

ROLL CALL REPORT

Levin, Riegle vote for keeping Hatch Act tough

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending July 16

HOUSE

Timber funds kept: By a vote of 164 for and 262 against, the House refused to cut \$11.9 million from the National Forest Service's fiscal 1994 budget for building logging roads. The amendment sought to prevent logging in certain pristine forests. The vote occurred as the House passed an Interior Department appropriations bill (HR 2520) providing \$1.24 billion for the Forest Service.

Opponent Norman Dicks, D-Wash., called the amendment "another hit on the timber industry that has already been savaged because of the Endangered Species Act."

A yes vote was to cut funding for National Forest Service road construction. Area representatives voting yes were: Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham. Voting no: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac, Dale Kildeo, D-Flint, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Ford, D-Ypsilanti.

Steamtown's funding continues: By a vote of 192 for and 229 against, the House refused to strip HR 2520 (above) of \$3.1 million for the annual operating budget of the National Park Service's Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pa. The operating funds follow federal expenditures of more than \$60 million that helped build the museum of America's railroad heyday.

Sponsor Mike Andrews, D-Tex., said "Steamtown is an embarrassment. It is a runaway train loaded with pork barrel. It's time to throw the switch. Let's stop it."

Opponent Joseph McDade, R-Pa., said "Now comes this destructive amendment, well after the ninth inning, after \$6 million in federal dollars has been appropriated, that says... we're going to turn this into a rust bucket."

A yes vote opposed federal funding of Steamtown's operating budget. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, Dale Kildeo, Sander Levin. Voting no: Joseph Knollenberg and William Ford.

Oil shale research funds eliminated: The House voted 295 for and 37 against to remove all funds for oil shale research from HR 2520 (above). This eliminated \$5 million for an ongoing Energy

Department subsidy of research by several major oil companies to develop a commercially viable recovery of oil from rock.

Sponsor Phillip Sharp, D-Ind., said "supporters of oil shale (research) claim that the big breakthrough is always around the corner, but it never seems to arrive."

Opponent James Hansen, R-Utah, said that in three states alone "we have more oil in shale than in the entire Saudi Arabia... sitting there waiting to be developed."

A yes vote opposed continued government subsidy of private sector oil shale research. Area representatives voting yes were: Kildeo, Knollenberg, Levin, Ford. Voting no: Carr.

Another chapter in fiscal dispute: By a vote of 184 for and 238 against, the House turned

back a Republican bid for lower Medicare and Medicaid entitlement spending in the \$500 billion deficit-reduction bill (HR 2264) now before a House-Senate conference committee. With this procedural vote, the House shelved a non-binding GOP recommendation that conferees accept a Senate-approved entitlement figure that was \$21 billion less than the comparable House-approved figure.

Supporter Christopher Shays, R-Conn., said "If you vote for this motion you are voting to save \$21 billion."

Opponent Martin Sabo, D-Minn., said Democrats are "ending that gridlock... We are going to pass a real package. It is going to have real spending cuts."

A yes vote was for more restraint on entitlement spending in the deficit-reduction legislation. Area representatives voting yes were: Knollenberg. Voting no: Carr, Kildeo, Levin and Ford.

SENATE

Hatch Act at issue: The Senate voted 62 for and 33 against to continue a ban on partisan political involvement by uniformed armed services personnel. The vote occurred during debate on a bill softening the 1939 Hatch Act to permit most forms of partisan politicking, short of running for office, by federal employees other than those in uniform. The bill (S 185) remained in debate.

Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said "the nonpolitical, nonpartisan tradition of military service" should be maintained. John McCain, R-Ariz., expressed "great confidence... that this new freedom would not be abused or violated" by the military.

A yes vote opposed partisan political involvement by uniformed service personnel. Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, D and Donald Riegle, D, both voted yes.

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