

Roll Call Report

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

HOUSE:

TO REJECT SPENDING BILL — The House rejected, 201 for and 218 against, the conference report on a bill (HR 2072) to increase spending by about \$15 billion this fiscal year on a variety of programs.

A defeat for the Democratic leadership, this further delayed passage of the fiscal 1989 "dire emergency" supplemental appropriations bill that was said to be urgently needed for veterans' health care and other programs when Congress took it up in March. (Later, the House and Senate stripped the bill of some of its most disputed features. The bill then was sent to the White House by a near-unanimous vote in the House and a non-record vote in the Senate.) Largely at issue on this vote was \$22 million put in the bill by House Democrats for anti-drug initiatives, money that Republicans and other critics said was not urgently needed because there already is a backlog of unspent fiscal 1989 drug money. The bill also drew criticism for employing gimmicks to disguise certain spending and for funding pet projects of leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Jamie Whitten, D-Miss., said members opposing the report "are voting against the veterans' program, because it is in here."

Opponent Bob Michel, R-Ill., called the legislation "a shameful example of what is wrong with the Congress. It is late on arrival, mislabeled, overloaded, overpriced and an insult to the American veterans."

Members voting yes supported the supplemental appropriations bill. Michigan Representatives voting yes were Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods; William Ford, D-Taylor; and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Michigan Representatives voting no were Carl Pursell, R-Flynnouth; and William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion.

CARGO PREFERENCE — By a vote of 186 for and 230 against, the House refused to remove a Buy American and cargo preference provision from a bill authorizing about \$23 billion in foreign aid in fiscal 1990-91. The bill (HR 2655) remained in debate.

The language that survived this vote requires that most countries receiving substantial American cash aid spend an equivalent sum on U.S. goods and services. To bolster the U.S. merchant marine industry, it also requires that at least half of those purchases be shipped abroad on U.S. flag vessels.

Opponent Herbert Bateman, R-Va., said the American flag merchant marine "is disappearing unless we do something as a government to encourage it."

Members voting yes were opposed to the Buy American and cargo preference requirements.

Michigan Representatives Pursell and Broomfield voted yes. Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

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The Senate voted 63 for and 37 against to approve the Democratic version of sweeping child care legislation, a mix of new and expanded initiatives to help low- and middle-income working parents pay for day care and in some cases, health care for their children. The overall bill (S 5) was headed for final passage.

A major expansion of the federal role in child care, the legislation would cost \$1.7 billion annually in subsidies channeled through states to parents and day care providers, and an estimated \$2 billion annually in

Treasury losses as a result of tax credits.

The bill provides vouchers to help poor parents pay for day care, supplies grants to states for increasing the quality and quantity of child care facilities, enhances existing child care tax credits and establishes a new credit to help the working poor obtain health insurance for their children. Also, the bill requires states to develop day care health and safety standards and permits federal subsidies of religious-based day care.

Michigan Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegler voted yes.

GOP ALTERNATIVE — By a vote of 44 for and 56 against, the Senate rejected the Republican alternative to the Democratic child care legislation (above). The GOP approach differed mainly in that it relied chiefly on tax credits rather than a combination of credits and federal subsidies to help working parents meet child care costs. Also, it promoted the family unit by help-

ing families with one parent at home as well as those with both parents working, required a smaller bureaucracy to administer and would have cost much less than the Democratic plan.

Senators voting yes supported the Republican child care alternative. Michigan Senators Levin and Riegler voted no.

ABORTION — By a vote of 163 for and 229 against, the House refused to soften an amendment to HR 2655 (above) on the subject of

abortion overseas. At issue was whether to dilute language codifying the Bush administration's policy of seeking to deny American aid to any international organization such as Planned Parenthood that helps to facilitate abortions overseas, regardless of whether the group's effort.

Pending before the House was language to codify the administration policy regarding overseas abortions.

Members voting yes supported the tougher of two anti-abortion alternatives before the House.

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