

Roll Call Report

Senate passes new appliance standards bill

Here's how Michigan's U.S. senators were recorded on contested roll call votes during the week of light activity that ended Feb. 20. The House was in session but conducted virtually no major business and held no record votes.

SENATE

APPLIANCE STANDARDS — By a vote of 59 for and 41 against, the Senate passed and sent to the House a bill (S 83) setting federal energy efficiency standards for large household appliances.

By 1983, major appliances such as air conditioners and stoves must be brought up to new U.S. performance levels. The federal standards are tougher than, and will pre-empt, a patchwork of existing state requirements.

President Reagan supported the measure, even though he pocket-vetted basically the same bill last year on grounds it infringed on states' rights and the free market.

Supporter Alan Cranston, D-Calif., said the federal standards "will produce electric savings of 22,000 megawatts — the equivalent of the peak output of 22 larger power plants — between now and the year 2000."

Opponent Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said the measure smacked of Soviet-style economic policy. "The bottom line is that the lower-priced models of some appliances are going to be knocked off the market," Gramm said.

Sensors voting yes wanted the federal government to regulate the energy efficiency of certain household appliances.

Voting yes: Carl Levin, Donald Riegle, both Democrats.

ARMS CONTROL — The Senate adopted, 93 for and 2 against, a resolution it hopes will nudge U.S. and Soviet negotiators at Geneva closer to an ironclad arms control agreement.

The measure (S Res 94) carried no legislative weight and did not require House concurrence. Its aim

was to shape public and official opinion in Western Europe, the Soviet Union and the United States.

In part, it warned the Soviets to cease violating the ABM treaty and to stop using arms control to drive a wedge between America and its European allies.

Sensors voting yes supported the resolution. Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

Supporter Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., said the resolution contains much-needed advice for negotiators on both sides if they are to succeed in "reducing the threat of a nuclear holocaust."

Opponent William Proxmire, D-Wis., objected to the resolution's premise that President Reagan is committed to a new agreement, because "this administration is to arms control what (District of Columbia) Mayor Marion Barry is to snow removal... is the Chicago Cubs of arms control."

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ACT is required by many colleges for entry. Instructors focus on test-taking approaches. They analyze the math section of the exam and explain reading comprehension, sentence completion, analogies and analogies.

Directors' shield bill OK'd

AP — The Michigan House approved a bill allowing shareholders to shield their corporate board members from frivolous lawsuits, a move opponents to the measure called bad public policy.

K mart Corp., headquartered in Troy, and other Michigan businesses had threatened to reincorporate in other states if the Legislature did not restrict the financial liability of directors.

The House approved the bill 86-13 Wednesday and returned it to the Senate for concurrence on two technical changes.

All Observer & Eccentric area representatives voted yes except W.V. Brotherton, R-Farmington, and William Keith, D-Garden City, who did not vote.

THE BILL would permit shareholders to grant their directors immunity from certain lawsuits, redefine the standard of negligence from ordinary to gross neglect and thereby limit a board member's financial exposure.

Commerce director Doug Ross joined the companies and said it was one more way to improve the state's business climate.

But House Judiciary Committee chairman Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, whose panel approved the measure over his objections earlier in the day, said the bill usurps the rights of stockholders and was a knee-jerk bow to corporate influence.

Rep. William Bryant, R-Grosse Pointe Farms, said moving a corpo-

ration's legal address was just a "paper move" and "a lot of hype."

K MART vice president A. Robert Stevenson praised the House for giving the bill quick support.

"I think it's great," Stevenson said. "It just modernizes the Michigan law to what the law is in Delaware and other states."

He said the fast House approval means the corporation will be able to give its stockholders the chance to vote on extending the new protection to directors during its shareholder meeting this spring.

Stevenson said there have been cases recently in which directors were sued for \$23 million.

The insurance preplans to protect K mart's directors have sky-

rocketed from \$26,000 in 1983 to \$89,000 this year and the coverage doesn't protect them against hostile corporate takeovers, he said.

Under the bill, directors still could be sued for actions made illegally or for personal gain.

THE BILL'S sponsor, Sen. Richard Posthumus, R-Lowell, said reducing liability would make it easier for corporations to attract the most qualified people to their boards.

"It's becoming difficult for many Michigan companies to get good directors," he said.

But House Speaker Gary Owen, who was sharply critical of the bill during last fall's session, said the legislation's impact was "nothing but perception."

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