

Levin, Ford support biological survey

Here's how *Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending Oct. 29*

ROLL CALL REPORT

HOUSE

Biological Survey: By a vote of 255 for and 165 against, the House sent the Senate a bill (HR 1845) to establish a National Biological Survey at a fiscal 1994 cost of \$171.5 million. The Interior Department bureau will consolidate biological sciences operations now scattered throughout the department. In part, it will inventory the nation's animal and plant species and habitat, with the government obtaining written consent from owners before entering private property. Data from the exhaustive survey would guide policies in areas such as preserving wetlands and protecting endangered species.

Supporter Billy Tauzin, D-La., said the bill provided "the full range of protections for private landowners against the entry by individuals without the consent of that landowner."

Opponent Jack Fields, R-Tex., told supporters "your constituents will remember who authorized Big Brother to come looking over their shoulders and peering over their fences."

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Dale Kildee, D-Flint, Sandor Levin, D-Southfield, William Ford, D-Ypsilanti. Voting no: Bob Carr, D-Pontiac and Joseph Knollenberg, R-Birmingham.

Lumbee Indians: By a vote of 228 for and 184 against, the House sent the Senate a bill (HR 334) granting federal recognition

to the 40,000-member Lumbee Tribe of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina. This would qualify the tribe for Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service benefits at an estimated cost of \$50 million to \$100 million annually.

While North Carolina has recognized the Lumbees as an Indian tribe since 1855, the Department of the Interior has never given federal certification.

Supporter Charlie Rosa, D-N.C., said, "This tribe deserves the same rights and privileges that other Native Americans have across the land."

Opponent Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., said administrative procedures should be employed rather than "an arena where emotional arguments, influential sponsors and the partisan nature of Congress replace merit and fact."

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Area representatives voting yes were: Bob Carr, Dale Kildee, Sandor Levin and William Ford. Voting no: Joseph Knollenberg.

D.C. Budget: By a vote of 225 for and 201 against, the House approved a \$3.7 billion District of Columbia budget for fiscal 1994. The bill (HR 2492) provides about \$700 million in U.S. Treasury funding, including a \$630 million "federal payment" to Washington for revenue potential it loses as a result of the federal enclave occupying much of the city's tax base. More than \$3 billion in the bill is locally raised by the district, mainly by taxation.

Criticism centered on the city's crime problem, the performance of

the D.C. government and the fact that the bill allows locally raised money to fund abortions, lifting a six-year ban on such funding.

Supporter Eleanor Norton, D-D.C., said, "The District of Columbia is cutting money these days. This is not a time to complain about spending. Everything in the district is being cut."

Opponent Dan Burton, R-Ind., accused D.C. officials of "squatting. In my view, large amounts of money that they are not accountable for because the monies are not raised here."

A yes vote was to approve the D.C. budget. Area representatives voting yes were: Carr, Levin, Ford. Voting no: Kildee and Knollenberg.

SENATE

Native Hawaiians: By a vote of 65 for and 34 against, the Senate sent the House a resolution acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the U.S.-aided coup that ended the Hawaiian monarchy and set the stage for Hawaii becoming an American territory. The measure (SJR 19) apologizes to native Hawaiians for the U.S. military and diplomatic intervention against the Kingdom of Hawaii. Natives were defined in Senate debate as descendants of those who lived in what is now Hawaii before 1778.

Sponsor Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, said, "Now until our nation understands the . . . 1893 overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii will American people appreciate the meaning of the native Hawaiians rights movement, which grows each day."

Opponent Slade Gorton, R-Wash., called the resolution a "signpost" to ethnic conflict, dividing "the citizens of the state of Hawaii who are of course citizens of the United States into two distinct

groups, native Hawaiians and all other citizens."

A yes vote supported the resolution, Michigan senators Carl Levin, D, and Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

Jobless Benefits: By a vote of 76 for and 20 against, the Senate passed a bill extending until Feb. 5, 1994, the period in which the long-term unemployed can qualify for an additional seven or 13 weeks of unemployment checks. This would benefit more than 750,000 persons who exhaust their initial 26-week check allotment between Oct. 1, 1993, and the February date. To offset the estimated \$1.1 billion cost, the bill relies mostly on requirements that states do a better job of retaining the jobless and returning them to work.

A yes vote was to pass the bill. Carl Levin and Donald Riegle both voted yes.

Federal Worker Cut: By a vote of 82 for and 14 against, the Senate adopted an amendment to HR 3167 (above) putting the force of law behind the administration's goal of reducing the federal workforce by 252,000 jobs by fiscal 1999. Vice President Gore set the mark in his recently released National Performance Review for re-amping the federal government.

Supporter Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said the amendment provides "the teeth that ensures that we get the reforms desired by the president and the vice president."

No opponent spoke during brief debate on the amendment.

A yes vote was to require a reduction of the federal workforce as part of legislation extending emergency unemployment benefits. Levin voted yes. Riegle voted no.

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