

# House approves prisoners' rights package and 'Koreagate' resolution

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes May 25 through May 31. There were no Senate votes in the period.

**KOREAN SCANDAL**—Adopted, 231 for and 45 against, a non-binding resolution expressing the "sense of the House" that Congress should cut off non-military aid to South Korea if that country fails to make a certain official available for sworn testimony to the House Ethics Committee. The official is former Ambassador to the U.S. Kim Dong Jo, who is alleged to have made cash payments to at least ten current Members of Congress. Special Ethics Committee Counsel Leon Jaworski says the cooperation of Kim, who has refused to testify on grounds of diplomatic immunity, is needed for a thorough investigation of the influence-buying scandal.

Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Tex., a supporter, called the resolution "a clear and unequivocal expression of the desire—indeed the insistence—on the part of this House to remove the

## Roll Call Report



cloud of suspicion that has hovered for too long over these alleged relationships."

Rep. Paul Findley, R-Ill., an opponent, doubted that the resolution would secure the testimony. "He said it would 'tend to back the Koreans into a corner,' and that giving in to such a threat would 'win the epithet of being a lackey of the United States.'"

Members voting "yea" favored the resolution.

Reps. David Bonior, (D-Mt. Clemens), William Ford, (D-Taylor), William Brodhead, (D-Detroit), James

Blanchard, (D-Pleas. Ridge), William Broomfield, (R-Birm.), and Carl Pursell, (R-Plymouth), voted "yea."

**BUREAUCRACY?**—Adopted, 237 for and 135 against, an amendment to prevent creation of a presidential commission. The proposed nine-member commission was to have spent a year studying whether the U.S. government should establish a "Center for Conflict Resolution." Drawing on the behavioral sciences, such a center would seek to equip the government with more sophisticated techniques for resolving conflicts such as those between nations. The commission was proposed as part of a foreign relations bill (HR 12598), later passed.

Rep. John Ashbrook, R-Ohio, sponsor of the amendment, asked: "Are we ever going to stop, or are we going to add...one commission on top of another? Somewhere, sometime, someone we have to say, 'Enough.'" Rep. Helen Meyer, D-N.J., an opponent, said: "We pay an exorbitant price in money and human suffering when conflicts result needlessly in vio-

lence and destruction...Many conflicts can be avoided. The payoffs from this study could be enormous."

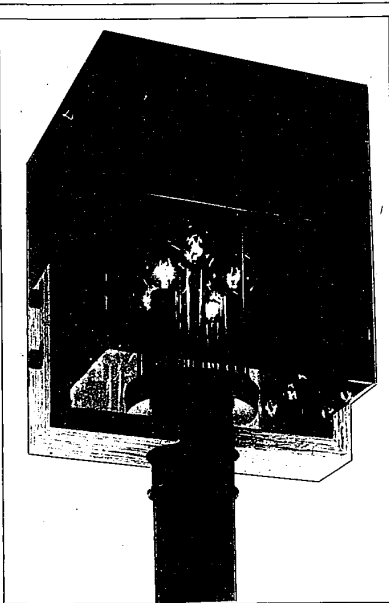
Members voting "yea" opposed creation of the presidential commission. Broomfield and Pursell voted "yea." Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

**PRISONERS' RIGHTS**—Adopted, 178 for and 109 against, an amendment designed to assist prisoners who feel their constitutional rights are violated by penal authorities. It enables the U.S. attorney general to go into court on their behalf provided that their grievance has been screened and referred to the Justice Department by a state court. It was attached to HR 9400, a bill giving the U.S. attorney general power to sue to remedy abuses of institutionalized persons such as the mentally retarded, the elderly and the handicapped. Adoption of the amendment means that under certain circumstances prisoners, too, can be aided by the Justice Department in their complaints against state authorities. The amendment reverses a House vote of several weeks ago which excluded adult prisoners from HR 9400. The bill was passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wisc., a supporter, said the amendment strengthens prisoners' rights but "does not entail the creation of a Justice Department bureaucracy to screen prisoner petitions."

Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Pursell voted "yea."

Bonior and Broomfield did not vote.



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## Half of Michigan vets haven't used benefits

About half of the eligible Vietnam era veterans in the state of Michigan have taken advantage of their GI Bill educational benefits, Frank Kilcullen, director of the VA regional office in Detroit, says.

Slightly more than 53 per cent of the 533,000 eligible veterans have enrolled in some form of training.

Kilcullen said veterans have only 10 years from the date of discharge to use their benefits for education, and that the average age of these veterans is now nearing 33.

For many of those who served early in the Vietnam war, the period of eligibility has already ended.

In order to get in four years of training, veterans would have to begin their

schooling no later than six years after discharge.

The VA director said benefits are available for college, high school, vocational, correspondence or business schools. A single veteran going to school full time now receives \$311 a month from the VA as an assistance benefit toward his education.

Married veterans with dependents receive \$370 for one dependent, \$422 for two, and \$25 for each additional dependent.

Kilcullen urged veterans who plan to enroll this fall in a GI Bill training program to complete their details as soon as possible in order to receive their checks after the first month of training.

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