

# Area reps vote party line against aiding Contras

By Teri Banas  
staff writer

U.S. representatives representing southern Oakland County voted 2-1 along party lines against President Reagan's proposed \$100 million aid package to Contra rebel fighters in Nicaragua.

The vote was 222-210. Democrats Dennis Hargett of Harper Woods and Sander Levin of Southfield opposed the president's proposal.

William Broomfield of Birmingham, ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, supported the president.

LEVIN'S SPOKESMAN in the Detroit area, David Plawewski, said that the congressman believes military aid is not justified at this time.

Levin questions the "level of threat" posed to the United States by the Communist-backed Sandinista government and questions whether heavy U.S. financial support "is justified when compared to cuts in domestic areas," he said.

Plawewski also suggested that the Contras "humanitarian" record is suspect and therefore not deserving of U.S. support.

Plawewski in Levin's office said a tally of their telephone calls was 102-80 against sending military aid to Nicaragua.

Levin's district includes Southfield and Lathrup. HARGETT, WHOSE 14th District includes part of Troy, said he opposes the \$100 million aid package because he fears it may lead to American fighter involvement in that Central American country.

"We're all opposed to the Sandinista government's denial of freedoms to the people there, but our allies have opposed military aid and want to try to press for diplomatic (solutions)," Hargett said.

A member of the House Armed Services Committee, Hargett questioned Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger on the issue recently and said he was dissatisfied with the answers.

"They couldn't tell us what the military objectives were," he said. "They couldn't even tell us how they had spent the last \$27 million."

(A year ago, Reagan won Congressional approval for that amount in "humanitarian" aid to Nicaragua.)

BUT BROOMFIELD said, "I think the president is on the right track."

Broomfield said he views the financial aid as an incentive to force the Sandinista regime to the conference table for the first time in almost one year.

He pointed to the reported 7,000 military advisers from Bulgaria, Cuba and the PLO there, and the \$500 million in Soviet aid in recent years and said "it's obvious if we don't do something, they (the communists) will have free rein."

Broomfield — whose district includes Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington, West Bloomfield and part of Troy — said he has received many constituent telephone calls since Reagan's Sunday night speech with "more than 50 percent" supporting the military aid package.

## Roll Call Report

# House seeks to curb polygraphs

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending March 14.

### HOUSE

**POLYGRAPH TESTING** — The House passed 236-173 a bill making it illegal for private employers to engage in polygraph, or lie-detector, testing of present and prospective employees.

Exempted would be: companies handling government intelligence material; certain pharmaceutical workers; and employees of day-care centers, nursing homes and electric power companies.

Federal, state and local governments also could legally administer lie-detector tests.

Richard Shelby, D-Ala., said polygraph tests "are flawed, not reliable. We should not play with this kind of thing. Let us protect our constitutional rights."

Bob Livingston, R-La., said the bill should be defeated as unwarranted intrusion into states' rights.

Voting yes to outlaw most polygraph testing were: Dennis Hargett, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**REAGAN'S BUDGET** — The House rejected President Reagan's proposed federal budget for 1987 by a 312-112 vote.

Reagan's budget, which he sent to Congress in February, has been denounced on Capitol Hill, largely because it calls for robust hikes in defense spending at the expense of politically popular domestic programs that benefit the middle class.

It projects outlays of \$994 billion, revenue of \$850.4 billion, and a deficit of nearly \$144 billion. That is within the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings austerity goals for fiscal 1987.

Both sides agreed the House vote on just Reagan's proposal was unprecedented. In the past, presidential budgets have been debated alongside alternative plans put forward by the two parties.

While budget proposals lack the force of law, they serve the important purpose of identifying spending priorities and limits and setting deficit reduction targets.

Trent Lott, R-Miss., called the vote "a partisan fudge-it process designed to score some political points and obscure the lack of a Democratic alternative."

Barney Frank, D-Mass., said, "I do not understand why it is considered illegitimate to vote on the president's budget. If it is defeated, there will be a chance to vote on the alternatives."

Voting against President Reagan's proposed budget were: Pursell, Hargett, Ford and Levin.

Not voting: Broomfield.

### SENATE

**TO BALANCE THE BUDGET** — The Senate voted 54-44 to table an amendment by Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, which called for prohibiting presidents from sending deficit budgets to Congress.

Metzenbaum sought to impose a specific budget-balancing responsibility on the White House.

Referring to Reagan, Metzenbaum said, "To propose massive deficits and still to crusade for a balanced budget seems to me to be hypocritical."

Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., who voted "no" table, said "The Constitution ought to deal in broad principles and not in details," such as specifically limiting a president's budgeting authority.

Senators voting yes were opposed to amending the proposed constitutional amendment to require presidents to submit balanced budgets to Congress.

Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted no.



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