

Roll Call Report

House rejects 65 mph freeway speed limit

Here's how area lawmakers were recorded on major roll-call votes before Congress began its current recess.

HOUSE

55 MPH LIMIT — The House rejected, 198 for and 218 against, an amendment allowing states to raise the 55 miles per hour speed limit on rural interstate highways to 65 mph.

The amendment was offered to a transportation bill (HR 3129) that was headed for final passage. Supporter Kenneth Gray, D-Ill., said: "Let us the states have a little states rights here by saying, 'OK, we think we can go to 65 mph without doing any harm.'"

Opponent Jim Wright, D-Texas, said "If we want carnage on the highways, we can do away with this 55 mph speed limit."

Members voting yes favored a 65 mph speed limit on rural interstates. Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Not voting: William Ford, D-Taylor.

"STAR WARS" — By a vote of 239 for and 176 against, the House adopted an amendment cutting fiscal 1987 funding for the proposed "Star Wars" missile defense umbrella from \$3.4 billion recommended by the Armed Services Committee to \$2.85 billion.

The vote occurred as the House neared final passage of the fiscal 1987 defense authorization bill (HR 4428).

President Reagan had requested \$5.3 billion for continued development of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the official name of the proposed shield against incoming missiles. SDI is estimated to cost between \$70 billion and \$2 trillion if it ever is fully developed.

Amendment supporter Mel Levine, D-Calif., called SDI "an unworkable, undefined, untested Rube Goldberg antimissile system."

Opponent Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., called SDI "the most hopeful, the most positive and progressive means by which we can begin to defend ourselves and our allies against the incredible Soviet offensive capability."

Members voting yes wanted to trim SDI funding. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Voting no: Broomfield.

NERVE GAS — By a vote of 210 for and 209 against, the House adopted an amendment to HR 4428 (above) to delay for one year, until October 1987, the Pentagon's plan to resume production of nerve gas weapons.

The Senate version of the same defense spending bill provides full funding of the binary nerve gas program, the centerpiece of which are the Bigeye chemical bomb and 155mm artillery shells carrying

poison gas, both under development.

Amendment sponsor John Edward Porter, R-Ill., said the General Accounting Office judged the Bigeye "the worst (performing) weapons systems the GAO ever evaluated."

Members voting yes wanted to delay the nerve gas program. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Levin.

Voting no: Broomfield.

Not voting: Ford.

SENATE

CONTRA AID — By a vote of 57 for and 43 against, the Senate approved \$100 million in military and non-lethal fiscal 1987 aid to the Con-

tra rebels fighting to destabilize the Marxist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

In a victory for President Reagan, the money was included in a military construction appropriations bill.

(HR 5052) that was sent to conference with the House.

Sensors voting yes favored the Contra aid.

Voting no were Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle.

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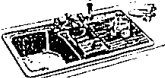
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