

Flexible parity farm bill bites the bullet

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes April 7 through 13.

Roll Call Report

HOUSE
FARM BILL—Rejected, 150 for and 283 against, the conference report on the emergency farm bill (HR 7762). Although the Senate had passed the legislation (see vote below), this vote killed the slim chance the bill had of becoming law over President Carter's promised veto. Farmers in the American Agricultural Movement lobbied in Washington for more than three months for the bill.

HR 7762's most controversial feature was a "flexible parity" plan under which wheat, feed grain and cotton farmers could benefit from sharply increased 1970 price supports by taking more land out of production. The bill also raised federal loan rates for those crops and hiked the borrowing authority of the Commodity Credit Corp.

Rep. James Abdnor (R-S.D.), a supporter, said "It is little to ask that the average American family, which is living on about \$3,000 more income each year than the average farm family, should be expected to pay \$100 more a year to help establish a healthy farm economy. That is all the council on wage and price stability estimated

the Senate bill would cost the average family."

Rep. Charles Whalen, (R-Ohio), an opponent, said "the long-term interests of grain producers, livestock farmers and consumers alike do not lie in pushing farm prices up to artificial and unsustainable heights. Such a program, either through excessive support payments or large crop set-asides, can only produce another boom-bust cycle that we seek to prevent."

Members voting "nay" opposed the emergency farm bill.

Rep. William Broomfield, (R-Birm.), voted "yea."
 Reps. David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens), William Ford (D-Taylor), William Broadhead (D-Detroit), James Blanchard (D-Pleas. Ridge), and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), voted "nay."

HISTORIC PRESERVATION—

Passed, 326 for and 76 against, a bill (HR 11682) to preserve the most historic features of Lowell, Mass., by including them in the National Park System. Lowell, founded in 1822, is considered America's first planned city.

The bill establishes a precedent of interest to other deteriorated industrial cities of historical significance, for it marks the first such extension of the National Park Service protective umbrella to a central city.

It authorizes \$40 million in fiscal 1970, about half of which is for property acquisition and development. It was sent to the Senate.

Rep. Joe Moakley (D-Mass.), a supporter, said: "There is a strong realization that this is our only opportunity to accurately preserve a physical model of the development of the Industrial Revolution."
 Rep. Jack Cunningham, (R-Wash.), said that he favors historic preservation but is concerned about spending \$40 million for this purpose "after watching Congress recently place on the backs of the American workers the highest tax increase in peacetime history of this country."

Members voting "yea" favored passage of the bill.
 Bonior, Broadhead, Blanchard, Broomfield and Pursell voted "yea."
 Ford did not vote.

POSTAL SERVICE—Adopted, 203 for and 189 against, an amendment

dealing with the U.S. Treasury's annual subsidy of the U.S. Postal Service. It was attached to HR 7700, the postal reorganization bill reasserting federal congressional control over postal operations. HR 7700 was later passed and sent to the Senate.

The amendment requires the Postal Service to identify, through more sophisticated accounting procedures, those operating costs which result from its "public service functions"—for example, delivery to remote areas, six-day door-to-door deliveries, and the location of post offices on the basis of consumer convenience rather than cost-effectiveness. This figure would guide Congress in determining the amount of the annual subsidy of the Postal Service.

Rep. Tom Corcoran (R-Ill.), the sponsor, called it "incredible" that there is presently no such accounting. He added: "I do not believe we in Congress should continue to present subsidy without establishing a procedure for such accounting."

Rep. James Hanley (D-N.Y.), an opponent, said he was "terribly apprehensive" about letting the Postal Service "establish itself what are public service costs" and in effect dictate the amount of its subsidy.

Members voting "yea" favored the amendment.
 Blanchard, Broomfield and Pursell voted "yea."
 Bonior and Broadhead voted "nay."
 Ford did not vote.

SENATE

FARM BILL—Adopted, 49 for and 41 against, the conference report on HR 7762, the emergency farm bill. The measure was later killed by the House (see vote above). With such provisions as "flexible parity" linking price support levels to the amount of acreage set aside, the bill sought to immediately hike farm income. President Carter had promised to veto the legislation as too inflationary.

Sen. Milton Young (R-N.D.), a supporter, said: "The average consumer...wants farmers to receive at least the cost of production. This is in the consumer's best interest, as it would enable many farmers, who otherwise would have to quit, to keep on farming—thus assuring consumers of

an adequate supply of food and fiber in the future."

Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), an opponent, said: "We should recognize by now that federal programs which aid farmers cannot create money out of thin air."

Broomfield is arms adviser

U.S. Rep. William Broomfield (R-Bloomfield) has been re-appointed an advisor to the United States delegation to the disarmament conference in Geneva.

Broomfield, ranking minority member of the House International Relations Committee, has been an advisor to the U.S. delegation to the disarmament conference on six different occasions.

The 31-nation conference is scheduled to meet in Switzerland from May 24 through June 28. This year's agenda includes discussion of a comprehensive test ban treaty and restraints on chemical and biological weapons.

The 19th District congressman was among 14 members of the house to be appointed by Speaker "Tip" O'Neill as congressional advisers.

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because salt, slush, and even mud tend to collect in the crevices underneath the car, in the door creases, and inside the fenders. Moisture gets trapped in those places and causes rust. So try to wash the underside of your car, too. In winter, if you can, and at the first opportunity in spring. Even if it's only a few times a year, that would help some.

If your car gets dented, scratched, or chipped, try to get it repaired as soon as possible. Even a "small" scratch is bad. Because once a car starts to rust, the damage spreads fast. The paint around a dent or scratch can look okay, but rust is spreading underneath. In the long run, it's cheaper to fix the car right away.

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