

House avoids vote on whether to expel Diggs

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes March 1 through March 7, HOUSE

DIGGS ISSUE — The House voted, 322 for and 77 against, to sidestep a vote on whether Rep. Charles Diggs, D-Detroit, should be expelled from the House. Diggs became a convicted felon last October when a jury found him guilty of 29 counts of diverting employees' salaries to his own pocket. He has appealed the conviction.

With this vote, the House referred to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct the question of what discipline should be imposed on Diggs by the House. Had the referral move failed, an expulsion vote was in order.

Rep. Parren Mitchell, D-Md., a sup-

porter of referral, said the House had no right to expel Diggs. "The will of the people — that is what this House is all about, and if the people want to elect Hitler or a Klansman that is their right, and you and I do not have any right to control with it," he said.

Rep. Peter Kostmayer, D-Pa., disagreed, saying: "I think that if (Diggs) had stopped voting and if he had not insisted on continuing . . . I would not be here prepared to vote to expel him from this House."

Members voting "yea" wanted to avert a vote on expulsion.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bontor, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Broomfield, R-

Roll Call Report



Bloomfield Twp. voted "yea".

BUDGET CUTTING — The House voted, 262 for and 139 against, to spend \$38 million that both the Administration and the Appropriations Committee had wanted taken out of the health resources budget approved last year by Congress. The money is for grants to schools of medicine, osteopathy and dentistry and various nurses' training programs. The Administration wanted the cut as part of an overall \$700 million recession in the current budget. The vote came during debate on HR 2439, later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Harley Staggers, D-W. Va., a supporter of keeping the \$38 million in the budget, said that "if any member votes for these recisions and goes to the

hospital, I don't know how he can look any nurse in the eye."

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., an opponent, called this vote the "first test" of the 96th Congress' commitment to budget-cutting. "If you cannot exercise the judgment the people want and vote in favor of a balanced budget as you promised in the recent elections, then the people ought to watch closely each member's records and act accordingly in 1980," he said.

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

2,600 PERCENT — In a vote of 249 for and 163 against, the House approved a \$519,000 budget for the Rules Committee in 1979. Last year, the com-

mittee budget was \$19,200. The new figure represents an increase of about 2,600 percent over 1978.

The "traffic cop" committee, which controls the flow of bills to the floor, has a new chairman this year, Rep. Richard Bolling, D-Mo. Among other reasons for the larger budget is his addition of two fully-staffed subcommittees.

Rep. James Quillen, D-Tenn., a supporter of the funding hike and a committee member, said of the Rules Committee: "It has been down-trodden long enough. Do not kick it anymore — because the work of this committee will relieve the pressures of legislative inefficiency and benefit the House."

Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Calif., an opponent, said the 96th Congress has "voted increases in the money we spend on ourselves while we are telling the rest of the country that this is the budget-cutting Congress . . . I would like to know how a 2,600 percent increase in spending for this committee could possibly be justified."

Members voting "yea" favored the budget increase.

Bontor, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yea." Pursell voted "nay."

TAIWAN — The Senate voted, 57 for and 38 against, to table and thus kill an amendment to continue official government-to-government contact with Taiwan. The amendment would have established a U.S. Liaison Office in Taiwan, rather than the unofficial "American Institute" the Administration wants to establish there while it cements diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. The vote came during debate on S 245, a bill setting up procedures for continuing commercial, cultural and other unofficial ties between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., a supporter of tabling, said that "if you want to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China, you cannot vote for (the Humphrey) amendment."

Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., an opponent of tabling and sponsor of the amendment, noted that the U.S. formerly had an official liaison office in Peking, and said Taiwan should be treated at least as well in the absence of formal diplomatic relations.

Virtually all senators voting "nay" opposed establishing diplomatic relations with Peking.

Sens. Donald Riegle, D, and Carl Levin, D, voted "yea."

Poison peril cited

March 18 marks the beginning of Poison Prevention Week. The Southeastern Michigan chapter of the American Red Cross offers these suggestions to help prevent deaths and injuries:

- Keep medications and household products locked and out of reach of children.

- Ask for and use safety lids or closures on containers of medications and other potentially dangerous products.

- Keep products in their original containers, well labeled.

- Since children tend to imitate adults, avoid taking medication in their presence. Always refer to medicines by their proper names. Do not refer to

them as candy. Exercise particular caution when storing pills which resemble candy in shape, color or taste.

- When taking medications at night, always turn on a light and read the label.

- Weed out old or unused medications from your medicine cabinet regularly.

- Protect your eyes and skin when using insecticides, weed killers, solvents and cleaning agents. Read and follow directions. Wash thoroughly after each use of these products and promptly remove contaminated clothing.

- If someone has swallowed a poisonous substance, stay calm. Call a physician or a poison control center. Post the poison control center number for your region on your telephone.

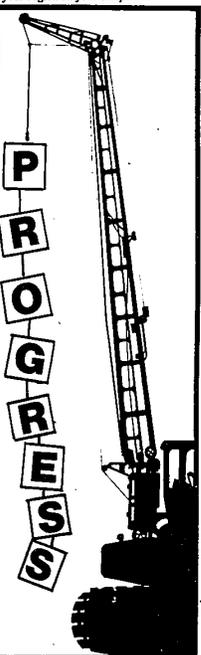
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