

No trains from Spain is the refrain

Here's how area members of congress were recorded on major roll call votes June 22 through June 28.

SOLAR ENERGY Passes, 267 for and 99 against, a bill (HR 12506) to conduct research and development aimed at the eventual outlay of \$25 million, for fiscal 1979. It was sent to the senate.

Rep. Mike McCormack (D-Wash.), a supporter, said "the solar power satellite system is a technology that may hold a great deal of promise as a viable option for base-load electric power in the future, but it is also a technology requiring a great deal of research and development."

Rep. James Weaver (D-Ore.), an opponent, said he favored solar energy but viewed the bill as "a classic example of taking a simple solution and unduly complicating it... when the beauty of solar energy is its simplicity." He added: "A solar satellite program could cost the taxpayer \$40-80 billion for research alone. The cost of implementing such a program could be in the trillions of dollars."

Members voting "yes" favored the bill.

Reps. William Ford (D-15), James Blanchard (D-18), William Broomfield (R-19), and Carl Pursell (R-2), voted "yes."

Reps. David Bonior (D-12), and William Broadhead (D-17), voted "no."

'BUY AMERICA' Rejected, 98 for and 207 against, an amendment to strike "Buy America" language from the bill authorizing \$755 million for operating Amtrak in fiscal 1979. This amendment was addressed to a requirement that Amtrak buy American products with any purchases of \$100,000 or more. The bill was later passed and sent to the senate.

Court administrator to head federal bar

Oakland County Circuit Court administrator Fred Mester has been named president elect of the Detroit chapter of the Federal Bar Association at the organization's recent annual meeting.

After serving one year as president elect, Mester will assume the duties of the president of the association for the following year.

Mester, 41, is a former chief of the civil division of the U.S. Attorney General's Office and an assistant U.S. attorney. He was formerly an attorney with Chrysler Corp.

Roll Call Report



passed and sent to conference with the senate.

Rep. William Steiger (R-Wis.), sponsor of the amendment, said the requirement "puts in serious jeopardy our efforts in the multilateral trade negotiations. It will mean that we are acting in bad faith in our efforts to get the European community or to get the Japanese to end the kinds of restrictive actions that they have taken against American business."

Rep. Charles Carney (D-Ohio), an opponent, said, "If we are going to save American jobs, we had better wake up, because time is flying. If we are going to spend the money of the American taxpayers, especially money that is used to subsidize Amtrak, we certainly do not want to export jobs."

Members voting "yes" were opposed to the "Buy America" requirement.

Broomfield voted "yes." Bonior, Ford, Broadhead, Blanchard, and Pursell voted "no."

KOREAN AID Adopted, 273 for and 125 against, an amendment to eliminate \$5 million in Food-for-Peace agricultural aid to South Korea. The vote was a response to South Korea's failure to make a former ambassador to the U.S. available for questioning by U.S. officials. The diplomat's testimony is considered critical to ongoing investigations of the South Korean influence-buying scandal. The amendment was attached to the fiscal 1979 agricultural appropriations bill, later passed and sent to the senate.

Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.), the sponsor, said the house did not want to hurt South Korea but wanted to "protect the integrity and the honor of the U.S. House, to get the truth, to lay it out publicly so that the cloud of suspicion will be removed."

Rep. B.F. Sisk (D-Cal.), an opponent, said he was concerned as a member with the integrity of the house. "But is this any way, to go out and start kicking our friends in the teeth worldwide, to retain our honor?"

Members voting "yes" favored the aid cut-off.

Ford, Broadhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yes." Bonior and Pursell voted "no."

SENATE

FEDERAL WORKERS' PAY Rejected, 21 for and 69 against, an amendment to remove a proposed 5.5 per cent cap on pay hikes for federal blue-collar, white collar and military workers. The temporary cap would last through Oct. 31, 1979. The amendment sought to remove the cap, thus allowing normal "comparability" raises which would be in excess of 5.5 per cent. President Carter has called for the 5.5 per cent limit, saying the federal government should set an example to the rest of the country in the battle to slow the wage-price spiral. The amendment was proposed to HR 12303, an appropriations bill later passed and sent to conference with the house.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), sponsor of the amendment, said, "Just going through the act of putting a 5.5 per cent cap on these salaries... is making a scapegoat of the federal employee to try to solve a situation that has arisen out of poor economic policy."

Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), a supporter of tabling, said that to be the president's hand's "is an embarrassing statement to the world that the congress is not willing to curb American oil imports or consumption or support the president in his effort to reduce energy consumption."

Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), an opponent of tabling and sponsor of the amendment, said that for the president to impose a \$5 or \$6 per barrel import fee would do little to diminish U.S. consumption and "would be nothing short of disastrous."

Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.), an opponent of the amendment, said, "I happen to believe if congress says loudly and clearly that it is going to put a pay cap on all federal workers... such a message could have a beneficial ripple effect throughout the economy."

Senators voting "no" favored the 5.5 per cent pay cap for all federal workers.

Sen. Robert Griffin (R) and Donald Riegle (D) voted "no."

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