

ROLL CALL REPORT

Riegle votes yes on S&L lawsuit extension

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

HOUSE

No to "Middle-Class"
Amendment: By a vote of 181 for and 231 against, the House rejected language requiring that companies owned by the "middle-class" benefit most from new Department of Commerce loan programs for technological development. The defeated amendment called for a set-aside for firms controlled by persons with incomes of \$15,000 to \$35,000. The underlying bill (HR 820) recommends 10 percent set-asides for minority- and women-controlled companies. The amendment was offered to a bill, still in debate, that provides \$1.5 billion in grants and loans to advance U.S. industrial competitiveness.

Sponsor Robert Walker, R-Pa., said, "let's not just have designations for all of the groups . . . that have special interest concerns. Let's for once say that the middle class deserves some consideration."

Opponent Tim Valentine, D-N.C., said, "there is absolutely no reason to create a set-aside goal for the middle class since they have not been victims and since (this) legislation was created for the middle class."

A yes vote favored a middle-class set-aside in legislation to increase U.S. technological competitiveness. Area representatives voting yes were: Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham. Voting no: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Klidde, D-Flint, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Ford, D-Ypsilanti.

No on Public Lands Issue: The House rejected a bill (HR 873) authorizing the U.S. Forest Service to buy 80,000 wilderness acres in Montana's Gallatin Range from a private timber company paying between \$12 million and \$20 million. The tally of 262 for and 140 against fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill under a shortcut parliamentary procedure. The land lies immediately north of Yellowstone National Park and would be added to Gallatin National Forest.

Sponsor Pat Williams, D-Mont., said Congress must soon protect the land from logging and other encroachment and avert "a real public lands disaster."

Opponent Dan Burton, R-Ind., said the government should acquire the acreage by land exchange. "They do not need to do it by spending taxpayers' money," he said.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Klidde, Levin, Ford. Voting no: Knollenberg. Not voting: Bob Carr.

SENATE

Yes to Final Phase of S&L Bailout: The Senate passed, 61 for and 35 against, a bill (S 174) authorizing up to \$34.3 billion for the final phase of the savings-and-loan bailout. This would raise to about \$140 billion congressional spending since 1989 for reimbursing 22 million depositors and other costs of the most expensive financial debacle in American history.

Counting Treasury borrowing costs over decades, the bailout's final tab to taxpayers is projected by the General Accounting Office at \$500 billion-plus. The government is offsetting some of the cost with asset sales and lawsuits. In addition to funding the Resolution Trust Corp. and the new Savings Association Insurance Fund, the bill requires faster sale of seized assets, creates an RTC vice presidency to look after minority and women's interests and limits the cash bonuses available to RTC executives.

Supporter Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said, "no one likes this bill and yet, it is a must-do piece of legislation."

Opponent Richard Shelby, D-Ala., said the government has collected only an "abysmally low" \$38 million in court-ordered restitution from those who looted S&Ls.

A yes vote was to send the S&L bailout bill to the House. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle D, both voted yes.

Yes to Extend Period For S&L Lawsuits: The

Senate adopted, 63 for and 32 against, an amendment to S 714 (above) extending from three to five years the statutory period in which the government can sue thrift executives, directors, accountants, lawyers and others associated with a savings-and-loan failure. Sponsor Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said taxpayers "have a

right to expect that individuals who enriched themselves be made to pay back their ill-gotten gains . . ."

Opponent Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., said the amendment was "too broad" and could "unintentionally encumber thousands of good, decent people" including S&L directors who were far re-

moved from illegality.

A yes vote was to extend the statute-of-limitations for S&L suits to five years. Levin did not vote. Riegle voted yes.

Yes to Expand Voting Registration: By a vote of 62 for and 36 against, the Senate sent President Clinton a bill (HR 2)

making voter registration available at military recruitment, welfare and disability offices, by mail, and at agencies that dispense driving and marriage licenses and certain other public certificates. The "motor voter" bill is expected to add tens of millions of registrants to the 125 million Americans now signed up. Supporter Mark Hatfield, R-Ore.,

said, "this bill stands for the premise that we are all Americans first, not Democrats or Republicans."

Opponent Charles Grassley, D-Iowa, said the bill continues "the waste of taxpayer dollars through unfunded mandates on the states."

Levin and Riegle voted yes.

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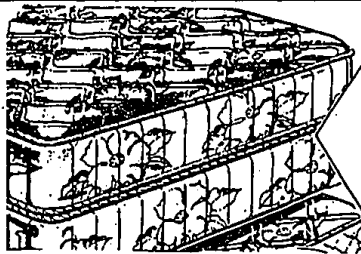
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