

# Water projects survive, filibuster goes on and on

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes June 15 through June 21. In the Senate, a filibuster was continuing against the labor reform bill. A sixth attempt to end the filibuster failed last week and the bill was sent back to committee.

**WATER PROJECTS:** Rejected, 142 for and 224 against, an amendment to kill eight water resources projects. The projects were resurrected in a public works appropriations bill (HR 12929) this year, after being rejected last year by the full House and President Carter. This amendment sought to remove them from HR 12928, later passed and sent to the Senate.

The projects are Bayou Bodcau, La.; LeFarge Lake, Wis.; Lukfata Lake, Okla.; Meramec Park Lake, Mo.; Yatesville Lake, Ky.; Fruitland Mesa, Colo.; Narrows Unit, Colo.; and Savery-Pot Hook, Colo. They will cost an estimated \$563.9 million over the years, in addition to preliminary funds already appropriated.

Rep. Robert Edgar, (D-Pa.), sponsor of the amendment to kill the projects, said: "I believe that the cost-benefit ratios, the environmental ratios and the safety aspects of these projects are such as to not warrant our support."

Rep. John Myers, R-Ind., said: "There is an old saying that you can be penny-wise and pound-foolish, and, true, there is an opportunity today to save a few million dollars this year. But it would not be a wise investment to cut these programs. . . that are so badly needed and already well under way."

Members voting "yes" were opposed to the water projects. Reps. David Bonior (D-Pleasant

## Roll Call Report



Ridge), William Ford (D-Taylor), James Blanchard (D-Mt. Clemens), William Broomfield (R-Birmingham) and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), voted "yes."  
Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) did not vote.

**BUDGET CUTS:** Rejected, 156 for and 222 against, an amendment to impose a two per cent across-the-board cut in the bill (HR 12936) appropriating money in fiscal 1979 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and certain independent agencies. Total price tag on the bill is \$82.2 billion.

Rep. Abraham Kazen, (D-Tex.), an opponent, criticized the concept of an across-the-board cut. "I think if we are going to do a job of cutting this budget, we ought to vote to do so and . . . (tell the secretary of HUD) what specific program to cut out. . ."

Rep. Clarence Miller (R-Ohio), sponsor of the amendment, replied: "We have tried that in the past, and every time it is a pet program of someone in the House and we have a battle."

Members voting "yes" opposed the two per cent cut. Pursell voted "yes."

Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "nay."

**BUDGET CUTS:** Rejected, 173 for and 211 against, an amendment that sought to cut about \$133 million from the fiscal 1979 budget for the Environmental Protection Agency. It was proposed to HR 12936, an appropriations bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Garry Brown (R-Mich.), the sponsor, said: "My amendment aims to cut inflation by reducing the inflationary impact of government regulations (which) not only drive up prices but also slow economic growth—which costs jobs."

Rep. William Harsba, (R-Ohio), an opponent, said the amendment "would cut out the very heart from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. . . one of the problems to date in achieving the goals of the act is that the EPA has not had adequate resources to do the job mandated by Congress."

Members voting "yes" favored cutting the EPA budget.

Broomfield and Pursell voted "yes." Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

At the request of the State of Michigan, the Interstate Commerce Commission has scheduled a public hearing July 12 in Detroit concerning the recent U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) study of Amtrak.

The hearing, scheduled for 9 a.m. in the Conrail Building at Vernor Highway and Michigan Avenue, Detroit, was requested because no additional Amtrak rail passenger service was recommended for Michigan by the DOT, and services to some major points outside Michigan will be terminated.

The purpose of the hearing is to take

testimony from all interested citizens. Persons wishing to testify should call the toll-free Transportation Planning information number in Lansing at (800) 292-5576. Deadline for scheduling of testimony is June 30.

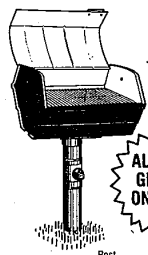
Another issue is the planned abandonment of service from Detroit to New York City Sept. 30, because present train ridership does not justify the state subsidies. The DOT study has not addressed the Detroit-New York City market on a more advantageous overnight schedule or a Detroit-Toledo routing to New York.

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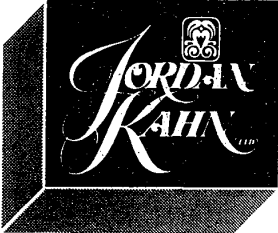
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