

House votes to save valuable shipwrecks

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending April 15.

HOUSE

Roll Call Report

PROTECT SHIPWRECKS — By a vote of 340 for and 64 against, the House passed and sent to the White House a bill (S 858) to protect valuable shipwrecks from random encroachment by sport divers, commercial salvagers and archeologists.

The bill assigns states' title to historic shipwrecks submerged within three miles of shore or embedded in coral reefs. It gives states power to control access and determine allocation of any discovered treasure. Federal courts could no longer assert jurisdiction under admiralty law.

Between 5 and 10 percent of the estimated 50,000 abandoned shipwrecks off U.S. shores are thought to be of significant historic or commercial value.

Supporter Walter Jones, D-N.C., said "only states can balance the legitimate interests of all groups interested in shipwrecks."

Opponent Jack Fields, D-Texas, said "the real goal of this legislation is to severely restrict, if not prohibit, access to these vessels."

Members voting yes wanted states rather than admiralty law to determine access to certain historic shipwrecks. Voting yes was Carl Pursell, R-2, Dennis Hertel, D-14, William Ford, D-15, Sander Levin, D-17, and William Broomfield, R-18.

ACCESS TO WRECKS — By a vote of 134 for and 268 against, the House rejected an amendment to S 858 (above) requiring states to allow sport divers and commercial salvagers access to shipwrecks under state ownership.

Sponsor Norman Shumway, R-Calif., said that without his amendment, states would "throw a wet blanket on the private sector incentive to go out and discover shipwrecks."

Opponent Jack Brooks, D-Texas, called the amendment redundant because the legislation already assured states would provide "reasonable access" to their shipwrecks.

Members voting yes wanted the bill to contain strict guarantees of private access to state-owned shipwrecks. Voting yes was Broomfield. Voting no was Pursell, Hertel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

MEXICO AND DRUGS — By a vote of 63 for and 27 against, the Senate approved and sent to the House a resolution (S Res 268) ordering a cut in U.S. foreign aid and other economic benefits to Mexico on grounds Mexico is lagging in support of American anti-drug efforts.

The vote nullifies a recent administration certification that Mexico is "fully cooperating" with the war on drugs and thus eligible for

full American aid.

Sponsor Pete Wilson, R-Calif., called the State Department's certification "a travesty . . . that should get a Pulitzer Prize for euphemism."

Opponent Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., said the resolution "would impair our relations with Mexico, further hampering the ability of the Drug Enforcement Administration to operate efficiently in Mexico."

Senators voting yes wanted to penalize Mexico for its reported failings in the war against drugs. Carl Levin voted no, and Donald Riegle voted yes.

BUDGET RESOLUTION — By a vote of 69 for and 26 against, the Senate approved a fiscal 1989 budget calling for \$1.1 trillion in total federal spending, no new taxes, an annual deficit of \$136 billion, defense spending of \$294 billion and non-entitlement domestic spending of \$185 billion.

Senators put the fiscal blueprint in violation of the 1987 "budget summit" accord between Capitol Hill and the White House, by adding \$2.6 billion to anti-drug programs. The two branches must revise their agreement if the money is to be appropriated.

Another controversial feature of the budget plan (S Con Res 113) is its use of administration economic projections that are much more optimistic than those of congress's own budget office. The Senate's \$136 billion deficit would be \$172 billion using congressional projections.

Supporter James Sasser, D-Tenn., called the budget "a substantial improvement" over the one submitted to Congress by President Reagan.

Opponent David Durenberger, R-Minn., said "through the use of creative economic forecasting we call a \$172 billion deficit \$136 billion."

Lawmakers plan seminar on rape

Three state representatives will hold a half-day seminar on rape — prevention, treatment of victims, the law and support systems.

Reps. Judith Miller, R-Birmingham, Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, and Maxine Berman, D-Southfield, have scheduled their "Town Meeting on Rape" for 9:30 a.m. to noon Friday, May 6, on the Royal Oak Campus of Oakland Community College, 733 S. Washington.

It is free and open to the public. Other sponsors are The Haven, Junior League of Birmingham, National Council of Jewish Women and Women Lawyers Association.

Johnson said people are concerned not only about the Oakland County serial rapist but the law and its effects on both victim and attacker. She is author of a bill to outlaw marital rape.

"Rape is an issue that men, as well as women, should be concerned about because rape victims are mothers, wives, daughters and friends," Berman said.

Among speakers are the survivor of a rape; Haven director Debi Cain; District Judge Edward Sosnick; and Joan Young, Oakland circuit court administrator.

Drain chief challenged

William N. Eckstein, 56, of Troy, will challenge Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn in the Republican primary Aug. 2.

"It's time for a registered professional engineer to take charge," said Eckstein, claiming 30 years of experience in civil engineering.

Eckstein said he would streamline the office and seek to place it under the county executive "where it belongs." Kuhn is seeking a state law to require the post be elective.



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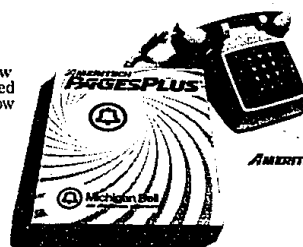
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