

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending May 24.

HOUSE

Fast Track For Trade — By a vote of 192 for and 231 against, during debate on H.R. 101, the House refused to block the Administration from using "fast track" in developing international trade agreements. The procedure requires Congress to accept or reject trade pacts on a no-amendment, all-or-nothing basis.

The Senate followed suit (below), giving President George Bush a tool to achieve a U.S.-Mexico pact and new global trade policies within the GATT framework.

Foes of fast-track say it usurps congressional authority over trade policy. Free-traders like the streamlined procedure because it keeps negotiated wording from being changed on the House and Senate floors, where Democratic majorities reign.

"American workers and businesses are being fast-tracked out of this country," during the Bush presidency, said Douglas J. Applegate, D-Ohio. Michael Billirakis, R-Fla., said fast-track gives the president "cred-

ibility . . . to convince other countries to lower their barriers to trade."

A yes vote opposed fast-track.
Voting yes were Dennis Hargett, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor and Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

To Pass Defense Bill — By a vote of 268 for and 161 against, the House sent the Senate a bill (H.R. 2100) authorizing a fiscal 1992 Pentagon budget of \$291 billion, slightly below the comparable 1991 figure. The amount was undisputed because it complied with the five-year deficit reduction law enacted last year. But the bill reflected priorities of the Democratic-led House so much that it drew a presidential veto threat.

The bill is a rebuff to the Administration in that it halts production of the B-2 Stealth bomber, cuts nearly in half the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) funding request, imposes softer reserve and National Guard personnel cuts than the Pentagon sought, funds upgrades the Administration doesn't want of older weapons such as the M-1 tank and F-14 fighter, and legalizes abor-

tions at military hospitals abroad.

A yes vote was to pass the defense spending bill.

Voting yes were Hargett, William Ford and Levin. Voting no were Pursell and Broomfield.

Abortion Issue — By a vote of 220 for and 208 against, the House adopted an amendment to the 1992 defense bill (above) permitting service-women and military dependents to receive abortions at armed forces hospitals abroad at their own expense.

"Let members treat women in the military with dignity and fairness," said Barbara Boker, D-Calif.

Christopher Smith, R-N.J., said the measure would "turn U.S. military hospitals into abortion mills."

A yes vote was to legalize abortions at U.S. military hospitals overseas.

Voting yes were William Ford and Levin. Voting no were Pursell, Hargett and Broomfield.

Sharing Defense Burdens — By a vote of 187 for and 255 against, the House rejected an amendment to H.R. 2100 (above) to save \$8 billion in fiscal 1992 by reducing U.S. troops strength in Europe, Japan and South Korea.

Supporter John Bryant, D-Tex., said it was wrong for U.S. taxpayers to pay heavily to defend prosperous economic competitors.

Opponent Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said allies pay about 70 percent of the cost of hosting U.S. troops and that American also benefits from the deployment.

A yes vote was to reduce U.S. defense of certain prosperous allies.

Voting yes were Hargett, William Ford and Levin. Voting no were Pursell and Broomfield.

SENATE

Campaign Finance — By a vote of 56 for and 42 against, the Senate sent the House a bill (S. 3) authored by Democrats to reform congressional campaign financing.

Senate candidates would face spending limits based on their state's voting age population, ranging from \$950,000 to \$5.5 million for general election campaigns. An additional 25 percent could be spent if the money is raised in-state in amounts of \$100 or less. Primary campaign spending would be capped at lower levels.

In return for accepting spending limits, candidates would receive Treasury assistance such as vouchers for television buys valued at one-

fifth of the campaign spending limit and lower postal rates. The bill also requires broadcasters to cut rates for congressional campaign adds.

The measure outlaws PAC contributions and bans mass-mailings by

senators in the year of their reelection bid, among other provisions.

A yes vote supported the bill.
Voting yes were Carl Levin, Democrat and Donald Riegle, Democrat.

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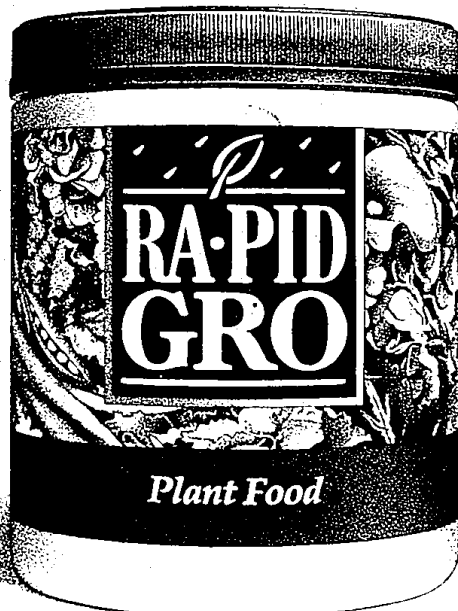
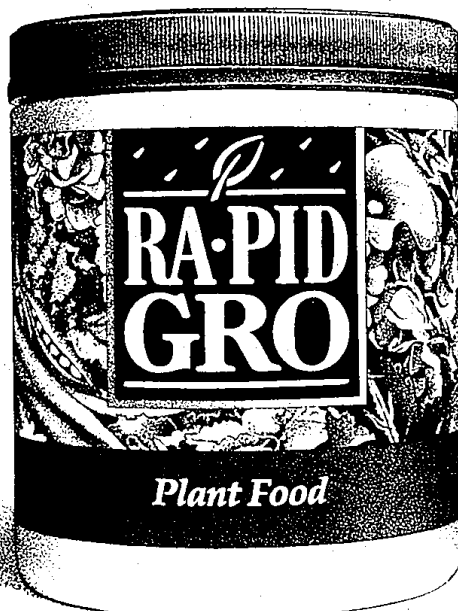
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