

House evades draft registration

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 6 through Sept. 12.

HOUSE

DRAFT REGISTRATION: The House defeated, 163 for and 252 against, a move requiring 18-year-old males to register for possible draft into the military. The effect of the vote was to remove draft-registration language from a Defense Department authorization bill, later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, D-N.Y., a supporter, stressed that the bill did not re-institute the draft. He said it would provide nothing more than "a mechanism for rapid mobilization in the event of a serious national emergency."

Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman, D-N.Y., an opponent, said registration would "save us only 13 days in the event of a mobilization," and asked: "What right do we have to reach into and disrupt the lives of every single 18-year-old male in this country when we are at peace?"

Members voting "yes" wanted 18-year-old males to be required to register with their local draft boards, beginning in 1981.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Bromfield, R-Birmingham, voted "yes."

POST OFFICE: The House rejected, 123 for and 242 against, an amendment to freeze the taxpayer subsidy of the U.S. Postal Service at its current \$970 million level for the next five years. The vote left standing language to gradually hike the subsidy to \$1.3 billion in fiscal 1982. It came during debate on a post office bill (H.R. 729), passed and sent to the Senate. Although the Postal Service expects a profit of \$180 million in the current fiscal year, it says it may return to the red ink in subsequent years.

Rep. Jim Courter, R-N.J., the sponsor, said raising the postal subsidy

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"provides neither the answer to the underlying problems of rising postal costs nor any incentive for the U.S. Postal Service to increase efficiency."

Rep. Tom Corcoran, R-Ill., an opponent, said "the gut question" of the amendment is "do we want to increase postal rates beyond 15 cents or do we want to... modestly increase the subsidy?"

Members voting "yes" wanted to hike the taxpayer subsidy of the U.S. Postal Service.

Sawyer and Davis voted "yes." Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, and Blanchard voted "yes."

Bromfield did not vote.

EXPORT LICENSING: The House rejected, 201 for and 205 against an amendment to curb the sale of "sensitive" U.S. goods and technologies abroad.

The amendment was supported by nation-security advocates. It was opposed by business interests which claimed that Commerce Department red tape often deprives them of foreign sales of products no longer sensitive from a national security standpoint. The vote came during debate on the Export Administration Act, later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Richard Ichord, D-Mo., a supporter, cited U.S. computers as a sensitive technology whose export the government should limit. He said: "Let us not fool around with computers where we certainly have a lead over the Soviet Union. This is the only place that we have the lead."

Rep. Silvio Conte, R-Mass., said that by allowing the Commerce Department to easily pass its export-control list, the bill helps to alleviate "the competitive disadvantage under which

many high technology industries have been trying to operate for many years."

Members voting "yes" supported the nation-security argument.

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

Bogier did not vote.

SENATE

STRIP MINING: The Senate passed, 68 for and 25 against, a bill softening the landmark strip-mining law enacted in 1977. The bill gives states more time to comply with the law and more autonomy in developing and reclamation standards within the federal framework. The bill, which was sent to the House, puts in abeyance proposed Interior Department regulations for implementing the law.

Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., a supporter, said "the states want the right to develop their own (strip-mining regulation) program based on what they think is in the best interest of their respective states."

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., an opponent, said the bill would "undercut and postpone implementation of the strip-mining law. We waited 10 years to get this milestone legislation passed. We should not have to wait longer to get it implemented."

Senators voting "yes" wanted to soften the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle split on the vote. Levin voted "yes"; Riegle, "no."

REGULATIONS: The Senate refused to kill, 27 for and 51 against, language to curb the power of federal regulation-writers. The vote upheld a provision that would make the multitude of regulations issued by federal agencies more vulnerable to court challenges. The

language is considered of landmark potential, for if it becomes law it will put the burden of proof on the regulators to show that a given regulation is valid. Now the burden is on the regulated to prove a regulation invalid. The vote came during debate on a courts bill later passed and sent to the House.

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., said the language would prove to be a "device in the hands of large corporations to block or slow the promulgation of regulations which affect their interests."

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., said: "The cards have been hopelessly stacked against the regulated people in this country."

Senators voting "yes" want executive branch agencies to be required to prove the validity of their regulations when challenged in court.

Riegle and Levin voted "yes."

CROP INSURANCE: The Senate passed, 64 for and 27 against, a bill establishing a broad federal insurance program to protect producers of all major crops against losses from natural disaster. After crop year 1981, the insurance set up will replace the existing program under which the government awards after-the-disaster relief grants to farmers suffering losses. The bill was sent to House.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., a supporter, said the bill "will make all-risk crop insurance available to our nation's farmers at affordable rates, thereby giving farmers protection against disasters at a minimum to taxpayers."

Many opponents objected to the inclusion of fire and hail insurance in the federal program. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., said the bill "will truly virtually wipe out the private sector's ability to write fire and hail policies."

Senators voting "yes" favored the bill. Riegle and Levin voted "yes."

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