

Military war on drugs splits lawmakers

Here's how area members of Congress voted on major roll-call votes during the week ending Sept. 12.

HOUSE

INTERDICTING DRUGS - By a vote of 237-177 against, the House adopted an amendment requiring presidents to use whatever military might is needed "to substantially halt the illegal flow of drugs into the United States."

This would mark the first diversion of the armed services from their military mission to the war on drugs. Presidents would deploy air, sea and land forces against drug smugglers in coastal and border areas.

The amendment was attached to a multi-pronged legislative attack on America's growing drug problem, a

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measure costing more than \$1.5 billion in fiscal 1987 and upwards of \$3 billion over the next three years.

The bill (HR 4484) was sent to the Senate, where liberals are threatening filibuster of some of its more extreme provisions.

Critics of this amendment were liberals who said it is dangerous for the armed services to become involved in civilian law enforcement, and conservatives who said the Pentagon has enough to do already.

While the bill provides special funding to prevent drug abuse, its emphasis is on enforcement. It toughens laws against drug traffickers, provides money for more prison space, upgrades government interdiction activity, and penalizes countries that fail to curb exports to America.

Members voting yes wanted the Pentagon to be enlisted in the war on drugs. Voting yes: Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods; William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth; William D. Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

RULES OF EVIDENCE - The House adopted, 259-153, an amendment setting conditions under which evidence obtained illegally in warrantless searches can be admitted in criminal drug trials.

Under this proposed softening of the exclusionary rule, such evidence would be admissible if police acted in "good faith" in its seizure.

The vote occurred during debate on HR 5484.

Members voting yes to loosen restrictions on the admission of illegally obtained evidence in trials. Voting yes were Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no were Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

DEATH PENALTY - By a vote of 295-112, the House amended the drug control bill by authorizing the death penalty for narcotics traffickers convicted of drug-related murder.

Members voting yes supported the amendment. Voting yes were Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no were Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Senate

MATH AND SCIENCE FUNDING - By a vote of 30-56, the Senate failed to table (kill) an amendment concerning spending levels for medical research and math and science education.

The vote sustained a proposal to add \$5.9 million for the Department of Education's math and science programs and cut the National

Institutes of Health budget by \$11 million.

It occurred as the Senate debated and sent to conference with the House a bill (HR 5233) appropriating \$113 billion in fiscal 1987 for the departments of Education, Labor and Health and Human Services.

Senators voting yes (to kill the amendment) said additional funding for math and science instruction should be taken from the defense budget for medical research.

Senators voting no argued that America's technological progress is being undermined by a growing ignorance of math and science among the young.

A no vote was in favor of spending more on math and science and less on medical research. Michigan's Senators, Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, Democrats, voted no.

Reagan due at rally for GOP ticket

President Ronald Reagan is scheduled to make a campaign stop in Detroit next Wednesday for the Michigan Republican ticket.

GOP gubernatorial candidate William Lucas is expected to benefit most from Reagan's visit to a noon rally in Cobo Hall.

It will be followed by a 1 p.m. reception and luncheon.

Lucas, lieutenant governor candidate Colleen Engler and other members of the GOP ticket will be on hand.

LUCAS SPOKESMAN Bill Johnson said Reagan's visit was prompted by a visit Lucas paid the president in Washington, D.C., following the August primary.

At the time, Reagan promised to "do all he can to help" the Lucas campaign.

"He's collecting on his promise," Johnson said.

The heavily populated metropolitan Detroit area is critical for statewide candidates. Johnson said the president's visit is counted on to sway voters, many of whom voted for Reagan in his second presidential election in 1984 in this area.

"**HIS BLESSING**," the office of the president, brings with it a lot of honor and prestige," Johnson said.

It is expected to be Reagan's only visit on Lucas' behalf before the Nov. 4 general election.

Lucas was a Democrat when he was elected to a four-year term as Wayne County executive in 1982. He switched party affiliation last year to run for governor.

Callers help MDOT keep stops clean

A toll-free telephone number is helping the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) do a better job of maintaining the 78 rest areas along Michigan's 1,800-mile freeway system.

Callers are reporting everything from abandoned cars to lack of restroom supplies to threatening situations where police help is requested.

Decals bearing the number 1-800-654-8787 have been posted since May 1.

They're found in lobbies, telephone booths and on restroom mirrors at roadside rest areas, including all 11 welcome centers on major state highways.

The **TOLL-FREE** number is hooked to a message center that logs calls and makes a daily report to MDOT, which then follows up each problem.

"Most calls are productive," said Robert A. Welke, MDOT's assistant deputy director for highway operations. "They identify a weakness in our system — maybe there's a plumbing malfunction, or lights are burned out or there's broken glass in the parking lot. The calls are referred quickly to an MDOT maintenance crew."

Since MDOT's first three-month operational report, Welke said, there has been some healthy competition among the state's nine district maintenance crews.

"Every crew wants its rest areas to look the best," he said.

The Department had a total of 721 calls in three months, about twice as many calls per day on the weekends as on the weekdays. About half the callers were male, but two-thirds of callers reporting a "dirty" rest area were female.

Message center employees have been instructed to relay all personal safety concerns directly to the appropriate police agency.

Welke said the toll-free number has helped MDOT identify where it needs to spend money.

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