

Downtown Monday-Saturday 9:30 to 8 Branches open Monday-Saturday 9:30 to 9:30

roll call report

House acts
to curb FTC

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Nov. 26 through Nov. 28.

HOUSE

CURBING THE FTC. By a vote of 321 for and 63 against, the House passed a bill to curtail the authority of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The bill (HR 2313) was sent to the Senate. It contains a "legislative veto" provision which, if it becomes law, will enable either house of Congress to prevent by majority vote any FTC action against an entire industry. The FTC was created in 1914 to combat unfair and deceptive business practices.

Rep. Elliott Levitas, D-Ga., a supporter, said, "We are seeing an end to government by bureaucratic fiat. The outrage of the American public against unacceptable government has been heard and heeded."

Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Tex., an opponent, said the bill would begin "the plucking . . . of the only agency that we can call a consumer agency in the entire U.S. government."

Members voting "yea" favored the bill limiting FTC powers.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Ford, D-Taylor, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "yea."

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, and William Brodhead, D-Detroit, voted "nay."

CONGRESSIONAL VETO: The House adopted, 276 for and 121 against, an amendment permitting Congress by concurrent resolution to veto any regulation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Such regulations usually concern unsafe pesticides and often are criticized by agribusiness and other sectors of the farming community.

Concurrent resolutions do not require a president's signature to take effect. The amendment was attached to HR 3546, passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Robert Lagomarsino, R-Calif., a supporter, said that in the EPA "we are dealing with one of the regulatory agencies that epitomizes regulation and bureaucratic interference . . ."

Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Tex., an opponent, said that "precisely what the (amendment) is attempting to do (is) to avoid the presentation provision of the Constitution, which, he said, mandates that any action requiring the concurrence of both houses goes to the president for his possible veto."

Members voting "yea" wanted Congress to be able to cancel certain EPA regulations.

Pursell, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yea." Bonior, Ford and Brodhead voted "nay."

GOP BUDGET: By a vote of 187 for and 207 against, the House rejected a Republican motion to cut \$7.9 billion out of the 1980 federal budget of \$547.6 billion.

The proposal, offered during consideration of a budget resolution (S Con Res 53) later given final approval, would have cut all areas of federal spending except defense and veterans programs.

Rep. Delbert Latta, R-Ohio, the sponsor, said: "The American people can no longer afford \$30 billion budget deficits, 13 percent inflation and rising unemployment."

Rep. Robert Giacomini, D-Conn., an opponent, said it was too late in the laborious budget process to propose sweeping cuts. "This great grandstand play of the Republican motion would have the American people think that one can save money by voting for it. Nonsense, nonsense, nonsense."

Members voting "nay" opposed the budget-cut proposal.

Pursell, and Broomfield voted "yea." Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

SENATE

WINDFALL EXEMPTION: The Senate voted 53 for and 41 against to exempt most oil pumped by companies involved only in the production aspect of the oil industry from the proposed "windfall" tax on increased oil profits.

The amendment was offered to HR 3919, which was headed for approval and conference with the House. The first 1,000 barrels per day produced by each so-called "independent" would be exempt from the new tax on additional profits resulting from the abolition of price controls.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Tex., sponsor of the amendment, said independent producers need a tax break to finance exploration. "It is not a question of doing anyone a favor," he said.

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., an opponent, said the amendment would satisfy only "the understandable desire of these active businessmen to increase their already considerable profits."

Senators voting "yea" favored exempting most production by independent producers from the windfall-profits tax.

Sen. Donald Riegle, Democrat, voted "yea."

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

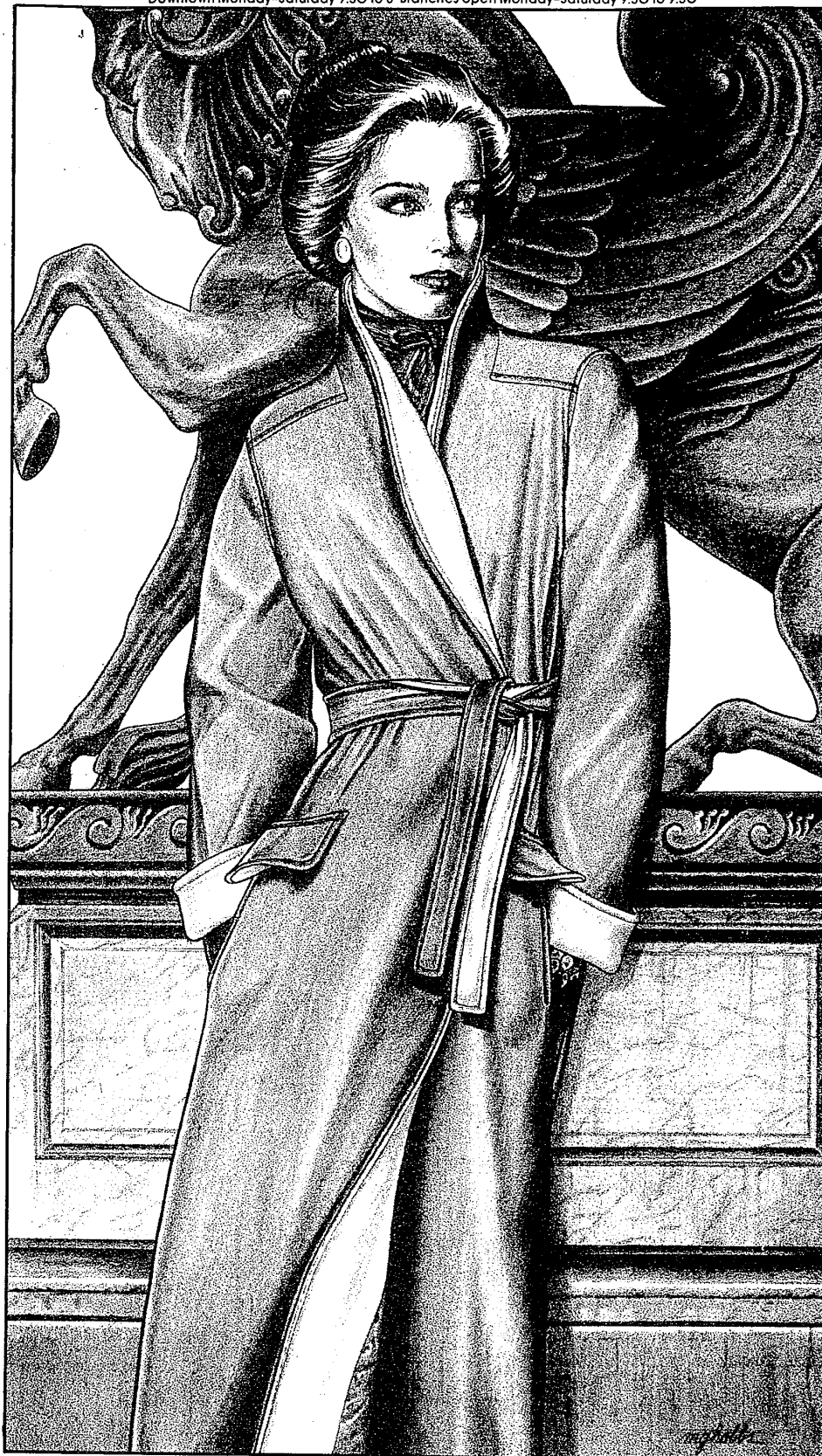
RAILROAD MONEY: By a vote of 54 for and 41 against, the Senate tabled and thus killed an amendment to apply \$10 billion of the windfall-profits tax to the revitalization of the nation's passenger and freight railroad systems. The amendment was proposed to the oil taxation bill (HR 3919; see previous vote). The \$10 billion was to have come from the \$128 billion the windfall-profits tax on oil revenues is expected to raise between 1980 and 1990. Already in an energy-conservation move, the Senate has agreed that up to \$15 billion of the tax will go to mass-transit programs.

Sen. Russell Long, D-La., a supporter of killing the amendment, said: "It may very well be the best way to rehabilitate the railroads would be with a loan guarantee program rather than earmarking appropriations as proposed in this amendment."

Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., an opponent of tabling, said: "We have developed major air and water thoroughfares. We put men on the moon. We have demonstrated a technical capability that is the envy of the world. But . . . It is a conservative statement to say that we have got a third-rate rail system."

Senators voting "nay" favored earmarking part of the windfall profits tax yield for rail development.

Riegle and Levin voted "nay."



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