ROLL CALL REPORT

Knollenberg casts first House votes

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Jan. 8

Here's how area House members were recorded on major roll call votes in the opening week of the 103rd Congress. There were no Senate votes.

To Adopt Rules: The House adopted, 221 for and 199 against, its operating rules for the 103rd Congress. While most of the package (H Res 5) was routine, several new rules, drafted by the Democratic majority, drew Republican ire.

The empowering of members from the District of Columbia and four other non-states to vote on the House floor was hotly debated (see next issue).

Also disputed was a new rule making it easier for committees to report bills in the face of high absenteeism. The definition of quorum was watered down so that panels can vote bills to the floor without having a majority of members simultaneously present for the roll call. Under the "rolling quorum" plan, members can drop-by on their own schedule to vote.

Supporter Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., said the rules "will allow the House to operate more productively and effectively."

Opponent Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., said "the American people thought last November they were voting for change . . . This is business as usual."

A yes vote was to adopt rules put forward by the Democratic majority for the 103rd Congress. **Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Ford, D-Ypsilanti. Voting no was Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.**

To Permit Delegate Voting: By a vote of 187 for and 238 against, the House rejected a motion to prevent members from non-states from voting on the floor. The motion during debate on H Res 5 also sought to limit the terms of committee chairs.

The five members who gain voting rights under new House rules are the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico and delegates from D.C., Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands. Each can vote on most roll calls, but the yea or nay is nullified if it proves to be the numerical difference between approval or rejection of a measure.

Because Democrats hold the five seats, the change increases their strenth in the House to 263 members, compares to 176 Republicans and one independent.

Henry Hyde, R-Ill., called the voting proposal unconstitutional, adding, "What an abysmal way to begin the Clinton Administration."

Ron DeLugo, D-Virgin Islands, said "when Desert Storm came up, I could not vote," yet three of his constituents died in the war with Iraq.

A yes vote opposed floor voting for members from the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, D.C. and Puerto Rico. **Area representatives voting yes were: Knollenberg. Voting no: Carr, Dale Kildee, Levin and Ford.**

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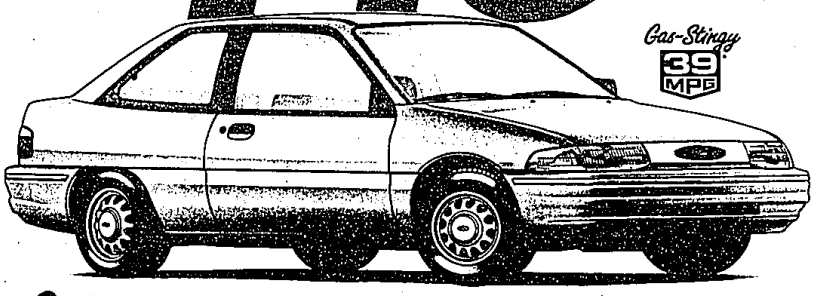

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