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Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes Dec. 10-16.

HOUSE

NEW AGENCY — By a vote of 218-84, the house passed and sent to the president legislation to create a new agency to attract tourists to the U.S. The U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, an independent agency, would replace the Commerce Department's U.S. Travel Service and have the same budget, \$5.6 million this fiscal year.

Supporter James Florio, D-N.J., said the bill is supported by Democrats and Republicans because "members recognize that an aggressive program to stimulate tourism to the U.S. provides tremendous economic and social benefits."

Opponent Jack Brooks, D-Tex., said "There is no need to establish this elaborate bureaucratic structure . . . to do a promotional job that is being done and should be done by the private tourist industry."

Members voting yea favored creation of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration.

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted yea.
Reps. David Bonior, D-Mt. Clemens, and William Brodhead, D-Detroit, voted nay.
Reps. William Ford, D-Taylor, and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, did not vote.

SENATE

SENATE STAFFS — The Senate rejected, 56-34, an attempt to cut Senate staff payroll by 5 percent this fiscal year. The projected saving was \$10 million. The vote came during debate on an appropriations bill later approved by both houses and signed into law.

Supporter George Mitchell, D-Maine, said the cut would "show the American people that Congress is not just telling them to cut back and accept less — we are willing to do so ourselves."

Opponent Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., said: "I can show you where to save the billions. It is not on this budget in the U.S. Senate with your staff trying to play catchup ball, investigating the government, keeping people informed and trying to keep yourself involved about the various subjects of every kind."

Senators voting yea favored the 5 percent cut in fiscal 1981 Senate staff payroll.

Sens. Donald Riegle and Carl Levin, both Democrats, voted yea.

SEVERANCE PAY — By a vote of 44-43, the Senate approved severance pay for an estimated 500 staffers leaving Senate jobs at the end of the 96th Congress. Most of the departures resulted from the November election results. The pay will consist of one week's salary for every year of service, with a maximum of three months in severance salary. The vote came during debate on an appropriations bill. However, a later non-record vote on a separate measure actually put the severance pay into law.

Supporter Milton Young, R-N.D., said "this would help the staff members to stay on as long as needed, until the member is out of office. This would be most helpful to both the seniors and their staffs."

Opponent Harry Byrd, I-Va., said the amendment establishes a precedent that "goes counter to what the people want. They want some sacrifice in Washington."

Senators voting "yea" favored severance pay for some 500 departing Senate staffers.

Riegle and Levin voted nay.

AUTO IMPORT QUOTAS — By a vote of 12-65, the Senate refused to kill legislation in support of import quotas on Japanese and other foreign vehicles. The measure, giving a president authority to negotiate such quotas, later died in the face of a threatened filibuster.

Sen. Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., who wanted to kill the measure, said: "The issue is protectionism. This . . . is an opening gun in a war to shield non-competitive industries, at the expense of the American economy, from the consequences of their own mistakes."

Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., a sponsor of the measure, said it was time to let Japanese and other foreign manufacturers know "there is tremendous concern about the damage that is being done to the domestic automobile industry in the U.S. . . ."

Senators voting nay favored import quotas on foreign vehicles.

Riegle and Levin voted nay.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS — The Senate adopted, 54-24, an amendment blocking a proposed Internal Revenue Service regulation that limits the deductibility of contributions to private schools. In part, the IRS says that if the contribution is comparable to a tuition payment, it cannot be considered a charitable donation.

Supporter Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said the regulation benefits Catholic, Lutheran and other established parochial schools, to the detriment of newer institutions such as Evangelical Christian schools.

The latter, he said, generally have lower tuitions and must rely more on contributions to meet operating expenses.

Opponent Thomas Eagleton, D-Mo., said the IRS regulation is a "reasonable" compromise which the agency developed in concert with an array of parochial school organizations.

Senators voting yea wanted to block the IRS regulation.

Riegle and Levin voted nay.

Early settlers lively celebrants

Michigan residents have been celebrating Christmas for 278 years, and during that period the occasion in both solemn and boisterous fashion.

Dr. Phillip P. Mason, director of archives at Wayne State University, found that the first Detroit Christmas was observed with a mass using in the little Church of St. Anne for the French residents of Fort Pontchartrain in 1701.

Early Detroit settlers from France did not include feasts and merriment in their Christmas. It re-

mained for English settlers of the mid-18th century to bring feasting, gift exchanges and celebration to the Michigan Christmas.

"These new Detroiters did not appear to be teetotalers," said Dr. Mason. "One client of the Detroit Tavern had a bar bill showing that he consumed one to four bowls of punch per day for 21 straight days, he also bought several quarts of rum during this period."

The English brought the tradition of the yule log, mistletoe, holly and

the use of evergreens in the house. Wild turkey, cooked over the blazing yule log, was a favorite for Christmas dinner.

Indians around Detroit quickly fell in with the idea of receiving presents at Christmas, and hundreds of them would come to town on Christmas to receive gifts from the settlers.

The arrival of large numbers of settlers from New England brought the custom of hanging stockings on Christmas Eve. They brought another

interesting practice. They fired guns, blew horns and generally raised Cain from midnight until dawn on Christmas Day, something more common for New Year's celebrations of today.

The Detroit population of the early 19th century was liable to be gathered on the banks of the Detroit River, watching the horse races held on the frozen river Christmas Day.

One of the participants in these early races was a young Army man, Ulysses S. Grant.

roll call report

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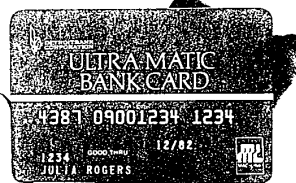
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Nine Mile-Hilton
Northland Center
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(Northwestern at Rutland)
Rochester Road-Avon Road
Twelve Mile-Orchard Lake
Twelve Oaks Mall (to be installed Spring, '81)
Woodward-14 Mile
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MACOMB COUNTY
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