

House won't transfer space to housing aid

Here's how area members of Congress were reported on major roll call votes in the week ending June 24.

HOUSE

CUT SPACE PROGRAM — By a vote of 165 for and 256 against, the House rejected an amendment to transfer \$400 million from space program research and development to domestic programs including those for housing, the homeless, veterans and urban development action grants (UDAGs).

The amendment was proposed to a bill (HR 4800) providing \$59.7 billion in fiscal 1989 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Roll Call Report

and agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Veterans Administration.

The bill was sent to the Senate. Sponsor Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said "every district across America has senior citizens who are desperate for housing, but they cannot find it."

Opponent Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said the cut would kill the

space station and put America behind the Soviets in space exploration.

Members voting yes wanted to shift \$400 million from the NASA budget to domestic programs. Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Voting no: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

FAIR HOUSING — The House re-

jected, 116 for and 289 against, an amendment excluding families with children under 18 as a class to be protected by the Fair Housing Act.

The vote preserved language to outlaw landlords' "no children" policies. It came during debate on a bill to strengthen the 1968 Fair Housing Act, in part by giving HUD increased powers to combat discrimination administratively and in federal court.

The bill (HR 1158) remained in debate.

Supporters said their amendment would prevent families from occupying housing set aside for the elderly. They also denounced the family provision as excessive federal authority.

Opponents of the amendment said rental policies that exclude children worsen America's housing shortage and help cause social ills such as drug abuse.

Members voting yes wanted to strip pending fair housing legislation of special protection for families with children under 18.

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

360 for and 53 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 4781) appropriating \$282.6 billion for the Department of Defense in fiscal 1989.

When combined with separate military appropriations of \$17 billion, the bill raises the 1989 defense budget to about \$299.6 billion.

It provides \$80.7 billion for procurement including weapons acquisition, \$78.4 billion for military personnel, \$85.7 billion for operations and maintenance and \$36.1 billion for research and development.

Supporter Bill Chappell, D-Fla., called it "a minimal level bill acknowledging the need to show restraint in overall government spending."

No opponent spoke against the bill.

Members voting yes supported the fiscal 1989 defense appropriations bill. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

SENATE

GREAT SMOOKIES — The Senate failed, 54 for and 42 against, to reach the three-fifths majority it needed to

end a filibuster against legislation designating parts of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as a federal wilderness area.

This shelved the bill (HR 1495), adding environmental protection to the park.

At issue was how the government should meet its 45-year-old promise to build a road in Swain County, N.C., to compensate the area for land it flooded for a hydroelectric project.

Advocates of the wilderness bill said the road, giving access to ancient gravestones, would destroy the environment. They said the government should settle with the county in cash.

Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who mounted the filibuster, said the government must "live up to a commitment it made in writing during World War II to the people who are now being snookered by this proposed bill."

Senators voting yes wanted the Senate to consider the Great Smoky Mountains Wilderness Act. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

Pact to protect environment

Contractors and subcontractors working for the Oakland County Road Commission will be asked to sign an agreement to protect lakes, streams and wetlands from erosion, sedimentation and unnecessary filling, managing director John L. Grubba has announced.

"The Road Commission has had a strong and long-standing commitment to the environment, and we are now formally requesting that contractors working for us share our concern," Grubba said.

"The statement will be part of the formal contract and we will expect its conditions to be honored in full," Grubba said.

SPECIFICALLY, CONTRACTORS will not only agree to install and maintain soil erosion and sedimentation control measures as required by the plans, but are being asked to go beyond the minimum requirements when necessary.

Disposal of excess earth, concrete, asphalt and other debris must be consistent with existing state and local requirements. Filling of wet-

lands, lakes or streams with project soil or debris without permission of the state Department of Natural Resources or the local community will be unacceptable, Grubba said.

Contractors will confirm that permits have been issued before materials are placed.

Further, contractors and subcontractors must agree to inform their employees that intentional damage to lakes, streams and wetlands outside the project limits will not be tolerated by the Road Commission and could have an adverse impact on future contracts.

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