Roll Call Report

House acts to limit clothing imports

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending Dec. 6

HOUSE

IMPORT LIMITS: By a vote of 255 to 164, the House passed and sent to the White House a bill limiting imports of textiles, clothing and shoes.

The bill's strictest provisions cut textile and apparel imports from Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong by as much as 30 percent. It limits shoe imports to 60 percent of the U.S. market, and directs the administration to seek to reduce copper imports.

Threatening to veto the bill, President Reagan said he opposes "any protectionist legislation that diminishes competition abroad or here in the United States."

Supporter Marilyn Llyod, D-Tenn., said, "I am very proud this is called protectionist legislation, because . . . we must stand tall in this body and protect our national economy."

Opponent Ed Zschau, R-Calif, said, "This bill will cost us jobs, not save jobs. It will increase the cost of apparel (and) make the United States an outlaw in international trade."

Members voting yes and supporting the bill were: **Dennis Hertel**, D-Harper Woods, **William Ford**, D-Taylor, and **Sander Levin**, D-Southfield.

Voting no were **Carl Pursell**, R-Plymouth, and **William Broomfield**, R-Birmingham.

STUDENT AID: The House passed, 350 to 67, and sent to the Senate a bill that extends the Higher Education Act through 1991 and authorizes $10.6 billion to implement the law in fiscal 1987.

The majority of the money is earmarked for student aid.

To prevent well-off students from receiving federally subsidized education loans, the bill requires a means test of all applicants for a Guaranteed Student Loan. Presently, only students from families with annual incomes over $30,000 must demonstrate need.

The other major form of federal help to college students, Pell Grants to the poor, is liberalized by a provision in the bill raising the maximum annual grant from present $2,100 level to $3,100 by 1991.

Members voting yes favored the bill and included **Pursell, Hertell, Ford, Levin and Broomfield.**

CUT: By a vote of 127-269 against, the House rejected an amendment to cut about $750 million from the Higher Education Act's 1987 pricetag of $10.6 *billion.*

The cut was aimed not at loans and grants to students but at institutional outlays such as aid to campus libraries and black colleges. Defeat of the amendment left about $1 billion for institutions intact on the bill.

Sponsor Steve Bartlett, R-Texas, called the education bill "the largest budget-buster that this House has seen so far this year."

Opponent Augustus Hawkins, D-Calif., termed the amendment "an attack on American education" that the House should repel.

Members voting yes favored the cut in aid to higher education.

Voting no were **Pursell, Ford, Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.**

SENATE

BAILOUT: By a vote of 57-34, the Senate passed and sent to the House a bill making possible a federal bailout of the Farm Credit System (FCS), which is federally-supervised farmer-owned network of some 700 local lending banks.

With nearly $71 billion outstanding in loans, the FCS holds one-third of the nation's $213 billion farm debt and is the nation's sixth largest financial institution.

FCS officials say they may need a federal rescue because too many bad loans — $10 million or more — are draining its assets. Federal backing would help the FCS regain investor confidence, they say.

This bill (S 1884) authorized several management changes the system will make in hopes of averting a request for a bailout. For one thing, weak links in the FCS for the first time will be able to draw on assets of strong banks.

As a last resort, the bill entitles the FCS to an unspecified line of credit with the Treasury Department.

Senators voting yes, including Michigan Democrat **Donald Riegle**, supported the legislation. Democrat **Carl Levin** did not vote.

Oakland bonds get upgrading

Oakland County's credit rating has received a boost that is expected to save the county government millions of dollars in interest payments on future bond sales.

Standard & Poor's upgraded Oakland's long-term credit rating to AA-minus from A-plus after county officials and their financial consultants met with the rating service in New York City.

They presented financial information on a $50 million issue of general obligation limited tax notes.

John R. Axe of Municipal Financial Consultants Inc. (MFCI), one of the county's bond attorneys, said the key to raising Oakland's credit rating was the county's general fund operations from 1978 though 1984. They have shown balanced budgets and substantial reserves each year, even when state government was showing deficits, he said.