

Flood control project kept alive by U.S. House

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes during the week ending Nov. 8.

HOUSE

OREGON DAM — By a vote of 200 for and 200 against, the House rejected an amendment to deauthorize, or kill, the Elk Creek Dam flood control project envisioned for the Rogue River Basin in Oregon.

This kept alive a 23-year-old public works authorization that critics say is outdated and unnecessary. Construction of the \$120 million project has not begun.

The vote occurred during debate on a massive water resources bill (HR 6) that funds some 200 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects expected to cost at least \$10 billion. The bill remained in debate.

The issue went beyond Oregon boundaries. It caused some members from other states to wonder if a vote against Elk Creek Dam might cause disputed public works projects in their own districts to be reauthorized.

Jim Weaver, D-Ore., who sponsored the amendment, called the Elk Creek Dam project "a monument to waste" that even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to scuttle.

Opponent Robert Smith, R-Ore., said "The Corps of Engineers' decision is not one that is final. It is this House of Representatives that directs what occurs in this nation."

Voting yes: Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

Members voting no wanted to keep the project alive. Voting no: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth; William Ford, D-Taylor; William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

WATER POLICY — The House rejected, 124 for and 298 against, an amendment to include the Mississippi River Valley tributary system — but not the main stems of the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers — in a nationwide cost-sharing policy to be implemented by the new water resources bill (above).

The vote means all new Mississippi River basin water projects in Missouri, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee will be exempted from the cost-sharing policy and thus receive virtually 100 percent federal funding.

Elsewhere, states and localities will have to pay 25 to 50 percent of the bill for new projects in behalf of flood control, navigation, other objectives. The rationale is to force local governments to weed out unnecessary projects, and to cut federal spending.

Berkley Bedell, D-Iowa, who supported the amendment, said no region should get preferential treatment in federal water policy because "if it is right for Iowa, it seems to me it should be right for Louisiana as well."

Opponent Bob Livingston, R-La., said "Fully two thirds of (America's) water flows through the Mississippi River system and the whole nation benefits from its smooth and efficient performance."

Members voting no wanted Mississippi River Valley water projects to remain exempt from cost-sharing requirements. Broomfield voted no.

Voting yes: Pursell, Hertel, Levin.

Not voting: Ford.

TREASURY DEPT — By a vote of 237 for and 171 against, the House passed the conference report on a bill appropriating nearly \$13.2 billion in fiscal 1986 for the Treasury Department, Postal Service, Interior Revenue Service and other agencies.

The bill (HR 3038) was headed for the White House, where it is seen as veto-bait because of its high spending for postal subsidies of non-profit

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matters and for IRS and Customs Service operations.

It tops the Reagan Administration budget request by \$951 million.

Supporter Edward Roybal, D-Calif., said the IRS needs more money to upgrade its tax-collection efforts, the Customs Service needs more personnel to combat drug smugglers, and that the bill will avert "exorbitant" rate increases for charities and other non-profit matters.

Alluding to congressional debate over the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction legislation, opponent Robert Walker, R-Pa., said "at a time when we are posturing on questions of spending it is high time that we begin to rein ourselves in. Here is a good place to start."

Members voting yes favored the bill.

Voting yes: Ford and Levin.

Voting no: Pursell, Hertel, Broomfield.

SENATE

JUDGE KOZINSKI — The Senate confirmed, 84 for and 43 against, the nomination of Alex Kozinski as judge on the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Now on the U.S. Court of Claims, Kozinski, 35, will become the youngest jurist on the nation's second highest court.

His nomination was boost, in part, by charges that he lacked candor in dealing with the Senate Judiciary Committee and by complaints from those who worked under him at U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board in 1981-82 that he abused subordinates.

Supporter Peter Wilson, R-Calif., said, "If there is a senator on this floor who has never been un-

kind, short of patience, overly painstaking with an employee, let him hold up in his hand."

Opponent Carl Levin, D-Mich., said Kozinski "has not been straight with the U.S. Senate" and "woefully lacks... the judicial temperament, the fairness, the sensitivity and the compassion" that federal judges should possess.

Senators voting yes wanted Kozinski to become a federal appeals judge.

Voting no: Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle.

U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., called the Elk Creek Dam project in his state's monument to waste.

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