

House trims non-military foreign aid

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded recently on major record votes.

HOUSE

CORRUPTION? — The House rejected, 191 for and 246 against, an amendment to remove the Zaire government as the distributor of U.S. surplus rice in that country. The amendment sought to have private relief organizations distribute the rice, bypassing the existing government system of middlemen who drive prices up and diminish chances of the rice reaching the underfed. The vote came during debate on HR 3214, a foreign aid bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., the sponsor, said that continuing government distribution would "provide food for the engine of corruption in that country (but) do nothing whatsoever it actually provide food for the hungry people of the country."

Rep. Clement Zablocki, D-Wis., an opponent, said steps are being taken to clean up the alleged corruption, and added that adoption of this amendment would "undermine the work of our embassy and AID mission" in Zaire.

Members voting "yes" wanted private distribution of rice to the people of Zaire.

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, and William Broadhead, D-Detroit, voted "yes."

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Ford, D-Taylor, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Broadhead, R-Birmingham, voted "no."

Roll Call Report



FOREIGN AID — By a vote of 118 for and 277 against, the House cut five percent from the approximately \$4 billion fiscal year 1985 non-military foreign aid bill.

The cut affected all budgetary categories for American overseas and humanitarian aid, the Food-for-Peace program and countries in the Middle East.

The bill HR 3214 later was passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., a supporter of the cut, said the foreign aid bill has "some judicious pruning" in a year when the budget is facing a \$10 billion deficit.

Rep. John Berman, R-Md., an opponent, said that with foreign aid programs "we help to build a world in which we can live more securely and a world where people rather than starving like flies will become active trading partners" such as Taiwan and Korea.

Members voting "yes" opposed rising spending for non-military foreign aid.

Pursell, Ford, Broadhead, Blanchard and Broadhead voted "yes."

Bonior voted "no."

FOREIGN AID — The House voted 119 for and 277 against in favor of a one-year rather than two-year foreign aid bill. Later the House passed the bill HR 3214 "Vote sent to the Senate."

The measure authorized about \$13 billion for non-military foreign aid in fiscal year 1985.

Supporters of the one-year funding period said the foreign aid bill is usually the only vehicle House members have for directly influencing U.S. foreign policy. They said they wanted an annual opportunity to vote on such issues as U.S. policy toward the Middle East and Africa.

Opponents of the one-year provisions said that a two-year cycle is preferable because it allows interagency planning and more effective foreign department administration of the U.S. foreign aid program.

Members voting "yes" wanted to bring to drive annual foreign aid bill, but control over the foreign aid bill.

Bonior and Broadhead voted "yes."

Ford, Broadhead and Broadhead voted "yes."

SENATE

SUPREME COURT — The Senate passed, 49 for and 51 against, a bill that required the Supreme Court of the "United States" to hear certain appeals. The bill S 484 was sent to the House.

It is believed the bill will have a good chance of passing. But the court is supposed to be in recess for a few months of time — for instance, when a federal district court must have a judge in attendance.

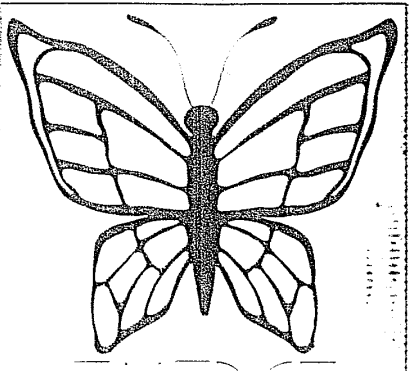
The Justice Department and Supreme Court justices favored S 484.

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-Mont., an opponent, said the bill will give the court "too much flexibility" to turn away cases that break to new high ground the concentrated cases in one area.

Sen. James Buckley, R-N.Y., an opponent, said he would vote against the bill because more time is needed to study what a bill of this kind would do to the federal courts to prevent their work to the highest court of the land.

Senators voting "yes" favored giving the Supreme Court virtually total authority in deciding which appeals it will accept.

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



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