

# Congress repairs budget-cutting law

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 25.

## HOUSE

**GRAMM-RUDMAN REPAIR** — By a vote of 230 for and 176 against, the House approved and sent to the Senate legislation (H Res 247) to repair the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law.

The measure also raised Treasury borrowing authority from \$2.3 trillion to \$2.8 trillion through May 1989.

The Gramm-Rudman repair is designed to satisfy the Supreme

Court's 1986 objection that the law violated separation of powers by enabling Congress to force presidential budget decisions.

It gives the executive branch's Office of Management and Budget ultimate responsibility for insuring that annual deficits are gradually lowered each year to a zero deficit in Fiscal 1993.

Supporter Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said "no real deficit reduction is going to take place unless the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings trigger is coaxed."

Opponent Silvio Conte, R-Mass., called the law "a mindless process" that replaces human decision-making by elected officials.

## Roll Call Report

Members voting yes supported the legislation. Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor.

**BUDGET CUTS** — The House rejected, 176 for and 239 against, an amendment to cut about \$400 million from a \$37.8 billion fiscal 1988 appropriations bill (HJR 2783) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and various agencies.

The amendment sought to cut 2 percent across the board from all areas of the bill except the Veterans Administration and National Aeronautics and Space Administration budgets. The bill was sent to the Senate.

Sponsor Philip Crane, R-Ill., called this a chance for members to reduce the deficit themselves rather than rely on an automatic Gramm-Rudman-Hollings mechanism.

Opponent William Green, R-N.Y., defended the bill as already austere. Members voting yes supported the cut. Voting yes were Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no were Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

**CONTRA FUNDING** — By a vote of 270 for and 138 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a stop-gap appropriations bill (H Res 270) to fund government operations at fiscal 1987 levels in the opening weeks of fiscal 1988.

The "continuing resolution" is necessary because Congress has failed to pass any of the 13 appropriations bills for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

Included in the outlay is \$3.5 million in non-lethal aid to anti-Sandinista contra forces to keep them in place until after the scheduled Nov. 7 start of the impending central American peace plan.

Members voting yes favored the continuing resolution. Voting yes: Hertel, Ford, Levin, Broomfield. Voting no: Pursell.

## SENATE

**FIXING GRAMM-RUDMAN** — By a vote of 64 for and 34 against, the Senate passed and sent to President Reagan a measure repairing the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit

reduction law and raising the national debt ceiling to \$2.8 trillion through May 1989.

This followed House approval of the same legislation (above).

The measure (H Res 324) calls for a fiscal 1988 deficit of no more than \$144 billion and a balanced budget by 1993.

It establishes an executive branch device for automatically shrinking the deficit to specified annual levels when Congress and the White House fail to do so through the normal process of spending cuts and/or revenue hikes.

Its automatic cuts are split evenly between defense and non-military functions and apply across the board to most discretionary areas of federal spending.

Senators voting yes favored the Gramm-Rudman repair. Voting yes: Carl Levin, D-Mich.

Voting no: Donald Riegle, D-Mich.

**STAR WARS' FUNDING** — By a vote of 51 for and 50 against, with Vice President George Bush casting the final yes vote, the Senate approved a higher funding level for the Strategic Defense Initiative in the fiscal 1988 defense authorization bill.

The vote approved \$4.5 billion rather than \$3.7 billion for the Administration's "Star Wars" program to develop a space-based shield

against incoming missiles. The bill (S 1174) remained in debate.

Supporter Larry Pressler, R-S.D., said SDI has "shaken the Russians" and prodded them into serious arms talks.

William Proxmire, D-Wis., called it "a program . . . driven by public relations hype and political ideology rather than sound military research."

Senators voting yes favored higher Star Wars funding in 1988.

Voting no: Levin, Riegle.

**SOVIET EMBASSY** — By a vote of 70 for and 27 against, the Senate amended the defense authorization bill (above) to prohibit the Soviet Union from occupying its new embassy site on high ground in the District of Columbia.

This would void a pact under which the Soviet complex in Washington and America's new embassy in Moscow have been built. Soviets listening devices have been found in the infrastructure of the new U.S. building.

Supporters called the amendment vital to national security, while foes said it was out of place as part of the military budget.

Senators voting yes wanted to withdraw Mt. Alto in Washington as the site of the new Soviet embassy. Voting yes: Levin.

Voting no: Riegle.

## Schroeder: Save American families

By Susan Rosiek staff writer

A week ago, Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder tearfully announced that she would not seek the Democratic nomination for president. But she's still speaking out on the 1988 campaign and two of her favorite issues — the federal deficit and the American family.

"We must get the debt off our back and stress off the building block of our nation — families," said Schroeder, 47, longest-serving woman in the U.S. Congress. She spoke in Detroit Friday at a fund-raiser for Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara.

Schroeder, a Colorado congresswoman since 1972, has campaigned

for a nationwide parental leave policy.

Her family medical leave bill would provide 18 weeks of unpaid leave for parents after the birth or adoption of a child and/or for care of a sick elderly parent.

The mother of two, Schroeder pointed out that more than 100 other nations provide some type of parental leave.

Schroeder's bill is in a House committee. She expects the House to pass a modified version of the bill, which then will "put pressure on the Senate to do something."

Schroeder criticized the tax reform act of 1986 as detrimental to families.

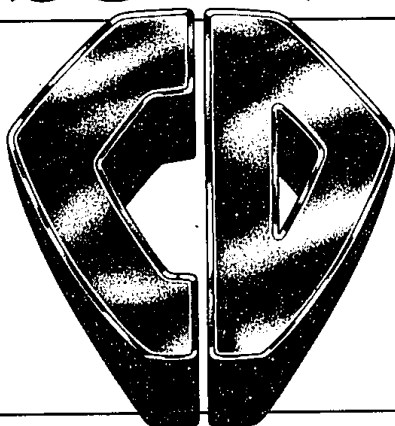
"If you decided to raise thoroughbreds rather than children, you'd be better off under the new tax reform."

"To relieve the stress from the building block of society which is the family, we must start with our tax code and, secondly, the family medical leave act."



Rep. Schroeder

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