

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of the Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending June 14, HOUSE

TO REJECT CUT — By a vote of 122 for and 295 against, the House refused to trim about \$1.2 billion from the fiscal 1992 appropriations bill for the departments of State, Justice and Commerce and related agencies. As later sent to the Senate, the \$20.8 billion measure (HR 2608) represented an increase of about 11 percent over the comparable 1991 appropriation.

Sponsor Richard Armitage, R-Texas, said amendments like his must be adopted "if we are going to ever get to a balanced budget."

Opponent Larry Smith, D-Fla., said "it's time to stop these frivolous attempts to keep the government from doing its necessary business."

A yes vote was to curb the cost of the bill by \$1.2 billion.

Area members voting yes were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

Area members voting no were Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

TO SAVE DISPUTED PROJECTS

— By a vote of 151 for and 267 against, the House refused to eliminate \$936,000 for two fish research projects funded by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

The vote during debate on HR 2608 (above) preserved \$542,000 for a fish-farming laboratory at Stuttgart, Ark. and \$394,000 for an aquatic research facility at Key Largo, Fla., both sponsored by Appropriations Committee member Bill Alexander, D-Ark.

Dan Burton, R-Ind., called the disputed projects "pure pork," while Neal Smith, D-Iowa, said they have been subjected to austerity measures.

A yes vote opposed funding the research facilities.

Local legislators voting yes were Pursell, William Ford and Levin.

Voting no were Hertel and Broomfield.

ABORTION ISSUE — The House voted 222 for and 260 against to lift a ban on U.S. funding of private organizations abroad, such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation, that promote abortion as a family planning option. The vote occurred during debate on a fiscal

1992 foreign aid bill (HR 2508).

A yes vote was to permit overseas private organizations receiving U.S. aid to counsel women on abortion.

Area members voting yes were Pursell, William Ford and Levin.

Voting no were Hertel and Broomfield.

DRUG TESTING AT CIA — By a vote of 169 for and 234 against, the House rejected an amendment requiring random drug testing of CIA employees. The vote occurred as the House approved, by non-record vote, a bill (HR 2038) authorizing an undisclosed budget for intelligence activities in fiscal 1992.

Sponsor Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., said members voting against this and other drug testing amendments are potential targets of campaign ads.

Opponent Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said "I hope there is not a member on this floor . . . who votes intimidated by the specter of 30-second sound bites."

A yes vote was to require random drug testing of CIA employees.

Area legislators voting yes were Pursell and Broomfield.

Voting no were Hertel, William Ford and Levin.

SENATE

HIGHWAY BILLBOARDS — The Senate adopted, 60 for and 39 against, an amendment removing anti-billboard language from a bill (S 1204) reauthorizing federal highway programs. This was a victory for the roadside advertising industry.

At issue are nearly 100,000 billboards along U.S. highways that violate federal law because of their obtrusiveness but remain standing because states cannot afford to directly compensate their owners. The vote killed language easing compensation procedures, prohibiting free-clearing around existing signs and banning new billboards along federal roads.

Sponsor Harry Reid, D-Nev., said his amendment removes "a dangerous virus against private property rights."

Opponent James Jeffords, R-Vt., said Vermont's banning of billboards "has enhanced our ability to attract tourists and . . . the beauty of our state."

A yes vote supported the billboard industry position on roadside adver-

tising. Michigan Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

EXPANDING INTERSTATES — By a vote of 62 for and 36 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment enabling states to spend more of their federal highway allotments on expanding interstates and less on maintenance, if that helps satisfy the Clean Air Act. The vote preserved a limit on the portion of interstate maintenance funds that can be diverted to adding lanes and bridges. It occurred during debate on S 1204 (above).

Tabling supporter Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said states have to "get more out of what (interstates) you have rather than just mindlessly adding to it."

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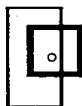
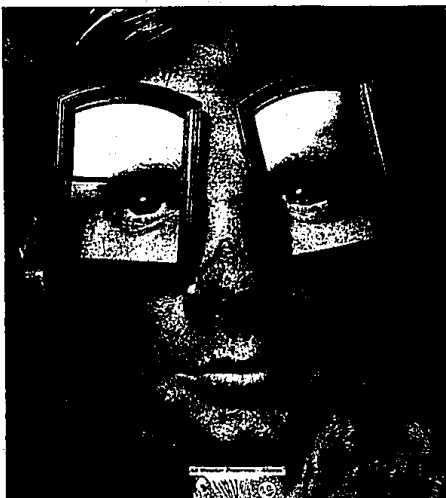
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