

House endorses home heating aid, Cambodian relief funds

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Oct. 25-31.

HOUSE
MONEY FOR HEAT: The House passed, 290 for and 105 against, a bill appropriating \$1.35 billion to help the poor pay heating bills this winter. Added to \$250 million already appropriated, the money will provide one-shot payments of up to \$400 to poor families. Most of those benefiting will be welfare recipients on the rolls of Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The bill (H.R. 430) was sent to the Senate.

Rep. Silvio Conte, R-Mass., a supporter, said it would be a "shameful act for this Congress... to allow anyone in this land of such vast wealth to face a frigid and perhaps fatal winter."

Rep. Robert Michel, R-Ill., an opponent, called the distribution system a bureaucratic hodgepodge, and said "most of the money will not get into the hands of the recipients until next January and February at the earliest, and a good portion will be siphoned off... to individuals regardless of heating needs."

Members voting "yes" favored the emergency aid program.

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 Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "yes."

INDOCHINA AID: By a vote of 301 for and 69 against, the House passed a bill authorizing \$30 million immediately to feed starving Cambodians and about \$205 million in each of the next two years to help bring Indochina refugees to the U.S. The bill (H.R. 4955) was sent to the Senate.

Rep. William Green, R-N.Y., a supporter, praised the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which produced the bill, "for acting so swiftly and conclusively to help alleviate the suffering of millions of people in Cambodia — a suffering and deprivation reminiscent of Nazi Germany and Biafra."

No opponent spoke against the bill. Members voting "no" were opposed to the bill to aid starving Cambodians and Indochina refugees.

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

ENERGY MOBILIZATION BOARD: The House rejected, 56 for and 357 against, an amendment to make the new Energy Mobilization Board part of the Department of Energy (DOE) rather than a totally independent agency. The board is President Carter's proposed mechanism for speeding federal, state and local actions to ease the energy shortage. It will, for example, cut back on the construction of refineries and synthetic fuel plants.

The amendment was offered to H.R. 4985, later passed and sent to conference with the Senate. The bill creates the energy board over objections of those who see it as an infringement on states' rights and the environment. The attempt to locate the board within the Department of Energy was an effort to restrict its powers.

Rep. Tom Carcason, R-Ill., a supporter, said that if Congress gives the board independence "we lose control, we lose policy accountability, and we dilute the authority vested in the secretary of energy to be responsible for the policies we give DOE to administer."

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., an opponent, said the energy board "must have freedom apart from the bureaucratic wrangling, infighting and boondoggling that goes on between the Department of Energy and other governmental agencies."

Members voting "yes" wanted the new fast-track energy board located in the Department of Energy.

Bonior and Broomfield voted "yes." Pursell, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "no."

SENATE
FEDERAL JUDGES: The Senate passed, 55 for and 33 against, a bill (S. 1873) establishing a procedure for disciplining federal judges. U.S. judges, appointed for life, presently are subject only to impeachment as penalty for gross judicial misconduct. Under the bill, complaints against judges would be processed by newly-created judicial councils, which could dismiss the complaint or take action ranging from public reprimand to requesting a judge's retirement. A new Court on Judicial Conduct and Disability would review actions of the judicial councils and could recommend that the House undertake impeachment proceedings. The bill was sent to the House.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, R-Ariz., a sponsor said: "Although, on the whole the general caliber of the federal judiciary has been extremely high, the problem of the unfit judge is a serious challenge to our judicial system."

Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., an opponent, called the bill unconstitutional, saying: "It is inconceivable to me that our Founding Fathers, who took such care to develop the impeachment process and to otherwise safeguard judicial independence, would have endorsed" this bill.

Senators voting "yes" favored the bill.

roll call report

Sen. Carl Levin, Democrat, voted "yes."

Sen. Donald Riegle, Democrat, did not vote.

BANKING ISSUE: By a vote of 61 for and 32 against, the Senate adopted an amendment to prevent bank holding companies from establishing out-of-state trust operations. If it becomes law, the amendment will most immediately thwart the plans of seven large holding companies, from money centers such as New York and Chicago, to open trust offices in Miami. The vote came during debate on a bill lessening regulation of depository institutions (H.R. 4985), later passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Richard Stone, D-Fla., a supporter, said: "Florida's total banking assets are \$37.6 billion compared with \$148.3 billion for just these seven bank holding companies. How in the world can the banks in my state, or very many other states, begin to compete with the awesome power of these giants?"

Sen. Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., an opponent, said the measure "contemplates states hiding behind their boundaries, protecting the trust facilities and other industries from competition, all at the expense of not only the people of those states but the national welfare."

Senators voting "yes" wanted to prevent certain large trust operations from expanding out-of-state.

Riegle voted "yes." Levin voted "no."

Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, the sponsor, said financial incentives should not be "a consideration when the decision is made whether or not to adopt. Prospective parents do not need to be paid by the federal government if they are motivated by the right reason."

Sen. Levin, an opponent, said: "Financial stress should not be added to the burdens which (families) have already assumed in adopting a physically, mentally, emotionally or medically handicapped child."

Senators voting "yes" favored the policy of financial incentives.

Riegle and Levin voted "no."

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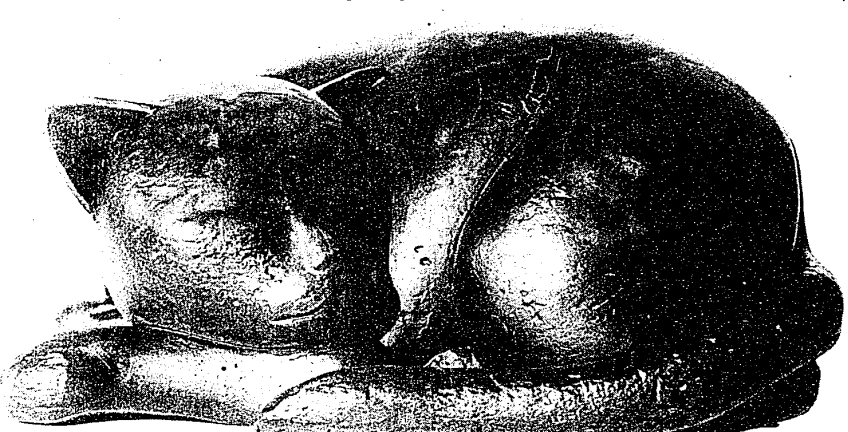
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