

ROLL CALL REPORT

Party line held on extending jobless benefits

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

HOUSE

To Extend Jobless Benefits: By a vote of 301 for and 114 against, the House appropriated \$4 billion in immediate deficit spending to provide up to 26 weeks of additional unemployment checks for those who have exhausted their initial 26 weeks of benefits. The bill (HR 1335) was sent to President Bill Clinton. It was all that he and congressional Democrats could salvage from a \$19 billion-plus economic stimulus proposal that hours earlier fell victim to Republican opposition in the Senate.

less in the face and slapping each other, giving each other high fives. It's putting politics before people and I think that's pathetic."

Opponent Porter Goss, R-Fla., said the \$4 billion "should be paid for by cutting wasteful spending. In fact, many members have presented dozens of specific cuts . . . to save that \$4 billion and tens of billions more."

A yes vote supported \$4 billion in deficit spending to provide checks to the long-term jobless. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Klidde, D-Flint, Bander Levin, D-Southfield, and Willis Ford, D-Ypsilanti. Voting no: Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.

To Add to George Washington's Birthplace: By a vote of 314 for and 93 against, the House passed a bill (S 228) authorizing federal acquisition of 12 acres to be added to the park in

Westmoreland County, Va., that commemorates George Washington's birthplace. Taxpayers are to supply an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000 for the land next to Pope's Creek Plantation, where the nation's first president was born in 1732.

Supporter Herbert Bateman, R-Va., said the land acquisition will "ensure proper protection of this small but important part of America's heritage."

No one spoke against the bill. A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Carr, Klidde, Levin, and Ford. Voting no: Knollenberg.

SENATE

To Kill Stimulus Bill: The Senate failed to achieve the three-fifths majority needed to end a Republican filibuster against President Clinton's stimulus package (HR 1335) to prime the economy. The tally was 56 for and 43 against

with all Democrats except Richard Shelby of Alabama supporting Clinton. The vote officially killed the bill.

Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said Republicans "do not come into this court with clean hands. For 12 years they used the national credit card. This president (Clinton) is trying to shift the burden to ourselves. He is having to raise taxes to avoid continuing to shift that burden to our children."

GOP leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said "the bottom line is this is just a terrible package. If you go back to your hometown (you hear) 'Cut spending first. If you cannot cut it, pay for it. At least you have to pay for it. . . . That is all the American people want.'"

A yes vote supported the president's stimulus package. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

A yes vote was to kill the GOP stimulus package. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

Republican Stimulus: By a vote of 53 for and 45 against, the Senate tabled (filled) the Republican alternative to President Clinton's stimulus package (above). The GOP sought to cut the original Clinton request by about two-thirds to \$6 billion. About \$4 billion was deficit spending on extended jobless checks for the long-term unemployed (see House issue above). The remaining \$2 billion, to be paid for by unspecified executive branch cuts, was for programs such as highway construction, summer jobs for youth and immunization of children.

A yes vote was to trim the pump-priming bill by about 20 percent in hopes of attracting the handful of Republican votes needed to silence the GOP talkathon. Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

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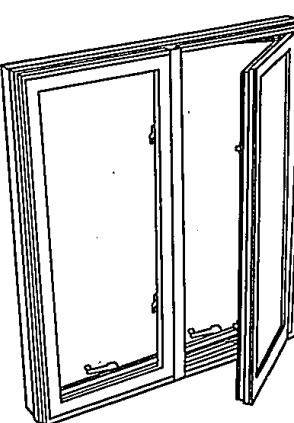
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