

Nuclear freeze nears a final vote in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nuclear freeze advocates won another skirmish Thursday as the House voted 214-194 to shorten remaining debate on the measure, but Democratic leaders then put off a final showdown until next week.

The procedural vote, urged by the majority leadership, swept away about 40 pending amendments to a central portion of the resolution.

That allowed the House to inch closer to what Speaker Thomas O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., predicted would be an ultimate pro-freeze victory by a 50-100 vote margin.

But neither side seemed in any rush to wrap up work on the measure already one of the longest running House debates in years. O'Neill said he would

not even call it up again until next Wednesday.

The nonbinding resolution, hotly opposed by the Reagan administration, urges U.S.-Soviet negotiation of an "immediate, mutual and verifiable freeze" on production, development and deployment of all nuclear weapons.

Critics claim it would tie the president's hands in arms reduction negotiations now underway in Geneva. Freeze supporters claim both nations are roughly equal in nuclear strength, and that it's time to say enough is enough.

Thursday's procedural vote, on a motion by Rep. Clement Zablocki, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a sponsor of the freeze resolution, halted debate on most amendments to the bill

by afternoon Thursday.

All 214 votes behind Zablocki's motion were from Democrats, while 34 Democrats joined 160 Republicans against the limitation.

Still, O'Neill insisted, "This is not a Democratic issue, it's an issue for members of Congress to vote their conscience on." However, freeze opponents claim Democrats are attempting to make a political issue of the resolution by turning it into a vote of no confidence for Reagan's arms policy.

Freeze backers said the vote suggested they had not lost any ground in the month since the measure came up, despite the long delay in forcing a conclusion.

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Gov. says death penalty to pass

SALEM (AP) — Some measure to restore the death penalty in Oregon will go on the ballot and be "overwhelmingly" approved by the voters, Gov. Vic Atiyeh predicted today.

Atiyeh told his weekly news conference he believes the public will put the issue on the ballot by initiative petition if

the Legislature doesn't act.

The House Judiciary Committee is considering a measure drafted at Atiyeh's request that would allow capital punishment for aggravated murder. The governor said he's convinced the proposal would survive any court challenges.

On another subject, Atiyeh

said he won't support any form of sales tax and will actively fight any sales tax measure that doesn't clamp a limit on the tax that it would replace.

Lawmakers are considering a sales tax proposal that would finance property tax relief. The governor, while he consistently has opposed a sales tax, said he wouldn't favor but also wouldn't campaign against a sales tax ballot measure that limited growth in property taxes.

Atiyeh also said:

Lawmakers shouldn't reduce property tax relief below the level he has budgeted.

A proposal to help balance the budget by eliminating \$50 million he recommended for state employee salary raises is "proper and appropriate."

Committee OKs coast institute

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure to create a coastal resources institute at Newport received approval Thursday by the Senate Commerce Committee.

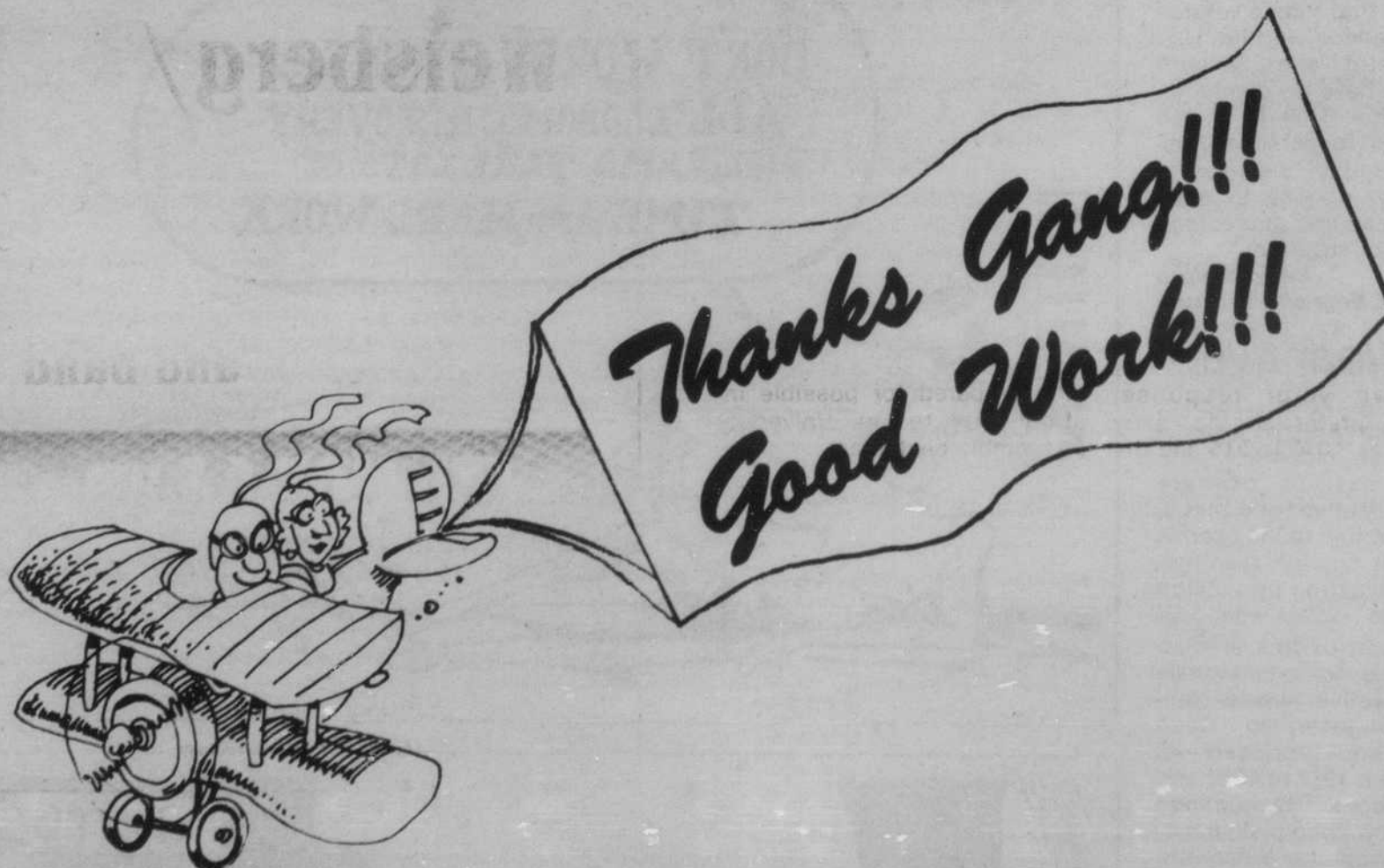
The committee, headed by Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., sent the legislation to the full Senate for consideration.

The National Coastal Resources and Development Institute would be affiliated with the Oregon State University Marine Sciences Center.

Etta Fielek, an aide to Packwood, said chances are good the Senate will approve the bill.

Funding for the institute, estimated at \$4.5 million a year, would come from the outer continental shelf revenue sharing bill.

Packwood said the revenue sharing bill will funnel another \$4.5 million into Oregon communities as a cushion against possible adverse environmental impact from offshore drilling.



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