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JAN 12 1978

Congress Passes SS Legislation In Haste 829

By Kathryn Murray

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1977—Congressman Thomas Foley (D-WA-5) yesterday voted to greatly increase the tax bite put on every American worker, by approving a new social security measure which increases the taxable wage base, and the rate of taxation beginning in 1978 and continuing through the rest of the century.

The House narrowly approved the measure, 189-163, with Republicans speaking out strongly against placing such a great burden on middle-income families, who will be the worst hurt by the new taxes. The bill was passed only after the conferees took out Republican supported provisions which would have removed outside earning limitations for retirees and provided tax credits for families with children in college.

Several Democrats also spoke out against the bill. Congressman Albert Gore (D-TN) said it was a grave mistake: "The imposition of a highly regressive increase in the payroll tax is the wrong way to strengthen social security. The payroll tax hits hardest at working families and small business and, in general, at those who can least afford to pay it. It is already too high."

Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), pointed out that she thought the bill was poorly written and should not be passed. "I am voting against this conference report because I think we have used stopgap measures too long to 'solve' the problems of financing. I think now is the time to do a total overhaul."

Although many Congressmen who supported the measure agreed that the bill was hastily written and had many flaws, they noted the importance of having a bill passed before the House adjourned.

Foley
FILE

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CLARKSTON HERALD
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