

Senate rejects extra \$\$ for hostages' pensions

WASHINGTON — Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 11-17.

HOUSE

NERVE GAS — The House rejected, 125-276, an amendment to delete nerve gas money from the fiscal 1981 defense appropriations bill. Defeat of the amendment left \$19 million in the bill for use in preparing an Army facility at Pine Bluff, Ark., for the possible manufacture of binary nerve gas. Since 1969, the U.S. has not added to its stockpile of chemical weapons. The bill was passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., a supporter of the amendment, said: "Chemical weapons are every bit as repulsive as nuclear. Their recent use in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, as well as their stockpiling in Europe on both sides of the Iron Curtain, pose a great if not greater threat to world order than that posed by nuclear warheads."

Opponent Jack Edwards, R-Ala., said nerve gas is a "horrible weapon" but that "we have to live in the real world, and we know that the Soviet Union continues to move forward with chemical gases."

Members voting yes wanted all nerve gas money cut from the bill.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth; David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens; William Ford, D-Taylor; and William Broadhead, D-Detroit, voted yes.

Reps. James Blanchard, D-Royal Oak, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted nay.

DEFENSE CONTRACTS — The

House voted, 220-179, to allow the Department of Defense to direct procurement contracts for general goods and services (not weapons) to high-unemployment areas. This repealed the so-called Maybank amendment which since 1953 has prohibited targeting of Pentagon contracts to help local economies. The vote occurred during debate on H.R. 8105 (see preceding vote).

Rep. Matthew Rinaldo, R-N.J., a supporter, said: "There has been an appalling disparity in the amount of defense contract money spent" in the Sun Belt as opposed to the Northeast and Midwest.

Opponent Bill Chappell, D-Fla., said "military procurement... is no place for us to attempt social programs." Members voting yes favored the targeting of defense procurement contracts to economically depressed areas.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Broadhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted yes.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE

By a vote of 235-150, the House sent to the President for his signature legislation revamping the federal crop insurance program. The bill will replace the disaster payment program of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. (FCIC) with taxpayer-subsidized insurance that eventually will cover most crops in virtually all counties of the country; the existing disaster program covers a few major crops in a limited number of counties.

Supporter Ed Jones, D-Tenn., said the bill "builds upon established institutions by utilizing 40 years of FCIC experience and the great resources and talents of the private sector and will benefit farmers, the insurance industry and the taxpayer."

Opponent Kent Hance, D-Tex., referred to recent revelations of wrongdoing at top levels of the FCIC and said: "The top four people have been asked to step down because of a scandal. Now we are passing a bill that will give more power and more authority to that agency. I think it is a bad policy."

Members voting yes wanted the bill expanding the FCIC to become law.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Broadhead and

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try and the taxpayer."

Blanchard voted yes. Broomfield voted nay.

NERVE GAS — By a vote of 52-30, the Senate approved the spending of \$3.2 million next fiscal year to begin preparing a facility at the Army's Pine Bluff, Ark., Arsenal for possible production of binary nerve gas. (See first House vote.) The vote came during debate on a military construction bill that passed and sent to conference with

the House.

Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., the sponsor, said that because the Soviet Union "enjoys a preponderant advantage" over the U.S. in chemical warfare preparedness, "there is little or no inducement for Moscow to reach an arms control agreement limiting and reducing chemical weapons."

Senators voting yes favored taking a step toward possible manufacture of nerve gas at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

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

THE HOSTAGES — By a vote of 41-43, the Senate rejected an amendment to enlarge the retirement pensions of foreign service officers held hostage overseas. The proposal, intended pri-

marily to aid Americans held in Iran, was offered to a foreign service bill that was later passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., sponsor of the amendment, said: "It is time for the Senate to speak in terms of encouragement to those hostages and others in the Foreign Service."

Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., an opponent, said the families of the hostages would prefer that Congress approve a more comprehensive bill that is pending in committee.

Senators voting nay either opposed the special benefits or preferred a different legislative vehicle to help the hostages.

Riegle and Levin voted nay.