

House blocks bid to sap ethics bill

Here's how area members of Congress voted on major roll call issues Sept. 14-20.

HOUSE

ETHICS BILL Rejected, 97 for and 250 against, an amendment to remove the limit on House members' outside income, which is scheduled to take effect in January. The amendment was proposed to a bill (HR 1386) establishing a federal ethics code that requires financial disclosure by high officials of all three branches. A final vote on the bill was delayed at least one week.

Under the limit, a House member's "earned" supplemental income cannot exceed 15 percent of his congressional pay. At today's House salary of \$37,400, the maximum outside figure is \$5,610. Earned income is a salary, fee or honorarium. Excluded from the limit is "unearned income" such as interest, stock and bond dividends and income from a family business to which the member devotes little time.

Rep. James Quillen (R-Tenn.), the sponsor, said: "I for one deeply resent the suggestion that earned income is unethical and needs to be restricted. Good people are leaving, other good people will not want to seek membership in this body. The country will suffer for it."

Rep. Charles Bennett (D-Fla.), said, "We have priced ourselves out of the mainstream concept of representation . . . our salaries are too high, very much too high."

Members voting "yea" wanted to remove the limit on House members' outside income.

Rep. William Ford (D-Taylor) voted "yea."

Reps. David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens), William Brodhead (D-Detroit), James Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge), William Broadfield (Birmingham) and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted "yea."

'REVOLVING DOOR' Rejected, 112 for and 259 against, an amendment to allow unrestricted contact between former high-ranking executive branch officials and the government agency they formerly worked for. It sought to kill language in the new ethics code (HR 1386; see above vote) prohibiting such "revolving door" contact for one year after the official has left his or her federal job.

Rep. Bob Eckhardt (D-Tex.), a supporter, said it is "extremely important that we get high-class people in the agencies. If we are going to get (them), we are going to have to permit them to proceed from that agency

Roll Call Report



SENATE

to a practice in which they can be useful and effective."

Rep. George Danielson (D-Calif.), an opponent of the amendment, called the one-year prohibition "a very wholesome, very realistic restriction on conflict of interest."

Members voting "yea" favored removing the restriction on contact between former executive branch employees and their old agency.

Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard, Broadfield and Pursell voted "yea."

AIRPLANE NOISE Passed, 272 for and 123 against, a bill to cut aircraft noise, chiefly by helping domestic and foreign airlines pay for replacing older, noisier planes with newer, quieter ones. The necessary money would be raised by diverting a portion of passenger and freight taxes and other airline taxes to carriers flying in the U.S. Estimates are that domestic carriers could receive \$3 billion for noise abatement, and foreign carriers up to \$1 billion. The taxation plan would last until late 1983. Airlines have until 1985 to comply with federal noise standards. The bill (HR 8729) was sent to the Senate.

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), a supporter, said: "Two-thirds of the estimated \$3 billion cost for complying with the governmental mandate will be at airline expense with the other one-third being paid by a noise pollution tax on passengers and shippers. The general taxpayer will pay nothing."

Rep. Charles Vanik (D-Ohio), an opponent, questioned the bill's constitutionality and impact on the balance-of-payments deficit. "I do not think that the American taxpayers would particularly appreciate this type of foreign aid program in which American tax money is used to retrofit the fleets of foreign nationals," he said.

Members voting "yea" favored the taxation plan to help airlines meet federal noise standards.

Ford voted "yea."

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

Broadfield did not vote.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING Rejected, 29 for and 83 against, an amendment to bring about more frequent congressional review of Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) budget requests. The amendment was proposed to a bill that authorizes funding for public radio and television stations and seeks technological advances (such as clearer television reception) to enlarge the public broadcasting audience. The bill (HR 12605) was passed and sent to conference with the House.

At issue here was the system of multi-year appropriations set up years ago to insulate public broadcasting from congressional pressure on program content. Existing law authorizes CPB funding through fiscal 1980. HR 12605 extends the authorization three additional years, to a total of five years. The amendment was an attempt to kill the extension.

Sen. Robert Griffin (R-Mich.), sponsor of the amendment, said: "The courts have ruled that Congress has an oversight responsibility with respect to public broadcasting . . . We abdicate this responsibility if we do not exercise that oversight authority at more frequent intervals than required by HR 12605."

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), an opponent, said: "What we are trying to do is give stability to public broadcasters . . . We have never been able to guarantee absolute political independence. That is what we are doing under this five-year proposal."

Senators voting "yea" favored less frequent congressional review of the public broadcasting budget.

Griffin, R, voted "yea."

Sen. Donald Riegle, D, voted "yea."

PUBLIC BROADCASTING Rejected, 33 for and 48 against, an amendment to HR 12605 (see vote above) setting a ceiling on salaries of

executives of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service. The ceiling would be the same as applies to cabinet secretaries, \$60,000 annually. The CPB president reportedly earns \$70,000.

Sen. James McCure (R-Idaho), the sponsor, said: "I think it is fair to say that the American people are not interested in paying public broadcasting executives exorbitantly high salaries."

Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.), an opponent, said the Corporation for Public Broadcasting "is a private entity, without political influence, and let us try to treat it as such. If we start legislating salary limitations, we treat it as a governmental entity."

Senators voting "yea" wanted Congress to cap public broadcasting salaries.

Griffin voted "yea."

Riegle voted "yea."

NATURAL GAS Rejected, 39 for and 59 against, to kill the natural gas pricing bill by sending it back to a House-Senate conference committee. The vote removed the major obstacle to enactment of the measure this year. The bill (HR 5289), a part of the administration's national energy plan was headed toward a final Senate vote and consideration in the House.

It would remove federal price controls on natural gas in 1985, increase supplies to regions that have suffered gas shortages in recent years, lessen U.S. dependence on foreign energy and greatly raise residential and industrial rates.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), sponsor of the motion to send the bill back to committee, said: "The only argument that has been made for it is that it is the only bill in town. It is a C-minus bill" that hits hardest at residential users."

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), an opponent of the measure and supporter of the bill, said: "An energy policy that will help us to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and on imports of foreign gas should generate international support for the dollar."

Senators voting "yea" favored sending the natural gas bill back to committee, with instructions that a temporary, skeletal gas bill be returned to the floor.

Riegle voted "yea."

Griffin voted "yea."

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