

Reagan gets little support from area Democrats

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Republican Congressmen Carl Pursell and William Broomfield supported President Ronald Reagan's economic recommendations two-thirds of the time in the first session of the 97th Congress.

Suburban Democrats, however, voted for Reagan only once or twice, on the average, in nine key issues — five areas representing a Reagan 100-percent support or opposition.

The compilation was made by Roll Call Report, an independent news agency in Washington, D.C.

PURSELL, R-Plymouth, supported Reagan on six of the nine key votes, a stronger showing than even Rep. Guy VanderJagt, R-Cadillac, a GOP leader in the House.

Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Township, supported the administration six times out of eight, missing one roll call.

Democrats William Ford of Taylor, William Brodhead of northwest Detroit and James Blanchard of Pleasant Ridge supported the president on one issue.

Reagan won the support of David Bonior, D-12th District, on two of nine issues — tourism and tax-subsidized business loans.

roll call report

IN A SERIES of key votes, Congress slashed \$32 billion from the federal spending budget for 1982. About half the amount cut from domestic programs was added to the defense budget.

At the heart of Reagan's economic plan were reductions in personal and business taxes totaling \$749 billion

over the next five years. It passed 238-195.

The so-called "budget blueprint" passed by a 253-176 House vote last May and was the president's first major victory on economic legislation. This resolution set spending limits for House committees to reduce programs under their jurisdictions by a total of \$36.6 billion.

PURSELL, whose district includes Livonia, and Broomfield, whose district covers Birmingham, West Bloomfield and part of greater Rochester, were the only congressmen in the Observer & Eccentric area who favored the ad-

ministration's "budget blueprint."

In addition, Republicans Pursell and Broomfield were the only area congressmen who supported the president on his spending plans and tax-cut recommendations. These were passed by votes of 217-211 and 238-195, respectively.

But Reagan lost Pursell on three subsequent votes: 1) cutting dairy price supports, 2) reducing Export-Import Bank tax-subsidized loans to foreign purchasers of U.S. products like airliners and nuclear generators, and 3) eliminating a southern waterway project (Tennessee-Tombigbee) favored by Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker.

Broomfield supported Reagan on everything but the Export-Import Bank issue and "Tenn-Tom" water project. The senior congressman from Oakland County was absent on a roll call to eliminate funding for the Legal Services Corp.

City, Westland and Canton Township, backed Reagan only on the last effort to reduce funds for the "Tenn-Tom" waterway and was absent on the legal services vote. Ford was the only suburban congressman to oppose dropping "Tenn-Tom."

The 232-mile canal is to connect the Tennessee and Tombigbee rivers to provide a new barge route to the Gulf of Mexico. About \$1.5 billion already has been appropriated. But the spending was approved by a House vote of 208-192.

Blanchard, whose 18th District includes Troy, supported Reagan once — on the program to promote tourism.

WHERE REAGAN gained the most bipartisan support was on his recommendation to establish a \$6.5-million-per-year agency within the Commerce Department to promote U.S. tourism.

The House passed it 221-93 in July.

Pursell has been criticized in conservative Republican circles for his generally liberal voting record. But on the issue of cutting Legal Services Corp. funding, Pursell was the only suburbanite to support Reagan.

On that issue, the House voted 122 for and 272 against Reagan's proposal to eliminate funding for the agency, which provides legal help for those who cannot afford attorneys in suits which the administration often considered disruptive of local government. The vote left intact its \$241-million budget.

Report gas odor, utility warns users

Consumers Power Co. is asking its natural gas customers to immediately report any odor of gas and to take certain precautions with gas appliances in winter.

"The effects of winter frost and heavy snowfalls on our gas-distribution system are potentially dangerous," said M.D. Gwinn, vice president for energy distribution. "There have, unfortunately, already been a few accidents and injuries in Michigan this winter involving natural gas."

Freeze-thaw action in the ground puts gas-distribution equipment under unusual stress, Gwinn said. In some

cases, the stress can break or damage a service pipe or gas main, resulting in a leak.

"LEAKING GAS can travel under frozen ground for some distance before it finds a path of least resistance to the surface. It is extremely important that people report gas odors to Consumers Power, whether or not they have gas service in their home or business," Gwinn said.

Cold winter weather also increases the frequency of operation of gas furnaces. This increases the likelihood of carbon monoxide leaks in faulty gas

furnaces. Carbon monoxide is a byproduct of incomplete combustion. It is difficult to detect because it is invisible, odorless and tasteless.

Symptoms of its presence are smarting eyes, dizziness, weakness, nausea, headaches or unconsciousness. Homeowners who suspect the presence of carbon monoxide should contact their heating dealer or Consumers Power.

THERE ARE a number of general precautions that gas customers can take to avoid service interruptions or possible danger in operating certain gas appliances, Gwinn said. The precautions include:

- Removing ice and snow from around gas meters and regulators outside. Avoid striking meters with snow plows or blowers, and do not pile snow on meter installations.
- Removing snow that is blocking basement windows or foundation vents. Gas furnaces require large quantities of air to operate properly. Blocking the clean air supply.
- Checking gas dryer vents and clearing them of snow or ice accumulation.
- Removing snow from the foundation skirting around mobile homes.

outdoors

Planet lineup doesn't change the weather, scientist says

By Lem Meseo
staff writer

The notion that a peculiar 1982 lineup of the planets will cause earthquakes and bad weather on Earth is scoffed at by University of Michigan astronomy professor Richard G. Teske.

"In fact, the other planets have only a very weak gravitational effect on us," said Teske.

"It can be shown by simple calculation that, if all the planets were perfectly lined up, their combined tidal influence would be less than a 10,000th of of the moon's tidal effect, which our earth endures all the time."

ALL NINE of the sun's planets will come to the same side of the sun this year, but they will hardly lie in a straight line, said the U-M astronomer. The big day is calculated to be March 10.

Mars, Jupiter and Saturn already are gathering close together. Skywatchers can see them shining brightly high in the south and southeast of the pre-dawn January sky, he said.

"The three outer planets — Uranus, Neptune and Pluto — are approximately in the same part of the sky . . . too faint to be seen." Mercury will join Venus in the morning sky in late February.

Actually, the planets will be far from perfectly lined up on March 10. "If we could stand on the sun and look out at them, the planets would be seen to span an arc of 97 degrees in space," Teske said. Such a formation will not be repeated until the 24th century.

IN A 1974 book called "The Jupiter Effect," two British physicists predicted the 1982 planetary lineup would occur when sunspots were prevalent and would heighten sunspot activity.

They predicted a chain of events including a catastrophic earthquake, said Teske. In 1980, one author retracted the prediction.

Other speculators have predicted tidal forces. But Teske said the gravitational effect of the other planets is too weak to make such a catastrophic difference.

CROSS COUNTRY skiers can see the winter constellations at "Star Gazing on Skis" from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, in Independence Oaks County Park. The park is on Sashabaw Road 2 1/2 miles north of I-75 at Clarkston.

Naturalist Kathleen Dougherty, who will lead the tour, said Orion the Hunter and Taurus the Bull will be visible if skies are clear.

Skiers will meet at the boathouse. Maps are available at the gate. Bring your own equipment. Novices are welcome.

Register in advance by calling the park office at 858-0903.

A **COMPETITIVE** cross country ski race for all ages is slated for Saturday, Jan. 23, at Springfield Oaks Golf Course, 12450 Andersonville Road, south of Davisburg and four miles west of Dixie Highway.

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is co-sponsoring the event with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan.

Racing for experienced skiers starts at 11 a.m.; for novices, 2 p.m. There are seven classes for both men and women. Distances range from 1.5 to 12 kilometers.

There are registration fees. Contact Dan Stencil in the county parks office at 858-0915 to preregister.

KENSINGTON Metropark will have two "Chickadee Feeding Fests" at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, starting at the nature center building.

Naturalist Bob Hotelling will conduct the one-hour program. Dress warmly, and bring cameras and binoculars.

Register in advance by calling the nature center at 858-561. The program is free, but there is a vehicle admission charge at the park gate.

ONE NICE THING ABOUT A MICHIGAN WINTER:



GORMAN'S WINTER SALE.

Sure we get more than our fair share of snow, sleet, hail, slush and countless other delights of winter. But Michiganians also get to take advantage of Gorman's Gigantic Winter Sale. That means savings of up to 50% on the finest furniture available today—bedrooms, chairs, sofas, loveseats, tables, lamps, accessories and much more. Plus, the sale features famous Drexel Heritage collections like Accolade II and the Contemporary Classics Sectional. And don't forget, Gorman's designer service is available at every location!

So bundle up and skate over to Gorman's before March 7, and take advantage of the fantastic savings.

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