

roll call report

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes between April 29 and May 5.

HOUSE

REPAIRING DAMS — By a vote of 212 for and 140 against, the House adopted an amendment requiring those who benefit directly from federally built irrigation dams, such as agricultural interests, to pay a share of the cost of repairs. Historically, the U.S. Treasury has paid the entire cost. The amendment, favored by the Adminis-

tration, was attached to a bill (HR 3208) authorizing up to \$650 million for repairing 56 federally built dams, most of them in the West. The bill was later passed and sent to the Senate. Sponsor Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., said that "economic efficiency as well as fundamental fairness" will be sacrificed if we continue to subsidize the users of water and power from federal dams. Members voting "yes" wanted direct beneficiaries of federally built irrigation dams to share the cost of repairs. Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Da-

vid Bosler, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodeur, D-Detroit, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge voted "yes." Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "nay."

SENATE

NUCLEAR WASTE — By a vote of 52 for and 40 against, the Senate killed an amendment making it easier for a state to block the location of a nuclear waste repository within its boundaries; a state's objection would stand unless both houses of Congress voted to nullify it. Later, the Senate approved softer language that allows a state's veto to stand if either house votes in favor of the veto.

The vote occurred during debate on a bill (S 1982) providing for permanent storage of radioactive waste from nuclear utilities and weapons factories. By 1984, the government would pick three potential sites, with Washington, Nevada, Utah, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi leading candidates because of their rock or salt formations. By 1986, the first repository would be selected, and by the mid-1990's it would be in operation. The bill was passed and sent to the House. Nuclear waste currently is stored temporarily near the utility or weapons plant. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., who

supported killing the amendment, said that when it comes to solving the nuclear waste storage problem, "Everyone wants to proceed but they want the other fellow to take the waste. It's sort of like, 'Don't tax me. Tax the fellow behind the tree.'"

Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev., who sponsored the amendment, called it "the most equitable balance between state and federal rights in the resolution of a truly national problem of intensely local concern."

Senators voting "yes" wanted states to have less power to reject a federal nuclear waste repository. Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted "nay."

DELAY — The Senate killed, 63 for and 27 against, an amendment to delay for three years the 1984 target date for selecting three locations for the permanent storage of nuclear waste (see preceding vote). A survey of suitable geological formations throughout the nation is due to be completed in 1986, supporters of the delay noted. The vote occurred during debate on S 1682.

Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., who favored killing the amendment, said the measure "would substantially delay the repository program. That is the bottom line."

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., who sponsored the amendment, noted that nuclear

waste remains radioactive for a long time, and he asked: "After all, what is a delay of three years as compared to a program here for 10,000 years?"

Senators voting "nay" wanted to delay selection of waste sites until more geological study of the entire nation has been undertaken. Levin and Riegle voted "yes."

INTERIM STORAGE — By a vote of 47 for and 43 against, the Senate re-passed a section of the nuclear waste bill providing for interim storage of ra-

dioactive material at federally-built sites until the geologic repositories are operational. The provision was advocated by the utility industry, for it would enable utilities whose storage pools are overloaded to send their waste elsewhere. South Carolina, New York and Illinois are among states that could provide temporary storage. The vote occurred during consideration of S 1682 (see preceding votes).

Senators voting "yes" wanted to provide the away-from-reactor storage that the utility industry has asked for. Levin and Riegle voted "nay."

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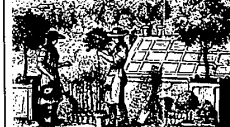
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