

roll call report

Suburban reps split on coastal states aid bill

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major rollcall votes in the days before the current Election Day recess.

OIL AND GAS MONEY — The House passed, 350 to 134, a bill to earmark up to \$300 million annually in offshore oil and gas revenues to coastal states bordering the oceans and the Great Lakes.

The funding would come from the estimated \$10 billion to \$15 billion the Treasury is expected to gain annually under the Reagan Administration's program to lease offshore lands to energy prospectors.

According to supporters, one rationale of the bill is that coastal states deserve the special payments to offset the impact of offshore drilling on their marine resources.

Although all coastal states would get some of the \$300 million, the amount would depend on factors such as population, shoreline mileage, and the volume of offshore drilling near the state. States would have to spend their block grant on marine-related programs such as those they administer under the Coastal Zone Management Act or on other programs to enhance their natural resources. The bill (HR 5543) was sent to the Senate.

Supporter Walter Jones, D-N.C., said that at a time when the administration is cutting programs to preserve coastal resources, "it is critically important" to give states money for marine preservation projects.

Opponent Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said he wonders "about the priorities of any Congress that would take up to \$3 billion (the 10-year cost of the bill) from the U.S. Treasury to put these turkeys ahead of other important programs, such as Social Security, to name one."

Members voting "yes" wanted to divert a portion of revenue from offshore oil and gas leases to the coastal states.

Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, William Ford, D-Taylor, William Brodhead, D-Detroit, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "yes."

Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth voted "nay."

Rep. James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge did not vote.

FUTURE MARKET — By a vote of 170 for and 216 against, the House rejected an amendment to assess a "user's fee" on transactions in the futures market.

The Reagan Administration backed the amendment, saying it would pay most or all of the \$23 million annual budget of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission — shifting the cost from the Treasury to the private sector.

Most transactions were to be charged \$5 to 12 cents each, although the fee for options and leverage deals was to be \$3. The amendment was proposed to a bill (HR 5447) funding the commission and strengthening its powers. The bill also delegates regulatory powers to the National Futures Association, a trade association.

Sponsor Barber Conable, R-N.Y., asked, "Why in the world should the taxpayer pay the cost of this particular regulation?"

Opponent Ed Jones, D-Tenn., said it was unfair to expect traders to pay the cost of the federal regulatory commission at a time when they will be paying \$27 million annually to fund the self-policing activities of the National Futures Association.

Members voting "yes" wanted to assess a "user's fee" on those who trade in the futures market. Pursell, Brodhead and Broomfield voted "yes."

Bonior and Blanchard voted "nay." Ford did not vote.

SENATE

UNION POLITICS — By a vote of 62 for and 37 against, the Senate tabled

and thus killed an amendment to prevent labor unions from using compulsory union dues for any political purpose.

Under present law, unions cannot use dues for direct contributions to candidates. But they can use dues to finance "voter education" projects and other forms of in-kind support of candidates and political causes.

The amendment was offered to HJ Res 999, an appropriations bill later passed and signed into law by the president. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who sponsored the amendment, said unions "take money from American workers against their will and use it to support political causes and candidates the workers often oppose."

No senators spoke in favor of killing the amendment.

Senators voting "nay" favored limit-

ing political spending by unions.

Sens. Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted "yes."

BUYER MILK — The Senate failed, 28 for and 70 against, to table an amendment designed to increase the nutritional value of milk and, at the same time, reduce government milk price support payments to producers.

While getting better milk, consumers would pay a few cents more per gallon if the measure becomes law. This vote left the measure as part of the fiscal 1983 agriculture appropriations (HR 7072), later passed and sent to conference with the House.

The amendment would raise federal standards for milk. In effect, this would result in producers adding more non-fat dry milk to their product. Dairy surpluses would be reduced, thus

lowering the volume of purchases the government must make to keep producers' prices at legislatively-guaranteed levels. The new federal standards would be comparable to those now operative in California.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., supported killing the amendment. He said that while the concept may be sound, it was wrong to attach substantive changes in the law to an appropriations bill. He also objected to the higher consumer prices the amendment would cause.

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., who sponsored the amendment, said it should save \$360 million annually in government costs to buy surpluses. As to consumers, Hayakawa added, "For a slight increase in price, (they) will see the nutritional value of milk increase by as much as 21 percent."

Senators voting "yes" opposed the plan to raise federal standards for the solid content of milk.

Levin and Reigle voted "nay."

ENVIRONMENTAL MONEY — By a vote of 44 for and 40 against, the Senate tabled and thus killed an amendment to add \$69.3 million to the Environmental Protection Agency's \$3.7 billion budget for the current fiscal year.

The money would have funded additional research as well as the EPA's "superfund," which claims up especially dangerous hazardous waste dumps. The amendment was offered to a bill (HR 6956) appropriating fiscal 1983 funding for the EPA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other agencies. The bill was passed and later signed by the president.

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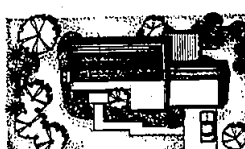
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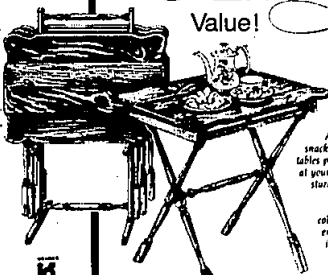
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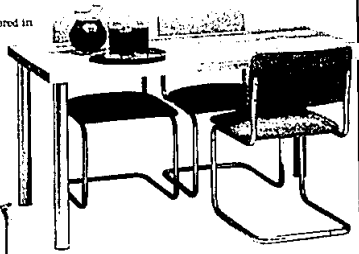
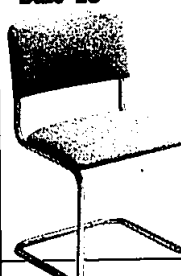
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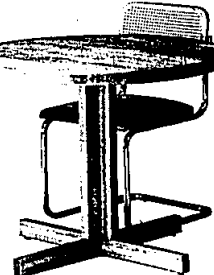
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