

Mitchell Opposes Congressional Pay Raise

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted against a procedural move that blocked an up-or-down vote on an annual pay raise for members of Congress, arguing that Congress should find better uses for taxpayer dollars than to give its own members a raise.

Despite Mitchell's "no" vote, the House "moved the previous question" on H.Res.517, which blocked debate and all but ensured that an automatic pay raise for members of Congress would take effect.

"Some of my colleagues may disagree, but I believe there is something very wrong about Congress giving itself a pay raise when our national debt stands at a record \$9 trillion," Mitchell said.

To vote against the pay raise, members had to cast a "no" vote on Roll Call Vote No. 580, a Democratic motion on ordering the previous question.

In 1989, Congress passed a law that provides lawmakers with an automatic pay raise every January unless they vote specifically to reject the raise.