

It's thumbs down on school prayer

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes March 15-21.

SENATE
VOCAL PRAYER: The Senate defeated a proposed Constitutional amendment to permit the organized recital of prayer in public schools. The vote of 58-44 was short of the two-thirds majority required for changes in the Constitution.

The proposal to allow spoken prayer was sent to Congress by President Reagan. The Senate also voted on a silent prayer amendment that was less popular with conservatives (below).

Supporter John Warner, R-Va., said the amendment posed no conflict between church and state because it "will allow students to ask for God's blessing in their own way...forbid government-written prayer and continue to forbid the establishment of a state religion."

Opponent Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., said the basic question was: "Is prayer to remain a personal act, a one-on-one relationship between an individual and his or her God, or is it to be an official function of the state?"

roll call report

Senators voting yes favored the spoken prayer amendment.

Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle both voted no.

SILENT PRAYER: By a vote of 81-15, the Senate tabled and thus killed a proposed Constitutional amendment under which public school students could gather for silent prayer sessions.

This was a misleading test of sentiment because it involved a parliamentary maneuver aimed at achieving a clear up-or-down vote on the vocal prayer amendment that conservatives preferred. After the silent prayer amendment was killed, as expected, the Senate held its vote on vocal prayer.

In most cases, a yes vote meant the senator either opposed all prayer amendments or joined

President Reagan in preferring the vocal prayer amendment.
 Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

HOUSE

BANKRUPTCY COURT: The House adopted 250-161 an amendment to set up a new bankruptcy court system under the jurisdiction of the existing federal judiciary.

This replaced a plan to create an independent bankruptcy judiciary with 227 new judges appointed by a president to lifetime tenures. Under the amendment, the will be appointed by federal appeals courts to 14-year terms.

The amendment was attached to a bill to restructure bankruptcy courts in order to comply with a 1982 Supreme Court decision. The high court said judges had too much legal authority and not enough independence.

Members voting yes wanted judges in the new bankruptcy court system to serve fixed terms and be subordinate to the existing federal judiciary. Voting yes: Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.

Checkoff supports endangered wildlife

By Lem Masse
 outdoors writer

Hunters help pay for management of deer herds, bear packs, the elk herd, wild turkeys and pheasants when they buy their licenses.

But what about non-game animals and birds? What about the increasingly rare bluebirds, the dwindling bald eagles, the handfuls of Kirtland's warblers, the loons and barn owls?

The answer comes from Pamela Frueci, president-elect of Concern Detroit Inc. and director of the Downriver Recycling Center.

She reminded us that line 33b of the 1983 state income tax form provides a place for you to check off a \$2 donation for non-game and endangered wildlife. The money will be subtracted from your state tax refund.

Why do this?
 • Game animals are scientifically managed, almost like a herd of cows. State biologists make counts, calculate the amount of feed, make scientific guesses as to how many hunters can safely "harvest" in a season.
 • Federal funding for non-game and endangered species was almost entirely eliminated in 1981.

THE SUNFISH Club of Greater Detroit can teach you how to improve your sailing techniques at a free seminar at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 8. Gathering place will be Meteor Photo Co.'s head-

outdoors

quarters at 1099 Chicago Road, just north of Oakland Mall in Troy.

Derrick Fries, twice world sunfish champion, will be featured speaker.

What is this Sunfish Club? A non-profit, family-oriented group which enjoys racing sunfish sailboats. You can learn more about the club by attending the April 8 seminar or buzzing fleet captain Don Hengen at home (284-1138) or work (868-9878).

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have several nature center programs on tap in the days ahead. Programs are free, but you should register in advance

by calling the metroparks' toll-free number, 1-800-552-6772.

Indian Springs, near Clarkston — "Astronomy — the Night Sky," a family program, 7:30 p.m. Friday, a 45-minute slide show followed by outdoors observation, so dress for the weather.

Keatington, west of New Hudson — "Early Spring Migration" 9 a.m. Sunday, a two-hour walk led by naturalist Bob Hotelling. "What's Up in the Pond," 2 p.m. Sunday, a walk led by naturalist Brian Creel.

Stony Creek northeast of Rochester, Indian Springs and Keatington — all will have 1 p.m. Sunday programs on "April Fool, Nature's Fool." Park naturalists will discuss myths, superstitions and folklore on Michigan flora and fauna.

There is a vehicle admission at the park gate, but the economical way to go is a \$7 season pass good at all metroparks.

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Hours: M-Th: 9:30-5, Fr: 9:30-7, Sa: 9:30-5
 Special Hours: Sunday, April 1, 12 noon-4 p.m.

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