

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE U.S. SENATE IN 1986

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Genocide Treaty....After 37 years, the Senate ratified the Genocide Convention by a vote of 83-11. The treaty declares that genocide a crime against humanity, and sets out procedures under which those guilty can be brought to justice.

Contra Aid....The Senate twice approved aid to the Contras, each time on a 53-47 vote. The \$100 million in funding was originally approved as part of the Military Construction Appropriations bill and was finally enacted as part of the continuing resolution.

Philippines....The Senate formally supported the transition to the democratic government of Corazon Aquino and voted \$200 million of additional assistance.

Support for Democratic Resistance Forces....The Senate approved continuing aid to the Afghan freedom fighters and permitted the provision of aid to the UNITA forces opposing the Angolan regime.

South Africa Sanctions....The Senate passed a strong South Africa sanctions bill, which was vetoed by the President. Subsequently the Senate joined the House in overriding the veto.

Saudi Arms Sale....The Senate voted 34-66 to sustain the President's veto of a resolution that would have prevented the sale of \$265 million worth of air defense missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Anti-Terrorist Bill....Under this legislation passed by the Senate, the federal government would have the authority to prosecute anyone who killed an American abroad in a terrorist act.

Embassy Security....The Senate provided \$1.1 billion to bolster security at U.S. embassies around the world. The Senate bill covers fiscal 1986 and 1987.

Libya....The Senate endorsed the President's retaliatory action against Quaddafi for Libyan state-supported terrorism.

US/UK Extradition Treaty....The Senate approved, 87-10, a treaty setting new standards for extradition between the U.S. and the United Kingdom. The chief purpose of the treaty is to make it easier for British authorities to extradite from the U.S. terrorists associated with the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement with China....The Senate approved the agreement after receiving formal assurances from the Executive Branch on matters of concern.

Human Rights....Both through numerous formal expressions of concern and individual representations by Senators, the Senate continued to pressure the Soviet Union and other countries to improve its policies and practices on human rights.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Budget Reconciliation....After months of negotiations with the House and the administration, the Senate finally cleared budget fiscal 1986 reconciliation legislation that will save approximately \$18 billion over the next three years.

The Senate also approved a \$17.5 billion, 3-year reconciliation package promised by the fiscal 1987 budget that makes major reforms in Medicare, sells federal assets and imposes user fees.

Fiscal 1987 Budget Resolution....Congress met its responsibility to meet the \$144 billion 1987 deficit target under Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, while maintaining an adequate level of defense spending and retaining sufficient money for high priority programs affecting the young, elderly and disabled. However, the budget failed to call for the kind of long-term spending reforms included by the Senate-passed budget resolution.

Tax Reform....The Senate voted 97-3 to approve the most sweeping tax reform measure in decades. The final conference agreement on the bill creates two tax rates for individuals -- 15 and 28% and one corporate rate 33%. These low rates are achieved eliminating many of the deductions and exemptions in the current tax code. The effect of the bill would be to take more than 6 million taxpayers off the tax rolls, provide relief to millions of others, and improves the performance of the economy by taking tax considerations out of economic decision-making..

Debt Ceiling....Two debt ceiling increases were approved this session. After days of debate, the Senate adopted legislation increasing the federal debt ceiling above the \$2 trillion level. But before doing so, it added amendments to: remedy problems with the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law; provide drought aid to farmers; repeal the windfall profits tax; and a number of other extraneous provisions. The second debt ceiling increase passed at the close of the session provides the government with borrowing authority through May 15, 1987.

The Balanced Budget Amendment....The Senate debated the Constitutional amendment requiring a balanced and restraining the government's fiscal behavior. The amendment fell one vote short of the two-thirds vote needed for approval.

APPROPRIATIONS

Supplemental Appropriations....On June 26 Congress cleared a \$1.7 billion catchall appropriations bill that provided funds for programs ranging from tax return processing at the IRS to price support payments for farmers.

Continuing Resolution....The largest funding bill ever approved by Congress, this \$575 billion bill provided money for all federal agencies and programs, and reflected the slowest rate of increase in federal spending in many years.

ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT

Water Projects Authorization Bill....The Senate approved a \$12 billion bill authorizing over 180 new water projects and fundamentally restructuring the way those projects will be financed.

Superfund....This legislation would authorize for five years the Environmental Protection Agency's program to clean up the nation's worst toxic dumps. The \$8.5 billion program would be financed through a series of taxes on oil and oil products, chemicals, as well as a broad-based tax on corporate income.

Clean Water....This \$18 billion authorization bill is designed to continue a cleanup of the nations waterways. The money would be divided between grants to the states and a revolving loan fund to finance treatment plants after the grants run out.

COMMERCE/TRADE

CONRAIL:...By a 54-39 vote the Senate approved the sale of CONRAIL to Norfolk-Southern Corp. for \$1.2 billion.

Airport Transfer....The Senate agreed to legislation that would transfer federal ownership of Washington's National and Dulles airports to a regional authority in Virginia -- the locale of both airports.

Export-Import Bank Bill....In addition to authorizing programs controlled by the bank, the Senate agreed to an amendment offered by Senator Dole, which would direct the administration to implement the Export Enhancement Program fully -- to all trading partners. This commodity bonus program was approved as part of the 1985. But the administration has used it selectively -- refusing to apply it to the Soviet Union and China. Sen. Dole's amendment orders the administration to implement the program with all traditional trading partners, including those two countries.

DEFENSE

DOD Authorization....The Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$295 billion defense authorization bill.

Arms Control....The Senate generally supported the basic elements of administration positions on key arms control-related issues, such as: SALT II, ASAT testing, MX missile production, nuclear weapons testing, production of chemical weapons. The Senate took the lead in forging the Arms Control issues compromise prior to the Reykjavik pre-summit. The Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees and Arms Control Observer Group monitored Geneva negotiations and consulted with the Executive Branch on policy issues.

SDI....The Senate supported a vigorous R&D program approving FY 1987 funding at \$3.9 billion.

Military Retirement Bill....The Senate passed a bill that would make the retirement pay of military personnel who leave after less than 20 years of service more equal to that in the private sector. The reduction would only affect persons joining the military after enactment of the bill.

Pentagon Reorganization....Without a dissenting vote, the Senate approved a sweeping reorganization of the military establishment. The bill would shift considerable power from the separate military services to those Pentagon agencies intended to coordinate them. It would also beef up the role of the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff and create a post of vice-chairman.

Intelligence Authorization....This measure authorizes spending for the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other agencies that collect and analyze intelligence for policy making.

Vietnam Veterans Charter....The Senate gave its approval to legislation giving the Vietnam Veterans organization the same legal stature as the VFW.

EDUCATION:

Higher Education Authorization....The Senate overwhelming approved a five-year reauthorization of education programs that provide students with grants and loans for higher education as well as aid to colleges.

Human Services Authorization....This omnibus bill reauthorizes a long list of human services programs, including Head Start, Community Services Block Grants, and Low Income Energy Assistance. The measure authorizes a total of \$15.8 billion for these programs.

School Asbestos Cleanup....Under this legislation, schools across the country will be ordered to clean up hazardous asbestos and the federal government will be required to set standards

Vocational Rehabilitation....A five-year, \$ 1.28 billion, reauthorization of vocational rehabilitation programs for the handicapped. The funds are provided in grants to the states for rehabilitation programs.

AGRICULTURE:

CFTC....This bill reauthorizes the CFTC and fine-tunes its ability to regulate the futures industry. Would ensure markets ability to operate in a fair and efficient manner.

Farm Credit Amendment Act of 1986....The Senate passed legislation to allow the Farm Credit System (FCS) to reduce its costs of loan losses and long-term debt to give the System more latitude in reducing interest rates to farmer-borrowers. The plan would delay, or perhaps avoid altogether, the need for FCS to seek Federal financial assistance.

Debt Restructuring....The Senate worked with the Administration to give greater flexibility to farm lenders to keep money flowing to financially-strapped farmers and rural America.

Tax Reform....Farm belt Senators were successful in including significant reforms important to agriculture in the landmark 1986 Tax Reform Act.

Mandate Advancing Final Deficiency Payments....Cash-strapped wheat farmers received a much-needed boost with the passage of a bill that will move up deficiency payments by seven months.

Disaster Relief....In a number of farm states devastated by history-making severe weather, the Senate responded by making available negotiable PIK certificates to eligible farmers.

Advance Deficiency Payments....For 1987 crops, the Senate guaranteed that producers will receive 40% advanced payment for wheat and feedgrains, and 30% for cotton and rice.

Farm Bill Corrections....The Senate fashioned two technical correction bills to ensure orderly implementation of the omnibus Farm Bill of 1985.

Grain Quality....The Senate passed reform legislation that will prohibit foreign materials to be remixed with clean grain.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS:

Supreme Court Justices.....The Senate confirmed President Reagan's nomination of Justice William H. Rehnquist to be the Supreme Court's new Chief Justice. Judge Antonin Scalia also took his place on the nation's highest court following his confirmation by the Senate.

Federal Reserve Board.....The Senate voted three new members to the powerful Fed: Wayne Angell, Kansas farmer and banker; Manuel Johnson, U.S. Treasury official; and Robert Heller, reknowned banker and economist.

MISCELLANY

Immigration.....The conference agreement worked out at the end of the session prohibits the hiring of illegal aliens with stiff penalties for each illegal alien hired; provides civil rights guarantees for Hispanic legal residents; \$4 billion over 4 years to defray state costs; increased funding for INS enforcement; a program to allow foreign farm workers who were employed for at least 90 days in the year preceding 1986 to qualify first for temporary legal status and then for permanent resident status and citizenship; and amnesty to illegal aliens who have lived continuously in this country since Jan. 1, 1982

Drug Bill.....This bipartisan, \$1.7 billion measure provides enhanced law enforcement, increased penalties, additional funds for drug education, rehabilitation and treatment, military interdiction and tools for better international cooperation.

Senate T.V......The Senate made history by opening proceedings to live coverage by T.V. and radio. After a period of experimentation, members vote overwhelmingly to make permanent electronic coverage. In addition, additional rules changes, including a 30 hour limit on post-cloture filibusters, were approved.

Mandatory Retirement Age.....Congress approved legislation barring mandatory retirement at age 70.

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