

Michigan congressmen split over pay raise defeat

Here's how area Members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes June 7 through June 13.

HOUSE

RAISE — By a vote of 186 for and 232 against, the House defeated a bill providing \$953 million for congressional operations during the next fiscal year. Essentially this was a vote to keep the 5.5 percent pay raise proposed this year for congressmen and 15,000 other top federal officials. There was no direct vote on the raise because its supporters used parliamentary tactics to avert one. The bill will return to the House floor, most likely without the pay-raise provisions.

Rep. Jim Wright, D-Tex., a pay raise supporter, said: "Since 1969 the raises Congress has begrudgingly allowed itself have lagged at least 14 percent behind the increases in the cost of living. Do we not belittle ourselves and our institution if we perpetuate and aggravate that disparity?"

Rep. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, an opponent, said: "The rate of inflation is one reason to give more emphasis to not having a pay raise for members of Congress. It just is not going to be a very good example for the public if we are not willing to bite the bullet here now."

Virtually all members voting "yea" supported the bill and thus the pay raise.

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

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Harold Sawyer, R-Rockford, William

Roll Call Report



Bloomfield, R-Bloomfield Township, Donald Albosta, D-St. Charles and Robert Davis, R-Gaylord, voted "nay."

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt, R-Cadillac, did not vote.

SCHOOL PRAYER — The House adopted, 255 for and 122 against, a legislative amendment in favor of prayer in public schools. The measure seeks to counter the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that school prayers violate the constitutional separation of church and state. It was attached to a bill to establish a U.S. Department of Education. The bill was defeated.

The commission was set up 21 years ago to monitor and advise Congress on race discrimination. Its jurisdiction recently was expanded to cover discrimination against the aged and handicapped.

Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Tex., the sponsor, said: "Let us get on and decide whether we want to establish a Department of Education and leave the question of prayer in the public schools to the proper forum and to a more fitting occasion."

Members voting "yea" favor prayer in public schools.

Pursell, Bloomfield, Vander Jagt, Albosta and Davis voted "yea."

Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

RIGHTS COMMISSION — By a vote of 130 for and 168 against, the House rejected an amendment to cut the budget of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. The amendment sought to lower the agency's budget in fiscal 1980 from the \$14 million figure approved by the Minority Committee to the \$11.37 million level requested by the administration.

The commission was set up 21 years ago to monitor and advise Congress on race discrimination. Its jurisdiction recently was expanded to cover discrimination against the aged and handicapped.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., the sponsor, said the commission's budget "has almost doubled" since 1973, and that "this bill should be amended downward to reflect the actual times we are living in."

Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., an opponent, said the amendment "is a signal of retreat . . . to black Americans, to brown Americans, to the aged, to the handicapped."

Members voting "yea" wanted to cut

the U.S. Civil Rights Commission budget.

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

SENATE

RHODESIA — The Senate voted to return U.S. trade with Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. The proposal in a vote (52 for and 41 against) to kill language that would have enabled President Carter to continue the existing embargo until at least Dec. 1. The vote came during debate on a defense bill later passed and sent to the House.

The bill would, in part, soon end the U.S. economic boycott. The termination language would supplant previous congressional and presidential actions on Rhodesian trade.

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., a sponsor of returning trade, said the sanctions "are not important in lifting the sanctions out of fear or nervousness about what other black African nations will do. They may say one thing in public, but they say something entirely different in private."

Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., said: "If senators vote to lift the sanctions, they are going to hand Africa over to the Soviets."

Senators voting "yea" want the U.S. to stop using a trade embargo to penalize the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia government.

Sen. Carl Levin, Democrat, voted "yea."

Sen. Donald Riegle, Democrat, did not vote.

SNAIL DARTER — The Senate declined, 43 for and 52 against, to exempt the Tellico Dam in Tennessee from the Endangered Species Act. Because it is said the dam would destroy the habitat of the snail darter, a threatened species, its well-advanced construction is blocked by the act. The vote came during consideration of a bill extending the act for three years.

Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., a sponsor of the exemption motion, said: "The dam was begun in 1967, six years before the Endangered Species Act became law. The small darter species . . . was not discovered in the Little Tennessee River until 1975, eight years after the project had begun."

Sen. John Culver, D-Iowa, an opponent, said Congress should allow applications for exemption to be considered by a special executive branch committee set up last year for that purpose.

Senators voting "yea" want construction of the Tellico Dam completed.

Riegle and Levin voted "nay."

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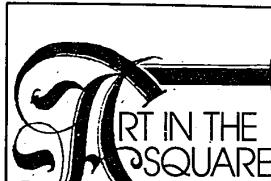
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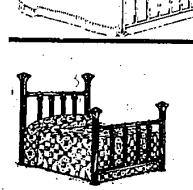
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