

House votes death penalty for drug killings

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Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 9.

HOUSE

DEATH PENALTY — The House voted, 299 for and 111 against, to allow the death penalty for persons over 18 years of age who kill while committing a federal drug felony. If a jury determines that execution is must impose at least a 20-year prison term.

The amendment was attached to sweeping anti-drug legislation (HR 5210) that remained in debate. The Senate has not yet decided whether

Roll Call Report

to include the death penalty in its version of the drug bill, which lawmakers want to pass before the November congressional elections. Members voting yes favor the death penalty for persons convicted of first degree murder committed in the course of a federal drug felony. Voting yes: Republicans Carl Pursell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

Voting no: Democrats Dennis Hertel of Harper Woods, William Ford of Taylor and Sander Levin Southfield.

DENY BENEFITS — By a vote of 335 for and 67 against, the House adopted an amendment to the anti-drug bill (above) to deny a wide range of federal benefits to certain drug criminals.

Veterans' benefits as well as grants, loans, contracts, licenses and access to public housing would be denied for varying periods to persons convicted once of drug distribution or twice for other drug-related offenses. Exempted from the ban are welfare, Social Security and several other federal programs.

Members voting yes wanted to deny an array of federal benefits to certain drug criminals. Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Levin and Broomfield.

Voting no: Ford.

VETERANS' BENEFITS — By a vote of 124 for and 278 against, the

House rejected an attempt to soften the amendment (see preceding vote) denying federal benefits to certain drug felons.

The softening attempt sought to remove veterans' programs from the list of benefits to be denied drug criminals. And it would have continued benefits to drug criminals seeking or receiving rehabilitation from drugs.

G.V. Montgomery, D-Miss., who supported the substitute, said it would be unfair to deny federal assistance to veterans "who earned their GI bill benefits in the jungles of Vietnam."

Opponent William Hughes, D-N.J., called the substitute "akin to five lashes with a wet noodle" in attacking drug abuse.

Members voting yes favored the substitute amendment. Voting yes: Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

Voting no: Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Although the amendment was attached to the anti-drug bill (above), it would soften rules or evidence for all criminal prosecutions.

Members voting yes wanted federal prosecutors to be able to submit certain evidence obtained without a search warrant. Voting yes: Republicans Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no: Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

TEXTILE QUOTAS — By a vote of 57 for and 32 against, the Senate passed and sent to conference with the House a bill (S 2662) to protect American textile, clothing and non-rubber footwear manufacturers by severely restricting imports from foreign competitors who underprice them mainly because of cheaper labor.

Under quotas set by the bill, affected imports could increase by no more than 1 percent annually over a base figure pegged to 1988 trade levels.

To minimize retaliation against American farmers, the bill offers more favorable textile, apparel and footwear quotas to countries that welcome U.S. agricultural exports.

President Reagan has threatened to veto the bill as excessively protectionist, while supporters argue it is needed to preserve tens of thousands of jobs.

Sensors voting yes supported the bill. Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

Metro economy up — purchasing agents

Metropolitan Detroit purchasing managers reported a modest gain in business conditions during August.

That was in contrast to findings of their colleagues in the National Association of Purchasing Management.

The Purchasing Managers Association of Detroit (PMAD) reported the composite index increased to 62.3 in August from 61.3 in July. This represents the highest PMAD composite reading of 1988 and the highest level attained since January 1986. Any composite index exceed-

ing 50.0 signifies expansion.

"No significant letup is yet evident in the general tenor of local business, judging from responses of Detroit purchasing managers," said David L. Littmann, first vice president and senior economist with Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit. Littmann records and interprets PMAD monthly surveys.

"BETWEEN THE strong manufacturing sector and the auto and auto supplier firms — which together

comprise 75 percent of respondents — there appears to be optimism extending through the balance of the year," he added.

Littmann also noted that the August survey reflected the strength in all areas except inventories, where the lowest inventory levels of the year were recorded. In this case, Littmann explained that more than 10 percent of respondents in the August survey cited altered "buying policies," with better inventory control and assurance of raw material availability as prime objectives.

There was some easing of price pressures in August.

ITEMS IN SHORT supply constituted a long list: mounted bearings and electric coils, bar and stainless

steel, paper and paper products, specialty electronics, metals with nickel content and many chemicals.

The PMAD survey report is compiled from monthly responses of local purchasing managers belonging to the 300-member PMAD. The report indicates whether fundamental measures of the economy are stronger, weaker or unchanged from the prior month.

The composite index (CI) is a seasonally adjusted, weighted average measure of new orders and production activity along with employment, inventories and the promptness of supplier company deliveries. The index ranges from 0 to 100.

A CI below 50 generally means conditions are deteriorating; CI levels above 50 denote expansion.

U.S. to fund park land in Michigan

AP — Federal agencies will have \$835,000 to buy park land in Michigan under appropriations legislation passed by Congress, The Wilderness Society said.

The Interior Department appropriations bill approved last week contains \$300,000 to buy land for the

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore northeast of Munising and \$335,000 for the Kirtland's Warbler National Wildlife Refuge.

Purchase of the land will increase protection of the Lake Superior shoreline and improve public access, Holman said.

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