

Levin, Riegle vote to uphold school prayer ban

Thursday, April 19, 1979

(S.F.No-9A)(O)13A

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the current Easter recess.

HOUSE

PEACE CORPS — The House voted, 276 for and 116 against, to remove the Peace Corps from the agency called Action. The Peace Corps probably would be linked to the State Department's foreign aid agency, although this amendment did not rule out the remote possibility it could become an independent agency. The vote came during debate on HR 3324, a foreign aid bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Edward Drwinski, R-III., a supporter, called the amendment "a compromise" favored by those who feel the Peace Corps has become politicized in the Action agency and those who wanted to operate more in concert with U.S. foreign aid programs.

Rep. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., an opponent, said the amendment would "transform the soul of the Peace Corps from a person-to-person, non-political agency into an agency which is wrapped in development programs."

Roll Call Report



Members voting nay wanted to keep the Peace Corps where it is now.

Reps. Carl Purcell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Twp., voted yea.

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

RHODESIA — By a vote of 180 for and 190 against, the House rejected a plan to send a team of official U.S. observers to the mid-April elections in Rhodesia. The elections are to determine whether the country adopts the "internal settlement" proposed by Prime Minister Ian Smith to end white domination of Rhodesia. The vote came

during consideration of HR 3324 (see vote above).

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., said a vote in favor of sending the delegation "simply puts us on the side of a new freely elected black majority government in Africa and against... the terrorists, the bombers, those who shoot down planes, those who make our policy in the State Department and those who gather on the floor of the House and support that policy."

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., an opponent, said that if the House voted to send observers, "by tomorrow morning every key figure in Africa is going to (conclude) that the U.S. House of Representatives has decided to throw its weight behind the internal settlement."

He said the U.S. should be neutral at this time.

Members voting yea generally were sympathetic to the "internal settlement" proposed by Ian Smith.

Broomfield voted yea.
Purcell, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Bonior voted nay.

STATE DEPT. — The House refused, 135 for and 236 against to kill a new agency proposed for the State Department. The vote came during debate on HR 3324 (see above votes). It paved the way for establishing the Institute for Scientific and Technological Cooperation at a first-year cost of \$25 million. A chief mission of the institute would be to increase the role of U.S. science and technology in helping underdeveloped countries.

Rep. Don J. Pease, D-Ohio, a supporter, said the institute "is an awfully good investment of our time and effort to build an indigenous capacity within those nations to use science and technology for their own development."

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., an opponent, questioned the need to create "a brand new bureaucracy" at a time he suspects most of its proposed functions are "already being carried out by other agencies of the government..."

Members voting "nay" favored establishing the State Department research and development agency.
Broomfield, Purcell, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted nay.
Bonior did not vote.

SENATE

SCHOOL PRAYER — The Senate voted 53 for and 40 against to shelve an amendment allowing prayers to be said in public schools. The prayer amendment would counter the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that school prayers breach the constitutional separation of church and state. This vote stripped the amendment from the bill (S 210) establishing a Department of Education. Final action on the bill is pending.

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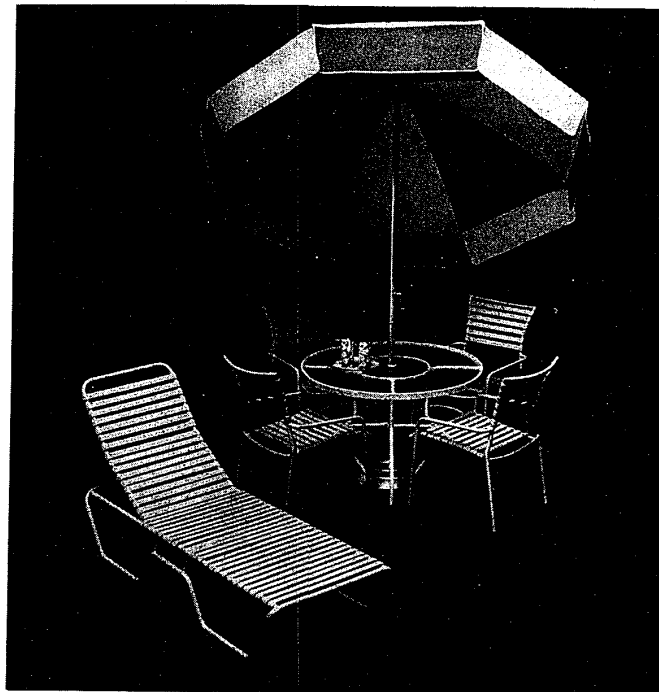
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