

Rigid ethics measure bites the bullet

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes May 24-30.

HOUSE
'REVOLVING DOOR' — The House approved, 247 for and 46 against, a bill (S 899) relaxing the stiff ethics-in-government law due to take effect in the executive branch July 1, 1979. The law is largely aimed at blocking the "revolving door" by which many officials leave government to take private-sector jobs closely related to their former government position. Critics say the revolving door opens the way to conflicts-of-interest.

In part, this bill relaxes the definition of "contact" between the ex-government official and his former government agency.

Supporters said the law is so rigid it is driving many dedicated and honest officials out of government. Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J., said "I will be forced to vote for the liberalization until the day comes when we (members of Congress) are prepared to apply the rules that we consider appropriate for others to ourselves."

Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., an opponent, said: "For those who come into government altruistically — and I am sure there are many — if there is this little bit of sacrifice . . . ought to simply be part of that altruism . . ."

Members voting yea wanted to relax the ethics law.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted yea.

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Bloomfield Township, voted nay.

Roll Call Report



ETHICS LAW — The House rejected, 88 for and 292 against, an amendment to limit the contact the new ethics law (see above vote) permits between an ex-government official and his or her former federal agency.

The amendment said that in addition to prohibiting for two years personal appearances by an ex-official before his ex-agency, the law should also prohibit "backroom" work. An example of backroom contact would be a lawyer writing arguments to be presented to the agency not by himself but by his law partner.

Rep. Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, the sponsor, said "so long as he is working in the backroom, this is the biggest loophole in the entire bill."

Rep. Carlos J. Moorhead, R-Calif., an opponent, said that "in almost any job (a former government employee) could get in private industry, there could be some effect on preparations that might eventually be made to a governmental agency. . . ."

Members voting yea supported the amendment limiting "backroom" contacts.

Brodhead and Broomfield voted yea.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford and Blanchard voted nay.

MIDDLE EAST AID — The House passed, 247 for and 28 against, a bill (HR 4933) authorizing \$4.8 billion in grants and loans for Egypt and Israel. The aid, an addition to normal U.S. foreign aid outlays, was promised by the U.S. as part of the new Mideast peace treaty. Israel would receive \$800 million for two airbases and \$2.2 billion in arms. Egypt would get \$300 million in economic aid and \$1.5 billion in military equipment. The bill was sent to conference with the Senate.

Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., a supporter, said "If the United States is to play a mediating role in the negotiations, it must be reasonably responsive to the security requirements of Israel and Egypt."

Rep. James P. Johnson, R-Colo., an opponent, argued: "We are paying ransom to them to stop fighting each other. It seems to me that peace should be an incentive to them — not our arms."

Members voting yea favored the aid to facilitate the Mideast peace treaty.

Pursell, Sawyer, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted yea.

BUDGET — The House gave final approval, 202 for and 196 against, to the congressional "master plan" for the fiscal 1980 federal budget. The fiscal year begins Oct. 1. The budget plan is non-binding, but sets ceilings and guidelines which the House and Senate are expected to obey as they approve actual spending bills later in the year.

Members voting yea favored the fiscal 1980 congressional budget plan.

Pursell, Bonior, Brodhead and Blanchard voted yea.

Broomfield voted nay. Ford did not vote.

Youth Employment

telethon on Channel 56

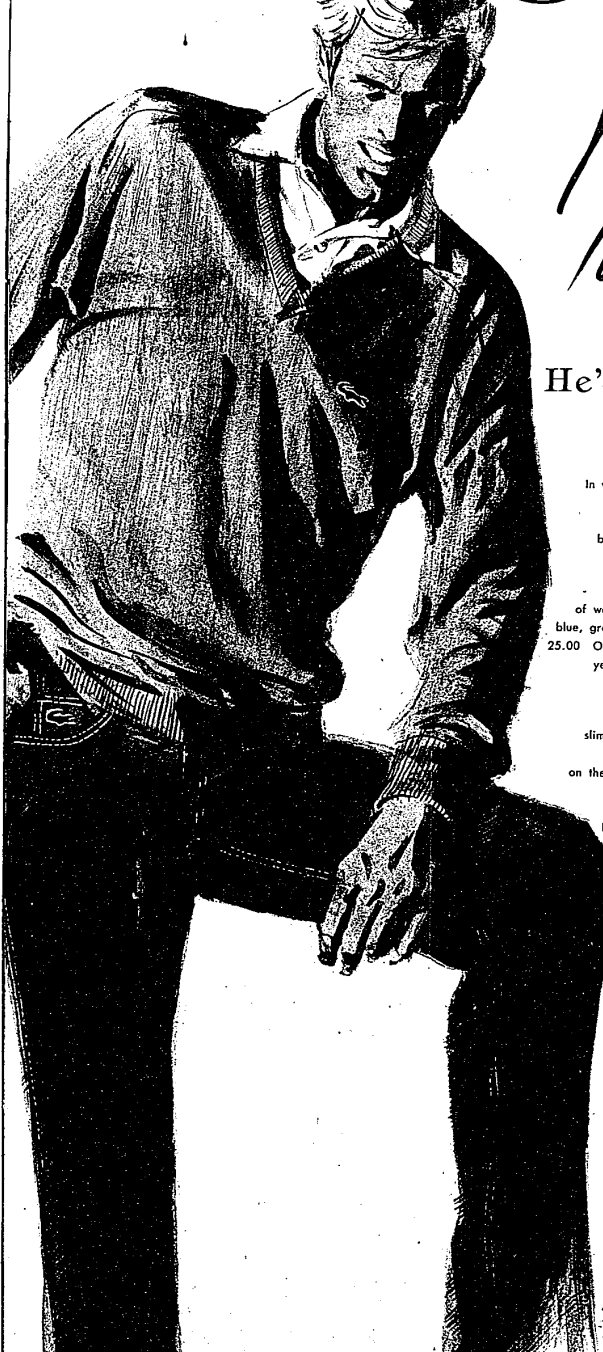
The third annual "Target: Youth Employment" telethon, will air at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Wednesday, June 18-20, on Channel 56.

The telethon, produced by Channel 56 in cooperation with the Detroit Board of Education, runs for 30 minutes each day with the hope of finding jobs for youths.

Employers are urged to call in and pledge job openings which are later matched against a file of 16-to-20 year-olds who need work.

Host of this year's program will be Bill Johnson from WJL-TV Newsradio 95, with guest appearances by Secretary of State Richard Austin, Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Arthur Jefferson, Detroit Deputy Mayor Dick Simmons and City Councilman Clyde Cleveland.

Last year, the telethon found 2,400 jobs for high school students and graduates.



Handwritten signature: Peter

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