

Congress clings to secret funds, electoral college

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

HOUSE

SPY BUDGET — The House rejected, 79 for and 321 against, an amendment requiring public disclosure of the total amount spent on foreign intelligence in fiscal 1980. The one-time-only disclosure would have applied to the aggregate budget of the CIA and 10 other U.S. agencies that spy overseas. It was proposed to HR 3821, an authorization bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., the sponsor, said disclosure of the total figure would not weaken national security, and that "the intelligence agencies, like all arms of government, must be

accountable to the Congress and to the public." Rep. William Whitehurst, R-Va., an opponent, said publication of the aggregate amount "will lead to revelations of more and more detail about our intelligence programs and budget. This will damage intelligence and our security."

Members voting "yes" favored public disclosure of the total foreign intelligence budget for fiscal 1980.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, and William Brodhead, D-Detroit, voted "yes." Reps. William Ford, D-Taylor, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge and William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Township, voted "no."

EDUCATION DEPT. — By a vote of 210 for and 206 against, the House

passed a bill (\$210) creating a cabinet-level Department of Education. The new department would absorb the U.S. Office of Education (now in HEW) and other education agencies and programs scattered throughout the government. The bill, weighted with school-prayer and anti-abortion amendments, now goes to conference with the Senate.

Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Tex., a supporter, said: "We will have done what we always talk about doing; that is, just to make the federal government a bit more efficient, a bit more responsive."

Rep. L.H. Fountain, D-N.C., an opponent, said: "Enactment of this bill will mean that state and local educators will soon be mere administrative agents of the Washington educational bureaucracy."

Members voting "yes" favored a separate education department.

SEMTA fares go up Sept. 1

Bus and rail customers of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) will pay more to ride it beginning Sept. 1.

The SEMTA board of directors this week unanimously approved a five cent increase in base fares to 55 cents. Travel zone charges will remain the same at 15 cents.

The base fare covers travel through two zones.

The base fare hike is the first in eight years.

The fares for passengers aged 18 and

under will also increase a nickel to 35 cents.

A SEMTA spokeswoman said the increased fares will raise \$500,000 more operating revenue and allow the transportation authority to "maintain its current ratios of revenue to cost."

The new fares will put a one-way commuter rail trip from Birmingham to Detroit at \$1.15. The tripon bus will be \$1.

The board decided to maintain the 25 percent discount on SEMTA cards and the 10 percent discount on 10 exact fare tickets.

Roll Call Report



Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "yes."

Broomfield voted "no."

POSTAL SUPERVISORS — The House passed, 306 for and 94 against, a bill giving postal supervisors the right to arbitrate wages, fringes and other job issues with top Postal Service management. There are about 38,000 supervisors among 650,000 post office employees. The bill (HR 927) was sent to the Senate. Although the supervisors are classified as management personnel, organized labor is sympathetic toward the bill.

Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., a supporter, said the bill is necessary because top management has taken too lightly the legal requirement that it "consult" with supervisors on job matters. He added that "this is not a collective bargaining bill as some have attempted to purport."

Rep. William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., an opponent, said the bill "could set a dangerous precedent for the granting of collective bargaining rights to supervisors throughout all government agen-

cies and into the private sector."

Members voting "yes" favor granting arbitration rights to postal supervisors.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "yes."

Broomfield voted "no."

SENATE

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

— By a vote of 51 for and 48 against, the Senate failed to muster the two-thirds majority needed to approve a constitutional amendment abolishing the Electoral College and replacing it with direct, popular election of a president.

The amendment (SJR 28), seeks to remove the possibility of a candidate winning in the Electoral College while losing the popular vote. Its future is now bleak.

Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., a supporter of the constitutional amendment, complained that the Electoral College gives the least-popular states disproportionate power in the selection of a president. "Some voters are more important than others because of the state

in which they reside," he said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, an opponent, said the Electoral College is part of a mechanism to give representation to states as political entities, and was "deliberately designed to cushion the election of the president... from direct democracy."

Senators voting "yes" favor direct election of the president.

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

NEW AID AGENCY — The Senate refused, 45 for and 51 against, to prevent the creation of a new U.S. foreign aid agency. This and a similar House vote clear the way for the International Development Cooperation Agency (IDCA) to be established under an executive order issued by President Carter. The IDCA will absorb the Agency for International Development (AID), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and most other non-military foreign assistance agencies. No longer the province of the State Department, foreign aid will be administered by an independent agency directly answerable to the White House.

Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., a supporter of the move to kill the proposed IDCA, called the reorganization "a half-hearted attempt to meet ill-defined goals," and said that it would only "mask a failure to solve basic problems behind a veil of illusory progress."

Senators voting "no" favored establishing the new foreign aid agency.

Riegle and Levin voted "no."

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