

# House seeks limits on who can get CETA jobs

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Aug. 3 through Aug. 9.

### HOUSE

**CETA REFORM**—Adopted, 230 for and 175 against, an amendment lowering the top salary paid under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). CETA is the main federal program for putting poor people to work, primarily in state and local public-sector jobs funded by the U.S. Treasury. The five-year-old program has become controversial because of reports it is riddled in many cities by such abuses as nepotism, patronage and fraud.

This amendment was attached to HR 1262, a bill to extend CETA for two years and safeguard it against abuse. The bill was later passed and sent to the Senate. This amendment limits to \$10,000 annually the top CETA salary that can be paid in "low-wage" areas of the country, and to \$12,000 the top pay for "high-wage" areas. Also, it limits the average nationwide CETA wage to \$7,000.

Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.), sponsor of the amendment, said: "I do think a \$15,000-a-year job for CETA is politically indefensible. I do not think our constituents understand why we ought to be paying people that large a salary for a CETA job."

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), an opponent, said that if CETA is "to be something more than training individuals for menial, low-paying jobs... the Obey amendment certainly will not accomplish it."

Members voting "yes" favored lower pay for CETA job-holders.

Rep. William Broomfield (R-Birm.), voted "yes."

Reps. David Bonior (D-Mt. Pleas-

## Roll Call Report



ant), William Ford (D-Taylor), William Brodhead (D-Detroit), James Blanchard (D-Pi. Ridge), and Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), voted "nay."

CETA—Adopted, 221 for and 181 against, an amendment to cut \$1 billion from the public-service-jobs section of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and divert about half of that sum to youth unemployment and private-sector CETA programs. The amendment was attached to the CETA reform bill (see vote above).

It marks a shift in emphasis in CETA by increasing funding for training poor youths for private-sector jobs and decreasing money for putting poor adults in public sector jobs. Although it leaves several hundred thousand jobs for adults untouched, it favors the child at the expense of the father.

Rep. John Anderson (R-Ill.), a supporter, said the "real scandal" of CETA is not how the money has been spent "but how it has not been spent. We are not just wasting taxpayers' dollars—we are wasting a precious national resource... I am speaking about the young people of our nation."

Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-Md.), an opponent, said the amendment would destabilize poor families. "I would implore my colleagues to look at what that does to family life when the father

comes to the son and says, 'Let me borrow two bucks from you so I can go out and look for work.'"

Members voting "yes" favored the amendment.

Broomfield and Pursell voted "yes." Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

**DEFENSE CUTS**—Rejected, 102 for and 252 against, an amendment to cut the Department of Defense appropriations bill by two per cent across-the-board. It sought to trim about \$2.18 billion from the \$119.4 billion bill for defense spending in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The bill (HR 1363) was later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), the sponsor, said that after having served

as a Navy pilot "there is no one sitting in this room today on the floor of the House who can convince me that there is not at least two per cent waste and inefficiency in the military."

Rep. George Mahon (D-Tex.), an opponent, said the defense budget had already been cut by \$3 billion in the appropriations committee and that "we should not tamper further with the defense program..."

Members voting "yes" favored the cut in defense spending.

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

Broomfield voted "nay." Bonior did not vote.

### SENATE

**NEW OFFICES**—Voted, 45 for and 28 against, to table and thus kill an amendment to permanently stop construction of the third Senate office building. When completed in the 1980s, the Phillip A. Hart Building will be the most expensive federal building ever built. Although a removable cap of \$15 million has been placed on it, critics say it will eventually cost more than \$20 million. The tabled amendment was proposed by HR 1347, an appropriations bill later passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), a supporter of tabling and an advocate of the building, said senators need more space because "we put up with crowded conditions... that no other executive agency of the federal government puts up with. We also put up with crowded conditions that many businesses would not put up with."

Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.), an opponent of tabling, asked: "When everybody is looking to the federal government to do its part in curbing inflation, how can we justify going ahead with federal building ever built in the history of this government?"

Senators voting "yes" favored construction of the third Senate office building.

Sens. Robert Griffin (R) and Donald Riegle (D), voted "yes."

**BILLION-DOLLAR CONGRESS**—Passed, 67 for and 20 against, a bill funding the operation of the legislative branch in the fiscal year which begins Oct. 1. The bill covers expenses not only of the Congress but also of support agencies such as the Library of Congress and the General Accounting Office. This marks the first time the legislative appropriations bill has exceeded \$1 billion. The bill (HR

12305) was passed and sent to conference with the House.

Sen. Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.), a supporter, said it is "regrettable that so much of the taxpayers' money must be expended in support of the legislative branch of the government. But I say that many of these expenditures are made necessary by the wishes of the taxpayers themselves in the services they ask of their elected officials."

Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.), an opponent, said: "The total figure in the bill before the Senate today in my judgment is too high... It is \$1.18 billion and that figure compares with \$1.16 billion as a total cost of the legislative branch of government in 1960."

Senators voting "yes" favored passage of the bill.

Griffin and Riegle did not vote.

**MORE ATTORNEYS**—Failed, 36 for and 49 against, to table an amendment increasing the number of attorneys in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. Failure to table meant, in part, that the Senate went along with President Carter's request for 49 additional Criminal Division attorneys. The appropriations committee had opposed the increase.

Griffin voted "yes." Riegle voted "nay."

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