

# Young has poor vote attendance record

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — A tally by the Congressional Quarterly indicates only 12 of Congress' 535 members voted fewer times last year than Alaska Rep. Don Young, who showed up for 77 percent of 498 recorded votes.

At the other end of the Capitol, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Ted Stevens showed up for 92 percent of the Senate's 371 roll calls, and Sen. Frank Murkowski of Fairbanks cast ballots 85 percent of the time, the Quarterly noted.

On average, lawmakers cast votes in 92 percent of 371 roll calls taken in 1983, equaling the 30-year high set in 1981,

the Quarterly said.

Young's own calculations show a personal voting record 1 percent higher than the Congressional Quarterly, but he said "my voting average is not very good."

The Fort Yukon Republican attributed his frequent absences to spending time in Alaska with constituents, campaigning and being at home.

"I'm not one of these Potomac River rats," he said. "I spend time with my people."

Besides, many of the votes taken by the House are purely procedural or do not directly affect Alaska, he said.

Young estimated he spends 185 days a year in Alaska.