

Broomfield lone area rep to vote against ERA

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Nov. 10-16.

ERA — On a tally of 278 for and 147 against, the House fell six votes short of the two-thirds majority it needed to approve the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

Feminist leaders said the vote yielded a hit-list of House members they will target for defeat in next year's congressional elections.

However, many of the 147 members voting no said their opposition was based mainly on the closed rules that governed floor debate. No amendments were allowed and debate was limited to 40 minutes.

The ERA failed to gain ratification by the required 38 states during ten years that ended in June, 1982. It reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Supporter Linda Boggs, D-La., said "the ERA is good for all women and all girls of all ages and all races and I urge its adoption."

Opponent Clay Shaw, R-Fla., said the ERA "would require this Congress not only to draft women in time of war but to subject them to combat."

Members voting yes wanted the ERA added to the Constitution.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit, William Ford, D-Taylor and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Voting no: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

PHONE BILLS — By a vote of 142 for and 264 against, the House rejected a plan to charge phone users monthly fees for the rights to make long-distance calls.

Under the plan, local phone companies beginning in 1985 would have collected \$1-per-month from residential and small business customers. The "access fee" was to reach \$4 monthly by 1988, to cushion it, the plan required AT&T to pay subsidies to help local companies keep their costs down.

The key issue was whether the FCC should require consumers or AT&T to provide the extra local phone companies will need to make a profit after AT&T divests itself of its local operations in January.

The rejected plan was offered to HJR 4120, which as later sent to the Senate blocked the FCC from allowing long-distance access fees.

Tom Tauke, R-Iowa, who sponsored the plan, said that looking "beyond the rhetoric of a 1984 political campaign" it is evident access fees will cause lower local phone bills in the long run.

Opponent Ren Wyden, D-Ore., called access fees "a clear stamping of the consumer."

Members voting yes wanted long-distance access fees added to local phone bills.

Voting no: Pursell, Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Not voting: Broomfield.

NERVE GAS — The House reaffirmed, 258 for and 165 against, its opposition to including \$124 million for nerve gas production in the fiscal 1984 defense appropriations bill (HJR 4189).

This strengthened the House hand against the Senate, which favors renewed production of chemical weapons following a 14-year hiatus begun by President Nixon. A House-Senate conference was to decide whether the Army will equip itself with binary nerve gas.

Supporter Bruce Vento, D-Minn., said "We are bound by treaty and morality to reject such weapons in the name of humanity."

Opponent Samuel Stratton, D-N.Y., labeled as "just baloney" the argument that existing U.S. nerve gas stocks are adequate to offset the Soviets' arsenal of chemical weapons.

Members voting yes were opposed to resumed

production of nerve gas.

Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin, Broomfield.

DEBT CEILING — By a vote of 58 for and 40 against, the Senate approved and sent to the House a measure (HJ Res 308) to increase the national debt ceiling from about \$1.39 trillion to \$1.45 trillion. The new ceiling is expected to suffice until about February, 1984.

Supporter Howard Baker, R-Tenn., said "I do not believe it would be a good thing to precipitate a crisis" by failing to increase federal borrowing authority.

Opponent William Armstrong, R-Colo., said "the least dangerous... course would be to turn the bill down and hold out for the hope of some permanent

roll call report

reform" in federal fiscal policy.

Senators voting yes wanted to raise the debt ceiling so the government can continue to borrow to pay its bills.

Carl Levin, D, voted yes. Donald Riegle, D, voted no.

TUITION CREDITS — By a vote of 59 for and 38 against, the Senate tabled (killed) a proposal to grant tuition tax credits to parents of the 5 million youths attending non-public elementary and sec-

ondary schools.

Advocated by President Reagan, the credit would have lowered parents' taxes by up to \$300 per child by 1985, costing the Treasury \$800 million annually. The amendment was offered to a measure (HJ Res 290) dealing with the 1984 Olympics that awaited final action.

David Pryor, D-Ark., who voted to kill the proposal, said tuition tax credits would cripple public education by causing "a massive shift... to the private schools."

Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said tax credits "would insure that students in non-public schools receive a fair share of assistance from the federal government."

Senators voting no favored tuition tax credits. Levin voted yes. Riegle voted yes.

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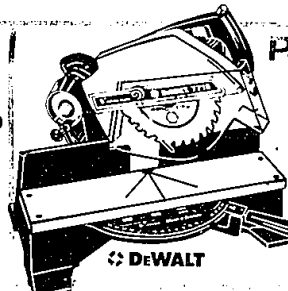
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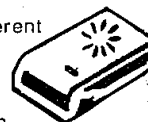
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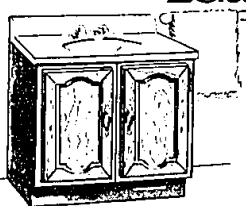
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