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Registering its worst year since 1961, U.S. tomakers sold just 6.2 million cars last year, 5.4 percent below 1980. But there was a flicker of good news on the home mortgage front, where

interest rates dropped significantly.

General Motors, Volkswagen of America, Ford Motor Co. and American Motors Corp. suffered declines — with only Chrysler Corp. enjoying an

The automotive gloom was just a part of life in these days of a nagging recession and uncertain economy. But in the home mortgage area, hardhit during the past one-and-a-half years, there

was a ray of hope.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board said interest rates offered for new house mortgages fell by more than half a point in December, the first significant drop in rates since the summer of

It said the latest figures, for the month ending the first week in December, showed major mort gage lenders offered an average rate of 17.54 percent, down from 18.16 percent the previous

This positive housing development, however, was little solace to the slumping auto industry, whose 1981 sales figures were the lowest since 1961, when 5.6 million U.S. cars were sold.

Foreign car popularity and the shock of seeing price increases of up to \$1,000 over the previous year were seen, along with the economy, as reasons for the failure of domestic automakers to rebound from a 1980 slump.

Ford, which reported figures Wednesday, said it sold 1,380,600 cars, a 6.1 percent drop from the 1,475,232 sold in 1980.

In the wake of the poor automobile sales, a presidential advisory group began a yearlong study on how to cure lagging U.S. productivity.

We cannot have economic prosperity - sustained growth without inflation - unless we have better productivity growth," President Reagan told the 33-member National Productivity Advisory Committee at the White House.

Productivity is measured several ways. It is the nation's output per hour of labor, output per em-ployee, or, the output from a combination of labor

By almost any measure, the growth of U.S. productivity slowed in the 1970s and in 1980 howed an actual decline.

On Wall Street Wednesday, stock prices, pummeled by investor fears of high interest rates and large federal deficits, fell to their lowest level in

But the selling eased a bit after Robert Ortner chief Commerce Department economist, said Wall Street was overreacting to deficit projections and ignoring what he said was progress in the fight against inflation.

As a result, the Dow Jones industrial average, which had been down nearly nine points at mid-day after Tuesday's 17.22 point drubbing, finished with a loss of 4.28 points to 881.02.

# Car sales crash in market Birthing doll educates

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — It was nevitable that the anatomically correct doll would be followed by the functionally correct doll - a rag doll that gives birth to a tiny baby doll.

They come in two styles - one that gives birth naturally and another that delivers by Caesa-

Jan Alovus says she designed the first of her dolls in 1977 for a friend's young son, who was having problems figuring out how his impending sibling would arrive.

The idea was so well-received that other friends requested a human doll. From that small beginning came Natalie, the rag doll with a tiny baby inside, attached to a detachable umbilical cord, that can be delivered in exactly the way a real baby comes into the

Natalie is bought mostly by educators, hospital auxiliaries and health-related groups for fund-

Alovus, 35, a free-lance art con-

recommend the 22-inch fabric doll for public school classrooms. But she would like to see a doll library established where people could check educational-type dolls in and out like books.

Kids that benefit most, she said, are those who don't know how to interpret a picture and are about to have a sister or brother.

Alovus, the mother of two small boys, is working on a guide to help parents decide how best to introduce the pregnant doll to chil-

"I don't expect to make a lot of noney and this is not my principal business," she said. "I'm not try to prove anything, but to make something available to people who

"Adults can take the doll to groups who need it to help children deal with a subject that is plain and children to understand."

She sells the dolls or do-ityourself kits at wholesale prices,

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# Protests held to oppose jailing

CARROLLTON, Ala. — Civil rights activists called for an economic boycott and daily picketing to protest the jailing of two black women who illegally marked absentee ballots for 39 elderly and illiterate blacks.

Julia Wilder, 69, and Maggie Bozeman, 51, both active in the movement to get blacks to vote, were taken Monday to Tutwiler Prison for Women after a tense two-hour hearing in which they were refused probation by Circuit Judge Clatus Junkin.

Wilder faces a five-year term and Bozeman four years for vote fraud. They were convicted in 1979 by all-white juries in rural west Alabama for illegally forging signatures on ballots for elderly and infirm blacks without their

The women claimed they were

Junkin did not give a reason for

rejecting probation. The judge angered black spectators, who let out a roar of disapproval when the decision was announced, by not letting them leave the courtroom until he had made his exit. Deputies escorted

the two women away.
"Either arrest us or let us out," demanded the Rev. Joseph Lowery of Atlanta, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

After the hearing, more than 200 blacks met at the Salem Baptist Church and vowed to conduct an economic boycott until the women were freed.

"We must not reward Pickens County with our economic support for putting our mothers in ail," said Lowery. "We don't want to be violent. He whom the gods merely helping the voters cast would destroy, they first make their ballots and did nothing mad. We've got to get creatively

About 100 pickets braved subfreezing temperatures to begin what Lowery said would be a daily demonstration in front of the county courthouse. He said he was asking all blacks to keep their children out of school Friday in protest, and also to commemorate Martin Luther King's

"If the children stay out of school, it will cost the county some he said. "We're going to make it very expensive to put

Lowery said a delegation of civil rights leaders would meet with Gov. Fob James this week to ask him to pardon or commute the womens' sentences

The case, which has drawn national attention from civil rights leaders, was appealed to the Sup-reme Court, which refused to hear

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