

# House grants wheelchair lifts longer ride

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the House and Senate recessed for the Democratic National Convention.

## HOUSE

**HELPING HANDICAPPED** — By a vote of 190 for and 217 against, the House refused to water down a Department of Transportation regulation requiring that municipal buses bought with federal grants be equipped with wheelchair lifts. The amendment sought to give cities the "local option" to choose means other than lifts to satisfy the federal law insuring the handicapped access to mass transportation. It was offered to an appropriations bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Tex., the sponsor, said that while in his district feels that special vans would serve the handicapped better than life-equipped buses. He said "local communities (need) to determine how best to meet the needs of the handicapped."

Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill., an opponent, said that "as a result of this (law) we have tens of thousands of handicapped people who are employed and able to get jobs . . . and pay taxes who before did not have that opportunity."

Members voting yea favored the local-option approach in providing mass transportation for the handicapped.

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

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodeur, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted nay.

Rep. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, did not vote.

**TWO PERCENT CUT** — The House rejected, 191-206, an amendment to inflict a 2 percent across-the-board cut in the \$12 billion Department of Transportation appropriations bill for the fiscal

## Smut in the fields is bunt on the land

Common bunt, also known as stinking smut, is reappearing in Michigan wheat fields.

Bunt was a problem disease during the first half of the century but was brought under control in 1950s through the use of volatile mercury seed treatment. In 1970, the use of volatile mercury in agriculture was banned as an environmental hazard.

In 1975, bunt was found in two Michigan wheat fields. In 1977, evidence of bunt was found in six lower peninsula counties.

"Bunt is occurring again this year in wheat fields planted with seeds one or two years removed from certified," says Pat Hart, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service plant pathologist.

To prevent bunt from again reaching the epidemic stage, Hart recommends that all wheat seed be treated.

"It's advisable for seed that is one or more years removed from certified to be submitted to a commercial slurry treatment," he says. "Several chemicals such as pentachloronitrobenzene (PCNB), hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and thiram are used to control bunt. Carboxin is effective against both bunt and loose smut."

For management of other common wheat diseases, like root rots, leaf rust, cephalosporium stripe and powdery mildew, Hart recommends that wheat be planted no sooner than 10 days after the Hessian fly-free date.

"Several years of research at MSU has shown that late planted has fewer disease problems and gives higher yields," he says.

Hart also suggests that, for best results, growers plant only Michigan recommended wheat varieties.

year that begins Oct. 1.

Rep. Clarence Mier, R-Ohio, the sponsor, said: "The 2 percent reduction will take only \$230 million. There are many areas in the bill where that 2 percent can be reduced."

Rep. Silvio Conte, R-Mass., an opponent, said the proposed cut means "we are either going to take the money from the Coast Guard (or) from air safety, from the Federal Aviation Administration, or you are going to take it from mass transit or Amtrak. Those are the areas where you are going to take it and there is no room in this budget."

Members voting yea favored the 2 percent reduction but did not specify which programs they would cut.

Pursell, Brodeur, Blanchard and Broomfield voted nay.

## roll call report

Bonior and Ford did not vote.

## SENATE

**ZIMMERMAN NOMINATION** — The Senate confirmed, 68-27, the nomination of Republican Don A. Zimmerman to be a member of the five-person National Labor Relations Board, which adjudicates disputes between labor and management in accordance with laws such as the Taft-Hartley Act. Counting Zimmerman, the board has three Democrats and two Republicans. Conservative Republicans felt Zimmerman would be anti-business.

Sen. Harrison Williams, D-N.J., a supporter, said "the campaign against Mr. Zimmerman . . . springs from a misguided partisanship that is unfortunate . . ."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said that with Zimmerman as a member the NLRB would be tilted 4-1 against business, and that consequently "we are in danger of having labor-management chaos in this country because of the stacking of the National Labor Relations Board."

Senators voting yea wanted Zimmerman to sit on the NLRB.

Sen. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, both Democrats, voted yea.

**ABSENTEEISM** — The Senate voted 74-1 against instructing the Sergeant-at-Arms to call absent senators to the floor. This was necessary to achieve a quorum so that the Senate could vote on a cloture motion to end the filibuster against Don A. Zimmerman's nomination to sit on the National Labor Relations Board. The cloture attempt failed, but the next day the Senate ended the filibuster and confirmed the nomination (see preceding vote).

Senators voting yea wanted to improve attendance on the Senate floor so business could be conducted.

Riegle and Levin voted yea.

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