

# Ban on credit surcharges extended

Here's how area members of Congress were ranked on major roll call votes in the closing days of the 1983 session.

## HOUSE

**CREDIT CARDS:** By a vote of 349-73, the House passed a bill that extended, from Feb. 21, 1984 to July 31, 1984, the ban on merchants charging more to customers who pay by credit card. The bill (HR 4278) was sent to the Senate.

Supervisor Chalmers Wylie, R-Ohio, said the House needed the extra time to fully study credit-card surcharges and the overall impact of all credit on the economy.

No opponent spoke against the bill. The Reagan Administration opposes the ban as warranted meddling in the private sector. It contends there is little difference between a discount for cash purchases, which is legal, and credit-card surcharges, which is not.

Members voting yes wanted to extend the ban on surcharges for credit-card purchases.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Riegle, D-Detroit, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Lewis, D-Southfield, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**PUBLIC BROADCASTING:** The House rejected, 141 for and 377 against, an amendment to inflict a 10 percent cut — \$46 million — in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting budget for fiscal 1984-85.

The amendment was offered to a spending bill (HR 2765) that later was cleared by both houses and sent to the president. The bill authorized a \$460 million corporation budget over three years.

Although the agency also runs public television, it was National Public Radio that drew attacks during debate. NPR, which has 280 member stations, this year was forced to fire much of its staff and get new executives after mismanaging itself into deep debt.

Sponsor Mike Ozy, R-Ohio, said the budget cut was warranted in view of "serious questions that have been raised about the efficacy and the fiscal management of NPR."

Opponent Timothy Wirth, D-Colo., asked: "Do we want to have an informed American public, or do we want to continue to jab away and cut away at the ability of 230 million Americans to be informed?"

Members voting yes on the cut were Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no: Hertel, Ford and Levin.

## roll call report

**REFUGEES:** The House passed, 300-99, and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 3729) to extend for two years the program for resettling refugees — those who enter the U.S. to escape persecution.

Some 72,000 refugees are to be admitted in fiscal 1984 under quotas set by the administration: 1,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 3,000 from Africa, 6,000 from the Near East, 12,000 from the Soviet Union and 50,000 from East Asia.

The bill authorizes \$100 million annually for job training, English language training and other social services, \$30 million for communities with large refugee populations, and \$14 million for medical treatment of arriving refugees.

Supporter Roman Mazzoli, D-Ky., said the measure "will help refugees assimilate into the American mainstream quickly... without unnecessary reliance on the welfare system."

No opponent spoke against the bill. Members voting yes favored spending

\$100 million annually on refugee resettlement.

Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.

Voting no: none.

Not voting: Ford.

## SENATE

**DISCLOSURE:** By a vote of 51-40, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment whose effect was to require publicly held corporations to continue providing stockholders with detailed information on the compensation of company executives.

Senators favoring full disclosure (voting no) were trying to block a Securities and Exchange Commission ruling that will enable companies to disclose the cost of salaries, fringe benefits and perquisites in abstract form.

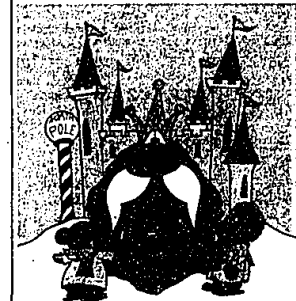
Both of Michigan's Democratic senators, Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, voted no.

The new rule takes effect Dec. 31. The amendment, which was offered to an appropriations bill (HR 3593) that later became law, sought to delay the rule until Oct. 1, 1984.

Jake Garn, R-Utah, who voted to kill the amendment, said it had no place as part of the appropriations bill.

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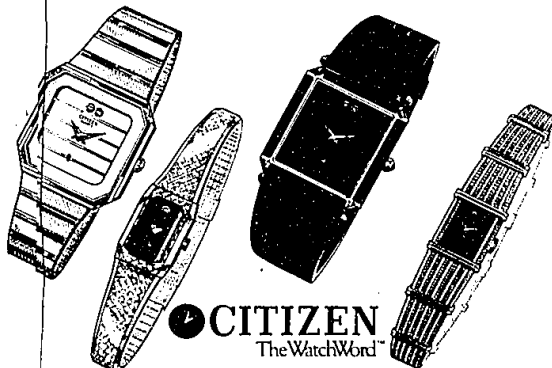


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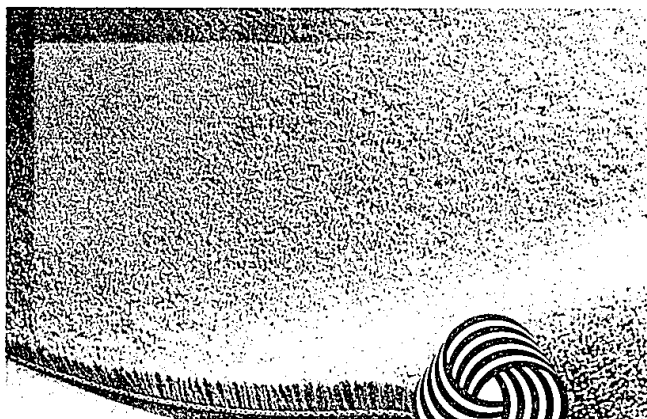
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