

# House cuts tax proposal on 'windfall' oil profits

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the July 4 recess.

## HOUSE

**WINDFALL PROFITS** — The House adopted 236 for and 183 against, an amendment reducing from 70 to 60 percent a proposed tax on "windfall" oil company profits. Such profits will occur when federal price controls are lifted from domestic oil, allowing today's artificially depressed price to rise to world market levels. The amendment also set a 1990 expiration date for the tax. As approved later and sent to the Senate, the windfall bill (HR3919) was weaker than the version sent to the floor by the Ways and Means Committee but tougher than President Carter's proposal.

Supporters of the amendment said a lower tax rate would encourage domestic oil production. "Your constituents may think (a tax) is necessary to protect them from profits that will be made by decontrol, but our constituents also want more energy," said Rep. Henson Moore, R-La.

Opponents favored a higher tax, with the revenues used to find new energy supplies. "When (the oil companies) get these profits in their hands, they might decide that something else, not energy at all, would yield a better return," said Rep. Joseph Fisher, D-Va.

Members voting yea wanted oil companies to keep a larger share of windfall profits resulting from decontrol of oil prices.

Reps. William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Township, voted yea.

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

**FRAUD AND WASTE** — The House adopted, 263 for and 152 against, an amendment cutting \$500 million from the \$73.6 billion fiscal 1980 budget for the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). The cut applies to HEW programs where audits show excessive fraud and waste. The amendment was attached to HR 4399, later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Robert Michel, R-Ill., the sponsor said: "I think it is important that we continue to hold HEW's feet to the fire on the matter of waste, fraud and abuse."

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., an opponent, said the amendment would penalize states because HEW would pass the cut through to state allotments for Medicaid and Aid to Families with Dependent Children. "My own state is going to lose \$18 million in federal sharing money this year," he said.

Members voting yea favored the amendment.

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

**RHODESIA SANCTIONS** — The House defeated, 147 for and 242 against, an amendment to require President Carter to lift the embargo on U.S. trade with Zimbabwe-Rhodesia on Dec. 1. Later, the House passed a bill (HR 4439) giving Carter discretion to lift sanctions as early as Oct. 15 if he so

chooses. This issue will be resolved in conference with the Senate, which has voted to immediately end the sanctions.

Rep. Eldon Rudd, R-Ariz., a supporter, said: "The U.S. should provide this opportunity for the new nation to demonstrate its strength."

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., an opponent, said lifting the embargo would allow the Soviet Union to portray itself as the champion of majority

rule in southern Africa, "while simultaneously portraying us as the defenders of minority domination."

Most members voting yea are sympathetic to the new Rhodesian-Zimbabwe government of Bishop Abel Muzorewa; most member voting nay want to take a harder line against his government and continue the U.S. trade embargo against the African country.

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

## SENATE

**VIRGIN ISLANDS** — By a vote of 35 for and 43 against, the Senate rejected an amendment to delete \$20 million earmarked to the Virgin Islands government during the current fiscal year. The amendment was offered to a supplemental appropriations bill (HR 4289), later passed and sent to confer-

ence with the House.

The Virgin Islands, a U.S. territory, receives a payment from the U.S. Treasury based on the amount of federal taxes paid by island residents. The \$20 million is an additional appropriation requested by the island government to cover an expected deficit in its fiscal 1979 budget.

Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., sponsor of the amendment, said: "This problem comes up year after year . . . If they are unwilling to enact a surtax as recommended by Congress and their own governor, (and) feel the necessity

of raising the pay of their legislators by 66 percent . . . then I say let them pay for it themselves."

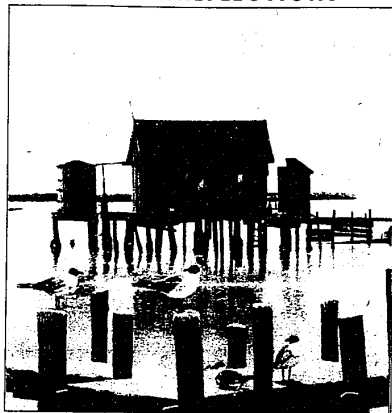
Sen. Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., an opponent, said: "I do not see anyone on the floor of the Senate advocating income tax increases here in the U.S. to offset the deficit which we are obviously going to have . . . When one comes into court seeking equity, he should come with clean hands."

Senators voting nay favored the additional payment to the Virgin Islands. Sen. Donald Riegle, D, voted yea. Sen. Carl Levin, D, voted nay.

## Roll Call Report



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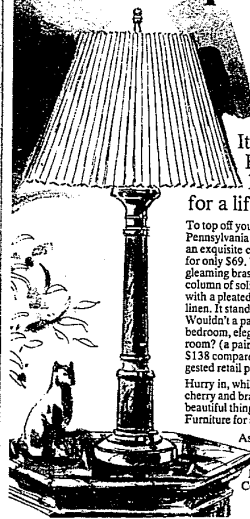
Using an average per automobile of 16 miles traveled on each gallon of fuel, gasoline consumption would total 15 million gallons daily.

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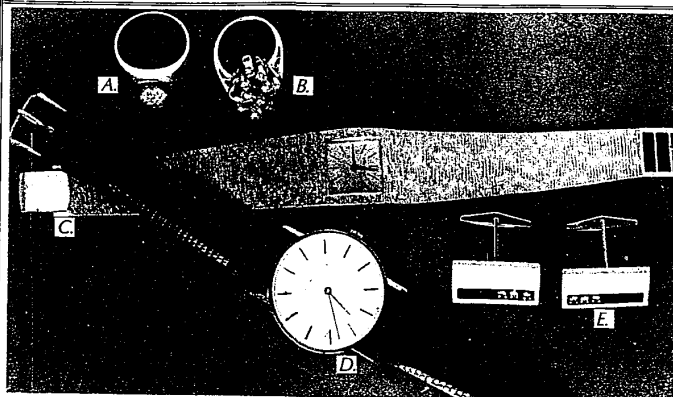


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