

roll call report

Senate upholds MX funds and backs mothballed ship

WASHINGTON: Here's how area senators were recorded on major roll call votes April 2-8. There were no House votes.

MX MISSILE: The Senate killed, 79 for and 15 against, an attempt to delete \$7 million in additional spending for the MX missile system, which involves shuttling rockets from site to site to safeguard them from direct hit by the enemy. A final government commitment to the MX awaits the outcome of ongoing research. The \$7 million is for research to determine how well MX missiles can be hidden and studies of the missiles' resistance to thermal blast. The vote occurred during debate on a Pentagon authorization bill, later passed and sent to the House.

Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., a supporter of killing the funding attempt, said to not spend the \$7 million would "arrest modernization of our entire intercontinental ballistic missile force just at a time when we are losing essential equivalence in strategic capability with the Soviet Union."

Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., said deleting the \$7 million would send "a clear signal to the Pentagon that many people are concerned about the validity of the MX . . ."

Senators voting "yea" supported additional funding for MX research and development.

Sen. Carl Levin, D., voted "yea."

Sen. Donald Riegle, D., voted "nay."

U.S.S. NEW JERSEY: By a vote of 69 for and 23 against, the Senate killed an attempt to prevent spending \$89 million to begin reconstruction of the U.S.S. New Jersey, a World War II battleship mothballed at Bremerton, Wash. The Navy wants to add a modernized New Jersey to its fleet, at a projected cost of at least \$326 million. The vote came during debate on a defense authorization bill passed and sent to the House.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who voted to spend the money, said "the Navy is desperately short of ships," and that "we are unwise if we do not go forward and build this ship at one-fourth to one-fifth the cost of a new one."

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., said a rebuilt New Jersey would be "an expensive, highly vulnerable vessel of questionable military utility which would simply siphon off very scarce Navy manpower from the newer and more effective ships which we are going to build . . ."

Senators voting "yea" supported modernizing the U.S.S. New Jersey. Riegle voted "yea." Levin voted "nay."

BUDGET CUTS: The Senate passed, 89 for and 10 against, a measure that is the first major legislative step toward the massive budget cuts urged by the administration and many congressmen. The legislation, which was sent to the House, directs Senate committees to reduce fiscal 1982 spending by \$35.9 billion. Actual cutting will occur when Congress takes up individual spending bills later in the year.

Supporter Harry Byrd, I-Va., said: "Much of the credit for this first victory must go to President Reagan, who showed great courage in submitting a budget calling for even-handed sacrifice to get control of federal spending and combat double-digit inflation."

Opponent Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said that among other inequities, the bill increases defense spending by \$27 billion over fiscal 1981 while cutting programs that benefit "the health and morale of our citizenry, the soundness of our communities and educational institutions . . ."

Senators voting "yea" supported the spending cut package. Riegle voted "yea." Levin voted "nay."

Riegle bill asks tax credit

U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle last week introduced a bill that would provide a \$500 tax credit to purchasers of new cars.

Cosponsored by U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the bill would allow the tax

credit for buyers of cars built by any automaker with corporate fleet mileage at least 120 percent of the 1974 model year. The requirement is tailored to U.S. automakers, all of whom would benefit from the credit.

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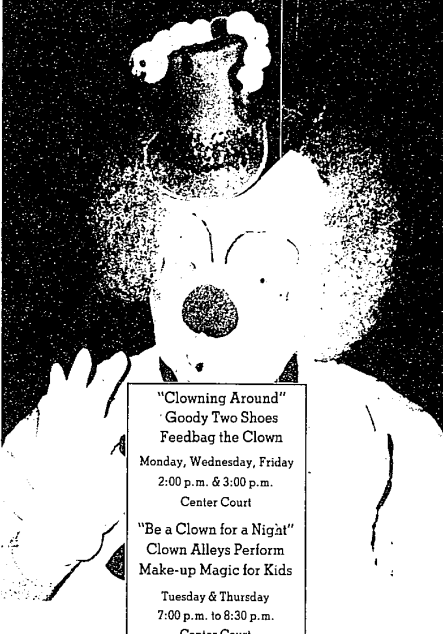
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