

# Area reps split on milk price supports

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes between Sept. 19-26.

## HOUSE

**MILK** — By a vote of 168 for and 244 against, the House rejected an amendment to attack the problem of milk over-production by lowering federal price supports for dairy farmers.

The vote occurred during consideration of a new five-year farm bill (HR 2100), which remained in debate.

It was a defeat for the Reagan Administration, which praised the amendment as a cost-cutter that would give free-market farmers more of a role in regulating supply and demand.

But it was a victory for farm-state legislators and others who said the farm economy is too fragile to withstand cuts in federal income supports.

The amendment sought to lower the present milk price-support level of \$11.60 per hundred weight by 50 cents annually until it reaches \$10.10, the estimated price at which it no longer would be profitable for farmers to sell their surpluses to the government.

Left intact by the vote was the House Agriculture Committee plan to control production through the incentive of paying farmers to thin out their herds. Price supports would rise slightly as surpluses are cut.

Backers said the committee plan would "cull cows" while the amendment would "cull farmers." Sponsor Robert Michel, R-Ill., said his amendment gave members a choice between "intervention through a cartel-like system, or faith in markets and freedom."

Opponent Arlan Strangeland, R-Minn., said the amendment "would drive countless family farmers out of dairying by repeatedly imposing wrenching price support reductions until dairy supply and demand... are in balance."

Members voting yes favored lowering dairy price supports. Voting yes were Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

Voting no were Democrats Dennis Hertel of Harper Woods, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin of Southfield.

**SUGAR** — The House rejected, 143 for and 263 against, an amendment to reduce the federal support of raw cane sugar by one cent each year below the present level of 16 cents per pound, to a floor of 15 cents.

Beet sugar supports, which are tied to cane supports, also would have been lowered.

The amendment was backed by the Reagan Administration. It was proposed to the new farm bill (above), which would continue the 16-cent level and allow it to rise but not fall during the life of the legislation.

Supporter Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., said the existing federal sugar program, which limits imports and subsidizes growers, "is costing consumers \$3 billion in order to help 13,000 producers."

Opponent Bill Schuette, R-Mich., called the amendment "quite simply a blueprint for the demolition of the American sugar industry."

Members voting yes wanted to lower sugar prices supports.

Voting no: Pursell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin, Broomfield.

## SENATE

**SUPERFUND** — By a vote of 66 for and 13 against, the Senate passed and sent to the House a bill (HR 2005) to extend the Superfund for five more years, at a cost of \$7.5 billion.

The money is to be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up some of America's tens of thousands of abandoned toxic dumps. The money is to be raised by taxes on businesses rather than from general revenues.

Some \$3.4 billion of the outlay would be raised by a new, broadly applied excise tax on producers and importers of certain raw and manufactured goods. The remainder would come from the tax on chemical raw materials that has financed the Superfund since its inception in 1981.

Senators voting yes wanted to keep the Superfund alive and expand its scope. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

**VICTIMS** — The Senate voted, 49 for and 45 against, to delete a section of the Superfund bill (above) that created a demonstration program of federal compensation for victims of toxic waste poisoning.

Costing up to \$30 million annually, the program was to have been tried at up to 10 toxic dumps nationwide. Persons with illnesses linked to the site would have been reimbursed for past and present medical expenses.

## Ballenger appeal rejected by court

The Michigan Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal by former Racing Commissioner William Ballenger.

Ballenger had sought to appeal the decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals. The appellate court said Ballenger was not entitled to serve as racing commissioner and the job rightfully belonged to William Cahalan, appointed to the job by Gov. James Blanchard on Sept. 1.

The high court refused Ballenger's bid for an injunction barring Cahalan from taking the racing chief job. It refused to consider the case of Ballenger.

Until Tuesday, both Cahalan and Ballenger have been occupying offices in the suite in the Mayflower Meeting House building in Plymouth.

Ballenger claimed he was legally supposed to serve a full four-year term of office after he was appointed by then Gov. William Milliken to replace the deceased commissioner, Frederick Van Tien. Blanchard, with the backing of Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley, claimed Ballenger was only serving out the remainder of the term of Van Tien.

Blanchard said Ballenger was entitled to serve only until November 1984. Ballenger said he was entitled to serve until Sept. 23, 1985.

Under the Court of Appeals ruling, which now stands, Cahalan can serve as racing commissioner until Dec. 31, 1985.

Ballenger claimed the appellate decision should not stand because of alleged improprieties of Court of Appeals Judge Richard Maher.

Ballenger claimed Maher had planned to meet with Cahalan and was therefore not qualified to render a decision on Ballenger's case.

## rollcall report

Amendment sponsor William Roth, R-Dei., said the pilot program would evolve into a costly entitlement program at a time when "the Treasury simply cannot afford the potentially very large expenditures..."

Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a foe of the amendment, called the compensation program "at best a safety net" for the poor people who live near toxic dumps.

Senators voting no wanted to create a demonstration program of compensation to victims of toxic waste poisoning. Voting no: Levin, Riegle.

**LIMIT** — By a vote 18 for and 79 against, the Senate rejected an amendment to cut the five-year cost of the new Superfund legislation (above) from \$7.5 billion to \$5.7 billion.

President Reagan has threatened a veto if the

bill retains the higher pricetag when it reaches his desk.

In its first five years, 1981-85, the Superfund environmental cleanup budget was \$1.6 billion.

Supporter Jesse Helms, R-N.C., quoted the Environmental Protection Agency as saying a \$7.5 billion program is too large for it to adequately administer.

Opponent Max Baucus, D-Mont., called the amendment "a smoke-and-mirrors proposal (that) does not provide the funding needed to address the problem."

Senators voting yes wanted to limit the cost of the new Superfund. Voting no were Levin and Riegle.

The amendment sought to lower the present milk price-support level of \$11.60 per hundred weight by 50 cents annually until it reaches \$10.10.

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