

## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

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Monday, November 24, 2003

### *Last Week in the U.S. House of Representatives*

#### **ENERGY BILL WOULD SPARE WEST MICHIGAN FROM CLEAN AIR**

**SANCTIONS** – Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers joined with colleagues Pete Hoekstra and Fred Upton Monday announced that the proposed Energy bill would postpone West Michigan emission controls and sanctions for violating clean air laws pending the outcome of a demonstration project that will address the effect of transported air pollution. *When the Energy Bill came up for a vote on Tuesday, Ehlers voted against the legislation, saying that while he strongly supported the West Michigan provisions, he could not support the subsidies provided to the oil and gas industries while there was no comparable assistance for renewable energy industries. Ehlers also said he was concerned about the potential negative environmental impact of the bill. The Energy bill was approved by the House, 246-180, but awaits Senate approval at this writing.*

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/111703CleanAir.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/111703CleanAir.html)

#### **HOUSE APPROVES PLAN TO GIVE SENIORS MEDICARE PRESCRIPTIONS**

– The U.S. House of Representatives early Saturday approved monumental legislation to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, strengthen the nearly four-decades-old program to make it more fiscally sound, and create new ways for all Americans to put money aside for medical expenses, Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers said. Ehlers joined with his fellow House members in voting 220-215 in favor of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (H.R. 1). A total of 204 Republicans and 16 Democrats supported the legislation.

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/112203MedicareRx.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/112203MedicareRx.html)

#### **EHLERS RECEIVES MAJOR HONOR FROM ENGINEERING GROUP –**

Acknowledging his work in promoting math and science education and in encouraging women and minorities to become involved in the sciences and engineering, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Wednesday conferred one of its highest honors on Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers at its annual awards ceremony. At its 2003 Honors and Awards ceremony held Wednesday evening in Washington, ASME President Reginald I. Vachon presented Ehlers with the Ralph Coe Roe Medal, an award the organization has presented since 1972. The award recognized Ehlers “for outstanding contribution toward a better public understanding and appreciation of the engineer’s worth to contemporary society.”

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/112003ASMEAward.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/112003ASMEAward.html)

#### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

*The U.S. House of Representatives is in recess for the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The House is scheduled to return for business on Monday, Dec. 8.*

## **Historical Tidbits**

### **On Nov. 24 ...**

**1947** - The “Hollywood 10,” were cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about alleged Communist influence in their industry.

**1987** - The U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed to scrap short- and medium-range missiles. It was the first superpower treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons.

**1993** - The U.S. Congress gave its final approval to the Brady handgun control bill.

### **On Nov. 25 ...**

**1783** - During the Revolutionary War, the British evacuated New York. New York was their last military position in the U.S.

**1955** - In the U.S., the Interstate Commerce Commission banned racial segregation on interstate trains and buses.

**1957** - U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a stroke.

**1986** - U.S. President Reagan and Attorney Gen. Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to rebels in Nicaragua.

### **On Nov 26 ...**

**1789** - U.S. President Washington set aside this day to observe the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

**1861** - West Virginia was created (out of Virginia) over a dispute of slavery. West Virginia was against slavery.

**1941** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. In 1939 Roosevelt had signed a bill that changed the celebration of Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November.

**1942** - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered nationwide gasoline rationing to begin December 1.

**1973** - Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she was responsible for the 18-1/2 minute gap in a key Watergate tape. Woods was President Nixon’s personal secretary.

**1975** – Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme was found guilty by a federal jury in Sacramento, Calif., for trying to assassinate U.S. President Ford on September 5.

**1986** - U.S. President Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Sen. John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff after the Iran-Contra affair.

**1997** - The U.S. and North Korea held high-level discussions at the State Department for the first time.

### **On Nov. 27 (*Happy Thanksgiving!*) ...**

**1963** - U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his first address to a joint session of Congress.

**1973** - The U.S. Senate voted to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president after the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew.

### **On Nov. 28 ...**

**1995** - U.S. President Clinton signed a \$6 billion road bill that ended the federal 55 mph speed limit.