

**ROLL CALL REPORT**

# All area reps vote to kill Supercollider

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending June 25

**HOUSE**

**Supercollider dies:** The House voted 280 for and 150 against to kill the Supercollider Superconductor by removing its taxpayer support from the fiscal 1994 Department of Energy appropriations bill (HR 2445). Under construction south of Dallas, the SSC is envisioned as a 54-mile circular tunnel in which high-speed proton collisions would unlock secrets about the origin of matter. Cost estimates have risen from \$4.4 billion to more than \$11 billion, and promised cost-sharing from abroad has not materialized. Last year, SSC funding was stopped by a more narrow House vote then saved by the Senate.

"welcome to Jurassic Park... the Supercollider is lumbering once again across the legislative landscape, searching foraging, seeking more dollars for its survival. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., said House members should "think long and hard about America's continued leadership in science. The SSC is one of the areas that will allow us to continue that leadership."

A yes vote was to kill the Supercollider Superconductor. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Klidde, D-Flint, Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Ford, D-Ypsilanti.

**SENATE**

**Economic Plan squeaks through:** By a vote of 50-49, the Senate approved the mechanics of a plan by President Clinton and Democratic leaders in Congress to use massive tax hikes, spending slow-downs and entitlement curbs to lower budget deficits over the next five. Vice President Al Gore's tie-breaking vote sent the fiscal overhaul (S 1134) to conference with the House.

Gore's tie-breaking vote sent the fiscal overhaul (S 1134) to conference with the House.

This bill and related measures would slow national debt growth by \$500 billion but allow red ink to expand by \$1 trillion, to more than \$5 trillion by fiscal 1998. The bill restrains Medicare spending by \$60 billion and sets the stage for more than \$150 billion in additional savings from lower debt service and discretionary spending curbs Congress is to put on individual appropriations bills.

The bill increases the federal gasoline tax from 14.1 cents to 18.4 cents per gallon and hikes taxes on Social Security payments to singles earning more than \$32,000 and couples above \$40,000. It raises income tax rates for singles above \$115,000 and couples above \$140,000, raises the top corporate tax rate to 35 percent and eliminates business deductions for lobbying expenses.

Majority leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said "We have had 12 years during which this deficit exploded. We now must confront reality. And reality demands that we have a serious plan that combines substantial spending cuts with some tax increases..."

Phil Gramm, R-Tex., said "I oppose this bill because you cannot create more investment by taxing investors. You cannot create more savings by taxing savers. You cannot create more jobs by taxing job

creators. Hundreds of thousands of Americans will lose their job because of this bill." A yes vote was to pass the bill. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, voted yes and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

**Gas tax increase OK'd:** By a vote of 50 for and 48 against, the Senate preserved the 4.3 cents-per-gallon increase in the federal tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, designed to raise \$22.7 billion over five years. The vote during debate on S 1134 (above) tabled an amendment against the tax hike.

A yes vote supported a 4.3 cents-per-gallon hike in the federal tax on gasoline and diesel fuel. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

**Wealthy seniors citizens hit:** By a vote of 51 for and 46 against, the Senate preserved a tax increase in the deficit reduction bill (above) on better-off Social Security beneficiaries. This tabled an amendment against increasing from 50 percent to 85 percent the portion of benefits subject to federal income taxation for individuals earning more than \$32,000 and couples above \$40,000.

A yes vote was to retain the proposed tax hike on higher-income Social Security recipients. Levin and Riegle voted yes. This report is provided by Thomas' Roll Call Report Syndicate.

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**Take part in show on gangs**

WKBD-TV, Channel 50, in Southfield is looking for area residents to be part of a television studio audience for a discussion on "Gangs: Could your kids be involved?" The issue is the subject for the station's "Straight Talk" program

hosted by Amyre Makupoun, 10 o'clock news anchorwoman. Taping is 5 p.m. Friday at the Southfield studios, 26905 W. 11 Mile Road. The show will air at 7 a.m. Saturday. For reservations, call Madice Rahl, public affairs, at 355-7099.

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