

National

President says economy in light, short recession

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, for the first time, acknowledges the United States is in a recession.

"I think this is a light and, I hope, short recession," Reagan said Sunday. "Yes, I think everyone agrees on that."

Reagan's comment — as he was leaving the White House to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the British surrender at Yorktown — was the first official administration acknowledgement that the current economic slowdown amounts to a recession. Budget Director David Stockman agreed Monday that it is a "distinct possibility."

Previously, officials had spoken only of a sluggish period in the economy.

But economic experts have been pointing to slumps in the housing and automobile industries because of high interest rates as well as an increase in the unemployment rate from 7.3 to 7.5 percent last month as signs in the wind of a recession.

Monday, Stockman also talked about recession during an inter-

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OUCH.

By Scott McCullar

1.1 million sign oyster petition

Dump Watt campaign booms

WASHINGTON — The mainstream environmental movement is being its "dump Watt" campaign to Congress and is asking sympathetic legislators to help pass an anti-Watt bill.

The Sierra Club, the country's largest environmental group, and its Friends of the Earth and its Friends of the Earth Action Fund were to present anti-Watt petitions to Sen. Alan Cranston, Calif., and House Speaker Tip O'Neill, D-Mass., Monday.

The petitions bear the names of at least 1.1 million Americans who moved from office as a bad step toward the nation's precious natural resources, Doug Scott, Sierra Club official, said.

Following the petition ceremony and a news conference, 80 representatives of 45 of the club's chapters planned to seek out their congressmen and senators for a personal plea to help them dump Watt.

The nationwide anti-Watt petition drive succeeded "beyond our wildest expectations," Scott said. "People perceive this man as a threat to the environment they love, and they think they ought to do something about it," he said.



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the whole thing is wrapped up in a plan to manipulate the media and the Congress.

Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition, a group that includes yachtsmen and snowmobilers, echoed Baldwin's comment, accusing the club of trying to "create a false impression of what the public really believes about Jim Watt."

Scott, the senior club staffer who drafted the plan, said he was not embarrassed in the least.

"The Sierra Club is a political organization that is seeking Watt's removal and the overturn of the anti-conservation policies of the

and lands," a spokesman said.

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view on the NBC "Today" show. "It's a distinct possibility that a recession is under way," he said.

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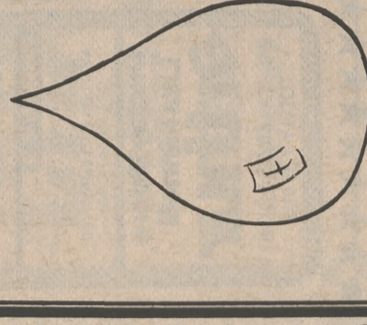
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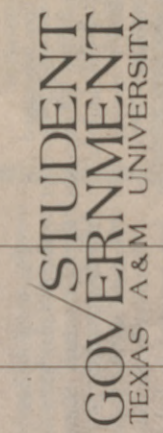
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