

Lid on social programs rejected

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes after returning from their summer recess.

HOUSE
SOCIAL SPENDING — By a vote of 124 for and 233 against, the House rejected an amendment to keep an administration-backed spending lid on 10 social welfare programs.

The bill authorized an additional \$1.6 billion in fiscal 1984 for programs such as education aid for poor children and nutrition aid to infants and pregnant mothers who are poor.

Reversing themselves on this vote were many members who supported the ceilings when they were set in 1981 as part of the Gramm-Rudman budget resolution, the keystone of the president's budget-cutting program.

The outlays were approved as part of a vocational rehabilitation bill (HR 3520) later passed and sent to the Senate.

Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who voted for the amendment, called it "clever politically" for the Democratic leadership to add the social spending to the popular vocational bill.

Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., said voting for the extra education outlay would be "responding to the power of the American people, who are insisting that more, not less, money be spent on education."

Members voting no favor the additional \$1.6 billion in social spending.

Voting yes: William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Carl Parsell, R-Plymouth; Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit; William Ford, D-Taylor; and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

LITERACY — By a vote of 126 for and 275 against, the House rejected language requiring that high schools deny graduation to the functionally illiterate as a condition of receiving special U.S. aid for the poor.

The vote came during debate on HR 3520 (above). It was supported by lawmakers unhappy with the additional \$550 million in education outlays for the disadvantaged.

Sponsor John Erlenborn, R-Ill., said "we should get some results for the federal funds that have been and will be expended... for education."

Opponent Carl Perkins, D-Ky., said the literacy requirement amounted to "heavy-handed federal control" over state and local education.

Members voting no opposed federally mandated literacy tests for high school graduates.

Voting yes: Broomfield.

Voting no: Parsell, Hertel, Ford and Levin.

AID — The House refused, 154 for and 255 against, to kill a provision extending Trade Adjustment Assistance to a new category of the jobsless.

Presently, TAA unemployment and retraining benefits go to workers in industries such as steel and auto who lose their jobs directly as a result of foreign competition.

With this vote, the House approved TAA eligibility also for former employees of companies that supply goods and services to firms directly affected by imports.

The vote occurred during debate on a bill (HR 3519) extending the TAA program for two years at a cost estimated by the Congressional Budget Office at \$380 million. Benefits authorized by this vote

roll call report

would cost at least \$44 million annually. The bill awaited final action.

President Reagan has sought deep cuts in TAA, long a favorite of organized labor and its allies in Congress.

Rep. Barber Conable, R-N.Y., who voted yes, said the provision "would create a new entitlement program."

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., said extending TAA to workers in supplier companies was a matter of "equity," adding "this is not an entitlement program."

Members voting no wanted to extend Trade Adjustment Assistance to a new category of the unemployed.

Voting no: Parsell, Hertel, Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

Broomfield.

SENATE

MILITARY — The Senate passed, 83 for and eight against, and sent to the House the conference report on a bill (S 675) authorizing a \$187.5 billion military budget for fiscal 1984.

The measure goes \$18.5 billion short of President Reagan's request for 1984. It funds the MX missile, nerve gas production and the B-1 bomber, among other controversial weaponry.

Supporter Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said the Soviets' recent downing of a Korean Air Lines passenger jet "should remind us that military strength and national will are our only deterrents to Soviet aggression."

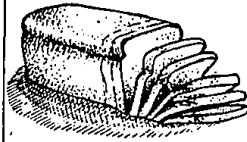
Opponent Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., cited the MX and the B-1 as examples of "inefficient, inefficient and destabilizing weapons" and said "I reject the notion that simply spending more will lead to greater national security."

Carl Levin, D-Mich., voted no. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., voted yes.

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