

House takes a break; Senate nixes easy ethics

WASHINGTON: Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the current recess began.

HOUSE
RECESS: The house voted, (338-70 against), the stand in recess from Aug. 3 to Sept. 5. There was no debate on the issue. Members voting "yea" wanted to take the 32-day recess.
 Reps. Carl Pursell, R-2, David Bonior, D-12, William Ford, D-16, William Brodhead, D-17, James Blanchard, D-18, William Broomfield, R-19, Guy Vander Jagt, R-9, and Donald Albstadt, D-10, voted "yea."
 Reps. Harold Sawyer, R-5 and Robert Daviss, R-11, voted "nay."

CHILD WELFARE: The House voted (204-199 against) to require that federal outlays for certain child welfare programs be made available to states only through the normal appropriations channel of Congress. The vote killed a proposal to provide the money in the form of entitlements, that is, guaranteed payments which bypass the appropriations process.

The money in question is part of legislation authorizing certain welfare programs under the Social Security Act. At issue on this vote was not the merits of child welfare but the question of which funding method Congress should employ—appropriations or entitlement.

Roll Call Report



Rep. Robert Michel, R-Ill., a supporter of keeping child welfare funding in the appropriations channel, said too much of the federal budget already is "uncontrollable" by Congress, because it has been excluded from "the annual oversight and review provided by the appropriating process."

Rep. James Corman, D-Calif., who favored the entitlement procedure, said federal efforts to get children out of foster homes and into adoptive homes will succeed only if "states know how much money they are going to get and when they are going to get it." He said the appropriations process generates uncertainty.

Members voting "nay" wanted to switch certain child-welfare funding to the entitlement process.

Pursell, Sawyer, Broomfield, Vander Jagt and Davis voted "yea."

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

SENATE

ETHICS: The senate adopted (50-29 against) a resolution that relaxes its ethics rules. House concurrence was not required, and the measure took effect immediately.

In part, the resolution ends General Accounting Office audits of the financial disclosure statements of senators and top aides, does away with the rule that senators must file copies of their tax returns with the Senate Ethics Committee, and reduces from 1,600 to 300 the number of Senate staffers who must file financial-disclosure statements.

The measure makes senators and top aides answerable to the softer financial-disclosure requirements of the 1978 Ethics in Government Act, a law covering all branches of government.

Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C., a supporter, said the resolution puts senators under "the same rules that the executive branch, members of the Supreme Court and the House of Representatives live under" and that it "confers no specific privileges upon the Senate."

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, an opponent, said the resolution will keep the American people from knowing what the assets of their senators are. "When people are calling for more openness in government, this will give them less."
 Senators voting "yes" wanted less disclosure by themselves and their top aides.
 Sen. Carl Levin, D, voted "yea."
 Sen. Donald Riegle, D, voted "nay."

ANTI-RECESSION AID: The Senate passed (99-23 against) a bill designed to help governments blunt the recession which many economists say is now in effect. The bill, sent to the House, would provide federal grants to cities, counties and states, to be used to shore up government services and provide public-sector jobs and job-training.

The bill would provide \$340 million in "counter-cyclical aid" to cities having jobless rate of 6 percent or higher, effective with the Oct. 1 beginning of fiscal 1980. Also, it would make available up to \$1 billion in aid to other urban areas if the national unemployment rate (now at 5.7 percent) hits 6.5 percent.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said: "We are now having inflation at about 31.2 percent. . . Most members of Congress eagerly condemn inflation, (yet) while condemning the monster, we vote to feed it and make its devastation worse."

Senators voting "yea" favored a massive outlay to blunt recession at the risk of fueling inflation.
 Riegle and Levin voted "yea."

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Airport peace (?) draws NY birds

The snowy egrets that nest near New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport may not know it, but they are part of a demonstration that people and wildlife can coexist in harmony.

The egrets are one of more than 300 bird species that live at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, one unit of an urban park known as Gateway National Recreation Area.

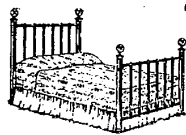
Gateway, its four main patches scattered around New York Harbor, draws four times as many visitors as Yellowstone and is the centerpiece of the National Park Service's concept of "bringing parks to the people."

Besides Jamaica Bay, Gateway takes in Breezy Point in Rockaway Peninsula, the southeastern shore of Staten Island, and Sandy Hook in New Jersey.

Together, the park's 26,000 acres offer ocean beaches for swimming and fishing, abandoned military installations to explore, and at Jamaica Bay, one of the most successful bird sanctuaries on the East Coast. But perhaps the park is more appreciated for what it doesn't have — traffic and noise.

Surprisingly, as attendance at Jamaica Bay has gone up, so have the kinds of birds that come and nest there.

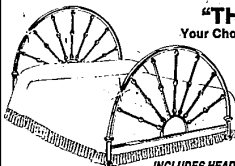
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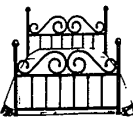
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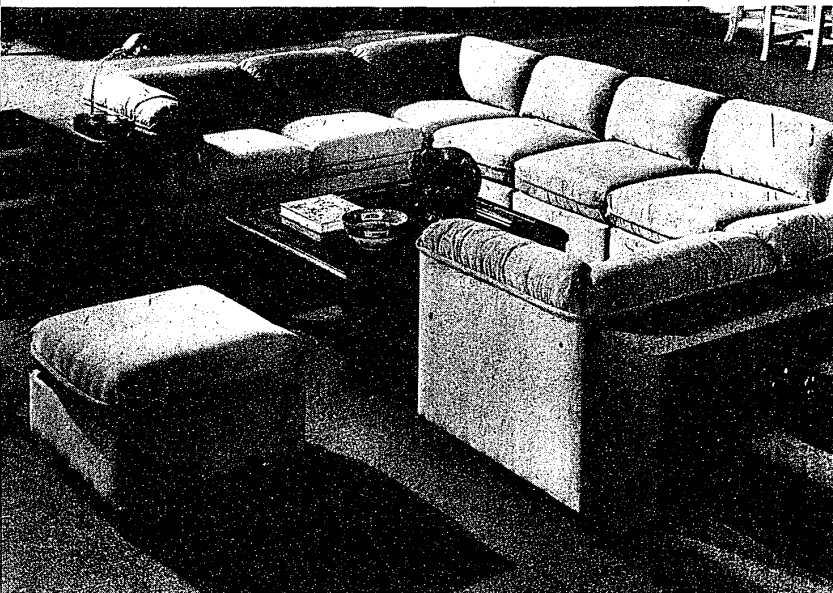


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