

# House passes nerve gas funding

Thursday, June 27, 1985 O&E

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Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes June 13-19.

## HOUSE

### rollcall report

**NERVE GAS** — The House approved, 229-198, an amendment to retain \$124.5 million in nerve-gas funding in the fiscal 1986 Defense Department budget.

Because it followed Senate approval of new funding for chemical weapons, the vote indicated the U.S. will end its 16-year moratorium on nerve gas production.

However, the House stipulated that production cannot be resumed until fiscal 1987 and that certain conditions will have to be met.

The new gas would be binary, consisting of relatively impotent chemicals that become lethal only when combined during warfare. Existing nerve gas stocks already are toxic.

The vote occurred during debate on

the 1986 defense authorization bill (HR 1872).

Supporter Richard Ray, D-Ga., said "failure to modernize our offensive chemical warfare capability amounts to unilateral disarmament."

For John Porter, R-Ill., said America's existing nerve gas stockpile already is "a sufficient chemical deterrent" against Soviet use of the weapon.

Members voting yes wanted the U.S. to resume nerve gas production. Voting yes: Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

Voting no: Democrats Dennis Hargett of Harper Woods, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin of Southfield.

MX — By a tally of 233 for and 184

against, the House defied President Reagan and voted to limit to 40 the number of MX missiles that can be ultimately deployed. The vote occurred as the House debated the 1986 Pentagon budget (HR 1873).

Reagan originally wanted 100 MX's for basing in existing, though reinforced, Minuteman silos in western states. He reluctantly agreed earlier this year to a Senate-approved limit of 50 copies, which will have to be reconciled in conference with the House's cap of 40.

The 10-warhead MX is America's next-generation land-based missile, replacing the Minuteman. Early next decade, it is to be supplanted by the more mobile, single-warhead Midgetman.

Members voting yes wanted to limit MX production to 40 missiles.

Voting yes: Pursell, Hargett, William Ford, Levin.

Voting no: Broomfield.

**FAMILY PLANNING** — By a vote of 214 for and 197 against, the House failed to pass a bill extending for three years a program that provides family planning advice and services to the poor.

A two-thirds vote was needed for passage because the bill was debated under a short-cut parliamentary procedure that limited discussion and prevented amendments.

None of the \$454 million authorized by the bill (HR 2369) was to have been spent on abortions. The 15-year-old program is administered by state and local governments mainly at hospital outpatient clinics.

Supporter Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said the program helps teen-agers to avert pregnancies and pregnant women to receive adequate prenatal care.

No opponent spoke against the bill. Members voting yes wanted to extend the federal government's main family planning program. Voting yes: Pursell, Ford and Levin.

Voting no: Hargett and William Broomfield.

## SENATE

**SALT II** — By a vote of 79 for and 17 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to thwart President Reagan's plan with respect to U.S.

compliance with the SALT II arms control treaty.

Reagan wants to dismantle a Poseidon nuclear submarine to keep the U.S. within SALT II limitations. The amendment sought to knock \$21 million in dismantlement money out of a 1985 appropriations bill (HR 2577) that was headed for final passage and conference with the House.

Although the U.S. has not ratified SALT II and the Soviets repeatedly have violated it, Reagan says he wants to comply with the treaty in hopes of achieving success during the new round of American-Soviet arms control talks.

Robert Dole, R-Kans., who voted to table the amendment, said Reagan's decision to uphold SALT II "serves American security interests and American political interests."

Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who sponsored the amendment, quoted Reagan as saying during the 1980 presidential campaign: "I believe the SALT II treaty should be withdrawn and I especially believe the U.S. should not abide by its terms prior to ratification."

Senators voting yes wanted to kill the amendment. Voting yes were Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle.

**OIL** — By a vote of 44 for and 55 against, the Senate refused to create a federal program aimed at cushioning the chaos likely to result if there is another cut-off of Mideast oil exports to the U.S.

The amendment rejected by this vote would have authorized the payment of block grants to states in the event of another oil-supply crisis. The states would use the money to counter disruptions caused by the sudden surge in oil prices. Businesses and the poor would be among recipients of the federal outlays.

Supporters said the cost to the Treasury would be offset by increased revenues resulting from the government selling oil now contained in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Sponsor Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said the government must prepare now to respond "to the panic, to the chaos, to the rush to gas stations, to the suffering that will accompany the next oil supply disruption."

Opponent James McClure, R-Idaho, said it would be unwise to simply "write out checks to 50 state governors and say, 'Now, you go do it.'"

Senators voting yes favored the standby program to distribute federal money to certain oil purchasers during any oil-supply crisis. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

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## Bicycling great family activity

Spending quality time with children is becoming increasingly important now as both parents are working, say family life specialists. But how can you find something to do that everyone will enjoy?

Greg Givens, Oakland County 4-H Program associate, suggested that bicycling is an ideal family group activity.

"These days, almost everyone has a bike. Kids want one almost as soon as they're able to walk, and adults are buying more bicycles than automobiles each year. Bicycling can be a fun way to spend time together," Givens said.

**AMONG HIS suggestions and safety tips:**

- Plan outings to visit local attractions, such as a kite-flying festival or a Frisbee tourney. Pack a picnic lunch and spend a whole day.
- Make sure that all your bikes are in good condition so you don't get stranded somewhere.

- Children are better off with three-speed bicycles, rather than single-speed models, because the extra gears enable them to keep up with their longer-legged parents.

- Helmets are important safety

gear. Givens points out that 75 percent of all bicycle fatalities are due to head injuries.

- Bike seats, mounted over the rear wheel of a bike, are advisable for youngsters up to 40 pounds who are too young to ride alone. Insure it has foot guards, a seat belt, a headrest and padding for maximum protection and comfort.

- If your child weighs more than 40 pounds, carrying him/her in a bike seat will make the bike unstable and unsafe. Instead, use a bike trailer which can be used to carry groceries and other parcels.

- Another solution for youngsters who aren't big enough for their own bikes is a tandem bicycle.

- Unless youngsters are on their own bikes, they tend to become easily bored. Make frequent stops and vary travel routes. Other ways to keep youngsters interested is to let them help signal turns, repair flat tires or prepare food.

Your children will imitate your behavior. It's important to set a good example for them by obeying traffic signals and being a safe and serious cyclist and a courteous rider, Givens said.

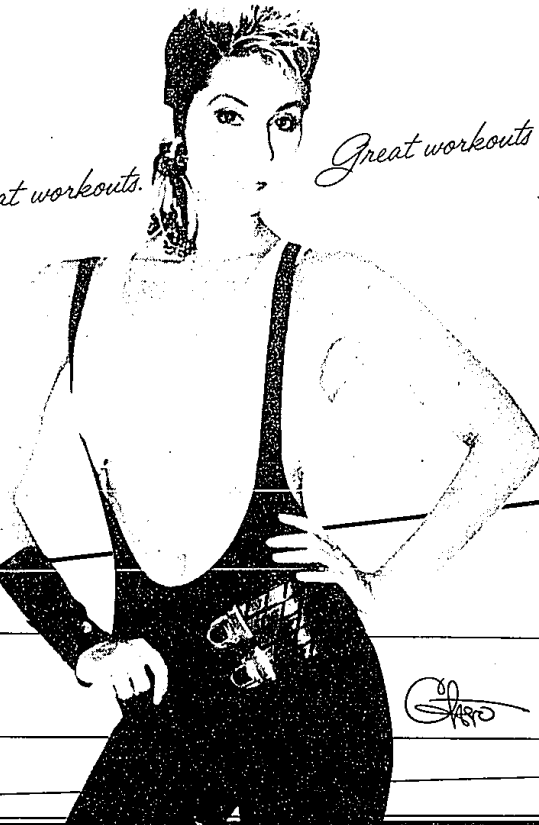
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