

House rejects nuke building freeze; Senate kills tax cut

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Nov. 29 through Dec. 5.

HOUSE

NUCLEAR POWER: By a vote of 135 for and 254 against, the House rejected a proposed six-month freeze on Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) construction permits for nuclear power plants. The amendment was offered to a bill (HR 2608) that was headed for final passage and conference with the Senate. The vote was only symbolic since the NRC said earlier it would issue no nuclear plant construction permits or operating licenses for at least six months.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., sponsor of the amendment, said it would "send a message to the industry and the NRC that Congress will no longer tolerate any corner-cutting in the area of nuclear safety."

Rep. Matthew Rinaldo, R-N.J., an opponent, said defeat of the amendment would "signal to our foreign oil suppliers that we are resolved to move forward to become more energy self-sufficient."

Members voting "yes" favor a moratorium on nuclear plant construction. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens and William Brodhead, D-Detroit, voted "yes."

Reps. William Ford, D-Taylor and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "nay."

Rep. James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge did not vote.

TO OLD TO FLY? The House voted, 240 for and 165 against, to retain 60 years as the top age for the nation's commercial pilots, who are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. The vote also authorized a one-year study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to determine if the age should be raised. It thus blocked an attempt to immediately hike the age to 61½ and then proceed with the NIH study. The vote came during debate on HR 3948, passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. James Howard, D-N.J., a supporter, said: "Let us change or not change the conditions of our airline pilots based on solid medical evidence, not emotion."

Rep. Glenn Anderson, D-Calif., an

roll call report

opponent, called the 60-year limit "discriminatory" and said that "statistics clearly show that the more experienced, older pilots are involved in many fewer accidents than the least-experienced, younger ones."

Members voting "yes" wanted to keep 60 years at the top age for commercial pilots, at least until the NIH study is completed.

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

Broomfield voted "nay."

VISTA: By a vote of 214 for and 152 against, the House extended the life of VISTA (so-called domestic Peace Corps) and certain other programs of the Action Agency for another two years. The vote adopted the House-Senate conference report on S239, thus reading the measure for President Carter's signature.

Opposition centered on the fact that the House-Senate conference committee had removed most of the restrictions the House had earlier voted to put on VISTA operations. Stripped away at the Senate's insistence, for example, were provisions enabling Congress to veto VISTA regulations and local officials to keep VISTA projects out of their areas.

Rep. Paul Simon, R-Ill., a supporter, said the compromise version worked out by House and Senate conferees "really improves the bill."

Rep. Paul Simon, R-Colo., an opponent, said the conference report "guts" most of the tough House language and fails "to insure the integrity of the programs designed to assist the least advantaged among our citizenry."

Members voting "yes" wanted to restrict VISTA operations.

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

Broomfield voted "nay."

Ford did not vote.

SENATE

WINDFALL TAX: The Senate voted,

58 for and 35 against, to increase the proposed tax rate on windfall oil company profits resulting from removal of price controls on already-discovered oil. The amendment, offered to an oil tax bill (HR 3919) headed for approval and conference with the House, would raise the rate from 69 to 75 percent on U.S. oil discovered since 1973.

Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., a supporter, said a higher tax would not discourage oil production. Higher profits, he said, "cannot provide an incentive to find something that has already been found."

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kans., an opponent, said that with the nation dependent on foreign oil "it seems the height of folly to cripple the incentive to increase production."

Senators voting "yes" favored a higher windfall-profits tax rate on oil discovered since 1973.

Sen. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, both Democrats, voted "yes."

HUGE TAX CUT: By a vote of 49 for and 44 against, the Senate turned away a Republican amendment to impose a massive tax cut by means of putting a cap on federal revenues. By limiting revenue to a percentage of the Gross National Product (20.5 percent of GNP in 1981), the Republican proposal would have cut federal tax collections by \$39 billion in 1981 and more in following years. The amendment was offered to the windfall-profits tax bill (see previous vote).

Sen. Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., a supporter of the tax-cut proposal, said it would produce a permanent budget deficit because it would

not cut federal spending at the same time it cut federal revenue-raising. He noted that its backers were also advocates of "sustained increases in military spending."

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., an opponent of shelving the GOP amendment, said that the government's "insatiable desire" for taxes will "destroy the very system that produces the benefits and fruits of growth, of earnings, of vitality that is the American people's present entitlement and the dream for generations to come."

Senators voting "yes" opposed the GOP amendment. Riegle and Levin voted "yes."



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