

## Roll Call Report

# House urges nuclear test-ban treaty talks

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending Feb. 28.

### HOUSE

**TEST-BAN TREATY** — The House adopted, 268 for and 148 against, a non-binding resolution urging President Reagan to resume talks with the Soviets in behalf of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty between the two nations.

A similar measure was adopted by the Senate two years ago. Its rationale is that the arms race would screech to a halt on both sides if new technologies could not be tested, assuming the ban was mutually verifiable.

In addition to seeking summit negotiations toward an end to all testing, the measure (HJ Res 3) called for Senate ratification of two treaties banning underground nuclear explosions of 150 kilotons or more. Presidents Nixon and Ford signed those treaties with the Soviets, but the Senate has never ratified them.

The resolution goes counter to the Administration strategy of negotiating deep cuts in Soviet and American nuclear weapons as a precondition of banning tests of new ones. Also, the Administration terms it impossible to adequately verify Soviet compliance with a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

Supporter Lawrence Coughlin, R-Pa., said: "I believe that, if talks resume, the United States and Mr. Gorbachev can iron out differences on the verification issue."

Opponent Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said: "Simply to put our nuclear stockpile and the strategic defense initiative (SDI) on hold while we trust the Soviet Union is a roll of the dice that I am unwilling to make."

Members voting yes favored the resolution.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Voting no: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS** — By a vote of 352 for and 34 against, the House approved a contempt-of-Congress citation against New York real estate broker Ralph Bernstein for failing to cooperate with a House subcommittee probe of the U.S. property holdings of Philipines ex-President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife, Imelda.

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— Rep. Lawrence Coughlin  
R-Pennsylvania

Separately, the House also voted contempt charges against lawyer Joseph Bernstein, who joined his brother Ralph in declining to provide information to the Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, which is trying to determine whether the Marcoses used U.S. foreign aid to buy real estate in Manhattan, Long Island and other locations.

The subcommittee has received testimony that the Bernsteins acted as agents for the Marcoses, who allegedly have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire U.S. property.

Although only Joseph is a lawyer, both Bernsteins brothers invoked the attorney-client privilege in defying Congress. The federal courts now will decide whether to uphold the contempt citations, which are criminal charges.

Supporter Toby Roth, R-Wis., said he voted against the citations in the subcommittee but had changed his mind. "I was opposed because of the timing of the investigation, right in the midst of the Philippine elections," he said. "Now, the elections are over and it's time to proceed with questions on the misuse of foreign aid money."

Opponent Gerald B. Solomon, R-N.Y., said in a written statement introduced into the debate, "This whole episode — from start to finish — has been much more reminiscent of the old Star Chamber procedures than of our own American system of justice."

Members voting yes wanted to hold Ralph Bernstein in contempt of Congress.

Voting yes were all area members: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

### SENATE

**'GERMANENESS'** — The Senate

voted, 69 for and 37 against, to kill a proposal that Senate rules be tightened so that non-germane riders no longer can be attached to pending legislation.

Senators voting yes wanted to continue to permit non-germane riders to be offered to bills under debate.

Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle Jr. both opposed the change.

Historically, during floor debate Senate rules have permitted extraneous provisions to be added to the legislation at hand, largely to provide a court-of-last-resort for minority views that cannot get a hearing elsewhere in the legislative process.

But critics call the policy on germaneness an anachronism that leads to procedural delays and cripples the Senate's ability to meet legislative deadlines as the year progresses.

The vote occurred during debate on a

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— Henry Hyde  
R-Illinois

measure (S Res 28) to permit the televising of proceedings on the Senate floor that later was passed (below).

Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., who voted to kill the proposed rules change, said "no matter how unpopular the view of one (senator), he or she should be heard because, indeed, they might be right."

and if not now maybe in the future."

Lloyd Bensten, D-Texas, who favored the change, said the germaneness rule dates from a time when "a session was six months long and we were citizen legislators," and that today it invariably leads to legislative chaos at the end of each session.

**TELEVISIONING THE SENATE** — By a vote of 67 for and 21 against, the Senate adopted a resolution (S Res 28) clearing the way for gavel-to-gavel television coverage of its floor proceedings on a trial basis between June 1 and July 15. A vote on whether to begin permanent coverage is set for July 29.

Senators voting yes favored television and radioed coverage of the Senate floor.

Levin and Riegle both voted yes. In order to attract viewers and pro-

tect the Senate's image, the legislation makes rules changes designed to streamline some of the tradition-bound chamber's most tedious procedures. For example, the maximum time senators can ensnare a bill through extended debate has been cut back significantly.

Also, the resolution immediately begins radio coverage of the Senate floor on a permanent basis. The House has permitted gavel-to-gavel radio and television coverage since 1979.

Supporters argued television and radio coverage should be permitted in the interests of open government and in order to bring the Senate further into the age of electronics.

Foes generally argued that television, with its history of changing all that it covers, would infringe upon Senate traditions and rules that safeguard minority rights and protect against rash legislative action.

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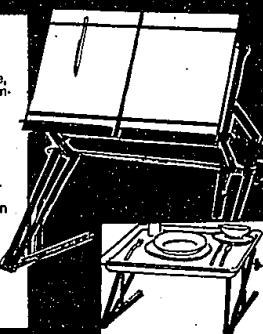
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