

Reps refuse to cut Congress' spending

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes between May 13 and 20.

HOUSE

CUT SPENDING — By a vote of 184 for and 213 against, the House refused to freeze fiscal 1989 spending on itself and congressional support agencies at the 1988 level.

The vote rejected an amendment to cut 1.6 percent, nearly \$23 million — from the \$1.41 billion House operating budget approved by the Appropriations Committee. The cut would have frozen the 1989 budget at the level of the 1988 legislative branch appropriations bill.

The Senate's 1989 budget will be added later to the bill (HR 4587).

Sponsor Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said House members should go "on

Roll Call Report

record that we're for freezing expenditures, and we're going to freeze ourselves first."

Opponent Vic Fazio, D-Calif., termed the House budget fiscally responsible and the proposed cut "cosmetic."

Members voting yes wanted a new 1989 budget for the House and related agencies.

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

Not voting: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

THIN STAFF — By a vote of 172 for and 234 against, the House rejected an amendment to the House budget bill (above) to block the proposed hiring of 33 additional committee aides.

Sponsor Joel Hefley, R-Colo., said that with 37,000 aides, Congress has 12,000 more staff members than the Pentagon.

Opponent Vic Fazio, D-Calif., said the legislative branch workforce has been decreased by 3 percent in the past 10 years.

Members voting yes wanted to block the congressional staff expansion.

Voting yes: Pursell.

Voting no: Hertel, Ford, Levin.

Not voting: Broomfield.

DRUGS IN CAPITOL — The House adopted, 286 for and 98

against, an amendment to prevent spending taxpayer's money on lawmakers' offices or any other Capitol Hill outpost where even small quantities of illegal drugs are present.

The amendment to HR 4587 (above) sought to subject Congress to the same "zero tolerance" anti-drug policy adopted by the Coast Guard against drug trafficking.

Sponsor Robert Walker, R-Pa., said drug use by some Capitol Hill employee is "a real problem."

Opponent David Obey, D-Wis., called the amendment "a piece of garbage" that demeans Congress.

Members voting yes wanted "zero tolerance" of drugs in congressional offices.

Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel.

Voting no: Ford, Levin.

Not voting: Broomfield.

SENATE

DEATH PENALTY — By a vote of 27 for and 68 against, the Senate refused to exclude death penalty lan-

guage from the fiscal 1989 defense authorization bill (S 2355).

The vote left on tap an amendment requiring the death penalty for drug lords and their underlings convicted of committing or being "substantially" involved in drug-related murder. Whether the amendment would eventually be attached to the nearly \$300 billion Pentagon spending bill remained uncertain.

Death penalty foe Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said capital punishment "serves only to perpetuate a circle of violence and hate and performs no function worthy of civilized government."

Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said a federal death penalty should be "part and parcel of the overall attack of the war on drugs."

Senators voting yes were opposed to adding death penalty language to the defense bill.

Carl Levin, D-Mich., voted yes.

Donald Riegle, D-Mich., voted no.

MILITARY VS. DRUGS — The Senate voted 83 for and 6 against to

expand the role of the armed services in keeping illegal drugs out of the country.

The amendment was attached to the 1989 defense authorization bill (above). While it dealt mainly with increasing the military's logistical and surveillance role, it also empowered the Navy to arrest suspected drug smugglers in international waters.

Supporter Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said military expertise in surveillance will help interdict drugs, and noted that the amendment prohibits military personnel from making arrests in American territory.

Opponent Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., said the military already "has its hands full . . . God knows they have difficulties enough to protect the national security in a military sense."

Senators voting yes wanted to expand the military's support of civilian anti-drug efforts. Michigan Democrats Levin and Riegle voted yes.

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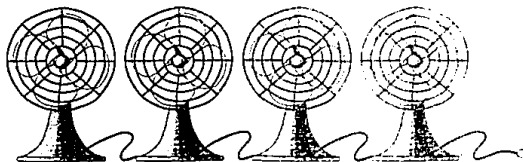
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