

# Area reps back amusement park checks

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 27 through Oct. 3.

## HOUSE

## rollcall report

**AMUSEMENT PARKS** — By a vote of 300 for and 119 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 5790) giving the federal government power to regulate the safety of amusement park rides.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission could order the repair of defective rides if state and local oversight is non-existent or inadequate. Half of the states lack safety inspection programs for amusement parks.

Sponsor Paul Simon, D-Ill., said most amusement park patrons mistakenly assume that rides have undergone adequate safety checks.

Opponent William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., said "there has been no case made for the extension of federal responsibility into yet another area of human endeavor."

Members voting no were opposed to the Consumer Product Safety Commission gaining jurisdiction over amusement parks.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, D-Birmingham.

**PROTECT** — The House passed, 285 for and 134 against, a bill giving a president statutory power to protect the steel industry against damaging levels of foreign imports. The bill (HR 6301) was sent to the Senate.

In return, steel companies would be required to spend more for new plants and equipment. Also, companies would have to restrain price increases and invest heavily in retraining displaced steelworkers.

President Reagan opposed the bill, which was the Democratic response to his recent refusal to impose trade barriers against imported steel.

The president said he would negotiate voluntary limits on imports. Advocates of the bill said it would give him legal clout to insist that foreign steelmakers curtail shipments to the U.S.

Supporter Don Pease, D-Ohio, said the legislation is needed to prod domestic steel companies into meeting the challenge of foreign competition.

Opponent Barber Conable, R-N.Y., called the bill "the wrong answer to our basic steel industry's problems."

Members voting yes wanted more protection for domestic steel.

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

**LEGAL** — By a vote of 300 for and 87 against, the House passed a bill to extend for one year a tax loophole for participants in group legal services plans.

Such plans are similar to medical insurance plans that employers set up for their workers.

The bill (HR 5361), which was sent to

the Senate, was opposed by President Reagan. It extends the tax break until the end of 1985 and will cost the Treasury an estimated \$54 million in fiscal 1985.

Employer contributions to prepaid legal services plans will remain excluded from income and payroll taxes. This gives employees a financial benefit for which they are untaxed.

Supporter Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., said Congress needs more time to fully evaluate the special tax treatment.

Opponent Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said the bill requires all taxpayers to pay for "expensive tax benefits" for just a few beneficiaries.

Members voting yes wanted to continue special tax treatment for group legal services plans.

Voting yes: Hertel, Ford, Levin, Broomfield.

Voting no: Pursell.

## SENATE

**RIGHTS** — By a vote of 53 for and 45 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to liberalized civil rights laws by making it easier to deny federal aid to institutions that discriminate.

The vote ended Senate consideration this year of a House-passed bill to counteract the Supreme Court's landmark Grove City College ruling. It separated the legislation from a fiscal

1985 appropriations bill (HJ Res 648). The court held that, in most instances of discrimination, federal aid to an educational institution cannot be denied across-the-board but only to individual programs that are discriminatory.

Howard Baker, D-Tenn., said tabling the civil rights measure was necessary to clear the way for congressional adjournment in early October.

Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., called failure to pass the civil rights measure "a sad and shameful chapter in our nation's history."

Senators voting yes wanted to end Senate consideration this year of the civil rights measure.

Voting no: Carl Levin, Donald Riegle, both Michigan Democrats.

**NICARAGUA** — The Senate rejected, 42 for and 57 against, an amendment to prohibit fiscal 1985 financing of CIA-backed insurgents who are fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Senators voting yes wanted to stop financing the anti-Sandinista forces.

Voting yes: Levin, Riegle.

The vote preserved an appropriation of \$28 million for the "Contra" forces. It occurred during debate on HJR 648, the stopgap appropriations bill to pay for most government activities in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

The House previously voted to stop paying for the CIA-directed war against the Sandinistas. Its differences with the Senate were to be resolved in conference over HJR 648.

**SUPERFUND** — By a vote of 38 for and 59 against, the Senate rejected an amendment to increase Superfund spending for toxic waste cleanup. The vote occurred during debate on the fis-

cal 1985 stopgap appropriations bill (HJR 648, above).

Senators voting yes wanted to increase Superfund spending in fiscal 1985.

Voting yes: Levin, Riegle.

The amendment sought to increase the Superfund's five-year spending authority from \$1.6 billion to \$6 billion, and to quicken the government's long-stalled attack on toxic dumps.

Sponsor Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said the operation of the Superfund "affects the health and well-being of millions of Americans."

Opponent Bob Dole, R-Kan., said the stopgap financing bill was the wrong vehicle for the Superfund measure.

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## Easy floaters may be too fat

By Barry Franklin  
special writer

**D**O YOU float rather easily when you jump into a swimming pool? Are you able to pinch an inch or more of skin on your waist?

If the answer to either question is yes, you are probably too fat.

For many years, physiologists and nutritionists have used modifications of these tests to estimate body fatness. Such scientific tests are currently available through many hospitals, health clubs and sports medicine clinics.

**THE BODY** immersion test involves a comparison of the person's weight in air and under water.

The method is based on the principle that fat floats in water, while bone and muscle sink. Consequently, the more fat you have, the more easily you float and the less you weigh under water. On the other hand, the more bone and muscle you have, the more easily you sink, and the more you weigh under water.

Another more practical method for estimating body fatness uses a caliper to "pinch" and measure the skinfold thickness at various body sites. Body fatness can be estimated from such measurements since about half of all body fat is located directly under the skin.

**MOST AUTHORITIES** agree that normal adult men should be 15-18 percent body fat; adult women, 23-25 percent.

If a person's body fat exceeds 25 percent for a male or 30 percent for a female, he or she is classified as overweight or obese.

If you thought that you were lucky because you floated rather easily in water — think again. Research suggests that "floaters" may be more likely to suffer from a host of chronic health problems, including high blood pressure, diabetes, breathing difficulties and heart disease.

A Farmington Hills resident, Barry Franklin is co-director of cardiac rehabilitation at Sinai Hospital and on the medical faculty of Wayne State University.

## Keeping up with real estate changes

How to keep up with the changing world of real estate will be the topic of the Tuesday, Oct. 31, luncheon of the Women's Commercial Real Estate Association.

Judith Wittrop, educational director of the Michigan Association of Realtors, will be speaker at the 11:30 a.m. session at Jacques Restaurant, Southfield. For reservations call Rusty Norman at 442-1694.

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