

# Abortions denied fed employees; Alaskan wilds won't be tamed

WASHINGTON — Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes after the Democratic National Convention recess.

## HOUSE

**REAPPORTIONMENT** — By a vote of 222-189, the House approved an amendment blocking redistribution of congressional seats among the states until the number of non-citizens is subtracted from each state's population count under the new census. The vote came on an appropriations bill for various government departments that was later passed and sent to the Senate.

The 435 U.S. House seats are allocated on the basis of population after each decennial census, but

## roll call report

critics of this year's count say that including illegal aliens will cause unfair reapportionment.

Rep. Joseph McDade, R-Pa., sponsor of the amendment, said including non-citizens "dilutes and diminishes the citizenship rights of millions of Americans."

Rep. Robert Garcia, D-N.Y., an opponent, said "the Constitution's language is clear and unequivocal: all persons regardless of citizenship shall be counted."

Members voting yea opposed including non-citizens in the population figures used to redistribute congressional seats.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted yea.

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Westland, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Royal Oak, voted nay.

**MORTGAGE SUBSIDY** — The House rejected, by a vote of 117 for and 247 against, an effort to make more new homes eligible for government-subsidized mortgages. The amendment law offered to a housing authorization bill that was later passed and sent to the Senate.

Currently, homebuyers with incomes at least 5 percent below the median for their areas can receive interest subsidies on mortgages up to \$44,000. The government pays as much as all but 4 percent of the interest on the loan. The defeated amendment would have increased the maximum subsidized single-family home mortgage to \$131,250, and would have made eligible those with incomes as high as 20 percent above the median.

Members voting yea favored larger subsidized mortgages.

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

Pursell did not vote.

**PRIVATE SCHOOLS** — By a vote of 308 for and 85 against, the House blocked the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from reviewing admissions policies of tax-exempt private schools. Acting in response to a court ruling, the IRS proposed to take away the tax exemptions of schools it found guilty of racial discrimination. The amendment was offered to an appropriations bill (see first vote above).

Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., R-Calif., a supporter of overruling the IRS, asked, "Are we going to next require churches or parishes or synagogues to reflect the racial makeup of the community in which they are built?"

Members voting yea opposed the IRS review of private schools.

Pursell, Ford, Blanchard and Broomfield voted yea.

Bonior and Brodhead voted nay.

**ABORTION** — The House approved, 228-170, an amendment prohibiting federal employees' health insurance plans from paying for abortions. The amendment to an appropriations bill (see first House vote) was the latest in a series of legislative efforts to prevent use of federal funds for abortions.

Rep. John Ashbrook, R-Ohio, sponsor of the amendment, said, "There are millions of citizens who strongly object to their tax dollars being used to pay for abortion — an act they see as morally and constitutionally reprehensible, the killing of a human life."

Rep. Peter Peyser, D-N.Y., an opponent, said, "We are not only violating a contractual arrangement with our federal employees, we are actually saying to the young woman — 'Look, we do not care what happens to you.'"

Members voting yea opposed abortions funded through the government contribution to federal employees' health insurance.

Bonior and Broomfield voted yea.

Pursell, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted nay.

## SENATE

**ALASKA** — By a vote of 63-25, the Senate provided the three-fifths majority needed to halt a filibuster and clear the way for passage of a bill designating 105 million acres of Alaska as national parks, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges off limits to most types of development. Those favoring greater use of Alaska's timber and minerals had used prolonged debate to block the bill, which was later approved and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., who favored cutting off debate and supported the Alaskan lands bill, said: "I do not think one senator should be in a position to frustrate the will of 99 others."

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, an opponent of ending debate and of the legislation, said: "We can have our cake and eat it too. We can have wilderness, we can have parks, we can have oil and gas, we can have minerals, and we can have a tourism industry."

Senators voting yea favored breaking the filibuster and clearing the bill for a final vote.

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

**FINAL PASSAGE** — The Senate passed 70-14, a bill setting aside for preservation 105 million acres of Alaska (see vote above).

Senators voting yea favored the Alaska lands bill. Riegle and Levin voted yea.



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