

House Dems pass own military budget

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes during the week ending May 22.

HOUSE

MILITARY BUDGET — By a vote of 239 for and 177 against, the House approved a fiscal 1988 military budget of \$289.4 billion, about \$23 billion below President Reagan's request. In dollars, however, it's comparable to this year's defense appropriation.

Shaped by the Democratic majority, the bill (HR 1748) is a major rebuff to the administration's military proposals for the fiscal year beginning in October. The Senate is working on a companion bill the president finds slightly more agreeable. The House bill outlaws all but the smallest underground nuclear tests

Roll Call Report

if the Soviets do the same, cuts nearly in half Reagan's request for developing the "star wars" antimissile system, denies funding to produce Blythe bombs carrying nerve gas and gives the Pentagon far fewer MX test missiles than it wanted.

Also, it reinforces U.S. adherence to the 1972 ABM treaty so strict the "star wars" system couldn't be operated and requires Reagan to bring the United States back into compliance with the never-ratified SALT II

Members voting yes favored the 1988 defense authorization bill. Voting yes were Democrats Dennis Hertz

of Taylor and Sander Levin of Southfield. Voting no were Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

NUCLEAR TEST BAN — The Democratic-led House invited President Reagan's veto of the defense bill (above) by approving, 234 for and 187 against, an amendment to ban all large U.S. nuclear tests in fiscal 1988 if the Soviets reciprocate.

Each country would have to permit on-site inspection by the other side. The ban would apply to underground testing of weapons exceeding one kiloton.

Sponsor Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., said the ban would "lower the level of nuclear terror that was created on this planet in the 1940s."

Opponent Robert Badman, R-Calif., said the amendment would block development of missiles such as the Midgetman and D-5 that are vital to preventing nuclear war by deterring it.

Members voting yes supported the nuclear test ban. Voting yes were Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Voting no were Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

MANEUVERS NEAR NICARAGUA — By a vote of 197 for and 225 against, the House rejected an amendment to the defense bill

(above) to prohibit American military maneuvers in Honduras and Costa Rica within 20 miles of Nicaragua.

Supporter Edward Markey, D-Mass., said "If American troops are in Honduras to train, they should not be in a battle zone."

Opponents said America must train allied troops in Central America if it expects them to check Soviet-backed Nicaragua.

Members voting yes wanted to keep U.S. military advisers from within 20 miles of Nicaragua. Voting yes: Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Voting no: Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

SENATE

WORLD BANK — By a vote of 57 for and 39 against, the Senate approved an additional \$257 million U.S. contribution this fiscal year to the African Development Bank and the World Bank's International Development Association, for loans at no interest to poor nations.

The vote tabled (killed) an amendment to delete the funds from a 1987 appropriations bill (HR 1827) that remained in debate.

Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, said America must provide foreign aid "to bring about stability in this world — unless we think we can foster a military solution to everything and have a world dictatorship."

Opponent Ben Nighthorse, R-Okla., complained the money would end up in countries that compete with sectors of America's economy. Senators voting yes wanted to re-

lease the Third World loan money. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

AIDS TESTING: By a vote of 63 for and 32 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to HR 1827 (above) requiring the federal government to test immigrants for the AIDS virus and mandating that states, upon penalty of losing certain federal aid, require AIDS testing of marriage license applicants.

Senators voting yes were opposed to the amendment calling for mandatory AIDS testing of certain groups. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

THE PERSIAN GULF — By a

vote of 91 for and 6 against, the Senate adopted an amendment to HR 1827 (above) prohibiting Navy escorts of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf until the administration explains security precautions to Congress.

This followed by five days an Iraqi air attack in the Gulf that killed 37 sailors on the USS Stark. Under the Pentagon's escort plan Kuwait would register its tankers as American flag carriers. One key issue, in addition to whether the plan is valid, is whether U.S. air cover should also be provided.

Senators voting yes wanted to put a hold on the escort plan. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

'Buy American' plea wins — Hertel

The U.S. House of Representatives approved an amendment by Rep. Dennis M. Hertel, D-Harper Woods, to prohibit the Department of Defense from purchasing foreign-made motor vehicles.

The "Buy American" amendment is attached to the Department of Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1988.

Speaking before the full House, Hertel said, "More than two million Japanese cars were sold in the United States last year, while Japan permitted only 2,000 American automobiles to enter their market."

In 1986, the General Services Administration purchased for the Defense Department 3,743 Japanese-manufactured compact pickup trucks at a cost of \$20.7 million to

the American taxpayer. "This is only one example of our Department of Defense, the largest consumer of American tax dollars, abandoning the buy American philosophy and following a pattern of buying foreign products," Hertel said.

"Defense spending consumes nearly one-third of all spending by the U.S. government. A sizable portion of that money is directed at protecting Japan's national security. Japan, on the other hand, spends less than 1 percent of its annual budget on defense."

Hertel is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and recently testified before the Acquisition Policy Panel on the Buy American Act.

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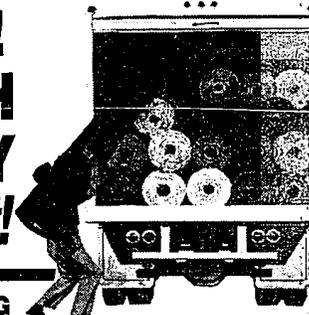
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