

Roll Call Report

WASHINGTON — Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending May 12.

HOUSE:
SCHOOL PRAYER — By a vote of 289 for and 135 against the House adopted an amendment denying federal vocational training funds to schools that ban student prayer.

This occurred as the House passed on a near-unanimous vote, and sent to the Senate, a bill (HR 7) overhauling the major federal law to further vocational education. The amendment seeks to counter U.S. Supreme Court rulings against organized school prayer.

Sponsor William Danemeyer, R-Calif., said school prayer "is not a partisan issue. It is something the American public wants to happen overwhelmingly."

Opponent Don Edwards, D-Calif., said "the First Amendment of the Constitution is very clear about" keeping government from requiring religion in public schools.

Members voting yes supported the pro-school prayer amendment.

Michigan representatives voting yes were Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, and William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion.

Michigan Representatives voting no were Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, and Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

MINIMUM WAGE — By a vote of 247 for and 172 against, the House approved and sent to the Senate the conference report on legislation (HR 2) gradually raising the minimum wage from its present level of \$3.35 an hour to \$4.55 by October 1991.

President Bush promises to veto any bill to raise the minimum wage, and this vote shows the House probably cannot muster the two-thirds majority it needs to override a veto.

Supporter James Traficant, D-Ohio, said "our American workers should ride the elevator today, because they've been getting the shaft too long."

Opponent Thomas Petri, R-Wis., called the conference report "a futile exercise in politics" by lawmakers seeking confrontation with Bush.

Members voting yes want a \$4.55 hourly minimum wage.

Michigan representatives voting yes were Hertel, Ford and Levin. Voting no were Pursell and Broomfield.

KING HOLIDAY COMMISSION — By a vote of 359 for and 42

against, the House sent to President Bush the conference report on legislation (HR 1345) to begin federal funding of the commission that promotes the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

The bill sets an annual budget of \$300,000 for the five-year-old agency, \$200,000 less than the House authorized last month when it gave the bill initial approval by a vote of 305-84.

Members voting yes wanted to begin taxpayer support of the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

Michigan representatives Pursell, Hertel, Ford, Levin and Broomfield voted yes.

TO IMPEACH JUDGE NIXON By a vote of 417 for and zero against, the House approved three articles of impeachment against U.S. District Court Judge Walter L. Nixon Jr. of the Southern District of Mississippi. He will lose his lifetime federal judgeship if the Senate finds him guilty of at least one article.

He is now imprisoned, after being convicted of perjury in 1985 following his alleged attempt to influence a state criminal case.

All area House members voted for impeachment.

SENATE:
THE BAHAMAS AND DRUGS — By a vote of 40 for and 57 against, the Senate rejected a resolution (S Res 100) whose effect was to curtail U.S. aid to the Bahamas because of that nation's drug involvement. The measure was offered under a law permitting foreign aid cuts to countries notorious as producers or shippers of illegal drugs.

Supporter Dan Coats, R-Ind., said the Bahamas have become "an aircraft carrier for the drug trade."

Opponent Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., praised the Bahamas for "their willingness to cooperate" with U.S. moves against Bahamian drug trafficking.

Senators voting yes wanted to curtail foreign aid to the Bahamas. Michigan Democratic Senators Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted yes.

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