

# Senate squelches Carter peanut loan probe

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes conducted on their return from the month-long summer recess.

## SENATE

**CARTER WAREHOUSE:** The Senate killed 61 for and 29 against, an amendment requiring the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to investigate loans made by the National Bank of Georgia in 1975 and 1976 to the Carter family peanut warehouse in Plains, Ga. The bank was then run by Bert Lance, and there have been suggestions that the loans fueled Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

The vote came during debate on an appropriations bill (HR 4393), later passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., a supporter of killing the amendment, said: "My understanding is that the FEC has concluded the audit of the Carter campaign. They have also concluded and published their findings on the audit of (Gerald) Rife's and his dealings. So I do not see why it is necessary to pass this amendment."

Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., an opponent of killing the amendment, which he had sponsored, said: "Since these allegations (about the warehouse loans) have been made, there has been a massive silence in Washington. Nobody is asking: 'What did Jimmy Carter know and when did he know it?'"

Yes, if these allegations are true, Jimmy Carter violated federal election laws.

Senators voting "nay" wanted an additional FEC probe into any connection between the bank loans and the Carter presidential campaign.

Sens. Donald Riegle, and Carl Levin both Democrats, voted "yea."

**UNPAID STUDENT LOANS:** The Senate voted 52 for and 38 against, to block a plan for collecting some of the \$2 billion now owed the government in defaulted student loans. The vote came during consideration of HR 4393 (see vote above). Under the plan, the Internal Revenue Service would withhold income tax refunds requested by individuals who failed to repay government loans for their education. The recovery program was to have been experimental, em-

## Roll Call Report



playing 30 IRS workers and costing \$1 million.

Sen. Harrison Schmitt, R-N.M., a supporter of blocking the plan, said it was of questionable legality and fraught with civil-libertarian concerns. "Even in the case where an individual is guilty of defaulting on a loan, that individual has the right to due process," he said.

Sen. James Sasser, D-Tenn., who wanted to implement the program, said it is "mandatory... to collect the enormous amount of debt owing the honest taxpayers of this country from

other citizens who are not conscientious about paying their just debts."

Senators voting "nay" favored the IRS debt-collection plan.

Riegle voted "yea." Levin voted "nay."

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** By a vote of 31 for and 54 against, the Senate refused to support a proposed Internal Revenue Service regulation aimed at private schools that discriminate on the basis of race. The vote came during debate on HR 4393 (see votes above). In part, the regulation apparently

quashed by this vote would have made it easier for the IRS to deny tax-exempt status to church-related schools that discriminate. Under court rulings, the separation of church and state is no obstacle to the IRS acting against such schools. The IRS wanted this regulation to bolster its interpretation of court decisions on the subject.

Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., said it "borders on the immoral" for the IRS to be denied the authority it seeks to move against such schools.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said that to give the IRS the authority would sanction "an unreasonable entanglement by the state in the internal workings of churches."

Senators voting "yea" supported the IRS regulation for denying tax-exempt status to certain church-related schools.

Riegle and Levin voted "yea."

## HOUSE

PANAMA: The House adopted, 247

for and 128 against, an amendment to eliminate most foreign aid scheduled for Panama in fiscal 1980. The amendment, attached to an appropriations bill (HR 4473) later passed and sent to the Senate, allowed U.S. food and medical assistance to Panama but banned all other aid.

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., the sponsor, said that Panama is underserving of U.S. aid at a time when it is getting, in the Panama Canal, "a multi-billion dollar capital improvement paid for by the American taxpayers..."

Rep. Clarence Long, D-Md., an opponent, called Panama "a democracy, at least for Latin America," and said that U.S. aid to the country "is aimed at attacking poverty that prevails among rural and urban poor whose annual per capita income is less than \$450."

Members voting "nay" opposed cutting Panama's foreign aid.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted "nay."

## GOP to fete former leader

Oakland County Republicans will honor former state and county GOP chairman Arthur Elliott at the party's annual Or Roust Sunday in Groveland Oaks Park in Holly.

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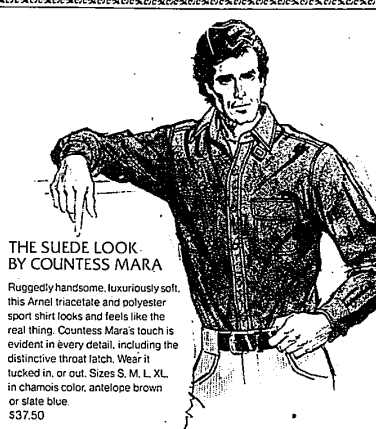
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