

ASSOCIATED PRESS
19 January 1983

WASHINGTON
By Jeffrey Mills
Congressional Travel

STAT

One-tenth of Congress is traveling overseas at taxpayers expense during the current recess to visit foreign officials, many in sunnier climes than the United States.

Though tax money is paying for almost all of the business trips, the total cost won't be known until reports are filed after the legislators return.

They are entitled to per diem expenses while traveling, based on State Department rates for the countries. It is \$72 per day in Brazil and \$48 in Greece, two favorite countries for visits. Accompanying spouses must pay their own expenses, but can take available airplane seats at no cost to them.

A survey by The Associated Press found 10 senators and 50 representatives planning overseas trips during the recess before President Reagan's State of the Union address Tuesday.

* * * * *

Sen. Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., went to Germany, France and Spain to see officials and discuss trade. Sen. John H. Chafee, R-R.I., went to England, Belgium and West Germany to inspect U.S. military facilities and confer with CIA officials.

* * * * *

EXCERPTED

STAT