

6-19-1987

## 403 Pages Of House & Senate Debate On Boland Amendment Published In Congressional Record

Deborah Tyroler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tyroler, Deborah. "403 Pages Of House & Senate Debate On Boland Amendment Published In Congressional Record." (1987).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/noticen/708>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiCen by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **403 Pages Of House & Senate Debate On Boland Amendment Published In Congressional Record**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Friday, June 19, 1987*

On June 17, 3-1/2 years of legislative debate in the House and Senate on the Boland Amendment (totaling 403 pages) barring military aid to the contras was inserted into the Congressional Record. Rep. William V. Alexander Jr. (D-Ark.) sponsored the insertion, which according to a Government Printing Office (GPO) spokesman, was the longest insertion in the Record in at least 20 years. The estimated cost to the government was \$197,382; some congresspersons claimed this figure is overestimated. In a statement, Alexander said, "The cost of US policy in Central America is more than a billion dollars...If this information is used properly, it could save us billions of dollars." Alexander pointed out that the entire history of the debate includes no mention of presidential immunity, which President Reagan has asserted during the Iran-contra investigation. "I wanted to put the entire debate in one compendium in order that people could judge for themselves whether or not the president's defense was credible and legal," he said. Minority Leader Robert H. Michel (R-Ill.) took the floor to tell GOP leaders and staffs to object to all future insertions that would cost more than \$10,000 to print. "We have gotten quite excessive lately. And it's just got to stop," Michel said. "I also will have my floor representatives require that every such request must be made at a microphone so that all can clearly understand exactly what the request was," he said. The money for the Record comes from a congressional printing and binding fund. An expert on the fund said the GPO's \$197,000 estimate is likely inflated because the history did not have to be typed. It was retrieved electronically from earlier Congressional Records. "It cost a lot, but probably no more than the collective cost of members who insert the favorite apple pie recipe" of some constituent, the expert said. (Basic data from WASHINGTON POST, 06/17/87) [Note: Copies of the document will soon be available from the Government Printing Office at a tentative cost of \$1.25.]

-- End --