

House rejects minimum tax on corporations

Here's how area members of the U.S. Congress were recorded on a major roll call vote in the days before the Memorial Day recess.

HOUSE

TAX — By a vote of 142 for and 283 against, the House rejected an amendment in behalf of a minimum tax on corporations. The resulting revenue was to be used to lower tax rates or trim the deficit.

The unsuccessful amendment was offered to the 1986-88 budget resolution (H Con Res 152), which was passed and sent to conference with the Senate. It lacked teeth in that it only directed the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee to report minimum-tax legislation to the floor.

Some members who favor such a tax voted against the amendment on grounds it was out of place as part of the budget resolution.

Sponsor Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, said members should vote for the amendment "if you believe that it is wrong for a person who makes \$12,000 a year to pay more taxes between 1981-83 than General Electric, which earned 6.5 billion in profits and received \$283 million in refunds..."

Opponent Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said: "This amendment is actually pernicious. I doubt the authors understand it, but they are calling for a new tax of about \$250 billion... and would call for a tripling of the corporate income tax in the next calendar year."

Members voting yes favored the amendment. Voting yes: William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no: Carl Persell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

SENATE

USS WISCONSIN — By a vote of 30 for and 68 against, the Senate rejected an amendment to strip next year's defense bill of \$53.5 million to be spent on reacquiring the USS Wisconsin, a World War II-vintage battleship.

At issue was the Reagan Administration's ongoing modernization of four aged battleships a part of its rearmament program. Upgrading the Wisconsin is expected to ultimately cost more than \$400 million.

The amendment called for diverting the 1986 Wisconsin money to naval munitions. The vote occurred during debate on the fiscal 1986 military authorization bill (S 1160), which remained under debate.

rollcall report

Supporter Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., said: "This ship is exactly like the B-1 Bomber and the MX missile. Everything takes on a life of its own around here, and it becomes just like Rasputin — you cannot kill it."

Opponent William Cohen, R-Maine, said: "In the age of satellites and missiles, some might question whether we still need more guns in the fleet. Do not be misled. Naval gunfire remains very important..."

Senators voting yes were opposed to modernizing the USS Wisconsin. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

PENSIONS — By a vote of 85 for and 9 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to block proposed cuts in retirement outlays for future armed services personnel. This occurred during consideration of the 1986 defense budget (above).

The vote left intact a proposal to cut \$1.8 billion from a planned \$18 billion taxpayer contribution in fiscal 1986 to the Defense Military Retirement Fund. The cut would not affect those now serving or in retirement.

Pete Wilson, R-Calif., who voted to kill the amendment, said the cut is in keeping with Pentagon economy goals mandated by the congressional budget resolution.

John Glenn, D-Ohio, who sponsored the amendment, said the cut "shows that we are not really serious about keeping faith with our military..."

Levin and Riegle voted to kill the amendment.

REVOLVING DOOR — The Senate rejected, 22 for and 87 against, an amendment requiring departing Pentagon officials to wait at least three years before going to work for a defense contractor whom they supervised

while in the government.

The amendment, which also sought to bring about more competitive bidding on defense contracts, was offered to the 1986 defense authorization bill (above).

Its "revolving door" language addressed the fact that 8,000 Defense Department employees last year left the Pentagon to work for defense contractors.

Defeat of the language cleared the way for approval, on a non-contested vote, of softer language that would prohibit Pentagon officials from

supervising defense contractors with whom they have discussed possible future employment.

Supporter William Proxmire, D-Wis., asked: "How can the public not become cynical when it hears about generals and admirals taking lucrative positions with defense contractors?"

Opponent Carl Levin, D-Mich., said the bill already proposed adequate sanctions to police the revolving door between the Pentagon and defense contractors.

Senators voting yes favored the amendment. Voting no were Levin and Riegle.

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