

House sweetens pot for sugar lobby

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Oct. 5-11.

HOUSE

SUGAR BILL Passed, 186 for and 159 against, a bill (HR 13750) designed to bolster the sagging U.S. sugar industry by driving up the price of imported sugar. Such means as duties, import fees and possibly import quotas would be used to raise imported sugar prices closer to the price of domestic sugar. About half of the sugar consumed in the U.S. is imported. The bill would help U.S. producers while increasing the supermarket price of a five-pound bag of sugar by 1.5 cents this year and 20.5 cents by 1982.

The bill, which was sent to the Senate, would implement the first major sugar act since the previous law expired in 1974.

In the past four years, fluctuations in the unregulated world market have sent sugar prices in the U.S. on a roller-coaster ride. U.S. sugar growers say they now lose money on each pound of sugar cane and beets they produce, thanks to factors such as a world market glut and underselling by foreign competitors.

Rep. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), a supporter, said the bill "will assure the survival of the domestic industry with prices that are fair for consumers."

Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), an opponent, said that "wholesale food prices are taking another big increase... this is not the time for the Congress to be raising prices at the grocery store for the American housewife."

Members voting yea favored passage of the bill.

Rep. David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens), voted yea.

Reps. William Ford (D-Taylor), William Brodhead (D-Detroit), William

Roll Call Report



Broomfield (R-Birmingham) and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted nay.
Rep. James Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge) did not vote.

IMPORTED BEEF Defeated, 131 for and 129 against, an amendment to benefit U.S. cattle producers by further limiting imports of foreign beef. It was proposed to the Meat Import Act of 1978 (HR 1545), a bill that seeks to level out the boom-bust cycle in meat prices. The bill (HR 1545) was headed for final passage and conference with the Senate.

"Defeat of the amendment left standing in the bill a stipulation that the U.S. import at least 1.2 billion pounds of beef annually. The amendment sought to lower the import floor to 739 million pounds. By offering a guaranteed market the U.S. enables supplier countries such as Australia to make long-range economic decisions."

Cutting beef imports generally means more income for producers and higher supermarket prices for consumers. The 1.2 billion pounds accounts for about seven per cent of the beef marketed annually in the U.S. Adoption of the amendment would have cut the minimum foreign share to about five per cent.

Rep. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), a supporter of the amendment, said that the 1.2 billion minimum "is just another example of the unconcern for the American cattle producers."

Rep. Al Ullman (D-Ore.), an opponent, said that if the House lowers the floor to 739 million pounds it will invite a presidential veto.

Members voting yea favored further cuts of beef imports.

Borchard and Pursell voted nay.
Bonior, Ford, Blanchard and Broomfield did not vote.

VETO Failed, 223 for and 190 against, to get the two-thirds majority needed to override President Carter's veto of the \$10.1 billion public works appropriations bill (HR 12928). The veto was sustained. Carter had labeled parts of the bill "wasteful, inflationary" pork barrel. Supporters said the projects Carter objected to would import needed economic benefits and safety to their respective localities.

Members voting nay supported the President's position.

Ford and Pursell voted nay.
Bonior, Borchard, Blanchard and Broomfield voted nay.

SENATE

KEMP-ROTH Rejected, 36 for and 60 against, the so-called Kemp-Roth proposal to stimulate the economy by cutting individual federal income tax rates across-the-board by an average of 33 per cent. The cut was to have been made over three years beginning Oct. 1. Named after Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.), and Sen. William Roth (R-Del.), the measure this year has become the GOP's best-publicized economic proposal.

It was proposed to HR 13511, a major tax bill later passed and sent to conference with the House. After rejecting Kemp-Roth, the Democratic majority voted approval of its own tax-cut proposals (see vote below).

Sen. William Roth (R-Del.), the sponsor, said "the whole point" of his measure was to "get the country moving again by lowering the tax rates. By doing so, we intend to promote savings... investment... productivity and the creation of jobs in the private sector."

Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), an opponent, repeated criticism voiced earlier in the House by Rep. Otis Pike (D-N.Y.): "Fiscal responsibility has been replaced by political pie in the sky. We all know that the Republican Party is in trouble, but we did not think in its death throes it was willing to sell its immortal soul."

Senators voting yea favored cutting individual income taxes by 33 per cent over the next three years.

Sen. Robert Griffin, R., voted yea.
Sen. Donald Riegle, D., voted nay.

TAX CUT Adopted, 52 for and 43 against, an amendment imposing additional tax cuts for taxpayers in the \$10,000-\$20,000 annual income range. It was attached to HR 13511 (see vote above), a bill that already had cut taxes significantly for individual taxpayers. If the language of this amendment survives a House-Senate conference and becomes law, it will cut federal taxes for persons in the \$10,000-\$20,000 income range by about \$80 or \$70 annually in addition to tax cuts of approximately \$100 to \$200 already provided for in the bill. The amendment would cost the Treasury \$4.5 billion.

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), the sponsor, said the cut amounts to "keeping faith" with people who are "the backbone, literally the stability, of the country."

Sen. Russell Long (D-La.), an opponent, said that the federal budget "does not have the money to cushion" the loss of \$4.5 billion in revenue.

Senators voting yea favored the additional tax cut for middle-income persons.

Griffin and Riegle voted yea.

ERA Passed, 60 for and 36 against, a bill giving supporters of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution three additional years in which to seek ratification by three-fourths of the state legislatures. The measure needs to be ratified by three more states to become law. The House already had approved the bill, which sets June 30, 1982 as the new deadline. Proponents of the ERA said that without the extra time their ratification efforts would be certain to fail.

The amendment reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied by the United States or any state on account of sex."

Senators voting yea favored extending the ERA deadline.
Griffin and Riegle voted yea.

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Wordsmiths to talk at university forum

The 17th Annual Craftsmanship of Creative Writing Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21 at Oakland University in Rochester.

Co-sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education and the Detroit Women Writers, this year's conference has been expanded into a two-day program for beginning and established writers.

Participants may attend one or both days.

Thirty-four authors, editors, playwrights, poets and journalists will present topics ranging from writing techniques to selling completed manuscripts.

Friday's program includes five three-hour writing "labs" in the areas of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and writing for young people.

Staffed by professional writers, including special guest playwright Milan Sitt, the labs will provide the opportunity to learn writing skills in small groups.

Sitt, originally from Michigan, will conduct the drama lab. His play, "The Runner Stumbles," was selected as one of the ten best plays for the 1976 Broadway season and was performed during the 1978 season of Oakland's Meadow Brook Theatre.

He has just finished filming "Runner," with director Stanley Kramer.

A Friday evening cocktail reception for speakers and participants will be held in Meadow Brook Hall, featuring Detroit Free Press columnist Nickie McWhirter. She will speak about the process she uses to write her column.

A. Scott Berg, author of this year's best-selling biography, "Max Perkins: Editor of Genius," will deliver the keynote address at 9:15 a.m. Saturday.

The Saturday portion of the conference includes a choice of 28 different sessions and a concluding presentation about new directions in paperback publishing by Carole Baron, vice president and editor in chief of Pocket Books.

Anne Mallegren Smith, newly appointed managing editor of Redbook Magazine, will present two topics as part of the Saturday program: "Selling Your Short Story" and "Tailoring Your Article Ideas."

Other Saturday topics include: "Planning the Novel" with Detroit's Julia Grace whose romantic historical novel, "Lovefire," sold 800,000 copies; "The Moon in The Kitchen Sink" with poet Faye Kellam; and "You're Selling, We're Buying" with Monthly Detroit Magazine editor, Gary W. Dieckrich.

For a brochure describing the program, contact the Conference Department, Oakland University, Rochester 48063, or phone 377-3272.

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