

GOP backs cut in military aid to Panama

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes March 29 through April 4.

PANAMA — The House adopted, 272-117, an amendment eliminating \$2.5 million in military aid to Panama. The vote came during debate on HR 3173, a foreign military-aid bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., sponsor of the amendment, said under the new Panama Canal Treaty, the Panamanian government next year would receive at least \$65 million in canal tolls. Partly because of this "new direct income" it no longer needs U.S. military aid, he said.

Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wisc., an opponent, said the amendment would harm U.S. security, because loss of U.S. military aid would make it difficult for Panama "to fulfill its obligation in the joint defense of the canal."

Most of those voting "yes" were either conservatives who disliked the new treaty or members who objected to the repression of human rights by the Panamanian military dictatorship.

Reps. Carl Pussell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted "yes."

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Broadhead, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted "no."

OCS COMMITTEE — The House voted 194-172 to extend the life of the Select Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf through June 30, 1980. The annual budget, not counting staff salaries, is about \$300,000. Originally the temporary panel was to write a law governing the development of offshore oil and gas resources. In its extended life, it will oversee enforcement of the law.

Rep. Edwin Forsythe, R-N.J., a supporter, said that "if we are going to have an accelerated program to insure development of any energy potential from the Outer Continental Shelf... we need the OCS committee... to make sure that those processes are not foisted by the bureaucracy."

Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., an opponent, noted that other House committees already perform the proposed OCS committee mission. He added: "If members want to save the taxpayers some money and put an end to a committee that has done its job... they will vote against the select committee."

Members voting "yes" were opposed to continuing the select committee.

Bonior voted "yes."

Pursell, Ford, Broadhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "no."

OPEC AID — The House rejected 175-22 an amendment to eliminate foreign aid to members of the Organiza-

Roll Call Report



tion of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The amendment was proposed to HR 3324, the fiscal 1981 foreign aid bill, which headed toward final passage. OPEC nations, which recently increased their oil prices by at least 3 percent, would get \$100 million in direct and indirect non-military aid from the bill.

Rep. Joseph Minih, D-N.J., a supporter of the cut, said "it is about time that the U.S. put a halt to OPEC's greedy price gouging and

profiteering... it is totally contradictory that we cite OPEC as a major cause for the inflation we face today and then turn around and give those countries foreign aid."

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., an opponent, said: "We have members... weep tears about the gouging of the American people. I suspect the same members are fervently in favor of decontrolling the price of U.S. crude oil and gasoline, which

would, of course, further gouge the American people."

Members voting "yes" favored eliminating U.S. foreign aid to OPEC countries.

Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yes."

Pursell, Bonior and Broadhead voted "no."

Ford did not vote.

SENATE

RENEGOTIATION BOARD — The Senate failed 56-28 to keep the renegotiation board alive. The agency, which went out of business a few days before this vote, for the past 25 years has re-explained what it judged to be excess profits earned by defense companies on government contracts. The vote occurred during debate on HR 2283 (see vote below).

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., a supporter of the agency, said it brings in \$10 for every \$1 it costs. He termed

it "ironic" that Congressmen "who want to see the federal budget balanced are also going along with the movement to abolish" the board.

Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., said: "Two of the best days this country has had this year were the two days it snowed (in Washington). Nobody could get in here to do anything... it is about time we started... reducing bureaucracy, balancing the budget..."

Senators voting "no" were opposed to keeping the Renegotiation Board in existence.

Sens. Donald Riegel and Carl Levin both Democrats voted "yes."

WAGE COUNCIL — The Senate passed 62-22 a bill (HR 2283) extending the life of the Council on Wage and Price Stability for another year. The bill, which increases the council staff from 39 to 233 and sets an annual budget level of \$1.48 million, was sent back to the House for final action.

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