ROLL CALL REPORT

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

HOUSE

Black Lung: By a vote of 252 for and 166 against, the House passed a bill (HR 2108) expanding the benefits program for victims of took hing disease. It raises outless for disability payments and cither costs by an estimated \$195 million over the years.

Black hing benefits are part out.

Black lung benefits are paid out of a federal trust fund financed mainh by a tax on coal. The Black tung Disability Trust Fund is \$3.4 tidion in debt to the Treasury. In part, the bill extends benefits

In narr, the bill extends benefits a minute cone over when where as well as coal miners, enables the reting of 85.00 certical dama, makes it easer for sunning spouses to octain benefits, eases the test of esidence for receiving tenetiss, and requires employers or the Treasury to pay attorney's fees for certain claimants who litigate to crean coverage.

Supporter William Ford, D-Mich. said: "This is a good bill, a budget-conscious bill... Until the causes of block king are remedied we, as a ration, owe a debt to our miners and their sunnors."

and their submors."

Opponent Dan Miller, R-Fla., said. "This bill represents yet an-

other expansion of entitlements without a single thought dedicated to paying for the new spending." A yes vote was to expand the black hing program. Area representatives woting yes are: Bob Carr, D-Pontlac, Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Sander Lavin, D-Southfield, William Ford, D-Ypsitanti, Voting no: Joseph Knollenberg, R-Bir-

Trust Fund Deficit: By a vote or 189 for and 234 against, the House refused to delay expanded tack lung benefits until the Black Lung Disabity Trust Fund deficit is greatly reduced. The amendment seeking delay was offered to HR 2108 (above). The taspayer-backed fund is 53 4 billion in debt enter paying more in claims over the years than it collected in coal taxes, penalties and other revenue. Recently, however, it has shown annual surpluses. This amendment called for reducing the debt to \$600 million before allowing benefits to expand.

Sponsor John Boehner, R-Onio, said: "I do not think that we should

Sponsor John Boehner, R-Unio, said: "I do not think that we should be passing this bill... unless we are willing to fix the problems in the current system. But to hold out the hope of more benefits for those that are afficted... without comthat are afflicted . . . without com-ing up with money to pay for them is irresponsible." is irresponsible."
Opponent Ron Klink, D-Pa., said

the amendment sought to balance the budget "on the health of these miners that are dying. When these

gentlemen were . . . , mining the coal, breathing the dust, breathing the poisonous gases, fueling this economy, fueling our industrial age, they were what made this nation great."

tion great."

A yes vote was to restrain black lung benefits until the trust fund that pays them shows a much lower debt. Area representatives voting yes wers: Knollenberg. Voting no: Carr, Kildee, Levin and Earl.

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Opponent Benjamin Gilman, R-

N.Y., called it "the height of folly to take rash action now that could speed a return to the kind of connotation... during the Cold War. Given the uncertainty in Rusal and elsowhere in centrual and eastern Europe, this is no time to precipituously withdraw our forces from that region." A yes vote supported the cost-sharing amendment. Area representatives voting yes were: Carr, Kildee, Ford, Voting no: Knollenberg, Levin.

Clearcutting: The House rejected, 142 for and 283 against, an amendment to prevent clearcuted on up to four miliion federal acres released to the National Forest Service by a Montana widemess bill (HR 2473). As later sent to the Senate, the bill, in part, protocts 1.7 pristine Montana acres as wilderness and releases millions of additional federal acres for National Forest Service harvesting.

Supporter John Porter, Rillig., Said: "Clearcutting irrevocably destroys the natural characteristics of our forests, is the most costly logging technique and produces infecting the control of the produces infecting the produces infecting the control of the produces infecting the control of the produces infecting the produces infection the produces infecting the produces infectin

only the type of logging that does not destroy the forests in the pro-

Opponent Craig Thomas, R. Wyo., commended the National Forest Service for relying less on clearcutting. He said the practice "does have application from time to time, if we like to have elk and deer and wildlife with a place to graze," and to combat infestation that kills trees and creates fire

A yes vote was to outlaw clearcutting on four million acres of na-tional forest in Montana. Area representatives voting yes Carr. Voting no: Kildee, berg, Levin and Ford.

SENATE

Drinking Water: The Senate rejected, 28 for and 67 against, an amendment giving states flexibility to obey or disergard federal law and regulations on drinking water. The vote occurred as the Senate, by a near-unanimous margin, passed a bill updating the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill (\$2.109) was sent to the House. Sponsor Malcolm Waltop, R. Wwo. said that under "excessive"

Wyo., said that under "excessive" federal law, "states, municipalities and water providers all across America have been made to take action they know to be useless, and their taxpayers have been forced to foot bills they never should have received in the first

place."
Opponent Max Baucus, D-Mont, called the amendment "a 20-year step backward because . . . prior to 1974 there was too much illness and too many deaths as a consequence of unsafe drinking water in too many communities

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across our country . . . Amen (now) assume that the water drink in any state is safe and clean "

A yes vote was to give states fi-nal authority over the safety of their own dinnking water. Michigan Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted no.

Wage Issue; By a vote of 39 for and 60 against, the Senate reject-ed an amendment to S 2019 (above) exempting water treatment plant construction from the Davis-Bacon Act. That law requires contractors to pay prevailing wages as determined by the Department of Labor. Those wages usually are higher than non-union market wages. S 2019 is expected to fund the construction of numerous treatment plants around the coun

treatment plants around the country.

Sponsor Lauch Faircloth, R.N.C., said: "We need to send the cities and towns a clear message that the Congress is no longer going the tourden them with unfunded federal mandates like Davis-Baccon."

Opponent Edward Kennedy, D. Mass., said: "We can end up with the shoddy workmanship and the overtime that is necessary for repair when we do not have trained individuals who are part of the construction trades."

A yes vote was to exempt federally funded water treatment construction from the Davis-Bacon Act. Levin and Rilegis both voted

struction from the Davis-Bacon Act. Levin and Riegie both voted no.

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