

# Knollenberg, Levin vote for anti-tobacco education

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

## HOUSE

**Tobacco Education:** By a vote of 353 for and 70 against, the House adopted an amendment requiring schools receiving funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to instruct against smoking just as they do against drugs and alcohol. The vote occurred as the House continued to debate a bill (HR 6) to extend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The amendment did not provide schools with funds for complying with the new federal requirement.

Sponsor Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said "the tobacco companies shamelessly spend \$4 billion a year attracting our children to their products. What we are proposing today is a small effort. It will be dwarfed by the \$4 billion spent by this industry."

Opponent Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., said "it seems obvious to me that the politically correct Clinton administration and some of my col-

leagues in the House have set their sights on America's tobacco industry, an industry which produces a legal product consumed by millions of Americans."

A yes vote was to step up anti-tobacco instruction in public schools. Area representatives voting yes were: Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Ford, D-Ypsilanti.

Voting no: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac.

**Hawaii:** By a vote of 203 for and 213 against, the House refused to kill a federal education program that spends \$13 million annually to instruct Hawaiians in their native culture. The program is targeted for elimination by Vice President Gore's commission on streamlining the federal government. The amendment was offered to HR 6 (above), which remained in debate.

Sponsor John Boehner, R-Ohio, said: "This program benefits one group of people. It does not benefit the nation as a whole. Nor does it advance the national education concerns... it is not our role here in Washington to be funding those types of programs."

Opponent Patsy Mink, D-Hawaii,

## ROLL CALL REPORT

said it is important for the U.S. government, which seized Hawaii a century ago, to help Hawaiians preserve their culture. "The takeover of the Kingdom of Hawaii is a tragedy that even now the people of Hawaii are trying desperately to reconcile," she said.

## Felons must pay for lab testing

Gov. John Engler has signed into law a bill to make felons pay for the forensic lab tests required to convict them.

"Mandating criminals to pay for tests required is only fair and will ease the financial burden on many Michigan cities," said Engler as he signed House bill 4245.

State police and the city of Detroit run forensic labs, which do drug analyses, toxicology analyses, examinations of fingerprints, micro-chemistry, serology and firearms tests.

The sentencing court may retain 5 percent of the assessments. The rest will go to the state treasury.

## SENATE

**Crime Funds:** By a vote of 90 for and two against, the Senate required that savings from federal workforce cuts be used only for new crime initiatives such as hiring police and building regional prisons. The amendment was attached to a bill (HR 3345) providing up to \$25,000 in buyouts to induce civil servants to retire early. The bill serves an administration plan to eliminate 252,000 federal

jobs over five years, saving about \$21 billion.

This vote fueled a dispute over whether the \$21 billion should be set aside for crime programs, as the Senate insists, or used for a variety of domestic purposes, as the House and the administration desire.

Sponsor Phil Gramm, R-Tex., said: "The administration says it wants to get tough on crime yet it does not want to dedicate that money that is required to do that."

Opponents sought quick passage of the buyout bill. They said HR 3345 must become law soon to avert RIFs (reductions in force), which are undesirable because they remove civil servants on a last-hired rather than merit basis.

A yes vote was to dedicate the \$21 billion in savings from civil servant terminations to crime fighting. Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, voted yes, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

**To Block Cut:** By a vote of 49 for and 43 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment cutting nearly in half the projected \$2.8 billion, two-year cost of a bill (S 4) to increase the global competitiveness of U.S. companies. Under the bill, the Commerce Department and National Science Foundation would use government funds to boost certain technologies and industries regarded as important to American economic growth.

Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., voted to kill the amendment, saying it would eliminate money for a national information superhighway.

Sponsor Hank Brown, R-Colo., said his amendment would bring the Senate bill in line with the \$1.3 billion cost of its House counterpart.

A yes vote opposed to cutting the bill. Michigan Senators Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

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