

Area reps vote to keep urban grant funds

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending June 6.

HOUSE

UDAG MONEY — By a vote of 93 for and 289 against, the House rejected an amendment to keep the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) program by denying it fiscal 1987 funding.

This rebuffed President Reagan, who wants to eliminate the politically popular program. UDAG grants,

the majority of which have benefited depressed areas of northern cities, provide federal seed money for private projects such as hotels and shopping centers.

Fiscal 1987's UDAG funding level is estimated at \$280 million, down from this year's \$316 million.

The vote came during debate on a multi-year authorization measure (HR 1) that extends some 50 major housing and community development programs. The bill, carrying a fiscal 1988 price tag of \$14.3 billion, remained under debate.

Amendment sponsor John Hiler,

Roll Call Report

R-Ind., said UDAG was not "in the national interest" because it has a national bias that favors a limited number of states and congressional districts.

Nancy Johnson, R-Conn., who opposed the amendment, praised UDAG for uniting government and private sectors in a constructive effort against urban blight.

Members voting yes wanted to kill the UDAG program.

Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, R-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

PUBLIC HOUSING — The House passed, 223 for and 180 against, an amendment to block virtually all new public housing construction, by diverting money for that purpose to the repair of existing units.

The vote occurred during debate on HR 1 (above), which had earmarked about \$860 million for new projects in fiscal 1986. It marked a major shift in House policy toward public housing, because in previous years it almost always voted money for new units. The Senate also is moving to block an enlargement of the public housing stock.

Sponsors said America's public housing inventory is dilapidated, with more than a third of the 1.2 million units needing repairs of \$5,000 or more. They said the \$860 million would fix 64,000 units but build only 4,600 new units.

Members voting yes supported a policy shift that emphasizes the repair of existing public housing rather than the construction of new units.

Voting yes: Republicans Pursell, Broomfield.

Voting no: Democrats Hertel,

Ford and Levin.

HOMELESS SHELTER — By a vote of 242 for and 116 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill in behalf of community activist Mitch Snyder's shelter for homeless people in the District of Columbia.

Snyder, the subject of a recent television movie, has become prominent by fasting to persuade President Reagan to release federal money to shelter Washington's homeless.

The measure (HR 4784) speeds up the planned renovation of a three-story federal property near Capitol Hill that Snyder's group operates for several hundred street people. It gives the D.C. government jurisdiction over the shelter, a precondition of the \$5 million renovation, which the city wants to complete before cold weather returns.

Largely at issue during debate were the tactics used by Snyder in confronting Reagan over the homeless issue, as well as the casual attitude Snyder and his colleagues have shown toward federal tax obliga-

tions.

Members voting yes wanted to expedite the renovation of the homeless shelter near Capitol Hill.

Voting yes: Hertel, Ford, Levin.

Not voting: Pursell, Broomfield.

SENATE

SAUDI ARMS SALE — By a vote of 66 for and 34 against, the Senate failed by the barest of margins to achieve the two-thirds majority required to override President Reagan's veto of legislation blocking a \$354 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Last month, both the House and Senate voted to block the transaction. Reagan then changed the minds of several senators by removing Stinger missiles from the arms package. Critics said these shoulder-mounted surface-to-air missiles could too easily become terrorist weapons in the Middle East.

Senators voting yes were opposed to the sale of Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, Harpoon anti-ship missiles and other arms to Saudi Arabia.

Voting yes: Carl Levin, Donald Riegle.

OCC teaches mastodon dig

The Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College again will offer its summer geology field course, "Excavating a Mastodon," beginning July 7.

The campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, in Union Lake.

The course will provide background on fossils, Michigan's geological and ecological history and a summary of discoveries from previous years' digs. Students will be briefed on excavation procedures.

Mastodons, which looked like modern elephants, roamed Oakland County in the post-glacial period about 12,000 years ago.

One to four hours of credit may be earned, depending on the number of contact hours chosen. The course also may be taken on an audit or non-credit basis.

Registration for OCC's summer session is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 3. For details on the geology field course, contact Charles Nelson at OCC at 360-3174.

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