

House votes against Capitol expansion

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes May 19-25

HOUSE

PRESERVE CAPITOL: The House voted 325-36 to repair the West Front of the Capitol rather than extend it with a new facade.

The West Front, which faces the Mall, is deteriorating as its sandstone crumbles. It is the only side of the original Capitol that remains an exterior wall.

At issue were perquisites as well as historical preservation, for a new facade would contain space eyed by senior members for personal "hideaway" offices and committee quarters.

The vote approving \$49 million for West Front preservation rather than \$70 million for expansion occurred during debate on HR 3069, an appropriations bill later sent to the Senate.

Supporter Samuel Stratton, D-N.Y., said "this is the wrong time for us to be spending millions... for extra space in this Capitol or any building associated with work of Congress."

Opponent Bob Trazler, D-Mich., said "the extension of the West Front is to fulfill the manifest destiny of the U.S. Capitol building."

Members voting yes opposed extending the side of the Capitol that faces the Mall.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth; Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit; Sander Levin, D-Southfield; and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: William Ford, D-Taylor.

MX: The House voted 239-185 to re-lease \$625 million in fiscal 1983 funds for speeding development of the MX missile.

Projected to cost taxpayers \$20 billion to \$30 billion over the next several years, the 100-missile system, based in existing sites in Wyoming and Montana, would replace the Minuteman later this decade as the land leg of the Triad nuclear arsenal.

Objecting to an administration plan to house the MX in a "dense pack" underground cluster, Congress last year refused to approve the \$225 million.

The funding resolution (H Con Res 113) was sent to the Senate.

Supporter Robert Michel, R-Ill., said the MX will make the transition to meaningful arms control "easier to endure and survive by putting the Soviet Union on notice that it runs grave risks if it thinks the time has come to attack."

Opponent William Hatchford, D-Conn., said the MX "would present a high-value target in a vulnerable basing mode which would invite a first strike by the Soviets."

Members voting yes wanted to re-lease the MX money.

Voting yes: Pursell and Broomfield. Voting no: Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

MX (Senate). By a vote of 59 for and 39 against, the Senate followed the House and released \$625 million for a

roll call report

test flight and other development of the MX missile.

While this was a significant administration victory, many senators said they will vote for future MX funding only if President Reagan continues to be flexible with his arms policies.

Supporter John Danforth, R-Mo., said "U.S. negotiators in Geneva would be placed in a weaker position if the Congress refrained from deploying the MX while the Soviets maintained their large SS-18 missiles."

Opponent John Glenn, D-Ohio, said he favors mobile basing of new U.S. missiles. He added that the Soviet ambassador to the United States told him MX deployment will scuttle the Salt II arms control agreement between the superpowers.

Senators voting yes favored continued development of the MX.

Michigan's Democratic senators, Carl Levin and Donald Riegler, voted no.

DEBT: The Senate passed 51-42 and sent to the White House a bill raising the national debt ceiling by \$98.8 billion to \$139 trillion.

The current limit will be reached by

early June. The new ceiling is expected to suffice until Oct. 1.

Supporter Russell Long, D-La., said that because the government must pay its bills "there is no room for politics" in debating the issue.

Opponent Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, was among Democrats who wanted to use the bill as a vehicle to attack the third year of the administration's supply-side tax cut, which is to take effect July 1.

Senators voting yes favored the higher debt ceiling.

Carl Levin voted yes. Riegler voted no.

BUDGET: By a vote of 50-49, the Senate approved a fiscal 1984 budget blueprint calling for more taxes and domestic spending and less defense spending than President Reagan wants.

The measure recommends federal outlays of \$849.7 billion in the year beginning next Oct. 1. It must be blended with a House budget plan even more disastrous to the White House.

Here are the major disputes: In 1984 tax hikes, the Senate wants \$9 billion, the House \$30 billion, the president \$2.7 billion.

Moving on

Mohammed S. Ghausi, dean of engineering at Oakland University for 5½ years, will become dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California, Davis, on Oct. 1. The Bloomfield Hills resident was credited with leading OU's engineering and computer science programs through a period of substantial growth and creating a Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation. At Davis, Ghausi will direct 100 faculty, more than triple the number he heads at OU.



Red ink covers SEMTA budget

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) Tuesday adopted its 1984 budget with a \$15.8-million deficit.

Gail Whitty, SEMTA's manager of communications, said the budget allows for \$99 million worth of expenses and \$82.6 million in revenues.

"We have an undetermined source of funding of \$15.8 million," she said.

Whitty explained that SEMTA officials are meeting with Gov. James Blanchard to determine how the transit authority can secure the needed revenues.

"We assume there will be a local tax referendum to fund the transportation system, but we don't know yet because we have no authorization from the legislature to hold a referendum," she said.

Even though SEMTA is in poor financial straits, Whitty said there won't be any route cuts or fare hikes until December, providing there is no tax referendum.

"Because our budget year begins July 1, we won't go into deficit until December, so we won't need any increases until the second quarter," she added.

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