

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Feb. 22.

HOUSE:

The Cost of the War — By a vote of 393 for and one against, the House sent to the Senate a bill (HR 586) requiring the Administration to periodically report to Congress on the Persian Gulf war's cost to the United States. The bill arises from the fact that the war is being funded outside of the normal budget process, which exempts it from routine disclosure and the fiscal discipline of the five-year deficit reduction agreement. The Treasury apparently will borrow to pay much of the estimated \$50 billion-plus war tab.

In addition to listing direct military costs, the reports to Congress would provide a public accounting of allies' efforts to defray U.S. expenditures, noting actual contributions as compared to pledges. The reports also would show allied help including troop deployments and the granting of military access such as base rights.

Supporter Charles Schamer, D-N.Y., said the bill "will ensure that we and the American people are properly informed" about the cost of the war, including allies' contributions.

No member spoke against passage of the measure.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Voting yes from Michigan were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

SENATE:

Parents in the War — By a vote of 48 for and 54 against, the Senate refused to recommend that U.S. service personnel in the Persian Gulf be permitted to seek safer duty if they are single parents or couples with children. Proposed as part of an export bill (S 320), the non-binding measure urged the military to reassign those parents from imminent danger if they so requested. Estimates were that up to 17,000 men and women in Operation Desert Storm would qualify for reassignment, but supporters said far fewer would request a transfer.

Sponsor John Heinz, R-Pa., said the Department of Defense should "prevent the creation of American children who would become orphans" as a result of the war.

Opponent John Glenn, D-Ohio, termed it "grossly unwise" to require combat commanders to take time out from running the war to process transfer requests.

A yes vote supported the reassignment proposal.

Voting yes from Michigan was Donald Riegle, Democrat. Voting no from Michigan was Carl Levin, Democrat.

Death For Terrorists — By a vote of 23 for and 74 against, the Senate refused to table (kill) language establishing a federal death penalty for those who commit "terrorist murders" in the United States or against Americans abroad. The provision was sent to the House as part of a bill (S 320) limiting the export of armaments-military products.

Tabling supporter Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said "we are all opposed to terrorism" but it was wrong to broaden capital punishment on an export bill.

Sponsor Aden Specter, R-Pa., said his narrowly-drawn measure was consistent with the bill's aim to keep U.S. weaponry out of enemy hands.

A yes vote was to free the export bill of a proposed death penalty for terrorist murderers.

Voting yes from Michigan was Levin. Voting no from Michigan was Riegle.

To Finance Arms Sales — By a vote of 48 for and 47 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment enabling the Export-Import Bank to finance arms sales by U.S. defense contractors to NATO allies, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

By law and policy, the government bank cannot provide U.S. Treasury backing of loans that foreign governments would use to buy American military products. The amendment to a defense production bill (S 347) sought to set aside up to \$1 billion of the Ex-Im Bank's nearly \$10 billion in annual loan guarantee authority for arms sales to those countries. The bill was passed by a non-record vote.

Tabling supporter Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said the foreign aid budget is the best means of promoting U.S. arms sales, noting it already provides \$3 billion annually in grants and loans for that purpose.

Sponsor Christopher Bond, R-Mo., said American companies need Ex-Im backing to offset the financial support that foreign competitors receive from their governments.

A yes vote was to prohibit Ex-Im Bank financing of U.S. military sales.

Voting yes from Michigan were Levin and Riegle.

SEMCOG: Tigers' home plate is Detroit

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The Detroit Tigers Baseball Club should reconstruct its 79-year-old stadium or build a new one in the city, leaders of a regional planning agency agreed.

The executive committee of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments said Friday it favors using existing infrastructure over expanding into suburban meadows. "Isn't there going to be any dis-

cession?" asked a non-voting member, Rose Collins, an aide to state Sen. John Kelly, D-Detroit, as the top SEMCOG panel passed the resolution by unanimous voice vote.

Collins asked SEMCOG to pick one option — saving the existing stadium or building in Detroit — rather than two. She also asked that any public financing scheme consider the surrounding neighborhood at Michigan and Trumbull and not just the stadium project.

THE EXECUTIVE committee of

SEMCOG, a seven-county regional planning body, acted after listening to two groups of architects not affiliated with the Tigers show how the stadium could be saved.

"You are about to receive a plan the Detroit Tigers have not seen, even though we have made 25 attempts," said Bob Buchta, president of the Tiger Stadium Fan Club.

Buchta accused Tigers owner Tom Monaghan of "pandering to perceptions" that the area is un-

safe. This is not leadership," Buchta said.

Architect John Davis, supporting the fan club, said stadium renovation could be paid for from 70 new executive box suites on the third tier, unused since a fire 15 years ago.

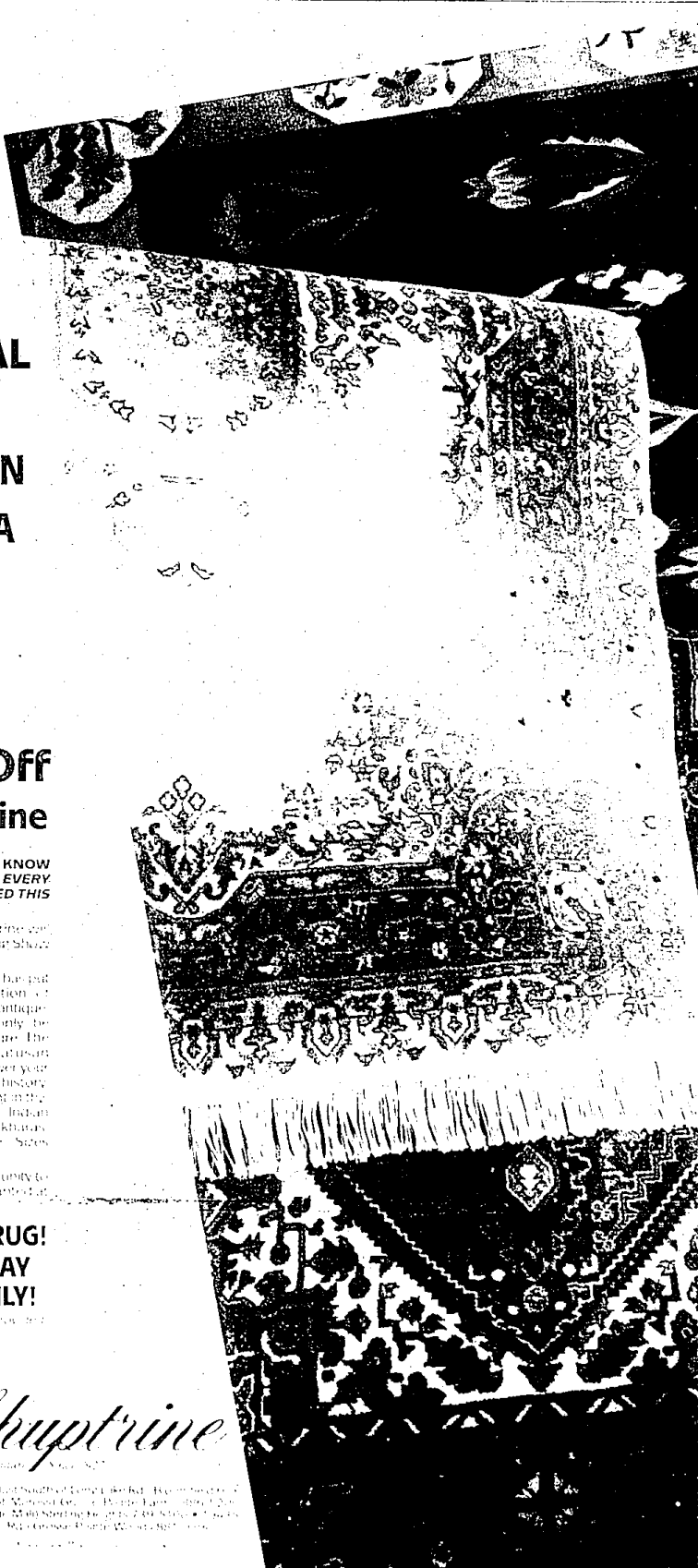
Adams proposed closing off Cochrane Street for an executive dining room and TV truck parking, new clubhouses, expanded ticket facilities, a doubling of the press box and removal of 40 percent of the

columns which block fans' view in the second deck.

Tiger Stadium is superior because fans are closer to the field than in many other stadiums, Davis said.

He charged that Monaghan's desire for controlled parking would hurt the neighborhood and "you fans" would pay what they Tigers want.

Monaghan reportedly wants a new stadium with a controlled environment.



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