

ROLL CALL REPORT

Talk about voting! Here are records

Congressional voting attendance fell slightly in 1992, but remained a bright spot for an institution hungry for compliments.

House members averaged 93 percent attendance on the 473 roll calls conducted during the 10-month legislative session, down from 95 percent in 1991 and 94 percent in 1990.

In the Senate, average attendance was 95 percent on the year's 270 roll calls, down from 97 percent in each of the two previous years.

Thirteen House members and 17 Senators achieved 100 percent attendance. Rep. William Natcher, D-Ky., remains the iron man of Congressional voting attendance. He has never missed the call to over 13,600 votes in his 38-year House career.

Rep. Bob Traxler, D-Mich., registered the lowest House attendance - 50 percent - as a result of

a long recuperation from injuries suffered in a street crime. Rep. Doug Barnard (D-Ga.), recorded 57 percent attendance, with about half of his absenteeism caused by serious illness. Able-bodied House members with the lowest attendance were three California Democrats, Mervyn Dymally at 52 percent and Barbara Boxer and Mel Levine at 54 percent each.

Other House members with attendance below 70 percent were Democrats Charles Hatcher of Georgia (60%), Joe Kolter of Pennsylvania (64%), Beryl Anthony of Illinois (69%), and W.G. Hefner of North Carolina (69%) and Republican Andy Ireland of Florida (69%). Hefner was ill much of the year.

Senators with the lowest attendance were Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Al Gore of Tennessee at 56 percent; Republican Jesse Helms of North Caroli-

na, who had heart surgery during the year, at 63 percent; and Democrats Tom Harkin of Iowa (74%) and Tim Wirth of Colorado (79%).

Political scientists downplay the correlation between members' attendance on roll calls and their overall effectiveness in Congress. But they see showing up to vote as an indicator of devotion to duty.

Four attendance often surfaces as a congressional campaign issue.

While there is no precise measurement of how much absenteeism is too much, 90 percent attendance and above is usually considered safe from political attack.

In the House last year 82 members, or nearly one-fifth of the body, fell below the 90 percent threshold. Only 10 of the 99 Senators who served the full year scored below 90 percent.

THE 1992 VOTING ATTENDANCE REPORT: Percentage

shows how often members voted yea or nay on 473 House roll call votes and 270 Senate roll call votes that were conducted during 1992. Perfect attendance is 100 percent.

MICHIGAN: John Conyers, D-1: 75 percent; Carl Pursell, R-2: 89 percent; Howard Walpe, D-3: 93 percent; Fred Upton, R-4: 99 percent; Paul Henry, R-5: 93 percent; Bob Carr, D-6: 95 percent; Dale Kildee, D-7: 100 percent; Bob Traxler, D-8: 50 percent; Guy Vander Jagt, R-9: 88 percent; David Camp, R-10: 99 percent; Robert Davis, R-11: 84 percent; David Bonior, D-12: 80 percent; Barbara Rose-Gollins, D-13: 85 percent; Dennis Hertel, D-14: 89 percent; William Ford, D-15: 92 percent; John Dingell, D-16: 94 percent; Sander Levin, D-17: 99 percent; William Broomfield, R-18: 82 percent; Carl Levin, D: 93 percent and Donald Riegle, D: 94 percent.

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