

HOW DID YOUR CONGRESSMAN VOTE?

KEY ROLL CALL VOTES IN THE 83RD CONGRESS, 1953-54, AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 84TH CONGRESS, 1955.

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NOTE: This is not a complete record. Nor is it intended as the sole basis for judging your Representative's activities in Congress. Rather, it records his position on a number of significant issues in the 83rd and the first half of the 84th Congress.

KEY

Y - Yes / - Announced for, paired for
N - No X - Announced Against, paired Against
? - Absent or Not Recorded * - Not member of Congress at time of vote

Note: If two Representatives are absent, they may arrange to "pair" their votes with each other, one "paired for," and one "paired against," thus recording the way they would have voted if present. Do NOT count as votes.

AGRICULTURE

Mexican Farm Labor (HJR 355) Authorizes continued recruitment of Mexican labor whether or not U. S. is able to reach an agreement with the Mexican Government on migration of farm labor. (Former agreement was not satisfactory to U. S. State Department because of failure to control illegal entries.) In effect, permits the U. S. Labor Department to recruit Mexican labor in the absence of agreements between the two governments. Vote on motion to send bill back to committee, thereby killing it. (Yes) vote generally opposes use of Mexican farm labor. Defeated 156 - 250, March 2, 1954. *

Soil Conservation (HR 5227) Department of Agriculture Appropriations Bill including \$195 million for soil conservation. Vote on amendment to reduce appropriation to \$140 million. (Yes) vote favors reduction of soil conservation funds. Defeated 196 - 201, May 20, 1953. *

Farm Price Supports (HR 12) To amend Agricultural Act of 1949 to provide price supports at 90% of parity for basic farm commodities through 1957. Raised minimum level of support for milk products from 75% to 80% of parity. Extended school lunch milk program through 1957, and increased authorization from \$50 million to \$75 million a year. Vote on passage of bill. Passed 206 - 201, May 5, 1955. N

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Investigation of Foundations (HR 217) Established a committee to investigate educational, philanthropic and other foundations exempt from federal income taxes. Purpose was to ascertain whether foundations were using their resources for Un-American, subversive, political or lobbying purposes. Another House committee in 1952 had investigated the same field. Reece (R. Tenn.), a member of the 1952 committee, called for continuance of the investigation through a new committee. Vote on adoption of resolution. Passed 209 - 163, July 27, 1953. *

Wire Tapping (HR 8649) Authorized the admission into Federal Courts, as evidence in certain criminal proceedings, of information intercepted through the use of wire taps, authorized by the Attorney General in national security investigations. Vote on amendment to provide that the gathering of such evidence must be authorized by Federal Court order, as well as by the Attorney General. (Yes) vote favors more safeguards in the use of wire tapping. Passed 221 - 166, April 8, 1954. *

FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION

Highway Construction (HR 7474) A "pay-as-you-go" proposal authorizing \$24 billion over 13 years for improving the National System of Interstate Highways, plus \$12 billion for other roads. Federal share of program to be financed through a 16-year levy of additional taxes on tires, trucks, buses and fuel. In contrast, the Administration proposed a federal bond issue to finance highway improvements. Vote is on the motion to recommit bill with instructions to substitute the Administration's bond plan for the tax program. Defeated 193 - 221, July 27, 1955. Y

Highway Construction (HR 7474) See explanation above. Vote on passage of bill Defeated 123 - 292, July 27, 1955. N

Hospital Construction (HR 5246) Labor and Health, Education and Welfare Departments Appropriation for 1954. The big issue here was the appropriation for grants - in - aid to states for hospital construction. Former President Truman had asked for \$75 million; the Eisenhower administration sought \$60 million. The House granted only \$50 million after four attempts to increase. Vote on a motion to send back to committee with instructions to increase this amount to \$75 million. (Yes) vote favors increase. Defeated 197 - 203, May 26, 1953. *

Housing Act of 1954 (HR 7839) Provided for improvement and extension of the Federal program of aid for housing, slum clearance and urban development. Provisions of appropriations act had nullified the existing statutory authorization for low rent public housing. Vote on a motion to send the bill back to committee with instructions to provide authorization for 35,000 units of public low rent housing annually in fiscal 1955 through 1958, as requested by the President. (Yes) vote favors continuance of public housing program; (No) vote would end program. Defeated 176 - 211, April 1, 1954. *

Housing Act of 1955 (S 2126) The public housing program having lain almost dormant under restrictions imposed by 1954 Act, the Senate passed this bill authorizing 135,000 public housing units started annually until the 810,900 permitted under the 1949 Housing Act had been completed. House passed amended version which completely eliminated public housing. Vote on amendment. (Yes) vote favors abolishing public housing; (No) vote is for the Senate version. Passed 217 - 188, July 29, 1955. Y

Housing Act of 1955 (Compromise version of above S 2126) After House action in abolishing public housing, a conference committee of Senate and House members agreed on a compromise version permitting 45,000 housing units to be started before July 31, 1956. Following vote was to determine whether or not House would accept the compromise. Agreed to, 187 - 168, August 2, 1955. N

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Formosa Policy (HJR 159) Authorized the President to "employ the armed forces of the United States as he deems necessary" for protection of Formosa and the Pescadores against armed attack. Authorized protection of "related positions and territories" in the area when determined by the President to be appropriate in defending Formosa. Passed 410 - 3, January 25, 1955. Y

Reciprocal Trade (HR 1) Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1955. Authorized the President: to make trade agreements with foreign countries through June, 1958; lower tariff by 15% over the three-year period; reduce 1945 tariff rates by 50% in order to carry out trade agreement with Japan; retain existing law requiring Tariff Commission to investigate any "serious injury" to domestic industry because of duty reduction. Vote on passage. (Yes) vote generally favors expanded trade with other countries. Passed 295 - 110, February 18, 1955. Y

Refugee Act of 1953 (HR 6481) Waived the quota restrictions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 in order to permit admission of 214,000 persons "in urgent need of assistance." Required that each applicant for a visa be thoroughly investigated and be assured by a U. S. citizen of housing, employment, and financial backing, and hold a re-admission certificate from the country of origin. Vote on passage. Passed 221 - 185, July 28, 1953. *

UN Technical Assistance Program (HR 4903) Provided appropriations for 1955, including the U. S. contributions to the UN. The House had previously cut \$4 million from the \$8 million requested for the UN Technical Assistance Program. Vote on amendment to restore the \$4 million. Adopted 175 - 107, March 18, 1955. Y

Voice of America (HR 6200) Appropriations for the U. S. Information Agency and other Departments. A motion was made to send the bill back to committee with instructions to increase funds for the Voice of America from \$60 million to \$80 million. Defeated 154 - 244, July 15, 1953. (Yes) vote favors increased funds. *

MILITARY TRAINING

Compulsory Reserve Bill (HR 7000) For the first time in American history, established active and reserve Armed Forces obligations of up to 11 years for men between 17 and 35 years. Every man entering service is required, under threat of court martial, to spend at least 5 years in active duty or ready reserves. Permits 250,000 volunteers to take 6 months training followed by 7½ years' compulsory weekly drill. Quadruples paid reserves, up to 2,900,000 by 1960. Vote on final House-Senate Conference report containing above provisions. Passed 315 - 78, July 25, 1955. Y

NATURAL RESOURCES

Central Valley Project (HR 4663) Authorized \$225 million for dams, water tunnels, canals and power stations in the Trinity River Area near Redding. Gives priority to municipalities and cooperatives to contract for 25% of the power provided by project. Vote on passage. Passed 230 - 153, June 21, 1955. X

Natural Gas Regulation (HR 6645) A mended Natural Gas Act of 1938 to exempt producers from public utility regulation and empowered the Federal Power Commission to determine what comprises a "reasonable market price" for natural gas. Industrial gas users would have right to seek redress for an unfair price increase. Supporters of bill said that Federal control inhibited development and marketing of natural gas. Opponents claimed the bill would result in skyrocketing prices to the nation's 21 million gas consumers. Vote on passage. Passed 209 - 203, July 28, 1955. Y

Rubber Plants (HR 171) To disapprove sale to Shell Chemical Corporation of three California synthetic rubber facilities developed by the Federal Government. Backers of resolution said that "lump sale" was illegal as the law "specifically states that bids shall be on individual plants." The Comptroller General ruled the Shell bids legal. Vote was on adoption of resolution. (Yes) vote opposes sale. Defeated 137 - 276, March 23, 1955. N

Tidelands (HR 4198) The Supreme Court, in 1947 and 1950 decisions, had ruled that the Federal Government had "paramount rights" to submerged lands off the coasts of California, Texas and Louisiana. This bill established state title to lands beneath the marginal seas within their boundaries, and authorized the states to develop the natural resources of these submerged lands even if the sections relating to title were held unconstitutional. Authorized the Federal Government to develop the natural resources of the outer continental shelf beyond the historic boundaries of the states. Vote on passage. Passed 285 - 108, April 1, 1953. *

TAXES

Reduce Income Taxes (HR 8300) Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Motion to send back to committee with instructions to strike out provisions granting tax cuts on the dividend income of stockholders and substitute for it a provision increasing personal income tax exemption from \$600 to \$700. (Yes) vote favors personal exemption. Defeated 204 - 210, March 18, 1954. *

'55 Tax Reduction (HR 4259) Provided for one-year extension of existing corporate normal tax rate and certain excise tax rates, and provided \$20 credit against individual income taxes for each personal exemption. Vote on a motion to send bill back to committee with instructions to delete \$20 income tax credit. (Yes) vote on motion opposes individual income tax credit. (No) vote favors. Defeated 205 - 210, February 25, 1955. Y

Tax Reduction (HR 4259) Vote on passage of above bill. (Because of failure of motion described above, the bill which passed the House included the \$20 personal exemption. The Senate later deleted this provision). House passed 242--175. February 25, 1955.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Health Reinsurance Program (HR 8356) Would allow the Federal Government to underwrite broadened health insurance programs of private companies. The bill authorized a \$25,000,000 appropriation to set up a reinsurance fund, to be supplemented thereafter by premiums of participating companies. Companies using the fund to reinsure risky or experimental programs would be able to recover 75% of their losses. Opposed by some as unwarranted Federal activity, by others as inadequate to meet needs. Vote on motion to send back to committee with purpose of stopping action by this Congress. Passed 238 -- 134, July 13, 1954, thereby killing bill.

Minimum Wage (HR 7214) Amended Fair Labor Standards Act to make minimum wage \$1.00 an hour effective March 1, 1956. Vote on passage. Passed 362 -- 54, July 20, 1955.

Social Security Benefits (HR 7225) Amended Social Security Act to provide Old Age and Survivors Insurance benefits to totally and permanently disabled workers at age 50 instead of 65, to pay benefits to women at age 62 instead of 65, and to extend children's benefits beyond cutoff age of 18 if total disability occurred before the age of 18. Vote on passage (2/3 majority needed). Passed 372 - 31, July 18, 1955.

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