

Roll Call Report

Aid for homeless sails through House

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes during the week ending Jan. 30.

HOUSE

HOMELESS AID — By a vote of 295 for and 75 against, the House passed and sent to the Senate legislation (HJ Res 102) to provide an additional \$50 million this winter in emergency aid for the homeless.

The money was taken from a disaster relief account within the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It will fund food and shelter programs run by private organizations

such as the United Way and American Red Cross.

Supporter Bruce Vento, D-Minn., said, "Literally within blocks of this Capitol building, the homeless are huddled for warmth on heating grates and in doorways. Across the nation emergency shelters are filled beyond capacity."

Opponent Robert Michel, R-Ill., said, "No one can quarrel with the need to assist the homeless," but that state treasuries, which have surpluses, are in a better position to help than the deficit-ridden U.S. Treasury.

Members voting yes supported the legislation.

Voting yes: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

SENATE

COMMITTEE FUNDING — By a vote of 53 for and 36 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to cut its committee spending by 5 percent during the first session of the 100th Congress.

The Senate then approved a budget (S Res 80) of slightly more than \$45 million this year for staff payroll, travel, consultants and virtually

all other expenses of the 19 Senate committees.

The outlay is about 3 percent higher than last year's \$43.6 million figure, with most of the increase allocated to raising staff salaries.

Wendell Ford, D-Ky., said approval of the cut would be "a declaration that the Senate does not believe it should make a 100 percent effort to deal with the serious problems faced by our farmers, miners, small businessmen, war veterans, aging citizens and others."

Steven Symms, R-Idaho, who sponsored the amendment, said that with the Potomac River in danger of being turned red by Washington's

red ink, "the Senate is a good place to start on fiscal restraint."

Senators voting yes were opposed to cutting Senate committee budgets by five percent.

Voting yes were Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegler.

PAY RAISE — The Senate approved, 88 for and 6 against, a resolution (S Res 34) to block hefty pay raises scheduled for early February for members of Congress, Cabinet secretaries, federal judges and top executive branch officials.

Salaries of House members of senators would rise 16 percent from \$77,400 to \$89,800; the pay of district court judges would rise from \$81,100

to \$89,500; and Cabinet officers' pay would be increased from \$88,800 to \$99,500.

The Senate sent the resolution to the House, where it must be passed and sent to President Reagan for his signature by midnight Feb. 3 if the increase is to be blocked.

Because the House had adjourned for the week without addressing the issue, and would not meet again until Feb. 3, it appeared the resolution would fail and the raises would take effect.

Voting yes: Levin, Riegler.

Look up! They're tundra swans

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

ONE winter day I spotted a flock of 40 tundra swans flying overhead.

They were known as whistling swans for a long time, until recently it was discovered that they are a subspecies of a European swan, so they now refer to both species as tundra swans.

Tundra swans are one of two species of swan found in Michigan. Mute swans introduced from Europe have established themselves as breeding residents in the Grand Traverse area and in Oakland County. But as their name suggests, they rarely if ever call or vocalize when flying.

IF I HAD NOT heard these swans calling as they flew overhead, I would not have seen them. Their white bodies blended into the grayish overcast sky that day.

Though swans have been known to fly as high as 10,000 feet, these birds were probably only 1,000 feet overhead and flying about 35 miles per hour.

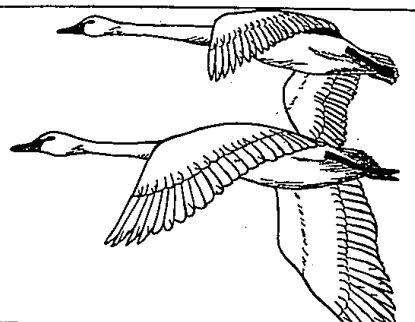
Spring is when tundra swans migrate through our area from their wintering grounds on Chesapeake Bay to their nesting area in northern Alaska and Canada. Thousands of swans rest in fields near Wallaceburg, Canada, between legs of their journey.

THIS FLOCK was heading southeast toward Lake St. Clair and open water, where small flocks regularly winter. As long as they can find open water to feed on aquatic plants, they will be able to survive the cold winter weather.

Trumpeter swans, found in Yellowstone National Park, spend the entire winter in ponds and lakes kept open by geothermal discharge from underground.

Opportunities to observe wildlife around the Detroit area are more numerous than you may think, but in order to see as much as possible, you have to keep all your senses attuned.

Though looking up is not a common habit of human nature, it does expand the area in which wildlife can be seen.



Against a gray sky, white tundra swans are hard to see and rarely vocalize when flying.



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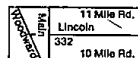
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