

# More desert protected despite Broomfield

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area lawmakers were recorded on major roll call votes as Congress approached the end of its 1991 session.

## HOUSE

**TO PASS CRIME BILL.** — By a vote of 205 for and 203 against, the House approved the conference report on an anti-crime bill (HR 3371) that sets the death penalty for more than 50 federal crimes and puts procedural limits on death row inmates who delay execution by repeatedly filing habeas corpus appeals.

The bill requires a seven-day waiting period for handgun sales during which police would check the purchaser for any criminal record, and promises \$1.2 billion for state and local crime fighting. It permits the introduction of evidence obtained by police in "good faith" searches even if their warrant proves to be invalid. Democrats said the bill gets tough on criminals without trampling on civil liberties, while GOP foes generally disliked it does not go far enough to limit habeas corpus abuses.

A yes vote was to approve the anti-crime bill.

Area legislators voting yes were Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, voted no. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, did not vote.

**TRADE WITH CHINA:** By a vote of 409 for and 21 against, the House

## Roll Call Report

approved legislation granting most-favored-nation trade status to China, in return for Beijing freeing all political prisoners arrested during or after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, among other conditions.

The bill (HR 2212) sets a June 1992 deadline for release of the prisoners, numbering in the thousands by some estimates. If Beijing fails to comply, President Bush cannot renew the preferential terms entitling Chinese exports to the lowest U.S. tariffs.

A yes vote was to grant China favorable trading terms in return for a massive prisoner release.

Area legislators voting yes were Pursell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

**CALIFORNIA DESERT BILL.** — By a vote of 297 for and 136 against, the House passed a bill expanding areas of the vast southeastern California desert that are to be permanently protected against commercial and recreational encroachment.

The bill (HR 2928) sets aside nearly a third of the 25 million-acre desert as a wilderness, national park or national monument area, while allowing certain grazing, mining and

military operations to continue. Most of the land already is under federal stewardship. Sponsor Richard Lehman, D-Calif., said "time is running out for one of the world's great ecosystems."

Opponent Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., called it a "lockout bill" that will keep hundreds of thousands of Californians from enjoying the desert.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Local legislators voting yes were Pursell, Hertel, William Ford and Levin.

Broomfield voted no.

## SENATE

**TO DENUKE THE SOVIETS** —

By a vote of 88 for and eight against, the Senate approved diverting \$500 million from the Pentagon budget to help the Soviets dismantle their 15,000 tactical, or smaller, nuclear weapons. This occurred as the Senate passed a bill (HR 3507) implementing a new post-Cold War treaty between the Americans and Soviets.

"Soviet leaders are anxious to destroy nuclear and chemical weapons and have asked our help," said supporter Sam Nunn, D-Ga.

Opponent Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., said America should not provide the aid while the Soviets continue to modernize their strategic, or long-range, nuclear arsenal.

A yes vote was to help the Soviets dismantle tactical nuclear weapons. Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.



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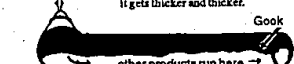
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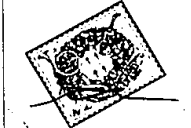
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