Roll Call Report

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Aug. 2.

HOUSE:

TO CLOSE MILITARY BASES — The House refused, 60 for and 364 against, to block the closure of 25 major military bases and nine smaller installations in the United States.

This defeated a resolution of disapproval (HJ Res 308). It gave force of law to a Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommendation that the facilities be shuttered as surplus to national security.

"One has to wonder why we're closing domestic bases first," said Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., noting there is an abundance of U.S. bases in Germany alone.

"As we reduce our military forces by 25 percent over the next five years, we should close bases that are no longer necessary for our national security," said Les Aspin, D-Wis.

A yes vote was to keep the targeted bases open.

Michigan member voting yes was Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods.

Michigan members voting no were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS — By a vote of 228 for and 195 against, the House passed a bill (HR 14) requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to upgrade flight attendants' working conditions with respect to hours on duty and time off.

Other flight personnel, from pilots to air traffic controllers, already are so regulated by the FAA. In part, the bill limits attendants' duty to 14 consecutive hours and requires at least 10 hours off between shifts.

"It is appalling that flight attendants can be forced to work 20-hour days in the 20th century," said supporter Mike Kopetski, D-Ore.

Opponent Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., called the bill "needless intrusion of the federal government into labor-management relations."

A yes vote was to pass the bill on behalf of flight attendants.

Michigan members voting yes were Hertel, William Ford and Levin.

Michigan members voting no were Pursell and Broomfield.

PUBLIC WORKS ISSUE — By a vote of 338 for and 80 against, the House agreed to Senate language adding two unauthorized public works projects costing $3.1 million to the fiscal 1992 energy and water appropriations bill (HR 2427).

They are the Fort Yates Bridge project in North Dakota and the Folly Beach project in South Carolina. The nearly $22 billion bill was sent to the White House.

The two projects were among several in the bill drawing criticism as pork barrel because they had not been approved by House committees or the full House.

Saying "pork barrel is any project in someone else's district," supporter John Myers, R-Ind., said "these are programs that benefit America" by improving navigation and providing flood protection.

With the annual deficit approaching $400 billion "we have to get control of our appetite for spending, our appetite for new projects . . ." said Dan Burton, R-Ind.

A yes vote was to finance the disputed projects.

Michigan members voting yes were Pursell, Hertel, William Ford and Levin.

Michigan member voting no was Broomfield.

SENATE:

MANDELA IN NEW YORK — The Senate voted 57 for and 40 against to reimburse New York City for tens of thousands of dollars or more in security costs arising from Nelson Mandela's visit to the United Nations in June 1990.

This preserved language in a State Department spending bill (HR 1415) that was sent to conference with the House. The language was necessary because current law permits reimbursement only when the U.N. visitor is a foreign government official, sponsors said.

Mandela heads the private African National Congress in South Africa.

"Had New York not protected Mandela there is no doubt the federal government would have done so . . . at a much higher cost," said supporter Claiborne Pell, D-R.I.

"At this very time . . . Mr. Mandela has been on a virtual pilgrimage to honor Fidel Castro," said Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

A yes vote supported reimbursing New York for protecting Nelson Mandela in June 1990.

Michigan senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, both Democrats, voted yes.

FOR FINANCING WORLDNET — By a vote of 55 for and 42 against, the Senate preserved spending for the United States Information Agency's Worldnet television network, which was set up in 1983 to project a favorable American image.

The vote kept $22 million for the government network in HR 1415 (above).

John Kerry, D-Mass., called Worldnet "a very important communications tool that has increased in its importance in recent years."

America's story is better told by private media such as CNN, because "a free society is its own best advertisement," said opponent Harris Wofford, D-Pa.

A yes vote was to retain financing for the USIA television network.

Michigan senators Levin and Riegle voted no.

WETLANDS PROTECTION — By a vote of 76 for and 22 against, the Senate endorsed a longer life for easements the federal government obtains from farmers as part of a wetlands protection program.

The vote killed language to shorten the taxpayer-bought easements from 30 to 15 years. It occurred as the Senate sent the fiscal 1992 agriculture appropriations bill (HR 2698) to conference with the House.

The wetlands program entails the government obtaining an interest in land that the farmer/owner is obligated to protect and restore on a cost-sharing basis for the life of the easement.

Senators voting yes said 30-year easements would better protect the environment, while advocates of 15-year easements said more farmers would participate if the duration were shorter.

A yes vote was for longer easements in the Agriculture Department's wetlands protection program.

Michigan senators Levin and Riegle voted yes.

MS event aimed at cyclists

This year's multiple sclerosis fall fund-raising event, centered in Kensington Metro Park on Sunday, Sept. 15, is actually four bicycling adventures in one.

The MS Fall Breakaway offers four different challenges — with each one helping to raise money to enable the Michigan chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society combat MS, a mysterious, crippling disease that most often strikes young adults.

All riders will receive a commemorative T-shirt in addition to being eligible to win prices such as Swatch watches, Oakley sunglasses, cameras and stair machines.

The state's top fund-raiser for the event will win a trip for two to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, hotel accommodations for six nights and air transporation.

More than 1,000 cyclists are expected for the four events, which are:

- The Thrill Seeker, a 75-mile loop from Kensington to Fenton.
- Lake Trek, a scenic, 50-mile trip through the fall countryside.
- Town & Country, a 25-mile jaunt through along tree-lined roads in pastoral farmland.
- Mountain Maniac, an 18-mile loop through challenging dirt roads.

Additional information is available through the MS Fall Breakaway, 26111 Evergreen, Suite 100, Southfield, 48076-4448, or the MS Fall Breakaway Hotline, (313) 350-0020, or 1-900-247-7382.

OU preps would-be grad students

Registration is on for workshops to prepare for the Graduate Record Exam, Graduate Management Aptitude Test or the Law School Admission Test offered at Oakland University's Rochester campus.

The five-session GRE workshop is offered on Saturdays, Sept. 7 to Oct. 5, with the first class meeting from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The five-session GMAT workshop meets on Saturdays, Sept. 7 to Oct. 5, with the first class set for 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuition is $175, including materials.

The three-session LSAT workshop is on Saturdays, Sept. 14, 21 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To register call 370-3120 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

'Great Books' are scheduled

The adult Great Books group of western Wayne County has scheduled 16 sessions for the 1991-2 season.

The reading for Sep. 19 is Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and for Oct. 3, C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters."

The group meets at 7:30 p.m. for two hours two Thursdays a month in Livonia's Civic Center Library, Five Mile east of Farmington roads.

A reading list and background information on the Great Books program are available from Zo Chisnell in Northville at 349-3121.

Among writers on this year's list are F. Scott Fitzgerald, Tolstoy, Moliere, Churchill, Edith Wharton and Moliere.

Selections include novels, short stories, poetry, drama, history and a landmark U.S. Supreme Court opinion.

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