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Levin supports federal crime bill

Here's how Observer/ Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending April 22

ROLL CALL REPORT

SENATE

Free Parking: By a vote of 44 for and 53 against, senators refused to renounce their free parking spaces at National and Dulles airports in northern Virginia. The vote defeated a non-binding resolution that urged Congress to relinquish the 124 spaces at National and 51 at Dulles reserved for members of Congress and staff, diplomats and Supreme Court justices. It occurred during debate on an unrelated bankruptcy court reform measure (S 540). The free spaces for officials are located close to the National and Dulles terminals, compared to parking for the general public that is more distant and costs up to \$26 daily.

A yes vote was to repudiate free parking for members of Congress at National and Dulles airports. **Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, voted no. Donald Riegle, D, did not vote.**

Bankruptcy Filings: By a vote of 60 for and 34 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment limiting Chapter 13 bankruptcy filings by individuals to once every three years.

billion for new prisons in states that agree to longer jail terms for violent criminals. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, Dale Kildee, Joseph Knollenberg, Sander Levin. Voting no: William Ford.

Race and Sentencing: By a vote of 212 for and 217 against, the House rejected a Republican-sponsored amendment concerning racial factors in sentencing. The amendment made it illegal to consider race in determining the toughness or softness of a sentence. It sought to replace Democratic language in HR 4092 (above) that broke new ground by empowering defendants to avoid their sentence to death by showing statistically that it fits a pattern of racial bias in sentencing.

A yes vote opposed a new sentencing factor that allows criminals to avoid the death penalty if it is being applied in a discriminatory pattern in their jurisdiction. **Area representatives voting yes were: Knollenberg. Voting no: Carr, Kildee, Levin and Ford.**

In crime prevention in 15 cities to be selected. It provides money to combat substance abuse and funds job-preparation and anti-gang programs in high-crime neighborhoods.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. **Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no: Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham and William Ford, D-Tpialanti.**

More Prisons: By a vote of 377 for and 50 against, the House more than quadrupled funding in HR 4092 (above) for building state prisons to hold repeat, violent criminals. The vote increased the authorization from \$3 billion to \$13.5 billion over five years. To get the federal grants, states would have to keep violent felons behind bars for nearly all of their sentence. Prison construction accounts for nearly half the \$27.9 billion cost of the House-passed crime bill. About one-third is for crime prevention and drug treatment.

A yes vote was to spend \$13.5

Crime Bill: By a vote of 285 for and 141 against, the House passed a bill (HR 4092) authorizing \$27.9 billion over five years for an array of programs to punish and prevent crime. The bill was sent to conference with a Senate bill costing about \$5 billion less. The bill eventually produced by Congress is likely to be paid for with savings from federal workforce cuts.

In part, the House bill requires life in prison for three-time violent offenders, lowers to 13 the age at which certain juveniles can be tried as adults, increases from two to 65 the number of federal offenses carrying the death penalty and makes it a crime to sell a handgun to a juvenile. It provides grants to states and localities for putting 50,000 more police on the streets, building state prisons for violent offenders and establishing boot camps for youthful convicts who are not hardened criminals.

The bill also funds pilot programs

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