United Press International
WASHINGTON — The cost of living shot up another 1.4 percent in February for a compounded annual inflation rate of 17.7 percent, the Department reported

Grocery prices dropped slightly last month, but the overall Consumer Price Index rose higher on rapidly increasing energy and housing costs. Gasoline pump prices have now

risen 68 percent in a year.

The overall February jump in retail prices was identical to January's 1.4 percent and represented more bad news for President Carter in an

Although the current inflation rate is much higher, the administration has predicted inflation of between 11

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pared to 13.3 percent last year. Administration economists say the rate will cool later this year as the Carter anti-inflation program begins to take effect.

The February Consumer Price Index stood at 236.4, meaning goods and services that cost \$100 in 1967

Home financing costs rose 2.9 percent in February, the Labor Department said, reflecting a 2.2 percent increase in mortgage rates and a 0.4 percent rise in house prices. The increase was the smallest since August

stabilize because no one can buy them any more," said department analyst Patrick Jackman.

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rate of 7.3 percent, almost the same January's 7.4 percent. Household fuels rose 2.9 percent

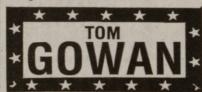
during the month. Home fuel oil prices rose 5.1 percent, following a 3 percent increase in January.

As a result of the recent sharp price increases, the spendable earnings of an average urban blue-collar worker in a family of four - after taxes and adjusting for inflation declined 1.4 percent in February.

The Labor Department said those earnings are now down 7.3 percent from a year ago, the biggest such 78. slide since it began keeping the earnings house prices are going to ings figures in 1964.

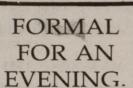
Although the monthly CPI increase was the same in January and February, the Labor Department said the compounded annual rate what the .980 figure would be if inflation continues unchanged — was slightly different for the two months.

Feoruary's 17.7 percent was down slightly from January's 18 percent. Both were the highest rates of inflation since August 1973, when government food controls were removed and the monthly rate reached





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rather than simple interest in figuring the annual rate. The brightest spot in the February picture was the food and beverage category, where for the first time in

The department considers it more

accurate to use compound interest

recent months, prices remained unchanged. Grocery prices declined 0.4 percent, following a 0.2 percent drop in January.

Labor Department analysts warned there will be more bad inflation months ahead, but declined to predict the exact level. Energy and home mortgage rates are expected to continue to rise, they said, and food prices may start increasing again, offsetting possible declines in some other areas.

Automobile financing charges continued to increase sharply - up 1.7 percent — and charges for auto mobile insurance rose 1.3 percent. Medical care increased 1.5 per

cent, faster than in recent months. Apparel and its upkeep rose 0.6 percent, slightly less than January's 0.9 percent. Prices of jewelry, luggage and sewing materials combined rose 3.8 percent, partly re-

flecting the increased prices of precious metals that go into jewelry.
Entertainment rose 1.2 percent following a 1 percent increase in January. Higher prices of sporting goods and equipment contributed to

It was the second month in a row that grocery prices have declined slightly. Fresh vegetables, pork, poultry and eggs accounted for much of the decline

Drink more milk

United Press International LOS ANGELES — Calcium

sources other than milk are impractical, says Dr. Roslyn Alfin-Slater, a nutrition researcher at UCLA. Spinach, sardines, kidney beans, broccoli, almonds, fish and cassava are often cited as alternate sources of dietary calcium. "They are not practical sources of this important mineral in the traditional U.S. diet," the researcher wrote in a recent issue of a physicians' newsletter, Nutrition & the MD. This is why the USDA daily food guide recommends two or more glasses of milk or its calcium equiva-lent from the milk group each day,



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U.S. officials say Cubaworl is giving leftists guns Er

of directly assisting communist groups and leftists guerrillas with men and weapons to help overthrow the ruling centrist junta of violence-plagued El Salvador.

Officials from the State and Defense departments told a House subcommittee there is evidence the Fidel Castro regime is helping infiltrate men and weapons into El Salvador through its northern neighbor, Honduras.

"The Hondurans believe, and our intelligence agrees, that their territory is being used as a conduit for men and weapons into El Salvador by insurgents with Cuban support," said Deputy Assistnt Secretary of Defense Franklin Kramer. "Cuban influence on El Salva-

doran and Honduran leftist organizations is long-standing, and

veloper of medical uses for the drug

Food and Drug Administration to

deny its benefits to arthritis victims

tial efficacy of any drug," Dr. Stanley

Jacob of the University of Oregon Medical School told the House Com-

mittee on Aging Monday.

But the FDA, after 16 years of

reviewing tests for various uses, has

approved it only for the bladder ail-

ment interstitial cystitis, while de-

nying it for arthritis, bruises and an array of other uses Jacob endorses.

Jacob accused the FDA of being

Dr. J. Richard Crout, director of

the FDA's bureau of drugs, said all

uses of DMSO except for interstitial

cystitis have been turned down because tests were not made with prop-

Crout, who supervises drug approvals, Dr. William J. Gyarfas,

who reviews committee recommen-

dations, and Dr. Marion J. Finkel,

who makes the final decisions, all

testified they have no prejudice

against DMSO, an inexpensive by-

product of paper manufacturing known chemically as dimethyl sulfo-

Jacob at one point interrupted

Crout's testimony to say a colleague

once overheard Gyarfas say, "I'm

er controls or were inconclusive.

'It has the widest range of poten-

and other sufferers.

biased

DMSO says it is "criminal" for the

groups in their attempt to overthrow the current government of El Salvador.

The same charges were echoed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Bushnell. Both appeared before the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee to request nearly \$9 million in military aid for Honduras and El Sal-

Bushnell said: "Hondurans are following developments in El Salvador with intense interest, concerned that if that country were to fall into the hands of extremists, Honduras could not help but be affected. Indeed, it is already

"There is evidence that mountainous and sparsely populated areas of Honduran territory are being used for the illegal smuggling with Cuban support of insurgents and weapons into El Salvador." Both officials explained

all." Gyarfas denied making the remark and insisted he has no pre-

Jacob and three other physicians

testified DMSO relieves arthritis

pain, speeds recovery from burns

and bruises, saves lives in concussion

cases, and makes it unnecessary to

amputate fingers of scleroderma vic-

for scleroderma last year after find-ing it has no effect on the disease,

which causes skin ulcers that some-

The FDA rejected use of DMSO

judice against DMSO.

military aid requested for duras is to help that or prevent such activities subverting a neighbo

Bushnell and Kran noted the ties between President Fidel Castro at munist leaders in Central LONDON -

ica, and the fact that Chaplin in I most to gain from install semed like a that region.
"The Cubans have been. Now it looks to capitalize on this situate an's dream of Fidel Castro himself has rld's greate personal contacts with thele g to come But Harring in leader of I

American nations," Kramene Greater Lo Bushnell said, "It is not ght more tha ceivable that, in the years ue of Chap much of Central America dheroes, a fall prey to the kind of ineth If you star and shabby system that h ints to put it Castro described as the lo

Cuban people today." Doctor says FDA biased against drug

Quarterback June low reent of the Atlanta Falcons testified by things reall enabled him to control and that was an

"I can honestly say, with drug I would not be playing Jones testified.

Chairman Claude Peppel Fla., urged Jacob to recruit

Proctor indict Vit

in 'diet' killing with left is

United Press International WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Jean Harris, headmistress of an exclusive girl's prep school in Virginia, was indicted Tuesday on a second degree murder charge in the slaying of "Scarsdale Diet" author, Dr. Herman Tarnower.

Harris, 57, also was charged with criminal possession of a weapon.

The grand jury action, announced by Westchester District Attorney

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Carl Vergari, cancelled a subpoena

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"They (the grand jury) dindict on second degree which shows intent, and possession of a weapon in the degree, which also shows is five me

had written to Tarnower has found shot to death in

in Purchase, N.Y. Vergari said the grand in

not to require defense att Aurnou to surrender the talks ha

cause a "serious question

about the authenticity of the

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Vergari said. Aurnou has maintained ris, headmistress of the to Tarnower's estate to beg

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