

# New House cool to budget-cutting offensives

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Feb. 22 through Feb. 28.

## HOUSE

**\$2 BILLION CONGRESS** The House approved, 249 for and 121 against, a \$2.44 billion budget for the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee. This will fund committee operations during 1979, including salaries for the 100-plus staff members. The aggregate 1979 budget for all House committees will total more than \$75 million.

Rep. Frank Thompson, D-N.J., a supporter of the full \$2.44 billion banking committee outlay, said, "We are dealing with a \$3 trillion economy, and members up here (are) asking such absurd things, or making such absurd statements, as to say that we are in a never-ending upward spiral, that we have a billion dollar Congress. Maybe it ought to be a \$2 billion Congress, to operate a little bit more efficiently."

Rep. Ron Paul, R-Tex., an opponent, said: "If this Congress is serious about reducing bureaucracy, cutting waste, balancing the budget and reforming

regulations, then let it begin at home by slashing funds" from committee budgets. Paul favored cutting every committee budget by 25 percent.

Members voting "yea" favored the higher budget for the banking committee.

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted "yea."

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Twp., voted "nay."

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, and William Ford, D-Taylor did not vote.

**BALANCED BUDGET** The House quashed, 222 for and 197 against, a budget-cutting gesture put forth by fiscal conservatives. With this vote, it refused to call up for debate an amendment which, if adopted, would have required the House to spell out "a method through which a balanced federal budget shall be required." Fiscal conservatives acknowledged that their balanced-budget language was mostly symbolic. The vote came during debate on HR 19964, a bill to increase the national debt ceiling above its soon-to-be-reached \$798 billion level. HR19964 was later defeated.

## Roll Call Report



Members who voted to quash the balanced-budget amendment wanted the fewest possible amendments to be offered to the debt-ceiling bill, which they favored. One of them, Rep. Richard Bolling, D-Mo., called the conservatives' amendment not germane to the debt ceiling bill and said "in the end it will be a futility."

Rep. John Roussetoff, R-Calif., who voted "nay," said it is essential for the House "on the first important vote of the 96th Congress to demonstrate a

real... commitment to the balanced budget concept so widely supported by the American people."

Members voting "yea" opposed the balanced-budget language.

Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "yea."

Pursell and Broomfield voted "nay."

## SENATE

**FILIBUSTER** The Senate voted, 78 for and 16 against, to make it more difficult for a minority of senators to tie up floor business with extended debate.

This rules change put an end to the so-called "post-cloture filibuster." Under that now-prohibited strategy, senators could keep a filibuster going even after its cloture had been voted, by introducing hundreds of amendments. The rule imposed by this vote in essence sets a limit of 100 hours debate after cloture has been voted.

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., a supporter, said: "I believe that this is the area of self-discipline, and we all have to discipline ourselves... We have got to do that lest we destroy the nature of this body."

Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, an opponent, said "our real problem is how do you accommodate the guarantee of rights for each individual member of the Senate and, at the same time, preserve the inviolability of the 100-hour cap?"

Senators voting "yea" favored tightening filibuster rules Levin, D-Mich., and Riegle, D-Mich., voted yea.

**AVIATION FUEL** The Senate failed, 34 for and 53 against, to postpone and possibly prevent the removal of federal price and allocation controls from airplane fuel. This vote was on a motion to pry the administration's decontrol measure from the Energy Committee and send it to the floor, where it stood the possibility of being vetoed by the full Senate. Either the Senate or House may veto an Administration energy proposal, such as this regulation of both general and commercial aviation fuel. As a result of this vote, and inaction by the House, the deregulation took effect Feb. 24.

Senators voting "nay" favored removing federal controls from aviation fuel. Levin and Riegle voted "yea."

## Rise in drunk driver arrests laid to better police patrols

Drunk driving arrests in Oakland County increased about 80 percent last year.

Officials for the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) of Oakland County attributed the increase to beefed-up Michigan State Police patrols.

Drunk driving arrests made by troopers from the State Police post in Pontiac increased 66 percent from 1977 to 1978, TIA officials said. Drunk driving arrests reported by the Northville state police post, whose troopers patrol both Wayne and Oakland County roads, increased 93 percent.

Sixteen new troopers were assigned to the Oakland County road patrols last year. "Increased patrol coverage is the main reason for the jump in arrests," said Northville commander Lt. William Tomczyk. "In the past, our patrols in

Oakland County have been on a hit-and-miss basis. Because of additional personnel we now have three cars on patrol in Oakland County 24 hours a day."

Tomczyk said the number of fatalities arrested for drunk driving appears to have increased, but he quoted no statistics.

State police patrols are usually confined to the expressways, but they report that most arrests have been made on roads leading to the expressways.

According to Capt. Paul Ruge, command officer of the Michigan State Police Traffic Service Division, the beefed-up patrols mean an emphasis on pulling drunk drivers off the roads. "Past experience tells us," he said, "that an increase in drunk driving enforcement results in significant decreases in more serious accidents and fatalities."

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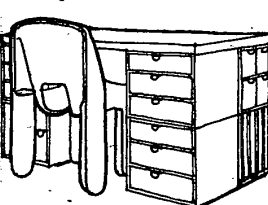
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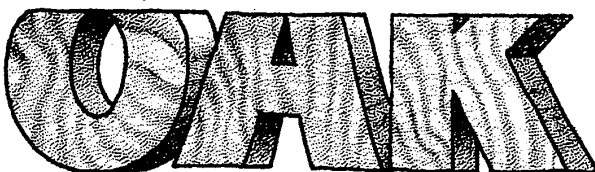
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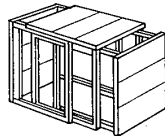
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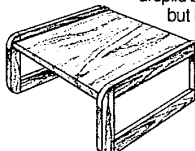
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