

House rejects Sun Belt state aid to poor

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Aug. 21 through Aug. 27.

SUN BELT vs FROST BELT: The House rejected 199-215 an amendment to provide Sun Belt states with a larger slice of federal aid to help the poor pay their energy bills. The increased Sun Belt share would have come at the expense of the Frost Belt. The aid in question is \$1.8 billion to be distributed to the poor in fiscal 1981, primarily to help them pay home heating costs. The vote came during debate on an appropriations bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Bill Alexander, D-Ark., a supporter, said the federal aid should go as much for air-conditioning costs as for heating bills. "I am advised that more people died in this nation during the June-July heat wave than died from cold in the past half century," he said.

Rep. Edward Beard, D-R.I., an opponent, told Sun Belt members: "I understand your air conditioning and the need for it. But understand what it is to be old and poor in a northern climate trying to survive."

Members voting "nay" wanted to preserve a formula giving Frost Belt states priority over Sun Belt states in the distribution of energy money to the poor.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, and William Broomfield R-Birmingham, voted "nay."

BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION: The House voted, 213-194, against to prevent the Department of Education from requiring schools to teach in two languages to many students whose main language is not English. The department has proposed regulations which would require many schools to greatly expand bi-lingual education, so as to comply with the 1974 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Lau vs. Nichols. The amendment adopted by the vote prohibits the Education Department from spending any of its fiscal 1981 budget to implement the regulations. The vote came during debate on an appropriations bill later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. John Ashbrook, R-Ohio, the sponsor, said: "If we believe in local control of education... and if we oppose the deliberate distortion of the requirements of Supreme Court decisions, we shall adopt this amendment."

roll call report

Opponent Baltasar Corrada, Puerto Rico's representative in Congress, said: "This is not really an amendment against bi-lingual education programs. It is even worse. It is an amendment against equal educational opportunity and civil rights..."

Members voting "yes" were expressing animosity toward proposed federal regulations to greatly expand bi-lingual education in the nation's schools.

Pursell, Sawyer, Broomfield, Vander Jagt, Albosta and Davis voted "yes." Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

SENATE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: The senate rejected 38-46 an amendment to fund a new domestic violence program by means of block grants to states rather than by categorical grants to state and local governments and community groups. Fewer federal strings are attached to block grants than to categorical grants. Had the amendment prevailed, domestic violence money would have been sent to states through an existing channel in the Social Security

Senators voting "nay" wanted a new federal mechanism to administer the domestic violence program.

Democratic Sens. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin voted "nay."

STRIP MINING: By a vote of 54-31, the Senate approved language that weakens federal regulation of strip mining in the states. The legislation makes it easier for a state to get Department of Interior approval of its plan for reclaiming scarred land. The measure was passed as part of a ship-tonnage bill that was sent back to the House.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the sponsor, said the law needs to be softened because of the "unfair, unreasonable, and unworkable mining and reclamation policies" of the Interior Department.

Opponent Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said the law was being changed "for the benefit of a limited few... the coal mine operators and, indirectly, the oil companies, many of which own those very coal mines."

Senators voting "yes" wanted to weaken the 1977 Surface Mining Act. Riegle and Levin voted "nay."

Vets advised to check funds coverage overseas

Veterans planning to live or work in a foreign country should check before leaving the U.S. with the Veterans Administration to find out what benefits are available outside of the country.

Gordon Clowney, director of the VA regional office in Detroit, said veterans with service-connected disabilities should obtain a statement of their disabilities from the office maintaining their medical records, even for a vacation.

The statement will enable the veteran to obtain emergency treatment or hospitalization at VA expense. Proper application for medical benefits and statement must be presented to the U.S. Embassy or consular office in a foreign country. The application should be made within 72 hours of need.

Clowney says the Veterans Memorial

hospital in Manila is the only overseas hospital where VA aid care is available to veterans with non-service-connected disabilities. Admission is on a space available basis and only if the veteran cannot afford other hospitalization.

The VA director reminded veterans that only those who are retired from the military are eligible for treatment at overseas military hospitals and clinics.

Certain VA educational benefits are available overseas, and VA will mail compensation and pension checks to most foreign countries. GI home loan guarantees are not available overseas.

Clowney said full-information is available at the regional office, McNamara Federal Building in Detroit, or by the VA's toll free telephone.

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More than 18,000 students at Michigan State University looking for part-time work this past year found it right on campus.

And in these tough economic times, just as many are expected to be looking

for work this coming school year, said Jack Shingleton director of MSU's Placement Services.

Shingleton said last year's student payroll amounted to \$14 million from July 1979 through June 1980.

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