

Roll Call Report

House package would cut \$18 billion in red ink

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending March 7.

HOUSE

TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT — By a vote of 314 for and 86 against, the House passed a package of spending cuts and revenue increases affecting a wide range of programs and aimed at reducing federal red ink by \$18.1 billion during fiscal 1988-89.

Some \$13 billion of the savings would be achieved over the remaining seven months of fiscal year 1986. The bill (HR 3128) was sent to conference with the Senate.

The legislation is a watered-down version of the \$74 billion, three-year deficit-reduction measure that the House and Senate were unable to agree on last year, despite the mandate of their own budget resolution that they pass a "reconciliation" bill inflicting savings of that magnitude.

In upcoming months, lawmakers hope to

achieve many of the savings that they bypassed last year in the interests of compromise. Such deficit-reduction steps must be made if Congress is to meet the austerity goals required by the new Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law.

While lawmakers touted HR 3128 for its impact on the deficit, they also used it as a vehicle for important policy changes. For example, the bill makes permanent the 16 cents a pack U.S. tax on cigarettes, changes Medicare payment formulas, provides additional federal help for tobacco farmers, and — over Administration objections — sets a new, more-costly formula for sharing federal offshore oil revenues with coastal states.

Members voting yes favored the bill.

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.

DAIRY PROGRAM — By a vote of 120 for

and 267 against, the House rejected an amendment to keep the federal dairy program within the confines of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit-reduction law.

This cleared the way for House approval on a plan that cushions milk producers against the 4.3 percent cut in dairy price supports that took effect March 1 under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. That cut lowered supports from \$11.60 to \$11.05 per hundredweight, thus reducing federal outlays by \$80 million during the last seven months of the current fiscal year.

However, as a result of this vote, the support was raised back to \$11.60. The \$80 million, to cover the 55 cents differential comes not directly from taxpayers, but from a new assessment on dairy farmers.

Now that the first Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cuts have taken place, lawmakers are beginning to hear from those getting fewer federal benefits. This vote was the first of many tests the House will face on whether to keep Gramm-Rudman-Hollings intact or let it be eroded.

The new dairy provisions are among several changes made in the 1985 farm law by the pending bill (S 2142), which previously had cleared the Senate and was sent to President Reagan by the House.

Barney Frank, D-Mass., who sponsored this amendment, said higher assessments on dairy farmers amount to an excise tax that will be passed through to consumers. He noted President Reagan's opposition to raising taxes to meet Gramm-Rudman-Hollings austerity goals.

Opponent Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., called Frank's amendment "anti-consumer" in that it would put small dairy farmers out of business and "put all these large consortiums throughout the United States in business."

Members voting to exempt dairy farmers from the direct impact of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, for at least the remainder of fiscal 1986.

Voting yes: Hertel, Broomfield, Pursell, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

FARM BILL — By a vote of 65 for and 35 against, the Senate adopted a non-binding resolution urging the Agriculture Department to give farmers all or part of their crop-support payments at planting time, so as to help rural America through its ongoing economic crisis. The loans normally are made after the crop, or collateral, is harvested.

Senators voting yes favored advance payment of crop loans. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., voted yes.

Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., did not vote.

This resolution lacks the force of law, and it appears likely to be disregarded by the Administration. President Reagan has repeatedly stated his opposition to providing advance crop loans, calling it irresponsible fiscal policy.

The vote occurred during debate on a bill (S 2143) that remedies several provisions of the new five-year farm program that farmers have found objectionable.

class reunions

As a public service and when space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers will print announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Marie McGee, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion as well as the first and last name with telephone numbers.

● SEAHOLM

Birmingham Seaholm class of 1966 will hold a reunion in the Community House. Call Mary Fairbanks, 643-7689 or Jane Clinton, 647-8562.

● BALDWIN

Baldwin High School class of 1926 will hold a 60-year reunion in June. Help is needed in locating class members. Call Margaret Ross Coe, 549-7172.

● ST. THERESA

St. Theresa High School class of 1936 will hold a 50-year reunion. Help is needed in locating classmates. Call 478-6474 or 538-3657.

● FARMINGTON

Farmington High School class of 1966 will hold a 20-year reunion Aug. 9 at the Novi Sheraton Oaks. Help is needed in locating classmates. Contact Nancy Coon Thomas, 34881 Princeton Drive, Farmington Hills 48018 or call 553-0842.

● KIMBALL

Kimball High School class of 1966 will hold a 20-year reunion Saturday Aug. 9 at the Northfield Hilton. Call Sally Gabler, 589-1658 or Bob Roland, 546-7510.

● HAZEL PARK

Hazel Park High School class of 1942 is planning a 45-year reunion. Help is needed in locating class members. Send information to Hoover Elementary School, in care of Bill Gibson, 2372 Hoover Hazel Park 48030 or call Roberta Cook Baren, 547-8780 or Emma Skinner Makinen, 553-2156.

● BALDWIN

Birmingham Baldwin High School class of 1936 will hold a 50-year reunion on June 21 at the Fox and Hounds restaurant. Help is needed in locating class members. Call Helen Brown McAlpine, 652-7873, or Doris Vehmeyer Cole, 644-5584.

● PONTIAC

Pontiac High School January-June classes of 1936 will hold a 50-year reunion on May 24 at the Deer Lake Racquet Club in Clarkston. For information, call 332-2644 or 334-5708.

● NORTH FARMINGTON

North class of 1981 will hold a five-year reunion June 21 at Roma's of Livonia. Call Lisa Sallabury, 861-1383.

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