

# House funds shelters to curb domestic violence

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Dec. 6-12.

## HOUSE

**PARENTAL CONSENT** — The House refused, 163 for and 225 against, to require the consent of the parent or guardian before a minor can receive birth-control devices and family-planning information under the federal-state Medicaid program. The vote came during consideration of a bill (HR 4926) providing upgraded Medicaid services for poor children and pregnant women.

Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., a supporter, said this question is at stake: "Do parents control the education their children will receive in the area of sex education and family planning, or is that activity, like so many others in our culture, to be taken over by government?"

Rep. Tim Lee Carter, R-Ky., an opponent, said: "Actually, of the youngsters of our country who are 15 years old and younger, about one-fifth of them are sexually active. To prevent them from getting needed contraceptives beggars the imagination. Defeat of this amendment would save these children from unwanted pregnancies. It would save the country from unnecessary abortions which might occur as well."

Members voting yea wanted Medicaid birth-control material distributed to minors only on the consent of parents or guardians.

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Bir-

mingham, voted yea.

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

**SETTLING DISPUTES** — The House passed, 207 for and 195 against, a bill to create agencies on the local level for resolving comparatively minor disputes, such as those between buyers and sellers and landlords and tenants. The settlement centers, under either governmental or private control, would be alternatives to the court system. The bill (S 423) was sent to conference with the Senate. It provides seed money to encourage localities to establish settlement centers, and it opens a unit in the Department of Justice to oversee the venture.

Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wis., a supporter, said: "The traditional courts, with their formal procedures, high costs and overloaded dockets, are not necessarily the best forum for resolving disputes."

Rep. Thomas Kindness, R-Ohio, an opponent, said the bill injects the federal government into "matters traditionally left to the states," and added that it has "the potential of developing a kangaroo court in every neighborhood" in the country.

## roll call report

Members voting yea favored the bill. Pursell, Bonior, Brodhead, and Blanchard voted yea. Ford and Broomfield voted nay.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** — By a vote of 282 for and 108 against, the House passed a bill (HR 2777) to fund a variety of state and local programs to help victims of domestic violence. Costing \$65 million over three years, the legislation, in part, would fund shelters for battered spouses and children and counseling programs to curb violence in the home. It was stated in debate that annually in the U.S. 1.8 million women and 250,000 men are beaten by their spouses.

Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., a supporter, said that "as a former child-

abuse worker, I have witnessed examples of terrible cruelty within the American family . . . Violence in the American home is a quiet epidemic and it is getting worse as our economy worsens."

Rep. Ken Kramer, R-Colo., an opponent, said that all but two states already have domestic violence programs. "The question really before us today," he said, "is not whether or not there is a problem but whether or not the federal government ought to be involved in the solution to that problem, at least on the scale" of this bill.

Members voting yea favored the bill. Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, and Blanchard voted yea. Broomfield voted nay.

## SENATE

**WINDFALL TAX** — The Senate voted, 44 for and 53 against, to preserve an amendment broadening the

proposed tax on oil company profits resulting from price decontrol. The amendment would put a 20 percent tax on newly discovered oil and on two other categories of oil. The Senate Finance Committee had proposed to exempt from the so-called "windfall tax." The vote came during debate on a still-pending bill (HR 3919).

Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kans., who favored killing the amendment, said it "would cause billions of barrels of U.S. oil to be left in the ground and result in greater dependence on uncertain foreign sources."

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., who wanted to preserve the amendment, said a stiffer tax "would leave the oil companies more than enough income for investment in new exploration and development and a great deal more."

Senators voting nay favored a tougher windfall tax. Michigan Sens. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, both Democrats, voted nay.

**GAS TAX** — By a vote of 39 for and 40 against, the Senate rejected an amendment to restore a federal income tax deduction which motorists formerly were permitted to take for their payments of state and local gasoline taxes. The deduction was repealed by Congress last year to encourage energy conservation.

The amendment was offered to the windfall oil profits tax bill (see previous votes).

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., sponsor of the amendment, said deletion of the deduction "creates an unfair tax burden" for taxpayers who must drive to work.

Sen. Russell Long, D-La., an opponent, said: "There is no reason to have a special tax advantage to encourage people to use more energy."

Senators voting yea favored the deduction. Riegle voted yea. Levin voted nay.

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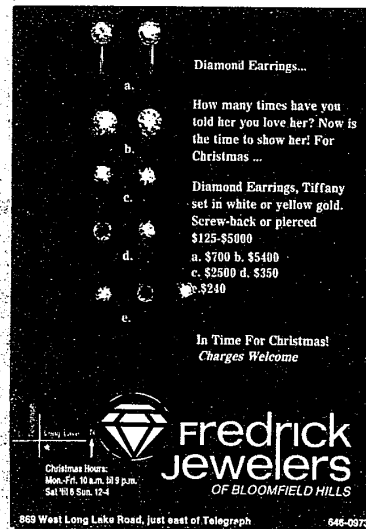
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