

Inflation panel gets year lease on life

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes March 15 through March 21. There were no Senate votes.

Roll Call Report

WAGE COUNCIL — The House passed, 242-175, H.R. 2223 extending the life of the Council on Wage and Price Stability for one year, increasing the council's annual budget to \$8.48 million and expanding its staff from 39 to 233. The council, a White House adjunct, monitors President Carter's wage and price guidelines. It lacks authority to impose wage and price controls. The bill was sent to the Senate.

Rep. William Moorhead, D-Pa., a supporter, said: "A vote against this bill amounts to throwing up your hands in despair — or else putting all your chips on a very restrictive fiscal and monetary policy with all of the accompanying risks of recession or worse. To me the choice seems very clear."

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., an opponent, said: "Only in the wonderland that is the Congress could we possibly think we are addressing the problem of inflation by not only extending... an agency that is virtually useless and ought to be abolished, but by increasing its budget by 200 percent... and its staff from 39 permanent employees to 233."

Members voting "yes" wanted to keep the Council on Wage and Price Stability in operation. Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Broadhead, D-Detroit, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Twp., voted "yes."

Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, voted "nay."

COMMITTEE OVERLAP

The House voted 208-200 to create a "select committee" whose mission is to examine the House committee structure and recommend ways to make it less cumbersome.

With an estimated annual budget of \$500,000, the new panel will address the problem of overlapping jurisdictions that makes it difficult for the House to move on national problems such as energy and inflation. In recent years the House has made similar attempts at streamlining itself, but with little success.

Opponents generally thought this new committee was itself an example of the bureaucratic overlapping it seeks to combat.

Members voting "yes" favored creation of a special committee on committees. Bonior, Ford, Broadhead and Blanchard voted "yes." Pursell and Broomfield voted "nay."

BALANCED BUDGET — Voting 201-199, the House decided to not allow a budget-balancing amendment to be offered to the debt ceiling bill. The effect of the vote was to turn away the proposed amendment, which sought to require Congress to balance the federal budget beginning in fiscal 1991, unless by a two-thirds majority Congress permitted a deficit in a given fiscal year.

Bonior, Ford, Broadhead and Blanchard voted "yes." Pursell and Broomfield voted "nay."

Federal DNR

Carter aides push new cabinet post

A federal Department of Natural Resources, as proposed by the Carter administration would save the government \$100 million annually, according to two senior White House staff members.

John Willis and Nye Stevens explained the proposal recently at Michigan State University. Their appearance was the first in a series by administration officials to discuss the plan.

The new cabinet-level department is designed to improve natural resources policy by centralizing three federal department's administrative responsibilities. The proposed consolidation would eliminate about 2,000 government jobs, the aides said.

The proposed DNR would consolidate the functions of the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service — now in the Department of Agriculture — and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), now in the Department of Commerce.

The reorganization, expected to occur over three years would create five administrative units responsible for earth sciences, land and forest management, parks, oceans and atmospheric resources, and water resources.

The plan will be sent to Congress in April and must be voted on within 60 legislative days. Willis and Stevens do not anticipate major congressional opposition to the proposal, which has already been presented to public interest groups for discussion.

The restructuring would create a federal administrative body more closely aligned with natural resources management units found in some 50 states, the White House spokesmen said. Giving one agency sole responsibility for natural resources functions now duplicated in various departments would simplify government interaction at all levels they added.

With a proposed \$7.4-billion budget and 89,000 employees, the DNR would

become the fifth-largest federal agency. The Forest Service would be the largest DNR component, with about 25 per-

cent of the personnel and almost 40 percent of the budget. NOAA would also be broadened in scope.

Mandatory CPR training?

Training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation would be required for high school students under legislation recently introduced in Lansing.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, would require CPR training as part of high school physical education programs. The training could be done by certified teachers or by trained personnel from outside the school system.

The American Heart Association estimates that up to 200,000 lives could be saved in the country each year if just one of every five people had CPR training.

CPR involves mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and manual chest compression techniques which maintain breathing

and circulation until a victim can get to a hospital.

"This bill will significantly improve the chances that heart attack victims will make it to hospitals where their lives may be saved," Bullard said.

Studies have also shown that heart attack victims who do make it to the hospital have a better chance of survival if they received immediate CPR. CPR also reduces the danger of brain damage.

The CPR proposal is a repeat of a bill which Bullard introduced last year. A modified version of that measure was overwhelmingly approved by the House but was killed in the State Senate Committee on Education.

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