

Revised GNP figures confirm recession

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy, reined in by an ailing housing industry and cautious consumers, slowed to a crawl during the first three months of the year as the nation wallowed into recession, the government said Tuesday.

Last month, the Commerce Department reported the "real" Gross National Product — the total output of goods and services stripped of inflation — grew at an annual rate of 1.1 percent between January and March.

But in a revised report released Tuesday, the department said new data revealed the increase in real GNP was actually only 0.6 percent in the first quarter — or roughly half the original estimate.

The department said the nation's total output of goods and services stood at \$2.51 trillion at the end of the first quarter, in-

stead of the \$2.52 trillion that was previously reported.

At the same time, the department reported that profits for American businesses, after inventories and capital were adjusted for inflation, fell by 2.6 percent in the first quarter to an annual rate of \$171.8 billion.

This followed a 2.4 percent decline during the last three months of last year.

The major revision in real GNP, the Commerce Department said, resulted because it had originally overestimated consumer spending, particularly for housing and for nondurable goods — relatively short-lived products like gasoline, clothing and food.

The 0.6 percent growth rate during the first three months of this year was the poorest showing by the U.S. economy since the second quarter of last year when real GNP declined 2.3 percent.

St. Helens anything but saintly

Continued eruptions and more flooding are expected

United Press International
VANCOUVER, Wash. — Seven bodies were spotted on the mud- and ash-covered flanks of Mount St. Helens and at least 29 other people still were missing Tuesday. Scientists warned the volcano would keep erupting and mudflows might set off major flooding.

A huge cloud of gray, acidic ash from Sunday morning's enormous eruption, which left hundreds homeless and thousands more stranded, moved eastward over the Midwest toward the Mississippi River Valley today.

Climatologists feared the thick cloud could effect weather in the Northern Hemisphere for several months. Residents in many cities of the Northwest Pacific donned masks and the governors of Idaho and Montana declared emergencies.

The volcano's explosion let loose numerous mudflows and "glowing valanches" of hot ash and super-heated gases that raced down the Toutle River Valley, blew down 25,000 acres of timber, trapped dozens of residents and campers, wiped out homes and washed out numerous bridges and roads.

Bob Christiansen of the U.S. Geological Survey said part of the mudflow from Mount St. Helens had built up a one-mile dam 200 feet high at Spirit Lake. Behind the dam, the lake level already has increased more than 50 feet.

"The best scenario is that the water will infiltrate the volcanic materials, seep through and join the river. The worst scenario is that it will rise to the top, overflow and cause a big flood," Christiansen said.

He said an earthquake could increase chances the dam will break.

Officials said it would be days or weeks before the extent of the disaster was known.

Gov. Dixy Lee Ray said the loss of life was unfortunate because, despite seven weeks of rumbling from the volcano, some people were not convinced it was dangerous. "There were people who deliberately ignored the warnings," she said.

Sunday morning's enormous eruption — heard for 200 miles — ripped 1,300 feet off the top of the 9,677-foot peak, creating a huge crater measuring 1-by-2 miles.

Scientists said the explosion, caused by underground molten rock building up pressure for weeks, blew out the top and northwest side of the cone.

Water temperatures in the Toutle and Cowlitz rivers were measured at more than 90 degrees Monday. "There aren't any fish in the Toutle River and few, if any, in the Cowlitz," Gov. Ray said.

Missing and feared dead was Harry R. Truman, 83, who had refused to leave his lodge at Spirit Lake on the mountain's 3,200-foot level.

Northwest brought to halt by volcanic ash fallout

United Press International
Volcanic ash from erupting Mount St. Helens wreaked havoc Tuesday with travelers throughout the Pacific Northwest. Most roads, airports and railroad tracks remained closed, and mud and debris blocked ship travel on the Columbia River.

Schools were closed, telephone lines were jammed with anxious callers, while hospitals filled with patients suffering respiratory problems. Amtrak and Burlington Northern halted all rail traffic in the region.

The ash seriously restricted visibility and forced the closure of all major highways from the east slopes of the Cascade mountains through eastern Washington and Idaho to the Montana border. Driving conditions were hazardous and drivers were being encouraged to avoid all but emergency travel.

The heaviest fallout of ash occurred northeastward from Mount St. Helens but a fanout of the volcanic plume resulted in ash fallout over most of the area.

All Cascade passes except Stevens and Washington (North Cascades Highway) were closed and all state routes in four counties, Spokane, Whitman, Lincoln and Adams, were blocked. Spokane County was declared in a state of emergency, thus all county roads were closed as well. In addition, all roads in Mount Rainier National Park and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest were closed.

Every airport east of the Cascade closed except those at Pasco, Richland, Walla Walla. Airports at Lewiston, Pendleton, Ore., and the Dalles, Ore., in western Washington were open.

Ship travel up the Columbia River was halted by the Coast Guard Monday near a 2-mile stretch where mud and debris from erupting volcano was flowing out of the litz River near Longview.

The closure kept ships from proceeding upriver and kept all large craft in ports or on the Columbia-Snake rivers from reaching the Pacific.

The Coast Guard captain of the port in Portland, in ordering the closure, could make no predictions on when the river would be reopened.

The river was closed to vessels at more than 10 feet, although the Coast Guard recommended that all craft traveling river stay out of the 2-mile strip between the mouth of the Cowlitz unless absolutely necessary.

Safeway coordinated several convoys of trucks to cross the state from Seattle to markets in eastern Washington. A convoy left Seattle shortly after 6 p.m. Monday and was bound for Spokane and 11 for another convoy left at midnight, bound for Prosser and Yakima.

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Arson suspected in fire that killed 170

United Press International
KINGSTON, Jamaica — A fire that officials said looked like the work of arsonists swept through a home for poor and elderly women early Tuesday, killing at least 170 patients who were trapped in their beds as flames quickly engulfed the two-story wooden building.

Officials said the confirmed death toll stood at 170 but could rise. Of the

204 patients asleep in their beds when the pre-dawn blaze broke out, only 24 were safe and accounted for.

"This could be the most serious loss of life (from a fire) in Jamaica," said one official at the scene.

"It seems to be the work of arsonists," said Anthony Spaulding, construction minister in Prime Minister Michael Manley's cabinet.

A police spokesman agreed with

the arson theory but a fire chief on the scene said the cause could not be determined without further investigation.

Fire Chief Allan Ridgeway said the blaze erupted in the Eventide Home home for poor and elderly women in downtown Kingston.

It swept through the old wooden building so quickly that all firemen could do was stand outside helplessly, watching a few old women jump

through windows to safety and listening to the terrified screams of those trapped inside, Ridgeway said.

"They are disabled people and can't move along. Most were trapped in their beds by fire," said Police Superintendent Ray Cole.

"By the time the fire brigade arrived the entire structure was engulfed in flames to the point that no rescue was at all possible," Ridgeway added.

"The building burned out and collapsed within 15 minutes of arrival," he said.

Manley headed a government team, including Security Minister Dudley Thompson and Police Commissioner Bill Bowes, to the scene to inspect the damage and supervise the recovery of the most of which were charred recognition.

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Italians nix boycott of Olympics

United Press International
LONDON — Italy's national Olympic committee voted overwhelmingly to send athletes to the

Moscow games despite a government ruling that such a team would be unofficial.

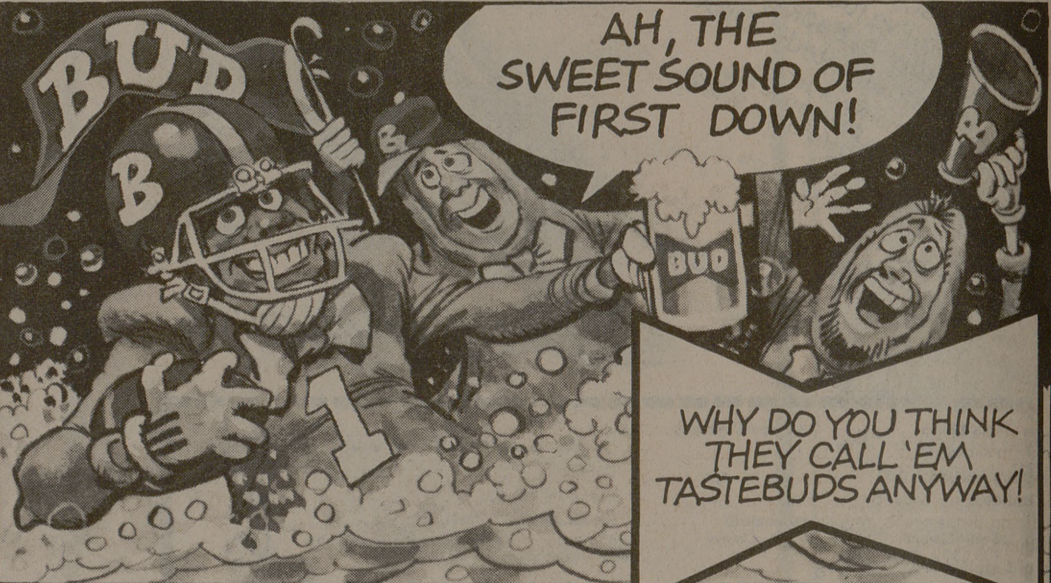
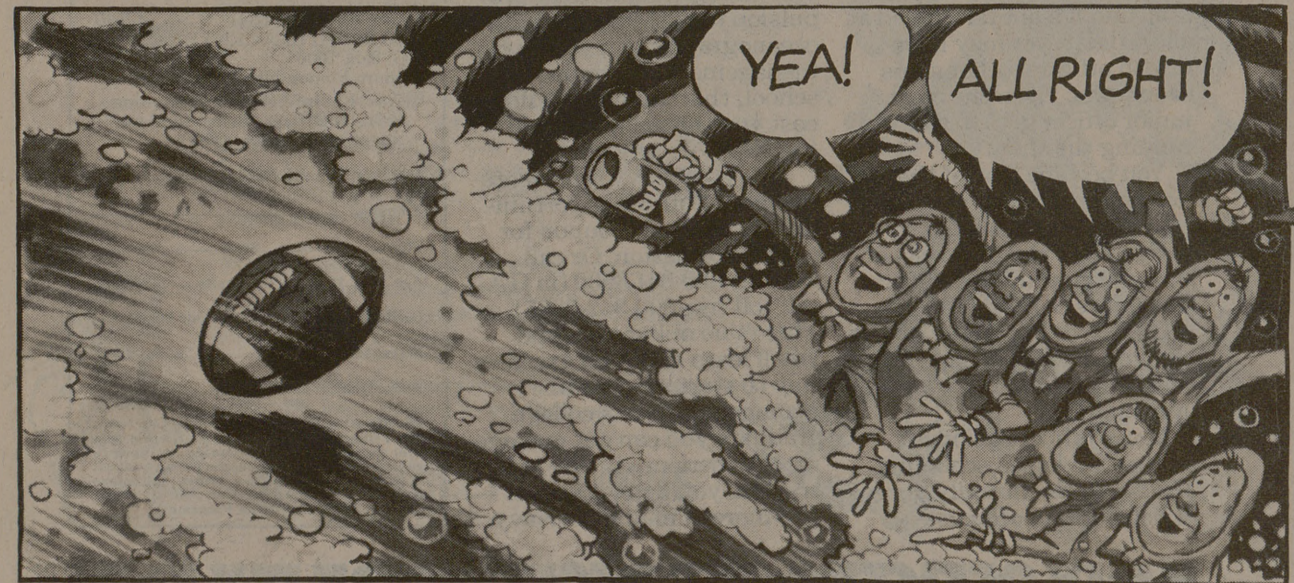
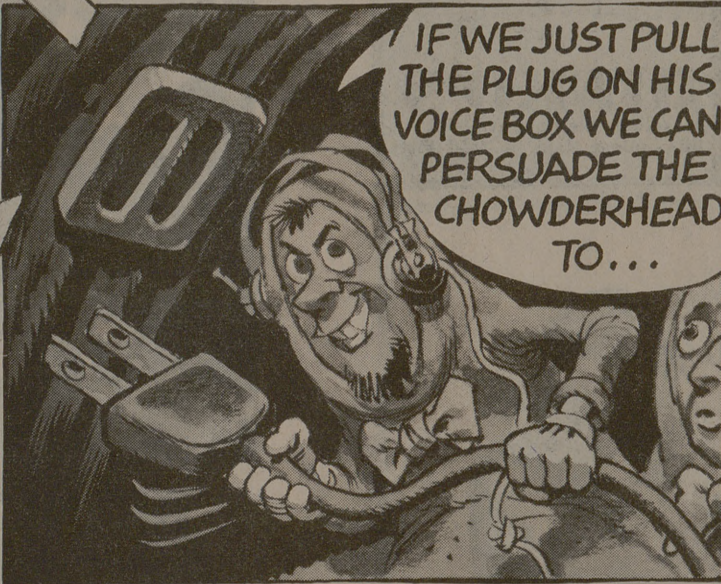
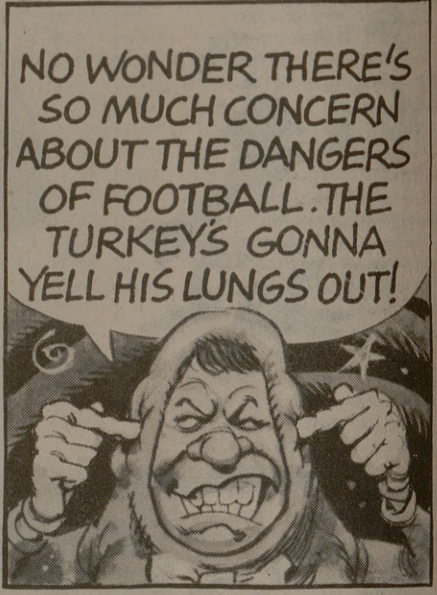
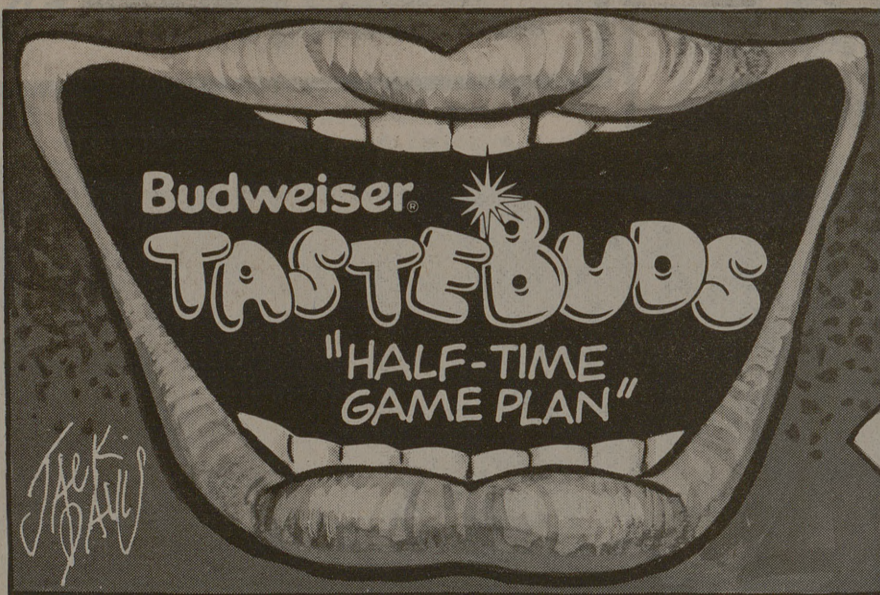
The committee vote, 29 to 3 with 2

abstentions, came a day after the government ruled that any Italian athletes going to the Moscow games could not officially represent Italy or use the nation's flag or anthem.

The Italian vote followed decisions Monday by committees in Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Iceland and Ireland to send

their athletes to the Moscow in moves showing the Italian community is split over the less than one week before the line for accepting Olympic

tions. To date, 43 national committees favor the boycott with 38



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