

Roll Call Report

House OKs bill to aid victims of terrorists

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending March 21.

HOUSE

AID TO TERRORIST VICTIMS — By a 252-144 vote, the House defeated an attempt to have Congress each year decide the funding of a program that would aid victims of terrorism overseas.

The vote occurred during debate on H.R. 4151, which is a wide-ranging anti-terrorism bill. H.R. 4151, which was later approved and sent to the Senate, would authorize \$4.4 billion for such purposes as strengthening security at American embassies and compensating the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran six years ago.

The bill calls for payments to be automatic and not reviewable by Congress. Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa., sponsored the amendment which would have funding and payments go through Congressional channels each year.

Opponent Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., said: "This is not a huge entitlement. We do not know that it will ever cost anything. . . . But let us be able to say as the U.S. Congress to people working for this government: 'If something happens to you, we are going to take care of your family'."

Voting yes in favor of Walker's amendment was Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

Voting no against the amendment and in favor of automatic payments were: Reps. Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Broomfield, Birmingham.

AID TO CONTRAS — The House rejected, 210 for and 222 against, President Reagan's request for \$100 million in foreign aid for the "contra" army which is battling the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Another House vote and a Senate vote are to be conducted in upcoming weeks.

Supporter Bill McCollum, R-Fla., said that if left unchecked the Sandinista government "will spread its revolution and terrorism to its neighbors and ultimately to the United States."

Opponent Howard Wolpe, D-Mich., said the Reagan Administration "is engaged in the buildup of a permanent military presence in Central America right now, and additional aid to the contras is only another step in the escalation of America's military involvement in the region and the steady march toward war."

Voting yes to support Reagan's request for \$100 million in contra aid were: Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting against the proposal were Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

FEDERAL JUDGE — By a vote of 52 for and 42 against, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Sidney A. Fitzwater, 32, as a federal district judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Although most federal court nominations breeze through the Senate confirmation process, this one was disputed because of something Fitzwater did as a state judge in Texas. On the eve of 1982 voting, Fitzwater reportedly put up large signs in poor neighborhoods that warned against violating the Texas election code. Critics said the signs mistreated Texas law and were designed to intimidate minority voters.

Joseph Biden, D-Del., said Fitzwater has failed "to exercise the necessary judgment or temperament to qualify him to serve in the special and trusted position of a federal court judge."

Supporter Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said: "If you are against the man, of course, you can always find some reason to be against him."

U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, both Democrats, voted against confirming his appointment.

I-696 improvements sought

Plans to widen I-696 and add two interchanges in Farmington Hills were boosted last week by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

SEMCOC also endorsed widening 12 Mile between Orchard Lake and Novi roads and started a corridor traffic study of Haggerty Road in western Oakland County, according to Edward Huestoles, SEMCOG's deputy executive director for planning.

Only Detroit delegates dissented when the SEMCOG General Assembly gave 85-3 approval to amendments in its 2005 regional transportation plan.

The governing body of the seven-county planning agency met last week in the Novi Hilton, which is on Haggerty Road.

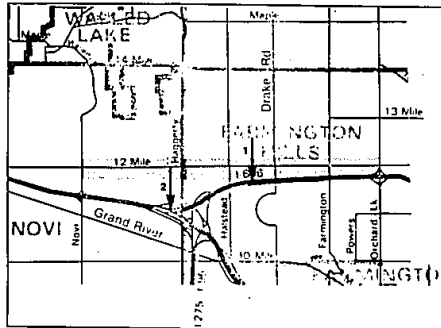
THE I-696 plans endorsed by SEMCOG include:

• Adding an interchange west of Drake Road in Farmington Hills.

• Adding an interchange in the vicinity of Haggerty Road, at the place where I-696, I-96 and I-275 come together in Novi.

Costs of the two projects, both for construction and right-of-way, are estimated at \$20 million.

Currently I-696 in western Oakland has two lanes in each direction and



Arrows show proposed I-696 freeway interchanges. Shading shows proposed 12 Mile widening.

only one interchange west of Telegraph — at Orchard Lake Road.

Last year SEMCOG endorsed widening I-696 to four lanes in each direction

and adding an interchange at Inkster Road.

HUSTOLES SAID the resolution en-

dorses traffic studies on the Haggerty Road corridor and that an environmental impact statement would come later.

SEMCOC's Council on Regional Development suggested the study area run from Eight Mile Road to M-59 in the middle of the county.

Detroit Council President Erma Henderson asked by letter for a more detailed study before any commitment is made to the project, Huestoles said.

Michael Turner, a staff assistant to Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, failed to win an amendment asking for studies of such "indirect" costs as population stimulation, utilities, police and fire protection.

A SIERRA Club representative, in the public comments section of the meeting, warned against any steps toward reviving the M-275 project.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has dropped M-275, which was to be a freeway in the Haggerty corridor from Novi to Davisburg.

The Oakland County Road Commission still favors an M-275 freeway. Current thinking in M-DOT and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is that the Haggerty corridor be a multi-lane, divided state highway.

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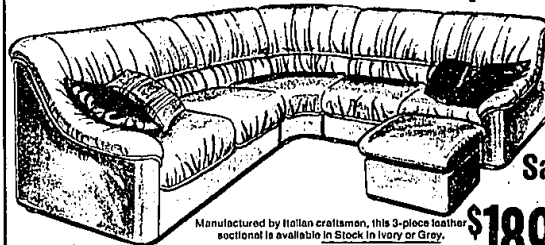
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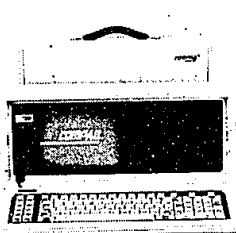
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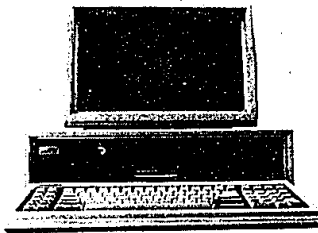
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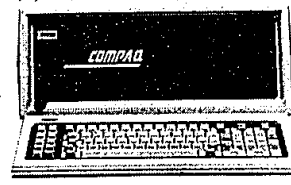
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