

## ROLL CALL REPORT

## Senators split on oil tax break

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending July 31

## HOUSE

**Yes to keep space station:** By a vote of 181 for and 237 against, the House refused to kill the manned space station "Freedom" by eliminating its funding from a fiscal 1993 appropriations bill (HR 5678). The vote preserved \$1.73 billion for the project. About \$10 billion has been spent to date toward the estimated \$30 billion-plus cost of putting the station in operation by the end of the century.

**Amendment supporter David Obey, D-Wis., called Freedom** "a flying pork machine" that is politically popular because NASA puts space station contracts in a majority of congressional districts.

**Opponent Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, said "either we maintain our industrial and technological base, or we lose it. Japan and France are waiting in the wings to take over another industry of ours."**

**A yes vote was to kill the space station. Area representatives voting yes were:** Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting

**no was:** William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**Yes to fund TV Marti:** By a vote of 181 for and 215 against, the House refused to kill a United States Information Agency television station, TV Marti, that seeks to undermine Cuban premier Fidel Castro with broadcasts to Cuba. Cuba jams the signal most of the time. The rejected amendment sought to remove \$13 million for TV Marti from a FY 1993 appropriations bill (HR 5678).

**Supporter Chester Atkins, D-Mass., said "TV Marti is the Peter Sellers-inspired plan to overthrow Cuba by broadcasting TV sitcoms between 3:30 and 6 in the morning."**

**Opponent Larry Smith, D-Fla., said the Cuban people "will get up at any time of the day or night, as we learned in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, to get the truth about what is going on in the rest of the world."**

**A yes vote was to pull the plug on TV Marti. Area representatives voting yes were:** Pursell, William Ford. Voting no were: Hertel, Sander Levin. Not voting: Broomfield.

**1993 appropriations for the departments of Labor, Education and Health and Human Services.**

**This \$244.1 billion measure (HR 5677) is the second most costly of the 13 regular appropriations bills, ranking behind the defense budget. About 74 percent of its spending is on entitlements such as Social Security and Medicaid that are protected by law against cuts.**

**Sponsor Dan Burton, R-Ind., said: "We are \$4 trillion in debt... and by the year 2000... we are going to be over \$13 trillion in debt, probably more like \$15 trillion."**

**Opponent William Natcher, D-Ky., said the cut would hamper programs for job training, AIDS research, tuberculosis treatment and childhood immunization, among others.**

**A yes vote supported the spending cut. Area representatives voting no were:** Pursell, Hertel, William Ford, Sander Levin, Broomfield.

## SENATE

**Yes on energy bill:** The Senate passed, 93 for and three against, an energy bill (S 776) designed to make the United States more energy efficient. The measure provides tax breaks to promote domestic oil production, high speed rail, non-gasoline vehicles, renewable energy and mass transit and conservation.

**It eases regulations on utilities, streamlines nuclear plant licensing, requires new efficiency levels for lighting and electric motors, requires fleet trucks in major cities to begin using non-gasoline fuels and expedites the approval of new oil and gas pipelines.**

**Supporter Bennett Johnston, D-La., called the measure "a monumental step... a made-in-America energy policy for the future."**

**Opponent Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., said it provides too much tax-code support to nuclear fuel and coal and too little to renewable energy, and fails to confront global warming.**

**A yes vote was to approve the bill. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.**

**Vote maintains oil tax breaks:** By a vote of 63 for and 32 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to remove tax relief for independent oil and gas producers from pending energy legislation (HR 776).

**Amendment sponsor Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said that in times of national fiscal crises "we simply cannot provide tax breaks to every industry which is facing the bottom of a business cycle."**

**A yes vote supported the oil industry tax break. Carl Levin voted no. Riegle voted yes.**

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