

Tough drug bill sails through House

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 23.

HOUSE

DRUG BILL — By a vote of 375 for and 30 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill (HR 5210) giving the government several new weapons to combat the nation's drug problem. The bill is aimed at users and dealers at home and at foreign traffickers.

Although House members want to clear the bill before the 1988 congressional elections, the Senate may not cooperate in that goal. Congress is expected to quit for the year in mid-October.

In part, the bill:

- Allows the death penalty for those convicted of drug-related murders.

- Denies an array of federal benefits to drug criminals.

- Legitimizes certain drug evidence obtained without search warrants.

- Authorizes civil fines for drug users in addition to existing criminal penalties.

Supporters termed the bill a necessarily tough approach to a worsening problem, while opponents said some of its provisions trample constitutional freedoms.

Members voting yes favored the bill. Voting yes: Carl Persell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor.

Roll Call Report

Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.
Voting no: none.

DRIVER'S LICENSES — By a vote of 281 for and 119 against, the House approved the softer of two pending proposals for inducing states to revoke driver's licenses of persons convicted of drug-related criminal offenses. This occurred during debate on the omnibus drug bill (see preceding vote).

The vote established federal grants for states denying driving privileges to drug offenders. It replaced a punitive proposal to take a percentage of federal highway funds away from states failing to revoke the licenses of drug criminals.

Members voting yes favored the softer of two proposals for denying driving privileges to drug criminals. Voting yes: Persell, Hertel, Ford, Levin.
Voting no: Broomfield.

AIDS TESTING — By a vote of 268 for and 137 against, the House opted for the less comprehensive of two proposals for AIDS testing of prison inmates.

This approved an amendment to test only inmates who have used drug needles or been convicted of

sexual crimes. It replaced a proposal that all prisoners be tested for the AIDS virus at the beginning and end of their confinement.

The vote occurred as the House neared final passage of a bill (HR 5142) authorizing \$400 million to help states upgrade AIDS programs. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wis., who supported less extensive prison testing, said "we cannot let legislative hysteria dictate AIDS policy."

Edward Madigan, R-Ill., said all inmates need testing because "the percentage of prisoners practicing homosexual behavior is much greater than in the general population."

Members voting yes favored less extensive AIDS testing of prisoners.

Voting yes: Democrats Hertel, Ford and Levin.
Voting no: Republicans Persell and Broomfield.

PRE-MARITAL TEST — By a vote of 91 for and 304 against, the House rejected an amendment to the AIDS bill (above) to induce states to require AIDS testing of marriage license applicants.

Supporters called such testing necessary to slow the spread of AIDS, particularly to the newly born. Opponents said AIDS screening of those planning marriage would prove unfortunate when the test yields a false positive exposure.

Members voting yes wanted states to begin AIDS testing of marriage li-

cense applicants. Voting yes: Broomfield.

Voting no: Persell, Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

FREE TRADE PACT — By a vote of 83 for and 9 against, the Senate gave final congressional approval of a treaty to phase out tariffs and other trade barriers between the United States and Canada. The Canadian Parliament is still debating the

pact to create essentially a North American free trade zone.

Supporter Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., called the treaty "a triumph of democratic governments, of good sense, of good economics."

Opponent Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said "this agreement will hurt the farmers of North Dakota."

Senators voting yes endorsed the Canadian-U.S. free trade pact. Michigan's Democratic senators split. Carl Levin voted no. Donald Riegle voted yes.

Fire Institute training at OCC

The Oakland Fire Training Institute, on the Southfield Campus of Oakland Community College, will conduct seminars on arson detection, hazardous materials, building collapse and ladder companies during October and November.

FIRE ARSON Detection is a two-day, 12-hour seminar. Students may register for one of two sessions: Oct. 27-28 or Dec. 5-6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The class is designed to provide an overview of the responsibilities for determining cause of fire and fire scene procedures. All attending must be fire fighter II and fire officer I certified.

Registration deadline is six days prior to each session. The class applies to fire officer II certification.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS — The Pesticide Challenge is set for Nov. 1-2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The class will provide information on safe handling of pesticide incidents — from product release to clean-up operations.

BUILDING COLLAPSE: will be conducted Nov. 7-8 from 8 a.m. to noon each day.

The eight hour, two-day seminar will provide knowledge of fireground safety in relation to building collapse and flashover conditions. The five types of construction found in the United States will be reviewed and their impact on collapse and other firefighting hazards.

Registration deadline is Nov. 1.

LADDER COMPANY Operations — With Minimal Manning Considerations is another eight hour, two-day seminar also scheduled for Nov. 7-8 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The class will provide students with knowledge of ladder company functions, their importance and their inter-relationship with fire extinguishment and life safety responsibilities. Registration deadline is Nov. 1.

Registration and complete information about these and coming seminars at the Fire Training Institute may be obtained by calling OCC at 552-2626 or 552-2635. Due to class size limitations, early registration is encouraged.

The Institute and the Southfield Campus of OCC are at 23322 Rutland Drive just south of Nine Mile Road between Greenfield and Southfield roads.

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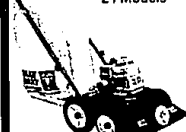
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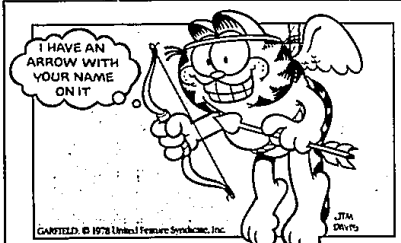
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