

Senate nukes uranium nays; airbags supported

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 18-24.

HOUSE

MEDIA CONCENTRATION — The House failed, 215 for and 176 against, to get the two-thirds majority needed to pass a bill dealing with cross-ownership of media. The bill (HR 5228) would put into the U.S. Code the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibiting one company from owning in the future both a newspaper and broadcasting station in the same community, under FCC policy, existing cross-ownership are permitted.

What drew most opposition was a separate provision requiring the FCC to locate a commercial television station in either New Jersey or Delaware, the only states without commercial TV. The two-thirds majority was required by the short-cut parliamentary procedure under which the bill was considered; the bill might be returned to the floor under procedures requiring a simple majority for passage.

Supporter Al Swift, D-Wash., said the bill is "a very modest step toward establishing congressional policy in the broad and complex field of media concentration."

Opponent Mario Biaggi, D-N.Y., said the bill would "force the transfer" of New York City's WOR-TV to New Jersey "a bad if not dangerous precedent of having the Congress, for the very first time, involving itself directly in the area of assigning or re-assigning VHF television outlets."

Members voting yea favored passage of the bill.

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted yea.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Brodhead, R-Birmingham, voted nay.

'GONE FISHIN' — The House passed, 300 for and 97 against, a bill to gradually phase foreign fishermen out of U.S. waters, in hopes of revitalizing

the American fishing industry. Among its many provisions, the bill provides that within 200 miles of U.S. shores, foreign catches would be gradually reduced in rough proportion to the expansion of U.S. catches. The bill (HR 7039) was sent to the Senate.

Supporter John Breaux, D-La., pointed to the "grim fact" that the domestic fishing industry is suffering from foreign competition, and said the bill "will at last set fisheries development in the U.S. on the right course."

Opponent Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said the U.S. "cannot have it both ways — we cannot be highly protectionist — or our own industries and at the same time expect other nations to open their doors freely to our exports."

Members voting yea wanted to protect U.S. fishermen from foreign competition.

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

NUCLEAR FUEL — The House voted, 298 for and 98 against, to block the Carter Administration's plan to sell U.S. nuclear fuel — 38 tons of enriched uranium — to India. Despite this vote, the sale was OK'd when the Senate refused to join the House in thwarting it (see vote below). The vote was on a resolution of disapproval supported by members unhappy that India has not obeyed international controls aimed at slowing the development of nuclear weapons.

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Mich., a supporter of blocking the sale, said that if the transaction goes through "we will in a very real way be encouraging . . . the prospects of nuclear war."

Rep. Mike McCormack, D-Wash., an opponent, said "the bottom line of this issue today has nothing whatsoever to do with nuclear energy, nuclear weapons, or nuclear proliferation. We are not going to deter India in any way from doing what it is doing if we do not ship this fuel to them."

Members voting yea opposed the sale to India. Pursell, Bonior, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted yea. Ford did not vote.

roll call report

SENATE

NUCLEAR FUEL — By a vote of 46 for and 48 against, the Senate refused to block the Carter Administration's planned sale of enriched uranium to India, thus removing any congressional obstacle to the transaction. The vote killed a resolution (see preceding House vote) disapproving of the sale.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, sponsor of the resolution, said "a U.S. capitulation to India could eviscerate our non-proliferation efforts around the world."

Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., an opponent, said the Soviet Union would replace the U.S. as India's nuclear supplier. He asked: "Do we want to dim the lights of Bombay and let the Soviets turn them back on?"

Senators voting yea objected to the

nuclear sale to India. Sen. Donald Riegle voted yea and Sen. Carl Levin voted nay.

CONSULTANTS — The Senate rejected, 25 for and 67 against, an amendment giving consultants better treatment in a fiscal 1981 appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and other agencies. The bill cuts HUD outlays for consultants by \$24 million, EPA outlays by \$11.7 million, and NASA outlays by \$14 million, the purpose of the amendment was to lessen those cuts by unspecified amounts. The bill was passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Harrison Schmitt, R-N.M., sponsor of the amendment, said it was wrong for the Senate to "meat-ax" outlays for consultants "in the absence of any understanding of whether, one, there is any abuse in these three agencies in this area or, two, just what we are talking about . . ."

Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., an opponent, spoke of the "abuse that consultants are visiting upon the federal government (and) the lackadaisical attitude that the federal agencies have about farming out major policy decisions . . . to what I call the shadow government."

Senators voting yea wanted less severe cuts in the HUD, EPA, and NASA outlays for consultants.

Riegle and Levin voted nay.


AIRBAGS — The Senate voted, 48 for and 38 against, to move ahead with the requirement that some U.S. cars in coming model years be equipped with airbags or some other type of passive-restraint device. The vote removed language in a Department of Transportation appropriations bill that would have prohibited spending money to administer the program. DOT regulations now call for limited introduction of passive restraints in standard-size 1982 models; however, Congress may change the rule so that it affects only some models of small cars and begins in 1983. The bill was passed and sent to conference with the House.

Senators voting nay wanted to thwart the passive-restraint program by denying the money needed to administer it.

Riegle and Levin voted yea.

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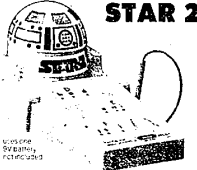
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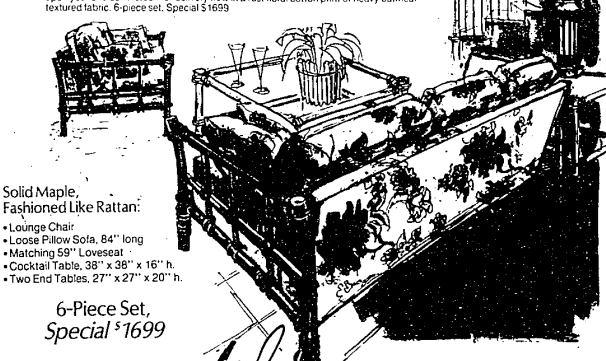
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