

Amtrak funding survives House

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 5-11.

HOUSE

AMTRAK — By a vote of 173 for and 245 against, the House rejected an amendment to cut the fiscal 1986 appropriation for Amtrak by 3.7 percent, from \$603.5 million to \$581.4 million.

This was the first test of whether the House is serious about obeying the 1986 budget resolution it approved on Aug. 1.

The resolution set a target of \$55.5 billion in 1986 deficit reductions, including a 15 percent cut in spending for Amtrak, the rail passenger agency.

When coupled with reductions made in committee, this amendment would have deepened the Amtrak cut to the 15-percent target level.

The vote occurred during debate on the 1986 Department of Transportation appropriations bill (HR 3244), which was headed for passage and the Senate.

Supporter Dan Coats, R-Ind., said members should support the amendment because "we declared victory on the budget — we went home and told our constituents that we have enacted meaningful budget reductions."

Opponent William Lehman, D-Fla., said: "I want Amtrak to survive. It has already taken its fair share of cuts."

Members voting yes favored the 3.7 percent cut in Amtrak spending. Voting yes: William, Bloomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Not voting: Carl Fursell, R-Plymouth.

WESTWAY — The House passed, 287 for and 132 against, an amendment to delete money in HR 3244 (above) that was earmarked for the Westway federal highway project in New York City.

Estimates are that the 4.2-mile highway on the west side of Manhattan

rollcall report

would cost between \$2.3 billion and \$6 billion. Federal court decisions have made it virtually impossible for work to begin any time in the foreseeable future, if ever.

This amendment prohibited federal funding of the Hudson River landfill that would be built to hold the highway.

Supporter Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., in whose district the road would be built, called the Westway "a real estate boondoggle . . . posing as a highway project."

Calling Westway "a sound investment of the federal dollar," Mario Biaggi, D-N.Y., who opposed the amendment, said "the construction industry will be working on that Westway for some 10 years."

Members voting yes: Hertel, Bloomfield.

Voting no: William Ford, Levin. Not voting: Fursell.

SENATE

SOUTH AFRICA By a vote of 57 for and 41 against, the Senate fell short of the three-fifths majority needed to silence a filibuster in behalf of President Reagan's South Africa policy.

Senators voting yes preferred congressional sanctions against South Africa to the softer executive sanctions. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle both voted yes.

The talkathon blocked likely Senate passage of legislation (HR 1460) that would impose economic sanctions against South Africa that are slightly tougher than those Reagan has ordered by executive decree.

The sanctions bill has passed the House. It goes beyond Reagan's order, primarily by adding new sanctions if, after a year, Pretoria has not significantly liberalized its apartheid policies against non-whites.

Both the congressional and presidential sanctions ban most new bank loans to the South African government and prohibit the export of U.S. computer technology to agencies that operate the apartheid system.

Alan Cranston, D-Calif., who voted to silence the filibuster, said Reagan's executive order was tainted by "the sweeping endorsement of (it) by Jerry Falwell, an apologist for the racist South African regime."

David Durenberger, R-Minn., said the president "has taken a very distinct position against apartheid . . . he is committed to changing the internal policy of the South African government."

SCHOOL PRAYER — By a vote of 63 for and 34 against, the Senate tabled (killed) a bill to strip the U.S. Supreme Court of its authority to outlaw organized prayer in public schools.

The legislation (S 47) sought to give state and local officials the final word on school prayer. Senators voting yes were opposed to Helms' school prayer bill. Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., who voted to kill the measure, said the bill would "outlaw the Supreme Court" and that he would be "ashamed" to have authored such legislation.

Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who sponsored the bill, said "I certainly am not ashamed of it." Helms added that Article III of the Constitution "bestows upon Congress the right and authority to limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court . . ."

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Feuding in a cow pasture

EVERY YEAR when the football season gets under way, it has been customary to take a trip down Memory Lane to recall one of the most bitter and ferocious games ever played.

It was a feature game in a stadium. It wasn't played in a ball park. It was played in what we called the creek field back home in the Pennsylvania Dutch country.

It was a rather odd display as we had to wait until the cows were through grazing before we could paint lines on the field and clear sufficient ground for the spectators.

THE GAME CAME about when a feud broke out in our high school. It just so happened that none of the fellows who could not complete the four-year curriculum was invited to try out for the school varsity. Only the offspring of the well-to-do were asked, and there were bitter feelings among the dropouts.

Right then, we fellows who were facing rather hard times at home and felt we couldn't finish the term decided we would have our own team.

To gain some sort of recognition, we called ourselves the Boy Scouts, and we practiced under the arc light on the edge of town where traffic wasn't heavy.

Once we got organized, we challenged the high school team for a game on Thanksgiving Day. In fact, we dared them to play us.

The challenge was accepted, but it caused a bit of debate all around town. We Scouts were looked upon as a band of traitors who would dare to upset the official school. Even the teachers preached about it in the morning classes.

FINALLY CAME Thanksgiving Day morning. The creek field was cleared. The goal posts were put in place, and the lines were set to guide the spectators.

From the opening kickoff, every play drew moans or cheers from the crowd, and there were quite a few parents on hand to cheer their boys.

Over night, it had rained a bit, and the field was soggy. But the game went on without a score during the first half. We were a sorry looking sight, all covered with mud — at least we thought it was mud.

There were shouts to score. No one wanted a tie game or one without any scoring.

THE BREAK came with only a few minutes to play. Our Scouts recovered a fumble deep in the school's end of the field. It was the sort of break we had been waiting for.

There was a quick huddle, and it was decided that we would fake a drop kick field goal. In the hancuvering, our fullback dropped back as if to kick.

As the "rich boys" team lined up to spoil a field goal attempt, our fullback, a kid named Tom Har-ly, wrapped his arms around the ball, bowed his head and crashed through the line for a touchdown.

We missed the extra point, but our "poor fellows" won the game, 6-0.

It was a game that never will be forgotten — a game between rivals played in a cow pasture where the field had been cleared.

It resulted in one final rule: The school team no longer was allowed to take on an independent team, whether the boys had ever gone to the school or not.

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