Senate gives nod to nerve gas

Here's how area senators were recorded on major roll call votes before adjourning for the Memorial Day recess.

NERTONIAI DAY recess.

NERVE GAS: By a 48-50 vote, the Senate refused to kill an amendment in support of equipping the Pine Bluff, Ark., arsenal for nerve gas production. This left intact \$20 million for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. The bill was sent to conference with the House, which also has approved \$20 million to gear up the arsenal for possible manufacture of nerve gas. Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon, who supported killing the expenditure, asked, "My God, is there no limit to the voracious appetite of the military machine that wants to suck up every dollar that we have here and to launch a chemcal weapons system with no public hearings, no public input, no commitment from our allies where this must be stored?"

"Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia, who favored the outlay, said that while the Soviets are upgrading "their capability to wage and win chemical war, the U.S. has allowed its deterrent to such a war to degrade signifi-

Senators voting "nay" supported the appro-priation that could lead to nerve gas produc-

Democratic Sens. Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, voted "yea."

ABORTION: The Senate adopted, by a 52-

roll call report

43 vote, a rider to a fiscal 1981 appropriations bill permitting federal financing of Medicaid abortions only to save the woman's life. Since the House has approved the same language in its version of the bill, the toughest-ever antiits version of the bill, the toughest-ever anti-abortion measure appears certain to become law at least for the remainder of fiscal 1981, which ends Sept. 30. Under present law, abor-tions can be federally financed in cases of in-cest or rape or when the mother's life is at stake. The appropriations bill was sent to con-ference with the House.

Senators voting "yea" favored the tougher anti-abortion language. Sens. Levin and Riegal voted "nay."

FOOD STAMPS: By a vote of 50-45, the Senate approved supplemental appropriations to carry the food stamp and child nutrition programs through the current fiscal year. About \$538 million was added for food stamps and \$100 million for child nutrition.

Supporter Robert Dole, R-Kansas, said that beginning fiscal year 1982, sweeping reforms will be made in both programs, but that promised benefits could not be cut this year. Opponent William Proxmire, D-Wisconsin, called food stamps "an enormously expensive and much abused program" that has "exploded in costs, going from less than \$1 billion in 1965 to \$11 billion today."

Senators voting "yea" favored supplemental fiscal year 1981 money for food stamps and child nutrition programs. Levin and Riegle voted "yea."

REFUGEE AID: The Senate rejected 39-57 an amendment to rescind \$30 million in previously approved fiscal year 1981 financing to help certain foreign nations accommodate refugees. The vote left \$30 million intact. Supporter Thad Cochran, R-Mississippi, said that without the \$30 million, the State Department still has \$100 million to spend on refugee assistance.

Opponent Alan Simpson, R-Wyoming, said the \$30 million would go mainly to help Paki-stan care for the 150,000 refugees it receives monthly from Afghanistan. Senators voting "nay" wanted full fiscal 1981 funding of the program. Riegle and Levin voted "nay."



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