

On Conservatives' Scale Our 3 Reps Vote Liberal

An Observer Roundup

The three U.S. representatives from the Observerland rank in the liberal wings of their respective parties.

Rep. Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) stands No. 135 on a list of 148, according to a conservative political rating group.

Among Democrats, Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit) stands No. 157 and William D. Ford (D-Taylor) No. 191 on a list of 218.

Esch's 2nd District includes Livonia and Plymouth. Mrs. Griffiths' 17th District includes Southfield, Farmington and Red-

ford Township. Ford's district covers Garden City, Westland, Canton Township and a tiny portion of Livonia.

The ratings were made by Americans for Constitutional Action, a rightist group whose values are "sound money, local self-government and against central government intervention, private competitive market and against government interference."

Naturally, conservative congressmen get high ratings. John Ashbrook (R-Ohio), who opposed President Nixon from a conservative platform in 1972, rated a 97 while House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.) got a 6. So how a voter evaluates ACA's ratings depends on his own political philosophy.

On this scale, Esch got a 4, Mrs. Griffiths an 8 and Ford a 5. By way of comparison: Donald Riegle (a Republican-turned Democrat) rated a 34, House GOP Leader Gerald Ford of Grand Rapids a 77, William Broomfield (R-Bloomfield) a 65, John Conyers (D-Detroit) a 12, and Lucien Nedzi (D-Detroit) an 8.

Here are some of their votes on individual bills, amendments and parliamentary motions:

- Rural water-sewer grants - requiring Agriculture secretary to spend entire amount appropriated by Congress (ACA opposed): Ford and Mrs. Griffiths yes, Esch no. Passed 297-54.



REP. WILLIAM FORD



REP. MARTHA GRIFFITHS



REP. MARVIN ESCH

- Vocational rehabilitation subsidies - substitute bill restricting it to a three-year extension (ACA for): Esch, Ford and Mrs. Griffiths all opposed. Defeated.

- Social services subsidies - substitute bill to reduce federal share of grants for certain social services over a three-year period (ACA for): Esch, Ford and Mrs. Griffiths all opposed. Defeated.

- A \$12 million public works and economic development act (ACA opposed): Ford yes, Esch no, Mrs. Griffiths absent. Passed 278-108.

- Funding internal security committee (ACA for): Esch and Mrs. Griffiths yes, Ford no. Passed.

- Wage-price controls, extension for one year (ACA opposed): Esch and Mrs. Griffiths yes, Ford no. Passed.

- Amendment to supplemental defense appropriations bill to delete language authorizing the Defense Department to transfer funds from other defense programs for use in Southeast Asia, including bombing of Cambodia (ACA against deletion): Esch, Ford and Mrs. Griffiths all yes.

- Amendment to dollar devaluation act to allow private purchase, sale and ownership of gold by U.S. citizens (ACA for): Esch, Ford and Mrs. Griffiths all no voting. Defeated.

- Again for comparison, the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education gave Ford a 55, Mrs. Griffiths a 92 and Esch a 40.

Tops Again

Michigan regained its first place standing in cucumber production for pickling in 1972. Almost 100,000 tons were harvested from 26 thousand acres. Value of pickling cucumbers was \$3,291,000.

Dem Reps Sold Out Their Own -- Geake

State Rep. R. Robert Geake (R-Northville) blasted suburban Democrats for backing a school aid plan which is "fiscally irresponsible" and "sells out their own constituents."

Geake, former chairman of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees, criticized the school aid plan which passed the House last week on a strict party line vote.

Initial attempts at passing the Democratic school aid plan failed until eight suburban Democrats, including four from Observerland,

changed their votes to support the formula.

The four who switched votes were Reps. John Markes (D-Westland), William Keith (D-Garden City), John Bennett (D-Redford Township) and Thomas Brown (D-Westland).

"The state aid bill as it finally passed the House, far from being a fair compromise, amounts to a windfall of state school aid to Detroit city schools and is fiscally irresponsible in its present form," Geake said.

"The bill does nothing for districts like Livonia, which have supported their own schools through local voted millage, while rewarding districts which have refused to vote property taxes for their own children."

The state aid plan includes a provision to allow districts levying more than 30 mills for operations to lower their levy, but doesn't help districts which levy between 22 and 30 mills for operations, he said.

The plan allows districts to lower their millage by 22 percent of the excess over 30 mills by guaranteeing that the state will make up the difference in revenue.

"This adds an estimated \$20 million to the membership formula and effectively renders the 'equal-yield' concept of the original Milliken-Bursley formula meaningless by eliminating the incentive for low-effort districts to raise their millages," Geake said.

The Milliken-Bursley plan was backed by the governor and devised by Sen. Gilbert Bursley (R-Ann Arbor) who

chairs the Senate Education Committee. It would have guaranteed each school district \$28 per mill per student, thus rewarding districts with high levies.

Democrats disagreed with this formula, arguing that it doesn't help low millage areas and encourages use of the property tax for financing schools.

Suburban Democrats who originally opposed the Democratic school financing plan changed their votes when the provision was added to aid school districts levying over 30 mills for operations.

"The bill, as it passed the House, on a straight party line vote, adds an incredible \$79 million over the Senate version," Geake said. "The Democrats have made a feeble attempt to balance the budget by striking \$53 million in retirement monies for teachers out of the Milliken-Bursley formula."

"I can see no way that this bill could possibly become law without a whopping tax increase next year."

Michigan's 2 Senators Get Mixed Reviews

An Observer Roundup Michigan's U.S. senators received mixed reviews from the Americans for Constitutional Action, a right-wing political rating group.

On a scale of from one to 100, with highest being most conservative, Republican Sen. Robert Griffin rates 59 percent and Democratic Sen. Philip Hart rates 2 percent "correct" on the conservative voting scale.

Taken into consideration are the senators' voting records on key bills, amendments and parliamentary moves.

The ACA basis its ratings on a philosophy which believes in "sound money, local self-government, and against central government intervention, private competitive market and against government interference."

Of the 40 Republicans rated, Griffin ranks 24th, with Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona) receiving the highest grades at 97.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R-New York) received the lowest marks among Republicans with a grade of 18.

Sen. Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), Senate minority leader, ranked 20th with a score of 43 percent and presidential hopeful Charles Percy (R-Ill.) rated 32 with a score of 34 percent.

Of the 51 Democratic senators rated, Hart failed, according to the conservative graders, and stands 47th in his class.

Voting most favorably in the conservatives' opinion

was Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.) who received an 84 per cent. Rated even lower than Hart was Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), who was 49th and received a one per cent.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) stood 31st in the ratings with an 11 per cent grade, while Sen. George McGovern (D-South Dakota), the 1972 presidential nominee, rated 36th with eight percentage points.

The following are the Michigan senators' votes on individual bills, amendments, and parliamentary motions:

- vocational rehabilitation subsidies: passage of the vocational rehabilitation act over the veto of the president (ACA opposed): Hart yes; Griffin no. Passed 60-36.

- voter registration - a bill to establish a nationwide system of postcard voter registration (ACA opposed): Hart yes; Griffin no. Passed 57-37.

- impoundment control - a bill to require the President to notify Congress within 10 days after he impounds appropriated funds and to require release of the funds within 60 days unless Congress by legislation approves the impoundment (ACA opposed): Hart yes; Griffin no. Passed 65-24.

- Support military forces - an amendment to prohibit any funds in the bill and any funds previously appropriated by Congress from being used to support combat activities in or over Cambodia and Laos (ACA opposed): Hart yes; Griffin no. Adopted 63-13.

Mail Gripes To Be Aired At Hearing

Metropolitan Detroit businessmen, politicians and postal union leaders will have a chance to air their gripes about the Postal Service at a public hearing Friday at 9 a.m. in the City-County Building in downtown Detroit.

Among the five or six members of a U.S. House postal service subcommittee conducting the hearing will be U.S. Rep. William D. Ford (D-Taylor).

Westland Mayor Eugene McKinney and Canton Township Supervisor Philip Dingley are expected to testify. Dingley and other suburban township supervisors are angry at lack of door-to-door delivery in new subdivisions.

A spokesman for Ford said he was one of the few congressmen to vote against the bill removing the postmaster general from the Cabinet and setting up a corporation to deliver the mail.

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