

Roll Call Report

Here's how Observer & Eccentric are members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Sept. 22.

AIR TRAVEL SECURITY BILL — By a vote of 392 for and 31 against, the House sent to the Senate a bill (HR 1659) requiring U.S. airlines and high-risk domestic and international airports to upgrade their defenses against terrorism. In a policy shift the U.S. Treasury rather than the private sector would pay for stiffer airport and flight security. This change made the bill controversial.

The bill requires airlines to install state-of-the-art explosives detectors at airports rated as likely terrorist targets. Commuter flights feeding major airlines would have to greatly tighten security, and airports would be required to begin computerized personnel screening to keep saboteurs out of sensitive areas such as baggage facilities.

The bill's cost of nearly \$240 million over the next two years would come mostly from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund rather than new appropriations. Built by ticket taxes, the fund has a surplus of \$5.8 billion that now serves mainly to reduce the deficit. President Bush opposed the bill on grounds the cost should be met by airlines and airports and, where federal funds are necessary, through the discipline of the appropriations process.

Supporter Glenn Anderson, D-Calif., said the government should pay the cost because "the barbarous activities of terrorists are directed at . . . the U.S. government, not at

the commercial carriers." Opponent Tom Delay, R-Texas, said "those who fly on international flights should pay for their own security through a surcharge of just \$2 a ticket."

Area members voting yes to support the bill were Dennis Heftel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, and William Broomfield, R-Lake Orion.

Noting no was Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth.

ARMS CONTROL DISPUTE — The House rejected a bill (HR 1495) to reauthorize the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) through fiscal 1991 at a cost of about \$73 million. The vote of 247 for and 140 against fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill under a shortcut parliamentary procedure.

The ACDA puts into effect arms control policies set by the president and top administration officials. Congress also has influence over it.

Mainly at issue on this vote was House committee control of the ACDA's On-Site Inspection Agency, which monitors Soviet compliance with the INF treaty's requirement that the superpowers destroy their intermediate-range missiles. The bill gave the Foreign Affairs Committee more jurisdiction over the agency than the Armed Services Committee. Supporter Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said the bill will promote "greater reassurance that (INF) compliance is, in fact, occurring."

Opponent John Kyle, R-Ariz., said the bill undermines "our ability to ensure the INF treaty is implemented."

Members voting yes supported the bill. Michigan members voting yes were Pursell, Heftel, William Ford, Levin and Broomfield.

SENATE:

TO EXPAND FHA INSURANCE — By a vote of 50 for and 49 against, the Senate opted for the more generous of two plans for raising the dollar value of mortgages eligible for Federal Housing Administration insurance. The vote occurred during debate on a fiscal 1990 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill (HR 2316).

Currently FHA insurance is available for loans of up to \$101,250 where housing is costlier and for small loans in other regions. The vote shelved an amendment raising

the cap to \$118,000. It cleared the way for approval of language that, in part, would allow the FHA to insure mortgages of well above \$118,000 in upscale housing markets.

Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., who voted to shelve the \$118,000 cap, said FHA mortgage insurance "should not bar those who need it from participating solely because they live in areas where housing is costly."

Alan Dixon, D-Ill., said the FHA should not be "insuring things for people who want to buy \$200,000 homes."

Senators voting yes supported the more generous of two plans for raising the ceiling on FHA mortgages.

Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, D, did not vote, but colleague Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

POPULATION CONTROL — The Senate voted 52 for and 46 against to resume American financial support of a United Nations program to advance population control around the globe. The vote during debate on a fiscal 1990 foreign aid bill (HR 2939) approved a U.S. payment of \$15 million to the U.N. Population Fund. Critics say the fund helps China implement measures such as forced sterilization and abortion. The Reagan Administration had withheld American support of the fund because of its involvement with China.

Supporter Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said the U.N. program "does not fund abortions. It funds alternatives to abortions" such as contraceptives and education.

Opponent William Armstrong, R-Colo., said America should not be supplying a "Chinese population control program . . . pervaded by brutality, coercion and disdain for human rights."

Senators voting yes wanted America to contribute to the United Nations Population Fund.

Both Michigan senators Levin and Riegle voted yes.

AID TO EL SALVADOR — The Senate voted 52 for and 46 against to increase fiscal 1990 military aid to El Salvador from a committee-approved level of \$85 million to \$90 million. This occurred as the Senate debated a 1990 foreign aid bill (HR 2939).

The Senate coupled the \$90 million with an endorsement of new negotiations by warring factions that could end El Salvador's lengthy civil war. But it shelved senators seeking to

link military aid to evidence that new El Salvador president Alfredo Cristiani is doing all he can to restrain right-wing death squads.

Supporter John Kerry, D-Mass., said "I am willing to take a gamble" that the \$90 million package will move El Salvador closer to peace.

Opponent Carl Levin, D-Mich., said "our aid should be conditioned on progress toward peace and respect for human rights . . ."

Senators voting yes supported \$90 million in military aid to El Salvador.

Michigan Senators Levin and Riegle both voted no.

POLAND AND HUNGARY — By a vote of 74 and 24 against, the Senate allowed a pending foreign aid bill (HR 2939) to be used to insure American investments in Communist-affiliated Polish and Hungarian enterprises. This killed an amendment by Jesse Helms, R-N.C., to keep the Overseas Private Investment Corp. from underwriting such investments. OPIC provides political risk insurance for American investments abroad.

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