

Roll Call Report

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes March 31 through April 6, HOUSE

BAD DEBTS: Passed, 199 for and 198 against, the Debt Collection Practices Act of 1977 (HR 5294). If passed by the Senate and signed into law, it will become the first comprehensive federal law attempting to curb abuses by debt collectors.

The legislation covers the nation's estimated 5,000 independent collection agencies, but not credit grantors (such as department stores) which collect their own debts. Enforcement lies with the Federal Trade Commission and the bill provides for civil and criminal penalties.

It would outlaw abuses such as impersonating a lawyer, making threatening telephone calls and publishing "deadbeat lists." It limits third-person contacts and the extent to which a debtor can be contacted at work among other provisions.

Reps. David Bonior (D-12), William Brodhead (D-17) and James Blanchard (D-18) voted "yea."

Rep. William Broomfield voted "nay."
Rep. Carl Pursell (R-2) did not vote.

LOANS: Passed, 194 for and 156 against, a bill (HR 5282) authorizing \$1.2 billion through fiscal 1981, to be used as the U.S. contribution to inter-

national loan agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank.

Those institutions have the primary mission of making easy-term loans to developing countries. Many nations in addition to the U.S. supply their capital. A companion to HR 5282 is pending in the Senate.

The most heated debate centered on the bill's requirement that U.S. directors of the international lending institutions vote against loans to governments that torture dissidents and commit other violations of human rights. The Carter administration had wanted softer language linking loans to human rights.

Bonior, Brodhead, Blanchard, Broomfield and Pursell voted "yea."

STAFF EXPENSES: Voted, 276 for and 128 against, to increase annual expense allotments for house leadership offices as follows: \$30,000 each for the majority and minority leaders and \$15,000 each for the majority and minority whips.

The money is for personnel, office equipment "and other official expenses." In the fiscal year ending last September, the majority and minority leaders had budgets of about \$80,000.

This vote retained Section 2 of H Res 393, later adopted and put into effect. The resolution also raised the salary of the House postmaster and en-

abled the minority leader and majority whips to hire additional employees. Bonior, Brodhead, Blanchard, Broomfield and Pursell voted "yea."

SENATE

THE ECONOMY: Rejected, 35 for and 48 against, an amendment to deny President Carter the money he seeks to beef up his Council on Wage and Price Stability. It was proposed to HR 4877, an appropriations bill for the current fiscal year that was later passed and sent to conference with the House.

Carter seeks a \$241,000 budget increment for the hiring of 10 economists and three research assistants for the wage and price council, raising the entire staff to about 70 persons. The council now performs only a monitoring function but is the body that would impose wage and price controls if a president ordered them.

Sen. Robert Griffin (R) voted "yea."

and Sen. Donald Riegle (D) voted "nay."

ATTENDANCE: Rejected, 22 for and 67 against, an amendment to the ethics code (S Res 110) requiring that Senate business could be transacted only when at least 25 of the 100 senators were present on the floor. The Constitution requires a quorum (51 senators) to be present to conduct business.

Griffin and Riegle did not vote.

ETHICS CODE: Tabled, 63 for and 31 against, a "sunset amendment" under which the new senate ethics code would be terminated in March, 1981. Based on the experience of the code between 1977-81, the Senate would then decide in what form to extend it. After this vote the overall code was adopted.

Riegle voted "yea" and Griffin voted "nay."

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Hong Kong, Taiwan and Turkey moved into the category of each having a million or more telephones as the world added more than 21 million new telephones during 1975.

These and other statistics are contained in the current edition of "The World's Telephones," a booklet published annually by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's long lines department.

Information on some 1,400 principal cities located throughout the world is contained in the 28-page booklet. The material is dated as of Jan. 1, 1976.

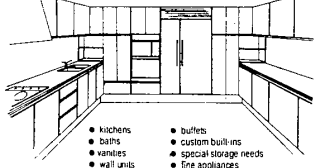
and is the most recent available since it takes a year to gather and publish the data.

According to the booklet, the number of telephones in the world as of Jan. 1, 1976, was 579.6 million, an increase of 21.2 million, or 5.9 per cent, over 1975. It marked the first time in 20 years that the annual rate of increase dipped below six per cent.

The three new entries on the list of places having more than a million telephones brought to 36 the number of political entities sharing this distinction.

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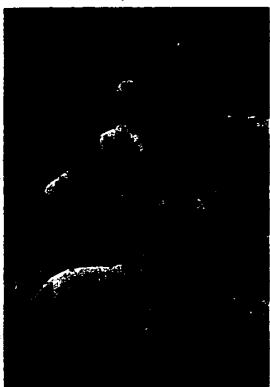
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