

House Votes

1. CIVIL RIGHTS

THE BILL—HR 7152, Civil Rights Act, to guarantee equal rights for all Americans—to protect voting and employment rights; to assure equal access to public accommodations, public facilities, public schools and colleges; to prevent discrimination in federally-aided programs.

BACKGROUND—Civil rights is the great moral issue of our times. Discrimination has plagued American minorities—particularly Negroes—for generations. They have been denied equal educational and equal job opportunities. In some parts of the U.S., they could not eat at a public restaurant, swim at a public beach, enter a public movie house, find accommodations in hotels or motels. Negroes trying to exercise their right to vote in some states faced terror and violence, and official resistance. The Civil Rights Act, supported by the AFL-CIO, provides federal enforcement to guarantee human rights and human dignity for all citizens.

THE VOTE—On passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. **Approved**, 290-130, Feb. 10, 1964. **YEA**—RIGHT. **NAY**—WRONG.

2. TAX CUT

THE BILL—HR 8363, to slash taxes on personal and corporate income.

BACKGROUND—To trigger the economy and to expand job opportunities, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson proposed a tax cut. Their purpose was to put more money into workers' hands, increase purchasing power and boost demand for goods and services, in turn creating more jobs. The cut in taxes, supported by the AFL-CIO, was equal to a 7½ cent an hour take-home pay increase for the average American worker.

THE VOTE—On a motion by Rep. John Byrnes (R.-Wisc.) to recommit, thus kill, the tax cut. **Defeated**, 199-226, Sept. 25, 1963. **YEA**—WRONG. **NAY**—RIGHT.

3. PUBLIC WORKS

THE BILL—HR 5517, Accelerated Public Works Appropriations, to speed federal, state and local action on hospitals, streets, bridges and other community facilities—and to help create jobs for American workers.

BACKGROUND—The job-creating APW program is vital to the American economy and to the welfare of hundreds of thousands of workers. Public works of permanent value—hospitals, bridges, roads and sewers—serve local community needs. In addition to jobs for those directly employed on public works, the program also opens up jobs in industries providing equipment and material for public works projects. An estimated 200,000 persons were working in 1964 as a result of the AFL-CIO-supported APW program.

THE VOTE—On an amendment by Rep. Edward Boland (D.-Mass.) to restore \$450 million to APW funds slashed by the House Appropriations Committee. **Approved**, 228-184, April 10, 1963. **YEA**—RIGHT. **NAY**—WRONG.

4. WORKER PROTECTION IN MASS TRANSIT AID

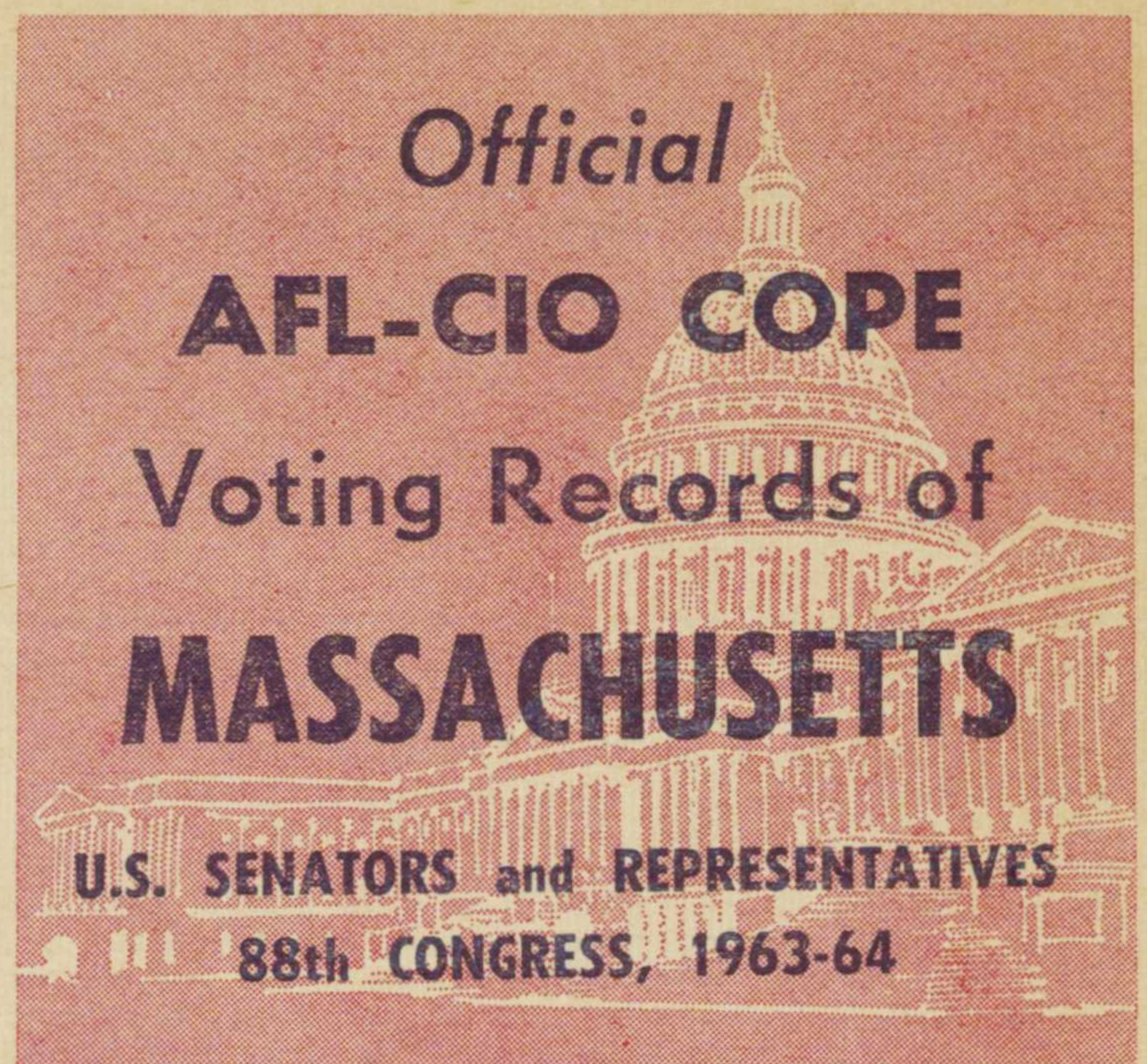
THE BILL—HR 3881. As reported by the House Banking Committee, the proposed three-year \$375 million program of federal aid for city-suburban mass transit systems did not include adequate protections for unions and workers.

BACKGROUND—A major victory in labor legislation was won when the House voted to add the AFL-CIO-supported labor protection amendment to the mass transit aid program aimed at cutting travel time and increasing leisure hours for workers and their families in traffic-choked metropolitan areas.

THE VOTE—On an amendment by Rep. Albert Rains (D.-Ala.) to assure rights of union recognition and collective bargaining and continued employment, seniority, pension, vacation and other employee rights and benefits for workers affected by the act. **Approved**, 234-170, June 25, 1964. **YEA**—RIGHT. **NAY**—WRONG.

5. DAVIS-BACON ACT

THE BILL—HR 6041, to include fringe benefits in Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rate determinations.



BACKGROUND—Under the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, contractors on federally-aided construction projects must pay workers prevailing wages for the area, as determined by the Secretary of Labor. The act protects community wage standards and guards against unscrupulous contractors who import low-wage, non-union workers. Today, many employers pay for fringe benefits in contributions to health, welfare, and pension funds. There are more than 5,000 such funds in the construction industry. To protect workers, communities, and contractors who pay for fringe benefits against cut-rate operators who don't, Congress voted to require such benefits be included under the Davis-Bacon Act. The AFL-CIO supported the bill.

THE VOTE—On a motion by Rep. B. F. Sisk (D.-Calif.) to block an attempt to impose unworkable anti-labor restrictions on the entire Davis-Bacon Act, including the fringe benefits section. **Approved**, 297-105, Jan. 28, 1964. **YEA**—RIGHT. **NAY**—WRONG.

6. FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

THE BILL—HR 10222, to make permanent and expand the food stamp program to provide food for needy families.

BACKGROUND—The temporary food stamp program, initiated by President Kennedy in 1961, helped feed 380,000 children and adults in poverty-stricken families in 43 communities. Under the plan, needy families buy stamps worth nearly twice as much when exchanged for food. Four million needy persons are expected to benefit from the now permanent program, which was supported by the AFL-CIO.

THE VOTE—On a motion by Rep. Charles Hoeven (R.-Iowa) to require states to pay half the cost. This would have wrecked the food stamp plan, since states and communities where it is needed most—where poverty and unemployment are widespread—are least able to pay. **Defeated**, 195-223, April 8, 1964. **YEA**—WRONG. **NAY**—RIGHT.

7. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

THE BILL—HR 4955, to expand, improve and modernize vocational education programs, and to provide job training and experience for needy students.

BACKGROUND—Today's jobs—and tomorrow's—require different training and skills from jobs of the past. Vocational education too often has emphasized training in out-moded skills. The bill, supported by the AFL-CIO, provides \$581 million to help states and communities overhaul vocational education programs and train young people in skills needed on today's job market. An additional \$150 million goes for work-study programs and residential vocational education schools to enable needy students to earn while attending high school.

THE VOTE—On a motion by Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen (R.-N.J.) to kill the work-study and residential school programs and thus to deprive needy high school students of valuable training in job skills. **Defeated**, 180-193, Dec. 12, 1963. **YEA**—WRONG. **NAY**—RIGHT.

8. MEDICAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, STUDENT LOANS

THE BILL—HR 12, Health Professions Medical Assistance Act, to build medical and dental schools and pro-