

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Oct. 5.

HOUSE:

To Reject Budget Plan — By a vote of 179 for and 254 against, the House rejected the fiscal plan forged by President Bush and congressional leaders of both parties to cut the deficit by \$500 billion over five years through tax hikes and spending restraint. Republicans voted 71 for and 105 against and Democrats 108 for and 149 against government leaders in search of more politically acceptable fiscal solutions.

The measure sought to raise the Medicare payroll as well as taxes on tobacco, alcoholic beverages, gasoline, luxury items, plane tickets and other items and to curb or cut spending in the defense budget, Medicare,

farm subsidies, civil service retirement and scores of other federal programs. Conservatives directed most of their criticism at the tax increases, while liberals said the plan favored the wealthy at the expense of people in poverty and on fixed incomes. Moderates also found much in it they disliked.

A yes vote was to side with the president and bi-partisan Capitol Hill leadership and support the deficit reduction plan.

Voting yes were Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

To Back the President — By a vote of 380 for and 39 against, the house approved a resolution (HJ 658) endorsing President Bush's military and diplomatic response to Iraq's

takeover of Kuwait.

While far outnumbered by backers of the president, critics argued both he and Congress have disregarded the War Powers Act. That post-Vietnam law requires Capitol Hill approval, within 60 days of deployment, of military actions in which combat appears imminent. In the absence of a green light from Congress, the troops are to be brought home.

A yes vote endorsed Bush's policies against Iraq.

Voting yes were Pursell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

To Accept More Immigrants — By a vote of 231 for and 192 against, the House passed a bill (HR 4300) increasing from \$40,000 to at least \$75,000 the number of legal immigrants America will let in each year. This sent the bill to conference with a Senate bill raising the ceiling to \$50,000.

The bill is the most favorable to foreigners with needed job skills, more than tripling the cap on employment-based visas. Most of the

bill's other new slots would go to foreigners with family members in the United States and immigrants from European and African countries that in recent decades have had comparatively low quotas.

Voting yes were Hertel, William Ford and Levin. Voting no were Pursell and Broomfield.

Death Penalty — By a vote of 271 for and 159 against, the House broadened the death penalty to cover more federal offenses. The amendment also authorized capital punishment when the offender shows "reckless disregard" for the victim's life, thus lowering the current standard requiring proof of intent to kill. The vote occurred during debate on an omnibus crime bill (HR 5269).

A yes vote was to toughen the federal death penalty.

Voting yes were Broomfield. Voting no from Michigan were Hertel, William Ford and Levin. Not voting was Pursell.

Gun Issue — By a vote of 257 for

and 172 against, the House killed language in the crime bill (HR 5269) outlawing the domestic assembly and sale of semiautomatic weapons that are identical to banned foreign weapons. The National Rifle Association backed the amendment as consistent with constitutional rights. Critics said it would circumvent President Bush's ban on the importation of so-called "assault weapons" such as AK-47s and Uzis.

A yes vote was to strip the bill of gun control language.

Voting yes were William Ford. Voting no were Pursell, Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.

SENATE:

To Support The President — By a vote of 95 for and three against, the Senate approved a resolution (S Con Res 147) commending President Bush's response to the Iraq invasion of Kuwait.

Supporter George Mitchell, D-Maine, the majority leader, said the measure "is not an authorization for the use of force, now or in the fu-

ture" in the Persian Gulf.

Opponent Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., called the Senate "the embodiment of hypocrisy" for sidestepping the War Powers Act, which Congress enacted after Vietnam to give lawmakers more voice when American troops are poised for war.

A yes vote was endorsed President Bush's policies against Iraq.

Voting yes were Senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D.

To Confirm David Souter — By a vote of 90 for and nine against, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge David H. Souter of the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court. Souter, 51, was to be sworn in Oct. 9.

Supporter Robert Packwood, R-Ore., said he feels Souter has "an open mind" on the abortion issue.

Opponent Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said Souter "is likely to side with the justices on the court" who favor narrowing abortion rights.

A yes vote was to confirm Souter as the 105th Supreme Court justice. **Voting yes** were Levin and Riegle.



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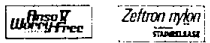
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