

# Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Economic-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Oct. 11.

**HOUSE**

**PRICE-FIXING ISSUE** — The House voted 218 to 195 to soften a bill (HR 1470) to combat vertical price fixing, which is the practice of manufacturers and full-price retailers cooperating to keep products off the shelves of discounters who would drive prices down.

The amendment exempted from the bill companies whose lack of "market power" means their actions against discounters could not result in higher prices. Critics said it could gut the bill. It was supported by the National Federation of Independent Business and opposed by discounters such as K-Mart and Burlington Coat Factory.

Sponsor Tom Campbell, R-Calif., said this amendment "is good for small business. It is good for the economy."

Jack Brooks, D-Texas, said "let us not wrap the banner of small business around an amendment that would exempt the Fortune 500 from this legislation."

A yes vote was to soften the bill against vertical price-fixing.

The area representative voting yes was Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

Area representatives voting no were Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Representatives not voting were William Ford, D-Taylor and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

**PORK BARREL DISPUTE** — The House voted 330 to 196 to spend nearly \$250 million on 88 "demonstration" highway projects located mostly in the districts of influential lawmakers. The vote occurred as the house approved the conference report on a bill (HR 2942) spending \$32 billion in fiscal 1992 for highway, mass transit and airport improvements and other transportation programs. The bill codifies random alcohol and drug testing of mass transit personnel.

Supporter Lawrence Coughlin, R-Pa., defended the \$250 million as justified "for projects that members believe meet the priorities of their districts."

Opponent Harris Fawell, R-Ill., complained "we cannot say no to anybody or anything" in the House, as the national debt mounts.

A yes vote was to spend \$250 million on 88 demonstration highway projects.

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

**TO FUND APPALACHIAN HIGHWAY** — By a vote of 238 to 186, the House kept \$148.5 million in HR 2942 (above) for completing an Appalachian Regional Commission Interstate in West Virginia. House Republicans caused the vote as part of their campaign to spotlight pork barrel for members of both parties in bills moving through the Democrat-led Congress. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., is a prime mover behind the Appalachian highway funding.

Supporter Bob Wise, D-W.Va., said

"this is a major coal-hauling road" serving "a lot of states in the Northeast for their energy needs."

Opponent Dan Burton, R-Ind., said Byrd "has promised his constituents back in West Virginia that he is going to bring \$1 billion home for his state."

A yes vote was to spend the \$148.5 million.

Area legislators voting yes were Hertel, William Ford and Levin.

Voting no was Pursell.

Not voting was Broomfield.

**SENATE**

**TO PASS FOREIGN AID** — By a vote of 61 to 38, the Senate approved the conference report on legislation (HR 2508) authorizing \$25.5 billion in foreign military and economic aid in fiscal 1992. The bill provides limited funding of U.N. family planning, and requires U.S. goods to be shipped on more costly U.S.-flag vessels, among other disputed provisions.

Leading aid recipients over the two years are Israel, \$7.5 billion, and Egypt, \$4.2 billion. Among other amounts are \$2.3 billion for sub-Saharan Africa and \$778 million for Eastern Europe. The only Soviet aid is \$30 million for the Baltic states.

Supporter Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., said "foreign assistance is never a popular topic, but (the bill) serves U.S. interests... around the world."

Opponent Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said "foreign aid is a policy that has next to no support among the American people."

A yes vote was to pass the bill.

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

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