliminate \$3.7 billion in MX money form the \$208-billion defence bill
(HR 5167), which was headed for passage and the
Sonate.

Senate.

At a projected cost of \$22 billion, the MX is fo supplant the Minuteman as the most potent U.S. strategic missile. Carrying 10 to 12 nuclear warhears, it is designed to hit targets has distant as \$,000 miles. Present plans are to base it in hard-need Minuteman silce in Woming.

Supporter Nicholas Mavroules, D. Mass., said that by killing the MX "no longer will Congress support billion-doltar dinessurs promoting deficits but not deterrence."

billion-donar unusum grand deterrence."

Opponent Hal Daub, R-Neb, sald "our ability to deterrence."

Opponent Hal Daub, R-Neb, sald "our ability to deterrence for sold forces is the most effective means of preserving freedom and independence in the Western world."

Members voting yes wanted to halt the MX missile program.

memoers voting yes wanted to halt the MX mis-sile program. Voting yes: Democrats Dennis Hertel of Detroit, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin of South-field.

field.

Voting no: Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

COMPROMISE — By a vote of 229 for and 199 against, the House approved a compromise that President Reagan and his House allies accepted to save fiscal 1985 funding of the MX missile.

Fifteen missiles would be funded, rather than the 40 advocated by the president and the 33 favored by the House Armed Services Committee.

The plan addressed Reagan's argument that the MX is a necessary bargaining chip to induce the Soviets to resume arms-control talks. The 1983 money would remain unspent until at least next April, to see if the threat of MX deployment brings the Soviets back to the negociations, if they return, the money could be withingle even longer to assess the summer of the sound of

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test of the bargaining power of this missile can be discovered only when the Soviets are convinced we in Congress are going to fund the MX."

Opposent Edward Felghan, D-Ohlo, said "the bargaining-chip theory has always given us more than we bargained for: More weapons, with more warheads, that add up to danger."

Members voting yes supported continued MX production.

Voting no: Hertel, Ford and Levin.

RELIGIOUS — By a vote of 270 for and 513against, the House failed to achieve the two-thirds
majority needed to pass a bill (HR 5354) opening
the way for votuntary student religious meetings in
high schools.

The Equal Access Act, also known as "son of
school prayer," proposed withholding federal education funds from any high school that denied student religious groups the same access that secular
organizations have to its facilities. The groups were
to have been able to pray or discuss religion without faculty interference.

Supporters viewed the bill as the best alternative
to the school-prayer constitutional amendment, defeated earlier this year by the Senate. A two-thirds
majority was required for passage under the shortout parillamentary procedure — limited debate, no
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amenamens—oy when sponsors cause to oring the bill to the floor. Supporter Steve Bartelit, R-Texas, said the bill was constitutional because it protected students from being "discriminated against because of the religious content of their speeches." Opponent Don Edwards, D-Calif., said the Constitution "requires government neutrality in religion." Members voting yes wanted a federal law insuring that high-school religions groups could meet voluntarily in school facilities. Voting yes: Republicans Persell and Broomfield. Voting so: Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

DOWN PAYMENT — By a vote of 74 for and 23 against, the Senate passed and sent to conference with the House a fiscal plan (HR 2163) to take a \$142-billion bite out of the \$500 billion or more in

The Court of the C

the deficit growth will be pessed in this election yet.

Senates \$143-billion figure was roughly the amount endorsed by President Reagan as a "down paymet" on the deficit. Democratic plans sought prough the period of the period of the deficit period in the period of the measure and period of the period of the measure for the period of the measure for the period of the period of

ate.
Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., voted yes. Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., voted no.



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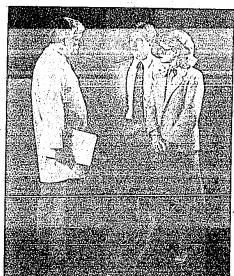


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