

Dems buck Reagan on MX

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes May 10-17.

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.

Suburban representatives split along party lines, Democrats favoring the cut and Republicans opposing it. Although the House later approved a compromise plan for MX production (below), this vote was a clearest test of sentiment. Some members who voted to delete funding later supported continued production.

This amendment sought to eliminate \$2.7 billion in MX money from the \$100-billion defense bill (HR 5167), which was headed for passage and the Senate.

At a projected cost of \$22 billion, the MX is to supplant the Minuteman as the most potent U.S. strategic missile. Carrying 10 to 12 nuclear warheads, it is designed to hit targets as distant as 6,000 miles. Present plans are to base it in hardened Minuteman silos in Wyoming.

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

Opponent Hal Daub, R-Neb., said "our ability to deter Soviet 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. Voting yes: Democrats Dennis Hertel of Detroit, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin of Southfield.

Voting no: Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Brookfield 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 30 favored by the House Armed Services Committee. The plan addresses Reagan's argument that the MX is a necessary bargaining chip to induce the Soviets to resume arms-control talks. The 1995 money would remain unspent until at least next April, to see if the threat of MX deployment brings the Soviets back to the negotiations. If they return, the money could be withheld even longer to assess their mood. If they remain intransigent, the funds presumably would be released.

Supporter Robert Michel, R-Ill., said "the true

roll call report

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."

Opponent Edward Feighan, D-Ohio, 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 yes: Pursell, Brookfield. Voting no: Hertel, Ford and Levin.

RELIGIOUS - By a vote of 270 for and 515 against, the House failed to achieve the two-thirds majority needed to pass a bill (HR 5354) opening the way for voluntary 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 short-cut parliamentary procedure - limited debate, no amendments - by which sponsors chose to bring the bill to the floor.

Supporter Steve Bartlett, 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 religious groups could meet voluntarily in school facilities.

Voting yes: Republicans Pursell and Brookfield.

Voting no: 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 \$600 billion or more in

additional deficits projected over the next three years.

The House-Senate conference now becomes the focal point for constituents, Wall Street, foreign governments and others who question Congress' ability to get a handle on runaway deficit spending. The House has targeted \$183 billion in cuts between fiscal 1985-87. No other major legislation to slow the deficit growth will be passed in this election year.

The Senate's \$142-billion figure was roughly the amount endorsed by President Reagan as a "down payment" on the deficit. Democratic plans sought upwards of \$200 billion in reductions, chiefly through more ambitious defense cuts and tax hikes than Reagan wanted. But the GOP-controlled Senate rejected these efforts during five weeks of debate on the measure.

Taxes would be raised by \$45-\$50 billion in both the House and Senate plans. The House would slow Reagan's military buildup by \$56 billion over three years, compared to the Senate figure of \$49 billion. Domestic spending increases would be slowed by \$15 billion by the House and \$35 billion by the Senate.

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

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Court cites employees

Oakland County Probate Court has

awarded five small awards to its first Employee of the Year Awards.

The awards express the court's appreciation to staff who consistently perform at a high level of professionalism. Recommended by their peers, they each received a framed certificate and engraved plaque in recognition of their efforts.

Selected from Probate Court's five divisions were:

• Judicial/Administration Division

• Linda Rodden of

• Estate and Mental Health Services Division - Darlene Warren of

• Juvenile Division - Earl Koopec of

• Children's Village - Julia Dyer of

• Camp Oakland - Ross Ford of

• Children's Supervisor II

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