

Roll Call Report

House OKs water resources bill

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes during the week ending Nov. 15.

HOUSE

WATER PROJECTS — The House passed, 358 for and 60 against, and sent to the Senate the first major water resources bill it has approved since 1976, a measure that would build some 230 new projects and upgrade about 150 existing ones.

The bill (HR 6) would spend up to \$20 billion over as many as 13 years for navigation, flood control, port development, drainage and other water projects affecting the great majority of the 435 congressional districts and all states except Utah, South Dakota and Vermont.

The White House said the bill is veto-bait because it contains too much pork barrel and is too expensive.

But White House cost-cutters and the environmental lobby praised it for making cost-sharing a major new component of federal water policy. Under cost-sharing, localities and states must help pay for projects that bring them economic benefits.

Members voting yes supported the bill.
Voting yes: William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.
Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods.

VETO OVERRIDE — By a vote of 380 for and 32 against, the House overrode President Reagan's veto of a bill that sets broad policy goals and priorities for biomedical research conducted by the National Institutes of Health.

The Senate, which originally passed the legislation unanimously, was set to also override the veto and make the bill law.

The measure (HR 2409), which is not a money bill, in part requires the NIH to give research priority to afflictions such as arthritis and Alzheimer's disease. Reagan said Congress was unduly injecting itself into NIH affairs.

Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who voted to negate the veto, said lawmakers "feel that if the taxpayer's dollars — \$5 billion a year — are being used for biomedical research, we ought to spell out some of our priorities."

Robert Michel, R-Ill., said he was voting to sustain the veto but that "I certainly do not have my heart in it."

Members voting yes wanted to override the presidential veto.
Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, William Ford, Levin, Broomfield.

PLANT CLOSINGS — By a vote of 215 for and 193 against, the House adopted an amendment that crippled a bill in behalf of workers who lose their jobs when management closes plants or orders extended layoffs.

The amendment was supported by the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S. and opposed by the AFL-CIO. The bill (HR 1816) was called off the floor as a result of this vote.

The bill requires employers with 50 or more workers to give 90 days notice of any plans to close a plant, begin massive layoffs or inflict deep cuts in working hours.

This amendment stripped the bill of its requirement that management consult well in advance with unions to seek alternatives to closings or massive layoffs.

Foes said the requirement would enable unions to obtain court rulings to prevent companies from shutting down or curtailing plant operations, thus putting judges rather than management in charge of a company's destiny.

Steve Bartlett, R-Texas, who sponsored the amendment, said the consultation requirement amounts to "forcing the continued operation of a failed or failing business."

Slivio Conte, R-Mass., said the requirement would give our working people and our communities at least a slingshot against the Goliath of sudden unemployment.

Members voting yes wanted to delete the consultation provision and thus cripple the plant-closing bill.
Voting yes: Pursell, Broomfield.
Voting no: Hertel, William Ford, Levin.

SENATE

IMPORT LIMITS — By a vote of 60 for and 39 against, the Senate passed and sent to conference with the House a bill (HR-1563) that curbs imports of certain foreign-made shoes, textiles and apparel.

The bill's main thrust is to slash textile imports from South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong and freeze at 1984 levels textile shipments from several other countries, most of them Asian.

It also limits non-rubber footwear imports and requires the Administration to seek to reduce copper imports.

President Reagan has all but promised to veto the bill as protectionist, saying it would bring immediate retaliation against farmers and other American exporters.

Supporter Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., said "the American people are sick and tired of watching their nation sink ever lower toward Third-World status while their leaders operate under a free-trade policy that exists only in books."

Opponent Daniel Evans, R-Wash., said "the consumer impact is going to be large" because import quotas lessen competition and drive up prices. "The gross cost is \$10 billion, maybe more per year."

Senators voting yes favored the bill.
Voting yes: Carl Levin, Donald Riegle.

FARM EXPORTS — By the same tally of 60 for and 39 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to exempt countries that buy large quantities of American farm products from stringent new import quotas on textiles, apparel and non-rubber footwear.

The White House-backed amendment exempted from the quotas all nations that import more than \$400 million annually in American agricultural products.

Its chief goal was to prevent Asian textile exporters from retaliating against U.S. farmers. It would have effectively nullified the new legislation (HR 1582; above).

Senators voting no favored the exemption for nations that are major purchasers of U.S. farm products.
Voting yes: Levin, Riegle.

OIL AND GAS REVENUE — By a vote of 54 for and 45 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to the fiscal 1986 budget reconciliation bill (HR 3128) concerning the allocation of oil and gas revenue from tracts lying between three and six miles offshore.

Senators voting yes favored a larger share of OCS oil and gas revenue for the seven coastal states.
Voting no: Levin, Riegle.

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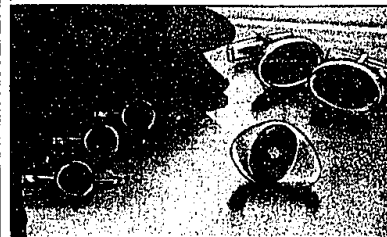
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