

Senate clears way for death penalty vote

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the days before the presidential recess.

PARTY CLASH — By a vote of 153 for and 237 against, the House rejected a move to allocate committee and subcommittee slots to Republicans in the same proportion as they hold seats in the 435-member House. The vote occurred during debate on House Resolution 455.

Democrats, who control the House and write its rules, allow Republicans a limited number of seats on each panel. Although the GOP accounts for about 38 percent of the overall House membership, its representation on committees averages below 38 percent.

Republicans say this enables Democrats to kill in committee many bills that would succeed if debated on the

floor in full public view. They say that with their own membership on a given panel plus support of conservative Democrats, they could salvage many of their major bills.

Supporter William Dannemeyer, R-Calif., said, "One of the amazing things about this whole process is that the Democratic Party leadership has ... made an eloquent defense of the civil rights of minorities in America."

Opponent Bill Alexander, D-Ark., noted that when the GOP last controlled the House, 30 years ago, it created an even greater committee advantage for the majority party.

Members voting yes wanted the GOP to have proportional representation on House committees and subcommittees. Voting yes: Carl Farnell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Voting no: Dennis Hertel, D-Detroit, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander

roll call report

Levin, D-Southfield.

SENATE

DEATH PENALTY — By a vote of 65 for and 26 against, the Senate cut off a filibuster by senators opposed to reinstating the death penalty for certain federal crimes.

The bill (S1765) awaited a final vote. It would make capital punishment possible for persons convicted of espionage, treason and attempts on a president's life. Also covered would be federal crimes that result in death.

A person convicted of a crime specified in the bill would face a separate court proceeding to determine whether

the sentence is death.

Supporter Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., said the death penalty "is a way for society to express its sense of outrage for intolerable conduct threatening the very foundations of society."

Opponent Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said "it is better to imprison 100 murderers for life than to take the risk that one innocent citizen will be put to death."

Senators voting no on the filibuster issue were opponents of the federal death penalty.

Both Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted no.

APPEALS — The Senate passed 67-9

a bill to limit the filing of federal habeas corpus appeals by persons convicted in state court. The bill (S 1763) was sent to the House.

Habeas corpus, Latin for "produce the body," is a constitutional guarantee that those arrested be informed of the charge and produced in court for a hearing.

Critics say too many state prisoners abuse it and clog the courts by filing endless habeas corpus appeals with federal judges. Because a constitutional question is at stake, federal courts must hear the appeals.

In part, this bill places a statute of

limitations on such appeals and spells out instances where state rulings on habeas corpus issues cannot be appealed.

Supporter Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said, "We must act now to restore finally to our criminal justice system and to end this type of abuse that is so prevalent."

Opponent Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., said, "It is the mandate of our criminal justice system to strive for justice not efficiency, not expediency."

Senators voting yes wanted to limit federal habeas corpus appeals by state convicts.

Levin and Riegle voted no.

County names economic director



Joseph D. Joachim

Oakland County has taken a first step in implementing a plan to attract new business and retain established firms.

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy announced assignment of Joseph D. Joachim as director of the county's Economic Development Group.

Murphy also presented the Board of Commissioners' public services committee a plan for business attraction and expansion.

If Murphy's plan is approved by commissioners, nine employees will be transferred from other county offices to the Economic Development Group which would have a staff of 11.

The plan grew out of a report by the Business Attraction and Expansion Committee set up by Murphy.

Since joining the executive's staff in June 1983, Joachim has been responsible for coordinating planning efforts of committee and the consultants, Plante and Moran.

The Birmingham resident was county director of facilities and operations from 1983 to 1972.

State honors administrators

Joan E. Young, court administrator/judicial assistant for Oakland County Circuit Court, was honored by Michigan's Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Phillip E. Runkel recognized Young for her service as chairperson of the State Tenure Commission, a state agency which reviews the decisions of local school boards on disciplining and discharging teachers.

The Birmingham resident was appointed to the Tenure Commission in Jan. 1979 by then-Gov. William G. Milliken. She served as chairperson until her term expired in August 1983.

Present commission members signed a resolution expressing their appreciation to Young. It states that she "consistently demonstrated wisdom, honor, integrity, impartiality, and even handedness in carrying out the intent of the Teacher Tenure Act."

OU slates assertiveness training class

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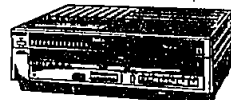
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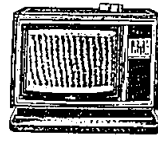
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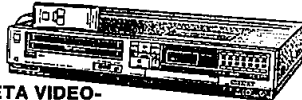
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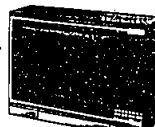
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