

Roll Call Report

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes on Nov. 28 and 29, the days immediately following the semi-recess that began in early November.

HOUSE

SOCIAL SECURITY: Failed, 183 for and 209 against, to insist that the Social Security "earnings limitation" be lifted at age 65. As a result of this vote, House and Senate conferees on HR 9346 are likely to go along with Senate-passed language lifting the limitation at age 70. That will mean that when pensioners reach 70 they can earn as much as they like without having their monthly Social Security entitlement reduced by Uncle Sam. The vote was on a motion to instruct House conferees to insist on the House-passed 65-years-old threshold.

Rep. Bill Archer (R-Tex.), sponsor of the motion, said the earnings limitation at 65 costs society "the services of wise and experienced workers who simply cannot afford to work for substantial pay because, if they do, they will lose their valued Social Security benefits."
Rep. James Burke (D-Mass.), an

opponent, said that if Congress lowers the threshold to 65 it "would have to levy a tax of \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion on the business firms of this country... to finance this provision."

Members voting "yea" favored removing the earnings limitation at age 65.
Reps. William Broomfield (R-Birm.) and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted, "yea."

Reps. David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens), William Ford (D-Taylor), William Brodhead (D-Detroit) and James Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge) voted "nay."

AMTRAK: Voted, 258 for and 138 against, in favor of increasing by \$18

million the supplemental appropriation for Amtrak—an amount sufficient to delay until at least March proposed cutbacks in passenger service. Major routes such as the Floridian apparently were given a lease on life by this vote. The vote, on a motion to recommit, came during consideration of the conference report on HR 9375, a fiscal 1978 appropriations bill. It approved \$18 million instead of proposed lower increments.

Rep. Albert Gore Jr. (D-Tenn.), a supporter, said: "We need a national rail service for passengers. We can have one if we go about it in an intelligent manner."

Rep. John McFall (D-Calif.), an opponent, said he favored an \$8 million rather than \$18 million supplemental appropriation. "Now this extra \$10 million is not really going to provide the opportunity to restore service that everyone believes will be provided," he said.

Members voting "yea" favored an extra \$18 million for Amtrak.
Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yea."
Pursell did not vote.

SENATE

ABORTION: Approved, 44 for and 21 against, language on federal funding of abortions which was a bit stricter than previous Senate language. This was yet another attempt at compromise with the House, which for months has been taking a harder line against the funding of abortions under Medicaid. This vote was on the conference report on HR 7555, a fiscal 1978 appropriations bill for the departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare. After it occurred, the House rejected the compromise language, thus continuing the stalemate and raising questions as to whether employees of those departments will receive their next paychecks.

The language approved in the vote would have permitted federal funding of abortions where the life of the mother was endangered and in cases of rape and incest that are reported "to a law enforcement agency or public health service or its equivalent."

Senators voting "yea" favored the compromise language.
Sen. Donald Riegle (D) voted "yea" and Sen. Robert Griffin (R) did not vote.

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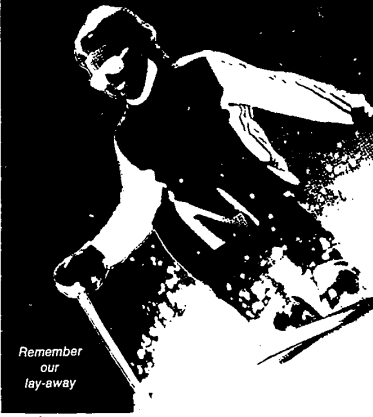
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