

# House rejects 'third party' Contra aid

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes on Dec. 4 and in the week ending Dec. 11.

## Roll Call Report

### HOUSE

**CONTRA AID** — By a vote of 200 for and 215 against, the House rejected an amendment permitting the Reagan Administration to solicit so-called "third party" aid to Contra troops fighting in Nicaragua.

The vote left intact a proposed ban on such solicitations, which, according to testimony in the Iran-Contra hearings, were used to circumvent Congressional bans on direct American aid to the Contras.

The prohibition is part of an \$11.5 billion foreign aid authorization bill for fiscal 1988, a measure (HR 3100) later sent to conference with the Senate.

Members voting yes wanted to kill the proposed ban on third-party aid to anti-Sandinista forces in Nicaragua. Voting yes were Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

Voting no: Democrats Dennis Hertel of Harper Woods, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin of Southfield.

**AID TO GUATEMALA** — The House rejected, 166 for and 241 against, an amendment to provide arms, ammunition and other so-called "lethal" military aid to Guatemala.

The amendment to HR 3100

(above) sought to overcome a long-standing aid ban imposed because of human rights violations by previous Guatemalan governments. Current Guatemalan President Vencio Cerezo was elected to office.

Sponsor Robert Dornan, R-Calif., said a stronger arsenal will help Guatemala fend off Marxist insurgents.

Opponent George Crockett, D-Mich., said neither the administration nor Guatemalan President Cerezo has asked Congress to lift the ban.

Members voting yes wanted to provide lethal military aid to Guatemala. Broomfield voted yes.

Voting no: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin.

**GOP FOREIGN AID** — By a vote of 173 for and 234 against, the House rejected the Republicans' substitute foreign aid bill. The GOP measure was slightly less costly than the Democratic majority's \$11.5 billion measure (HR 3100) that the House later approved.

The GOP alternative was more reflective of Reagan policies in Central America, South Africa and other regions. One disputed provision authorized \$10 million in 1988-89 for civilian opposition groups in Nicaragua. Another permitted "third-party" aid (see previous vote) to Contra forces in Nicaragua.

Members voting yes supported the Republicans' foreign aid bill. Republicans Pursell and Broomfield voted yes.

Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

### SENATE

**GUN CONTROL** — By a vote of 47 for and 42 against, the Senate tabled a proposal to outlaw the sale of plastic handguns containing little or no metal, firearms that are not detectable by magnetic screening devices such as those used by airports.

The ban had been offered as an amendment to omnibus veterans legislation (HR 2616) that later was sent to conference with the House. It was supported by airline and law enforcement groups and opposed by the National Rifle Association.

Senators voting yes were opposed to the proposed ban on plastic firearms.

Voting no: Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, both D-Mich.

**DEFICIT BILL** — By a vote of 71 for and 25 against, the Senate tabled (killed) the more ambitious and politically risky of two pending legislative attacks on the fiscal 1988-89 annual deficits.

The proposal rejected by this vote sought to lower the 1988 deficit by \$41.5 billion, compared to a \$26 billion figure in the reconciliation bill (HR 3545) that was later passed and sent to conference with the House in response to the recent "budget summit" between Capitol Hill and the White House.

Senators voting yes were opposed to the package cutting the projected 1988 deficit of \$180 billion by \$41.5 billion.

Levin and Riegle voted no. It would have achieved the deeper cut mainly by freezing discretionary spending at 1987 levels, eliminating pay hikes for federal employees and curbing Social Security benefit increases.

Following this vote, the Senate, on a non-record vote, gave final passage to HR 3545, which would lower the deficit by \$26 billion in 1988 and \$31.9 billion in 1989. The 1988 reduction would be achieved primarily by tax hikes affecting corporations and the wealthy, farm subsidy and Medicare spending cuts and miscellaneous such as federal asset sales.

## Groups giving children parties

Civic and business groups — including the Detroit Tigers — are lining up to spend time at Children's Village, Oakland County's residence for neglected and abused youngsters.

"These youngsters need to know that people care about them. Businesses spending time with Children's

Village this holiday season are really making these youngsters' holiday brighter," said county executive Daniel T. Murphy.

Groups still interested in helping Children's Village may contact staff member Greg Alessi at 858-1135. G BUILDING today will have a

party sponsored by Brightmoor Tabernacle. H Building will be given a party and gifts by the Chrysler trim plant from Highland Park.

The Cass Lake Santa Club will have a party Saturday for the entire village, featuring Tiger pitcher Jack Morris.

Central United Methodist Church of Pontiac Monday will sponsor a party for C Building. H Building on Tuesday will have a party sponsored by Michigan Mutual Insurance Co. in Southfield. Santa Claus will arrive with gifts for H Building on Wednesday.

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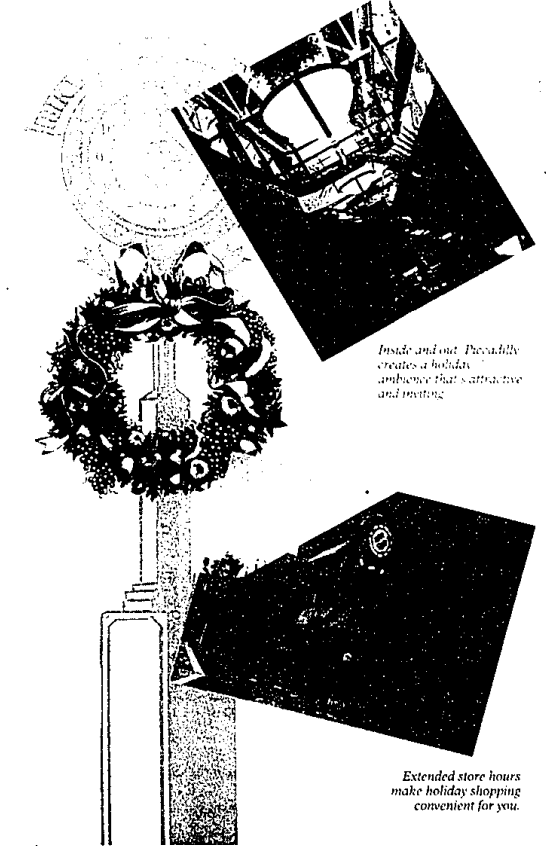
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