

Knollenberg opposes Great Society initiatives

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending May 13

HOUSE
Economic Development: By a vote of 328 to 89, the House passed HR 2442 to fund the Economic Development Administration

ROLL CALL REPORT

and the Appalachian Regional Commission at a budget of \$1.6 billion over three fiscal years, beginning with 1994. If the bill becomes law, it will mark the first time since 1982 that Congress has authorized the two Great Society agencies that dispense federal grants and loans to build infrastructure and spur economic development. Presidents Reagan and Bush tried to kill the EDA and ARC, but Democratic Congresses have kept them alive with annual appropriations.

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

Appalachian Commission: By a vote of 143 to 261, the House rejected an amendment to

HR 2442 (above) to kill the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a Great Society agency that has spent \$6 billion since the mid-1960s to combat rural poverty in 13 Appalachian Mountain states from New York to Alabama. A yes vote was to kill the Appalachian Regional Commission. Area representatives voting yes were: Joseph Knollenberg. Voting no: Bob Carr, Dale Klidde, Sander Levin and William Ford.

SENATE

Bosnia: By a vote of 50 to 49, senators approved the weaker of two bills they were considering to provide American arms to Bosnia Muslims. This measure (S 2040) was sponsored by Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, with President Clinton's backing. It directed the president to work through NATO to get the United Nations to lift its ban on the outside world arming outgunned Muslim forces against Serbs and Croats.

Most senators who voted no favored a stronger measure by Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., that also was passed by the Senate. Dole sought to provide American arms immediately and directly to Bosnian Muslims regardless of

the UN embargo. Some other senators voting no objected to any lifting the UN embargo.

Supporter Paul Simon, D-Ill., said: "We should not be a Lone Ranger in the world. You have to work with the community of nations. But the administration has to understand that we feel their policy has been anemic . . . and we have to do better . . . The administration has to lead or I am ready to vote for a Dole-type amendment."

Carl Levin, D-Mich., who opposed the Mitchell substitute, said: "We and the nations of the world, acting through the U.N., are unwilling to take actions necessary to protect the civilians in Bosnia against ethnic cleansing and aggression. . . . If we are not willing to defend them, we must surely allow the primary victims of aggression to defend themselves, a guarantee that is in the United Nations charter."

A yes vote supported the weaker of two pending measures for arming Bosnian Muslims. Michigan Senators Carl Levin, D, voted no. Donald Riegle, D, voted yes.

1995 Budget: By a vote of 53 to 46, the Senate approved the conference report on the Congressional Budget Resolution (H Con Res 218) for FY 1995-99. For 1995, it sets spending at \$151 trillion while anticipating revenues of

\$1.34 trillion and an annual deficit of about \$175 billion.

About half of the budget is entitlement spending that by law cannot be cut. About 14 percent is mandatory spending to pay interest on the national debt. The remaining one-third of federal spending is for discretionary international, defense and domestic programs that can be cut. By category, the largest outlays are \$337 billion for Social Security, \$251 billion for defense, \$214 billion for debt service and \$161 billion for Medicare.

A yes vote was to approve the Congressional Budget Resolution. Carl Levin voted yes. Donald Riegle voted yes.

Gift Ban: By a vote of 95 to four, the Senate passed a bill (S 1935) that bans nearly all meals, gifts, travel, hospitality at resorts, campaign contributions and other financial favors that many members of Congress and their staff routinely accept from special interests, including registered lobbyists.

The bill was sent to conference with a less-strict House measure. The House bill, for example, permits lawmakers and staff to continue receiving meals and gifts from special interests other than lobbyists, and to continue accepting free travel and accommodations for lobbyists' outings at vacation spots. A yes vote was to pass the bill. Levin and Riegle both voted yes.

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