

'There is nothing as good in this land as a federal pension'

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Sept. 4-10.

HOUSE

FEDERAL PENSIONS — The House voted 309-72 to continue awarding two cost-of-living increases each year to federal pensioners. Retirees benefiting from the vote are former civil servants, congressmen and military personnel. At issue was a proposal to save \$700 million annually in federal outlays by providing only one cost-of-living hike each year. The vote came during debate on HR 7765, a budget bill later passed and sent to conference with the Senate.

Rep. Robert Bauman, R-Md., a supporter, said the House should provide twice-annual increases by way of "honoring the congressional commitment to federal retirees."

Rep. Robert Giacomini, D-Conn., an opponent, spoke of the "pressure that has been put on the members of this body by the lobbies of the retired employees" and called it "disgraceful." He added: "There is nothing as good in this land as a federal pension."

Members voting yea wanted the pensions of retired congressmen, civil servants and military personnel to be bolstered by two annual cost-of-living increases.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted yea.

Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, did not vote.

A FEMINIST ISSUE — By a vote of 229-111, the House adopted the more conservative of two proposals to help out spouses of Foreign Service officers. The amendment allows domestic relations courts to include the officer's federal pension in property settlements in divorce proceedings. The legislation

was attached to a State Department bill later passed and sent to the Senate. Most opponents wanted to House to adopt a farther-reaching amendment entitling a former spouse to a portion of both the federal pension and survivor's benefit. Unless a court ruled otherwise, the entitlement would take effect.

Rep. Ford, who favored the amendment leaving any division of the Foreign Service pension up to the courts, said, "I am pleading with the House not to get us into the domestic relations business..."

Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., who opposed that amendment as too weak a reform, said that because of the rootless nature of Foreign Service work, "following death or divorce, the spouse has insufficient work experience to find a job, no retirement benefits... and no right to a portion of the benefits of the member of the service."

Most members voting nay wanted Foreign Service spouses to be virtually guaranteed a portion of their former spouses' pension and survivor's benefits.

Rep. Ford voted yea. Bonior, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted nay.

Pursell did not vote. **BILLYGOAT** — The House refused 124-260 to kill a "resolution of inquiry" directing the Carter Administration to furnish the House with "full and complete" information on Billy Carter's relations with Libya and the White House's handling of the affair. Following this tally, the resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

Since Administration officials have already provided what they contend is the full story of the Billy Carter controversy, this was largely a partisan effort to focus attention on the issue during an election year.

Rep. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., who voted yea, said, "Passing the resolution would be a fruitless gesture because the issue is moot."

roll call

Rep. Robert McClory, R-Ill., who voted nay, said: "... the President has not answered many of the questions that have been generated by this controversy."

Members voting yea opposed the resolution.

Bonior, Ford and Brodhead voted yea.

Pursell, Blanchard, and Broomfield voted nay.

SENATE

PAY RAISE — The Senate voted 78-13 to block a proposed 9.1 percent pay raise for congressmen, federal judges, and other government employees who are currently paid more than \$51,112 per year.

The provision was added to an energy and water resources spending bill that was later passed and sent to conference with the House. The pay freeze affects about 21,000 federal employees. Another 1.4 million federal workers still would receive the raise on Oct. 1.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., a supporter of the freeze, said: "Given the current double digit inflation and the

huge budget deficit, this is not the time to be granting substantial salary increases to those who are already paid at levels far higher than the average American..."

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, an opponent, said: "I would rather see us reduce our own pay than destroy the effectiveness of government by limiting everybody else."

Senators voting yea opposed the pay increase for top federal officials.

Sen. Donald Riegle voted yea.

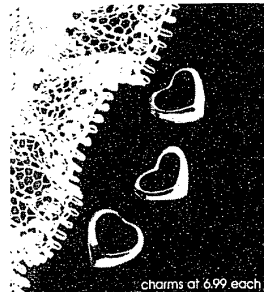
Sen. Carl Levin voted nay.

VIET VETS AID — By a vote of 35-51, the Senate rejected a plan to help some Vietnam War veterans find jobs

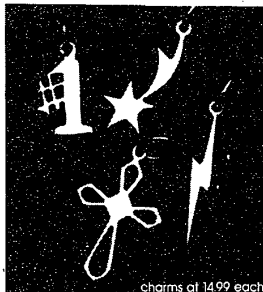
by subsidizing part of their salaries.

The vote came on an amendment offered to a Veterans Administration bill later passed and sent to conference with the House. Under the proposal, the VA would have spent about \$247 million over the next five years to give employers an incentive to hire Vietnam veterans. Those who now earn less than \$13,000 per year and have not used the educational benefits due them under the GI bill could have up to half their wages in new jobs paid by the government for up to 18 months.

Senators voting yea favored the additional benefits. Riegle and Levin voted yea.



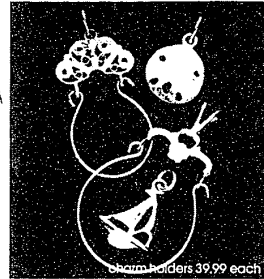
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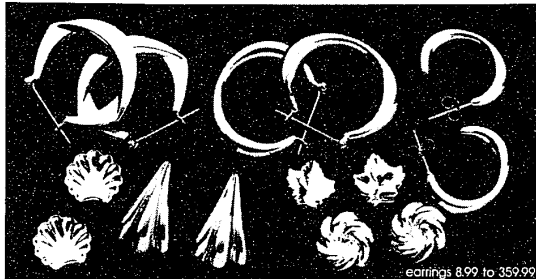
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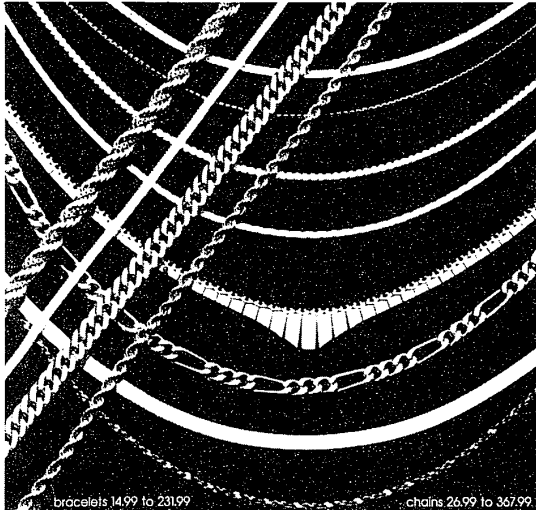
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