

Roll Call Report

Continued from Page 5

In part, the bill funds construction of two B-2 Stealth bombers at a cost of at least \$500 million each, includes money for both the rail-based Minuteman and truck-borne Midgetman missile systems, requires the Pentagon to purchase against its wishes a number of V-22 Osprey and F-14D aircraft at a cost of several hundred million dollars, and cut SDI spending to \$3.8 billion of \$300 million under the previous year's level.

Members voting yes supported the bill.

Michigan member William Ford, D-Taylor voted yes.

Michigan members voting no were: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Michigan member William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion did not vote.

OIL SPILL LIABILITY: By a vote of 279 for and 143 against, the House adopted an amendment enabling states to set oil spill liability standards that exceed federal standards. The amendment was attached to a bill (HR 1465) establishing a uniform federal system of liability and compensation for spills in navigable waters. The bill is a response to last March's Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska. It was

sent to conference with the House.

The vote kept HR 1465 from preempting the ability of states to go beyond federal ceilings set in the bill and impose unlimited liability on oil companies and shippers responsible for spills.

Sponsor George Miller, D-Calif., said his amendment affirms "a fundamental right of the states" to protect their environments.

Opponent John Hammerschmidt, R-Ark., said federal preemption solves the problem of "a patchwork of overlapping and conflicting (state) laws which may actually impede prompt payment of justifiable claims."

Members voting yes wanted to preserve state authority to set unlimited oil spill liability standards.

Michigan members voting yes were: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion.

SENATE

TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE: By a vote of 89 for and 8 against, the Senate sent to President Bush legislation (HR 2710) raising the minimum wage for the first time since 1981.

The new minimum wage will rise from the current \$3.35 an hour to \$3.80 next April 1 and peak at \$4.25 on April 1, 1991. It will be

accompanied by a new subminimum or "training wage" for youths aged 16-to-19 who are new to the work force. The subminimum is set at \$3.23 next April and \$3.61 a year later, and would be paid for the first three months of employment and three more months if the youth receives certified training.

Supporter Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., called the bill "a modest victory for the working poor."

Opponent Steve Symms, R-Idaho, said the bill "will shut the door of opportunity to entry level jobs for those at the very bottom of the economic ladder."

Senators voting yes wanted to raise the minimum wage.

Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

MIGRANT WORKER ISSUE: By a vote of 63 for and 35 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an attempt to enable certain agricultural employers to pay the new subminimum "training" wage to seasonal and migrant farm workers aged 16 to 19. This left intact a requirement in HR 2710 (above) that the estimated 25 percent of farmers and ranchers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act pay the full minimum wage to these youths.

Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., voted to kill the amendment, saying it would hurt workers "who are probably the most exploited group in the labor force."

Phil Gramm, R-Tex., who sponsors the amendment, complained that HR 2710 applied the training wage to youths in all seasonal jobs except migrant farm work.

Senators voting yes favored the full minimum wage for seasonal farm workers aged 16 to 19 whose employers are covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

TO ELIMINATE MASS MAILINGS: By a vote of 63 for and 29 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to put an end to unsolicited mass mailings back home by members of Congress and transfer the money saved to drug treatment programs.

The vote occurred as the Senate sent to President Bush the fiscal 1990 legislative branch appropriations bill (HR 3014). The bill restricts lawmakers to three newsletter mailings a year but puts no limits on other mass mailings that have drawn criticism as politicking at taxpayers' expense.

Senators voting yes wanted to kill the amendment banning mass mailings by lawmakers.

Michigan Senator Carl Levin voted no and Donald Riegle voted yes.

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