

ROLL CALL REPORT

Knollenberg, Levin, Kildee reject Black Caucus budget

Here's how *Observer & Eccentric*-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending March 19

HOUSE

Yes on Budget Resolution: By a vote of 243 for and 183 against, the House approved a fiscal 1994 budget blueprint (H Con Res 54) projecting about \$1.5 trillion in spending, more than \$1.24 trillion in revenue and a deficit of \$253.5 billion.

The budget resolution begins President Clinton's multi-year economic recovery plan, providing tax increases, spending restraint and entitlement curbs in hopes of slowing the growth of national indebtedness by \$510 billion over five years.

Clinton pledges to lower the approximately \$350 billion annual deficit he inherited from the 1992 administration and Congress by about \$143 billion. The budget resolution projects a deficit of \$184 billion in the fourth year of his presidency.

Clinton-requested revenue hikes of \$249 billion approved by this vote consist mainly of a new tax based on energy consumption, increased taxation of Social Security benefits, and a bigger tax bite out of corporations and individuals with taxable incomes of more than \$115,000.

A yes vote was to approve

the budget resolution embodying the Clinton economic plan. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Kildee, D-Ft. St. Vrain, Gander Levin, D-Southfield, William Ford, D-Ypsilanti. **Voting no:** Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.

No to Republican Alternative: By a vote of 135 for and 295 against, the House rejected the leading Republican budget alternative, which avoided tax increases and used more aggressive spending restraint to achieve \$495 billion in deficit reduction over five years. The GOP plan was more specific and politically bold than the Democratic plan (above) in its cuts. It also differed by introducing instead of mainly deferring cuts until later years as does the Democratic plan.

Supporter Bob Franks, R-N.J., said the GOP budget would "reduce the oppressive tax burden on the people of America as well as begin to roll back some of the unnecessary spending that has taken place in this city over the years."

Opponent Howard Berman, D-Calif., said, "This is truly a budget with no vision whatsoever. (It) represents the same tired priorities of the last 12 years - neglect, supply-side voodoo economics and trickle-down mythology."

A yes vote supported the Republican budget. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Knollenberg. **Voting no:** Carr, Kildee, Levin and Ford.

No to Black Caucus Budget: The House rejected, 87 for and 335 against, the fiscal 1994 budget sponsored by the 39 African-American members of Congress who comprise the Congressional Black Caucus. It recommended cutting 1994 defense spending by \$11.5 billion more than President Clinton's plan (above) and diverting most of that savings to social programs. It also went beyond the Clinton plan in taxing corporations and the wealthy.

Supporter Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., said the plan was "about investing and then receiving dividends on that investment. So we have a choice to pay now or in fact we can pay later."

Opponent Randy Cunningham, R-Calif., said the Black Caucus's deep defense cuts would work to the disadvantage of minorities in uniform.

A yes vote was to adopt the Black Caucus budget. **Area representatives voting no were:** Carr, Kildee, Knollenberg, Levin and Ford.

Yes on Jobs Bill: By a vote of 235 for and 190 against, the House passed President Clinton's short-term economic stimulus (HR 1335), which provides \$16.3 billion in new appropriations along with a \$3-billion release from the Highway Trust Fund and \$3.3 billion in new credit for small businesses.

Defined as emergency spending, the outlays will be added to this year's deficit. The legislation is designed to create up to one million new jobs over the next two years, mostly construction jobs and summer employment for poor youths. It also will prime the economy with \$4 billion in extended unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless.

Supporter Romano Mazzoli, D-N.Y., said the stimulus bill was inseparable from the remainder of Clinton's economic recovery program.

Opponent Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., termed the "emergency" designation a "euphemism for spending more of money that we do not have budgeted."

A yes vote was to pass the short-term stimulus bill. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Carr, Kildee, Levin and Ford. **Voting no:** Knollenberg.

No to Pay-As-You-Go: By a vote of 181 for and 244 against, the House rejected a Republican bid to put most of the emergency spending in President Clinton's economic stimulus package (above) on a pay-as-you-go basis, in keeping with the 1990 Budget Enforcement Act. Republicans sought revenue to offset new appropriations in the bill except the \$4 billion for extended unemployment benefits.

Sponsor Joseph McDade, R-Pa., said, "If these programs are so important, I say let us find the offsets... to pay for them."

Opponent Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said "there is an emergency" for Americans without jobs, health care and opportunities for their children.

A yes vote was to soften the impact of HR 1335 on the deficit. **Area representa-**

tives voting yes were: Knollenberg. **Voting no:** Carr, Kildee, Levin and Ford.

Yes on Consumer Issue: By a vote of 362 for and 38 against, the House passed a bill (HR 965) to achieve better-built bicycle helmets, warning labels on toys of possible choking hazards, and a minimum diameter of 1.75 inches for balls made for small children. The bill requires the Consumer Product Safety Commission to draft regulations to bring about the safety improvements.

Sponsor Cardiss Collins, D-Ill., said the mandate from Capitol Hill is needed because the product safety commission "is not living up to its mission to protect American consumers from hazardous products."

No opponent spoke against the bill.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. **Area representatives voting yes were:** Kildee, Carr, Knollenberg, Levin and Ford.

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