

# Treaty's fate rests with key Demos

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new survey shows that 31 U.S. senators are either opposed to the Panama Canal treaty or are leaning against it, only three votes shy of the 34 needed to block block ratification.

A questionnaire sent to all senators by the Associated Press also shows 41 favor the pact and eight are leaning toward ratification. Twenty-four senators indicated they are opposed to the treaty, while seven others said they were leaning against it.

That means the fate of the pact—a major Carter administration foreign policy objective — may rest with 20 senators who are not ready to take a public position.

Among them are some of the Senate's most influential and senior members. Most of them are Democrats, some of whom chair key committees and key subcommittees and often decide the fate of legislation.

They include Henry Jackson and Warren Magnuson, both Washington Democrats; Howard Cannon, D-Nev.; William Proxmire, D-Wis.; Thomas Eagleton D-Mo.; Thomas McIntyre, D-N.H.; Jennings Randolph, D-W. Va., and Herman Talmadge, D-Ga.

A two-thirds majority of the Senate — 67 members, if all are present — is needed for

ratification.

Most treaty foes are believed to have declared themselves already, and Senate observers suggest that most uncommitted members are potential backers of the treaty who are not willing to promise Carter their votes without getting something in return.

Sen. Russell Long, D-La., the Senate Finance Committee chairman who has fought the administration on energy tax legislation said he was "leaning against" the treaty. The pact would gradually turn the international waterway over to Panama until that country is given full control in the year 2000.

The treaty debate is expected to begin after the Lincoln Day recess, Feb. 13-20 and last from two to five weeks. Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., said Saturday the pact faces an uphill fight but. "I believe it's winnable."

Byrd and Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker are asking senators to support two "essential and fundamental" amendments to enhance passage of the treaty.

The changes would guarantee a U.S. right of priority access to the canal and the right to defend the waterway militarily after the turn of the century.

## Poll finds respect dwindling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans don't think very highly of the business community, the news media and the federal bureaucracy, but many feel the need for government protection, a survey sponsored by U.S. News & World Report shows.

All 25 areas of the public sector identified in the magazine poll, including professionals, labor and

education, scored less than 50 percent when respondents were asked about their ability and integrity.

While most persons surveyed opposed excessive government regulation of business and tinkering with the profit motive, 68 percent said government regulation is needed to guarantee safe working conditions.

The survey, released Sunday, also shows 58 percent of the respondents believe government regulation is the best way to insure safe products. Fifty-four percent say the government should ban the sale of products causing cancer in animals, and 46 percent want a federal consumer protection agency.

The study was conducted by Marketing Concepts Inc., a Washington firm, which compiled 5,900 returns from a scientifically selected sample drawn from a computer list of 65 million households.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

### Bench research facilities poor

WASHINGTON—The typical federal judge has poorer research facilities available to him than a beginning law student — a predicament that can cause delays, errors, retrials and additional expense, an unreleased government study shows.

The study, conducted for the Federal Judicial Center, concludes that if the information deficiency could be cleared up there probably would be no need for many of the 100 or more new federal judgeships about to be created by Congress to relieve overworked courts. The center is an administrative arm of the federal court federal court system.

### House to consider welfare plan

WASHINGTON—A House welfare panel makes its final adjustments this week to Pres. Carter's \$32 billion welfare plan and then will decide whether to scrap it in favor of a more limited approach.

The House Ways and Means' subcommittee on public assistance and unemployment compensation will choose Wednesday night between Carter's sweeping consolidation of welfare programs and the scaled-down changes proposed by Rep. Al Ullman, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Among other things, Carter's plan would eliminate food stamps as a separate welfare program while Ullman's proposal would retain the program as a separate entity.



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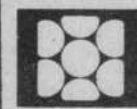
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