

Prime rate rises, productivity falls

# Stockman: Recession lingering

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The economy is reeling from a triple whammy — a rise in the prime rate, a decrease in factory production and a drop in housing starts — and the administration now says it may take a bit longer than expected to perk up.

Budget Director David Stockman gave the latest prognosis Wednesday, saying the recession may not end until summer or fall. Previously, the administration said it would likely rebound by spring or summer.

This prediction came atop more bleak economic signs, the most dismaying of which was the increase in the prime rate to 17 percent. The prime rate is a barometer of borrowing costs

and the biggest roadblock to recovery. Factory production fell 3 percent last month, the biggest drop since January 1975 and the worst of six consecutive monthly declines, the Federal Reserve reported.

Reagan and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker reportedly met Monday to discuss interest rates. But the White House waited until Wednesday to confirm the meeting and gave no inkling as to the conversation.

## Search continues for prime suspect in mass slayings

**United Press International**  
FARWELL, Mich. — Police searched Thursday for the estranged husband of a victim in the shotgun slayings of seven family members at a rural farmhouse.

Robert Haggart, 31, is a prime suspect in the killing of his wife, Garnetta, 23, her mother and father, a sister and three of the sister's children, state police said.

The seven bodies were found Tuesday night at the rural farmhouse of George Post, Haggart's father-in-law. The body of Helen Gaffney, Haggart's sister-in-law, was found in the cab of a pickup truck crouched protectively over her youngest child, Mandy, the lone survivor of the spray of shotgun fire.

The slaying of Gaffney's other children were huddled around her. Mandy, less than a year old, was taken to a hospital and released to an aunt. Other victims were Post, 53; his wife Audrey, 52; and three of Gaffney's children, Angela, 10, Tom, 8, and Amy, 7.

Officers mounted a continuous search for Haggart, a one-time hog auctioneer who also is wanted on charges of writing \$17,000 in bad checks. Haggart and his wife were to have appeared in Clare County Circuit Court Wednesday for divorce proceedings brought by Mrs. Haggart, officials said. However, Haggart did not appear.

## Xiaoping healthy, still ruling China

**United Press International**  
PEKING — A smiling, energetic Deng Xiaoping reappeared Thursday and called for a revolution in China's governing structure, putting an end to speculation he was losing his grip on power.

The vice chairman, 77, met for three hours with Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Cambodian spokesmen said China's dominant leader was in good form and very happy.

The subject of Sihanouk's meeting with Deng was not officially disclosed but the two men presumably discussed China's attempt to form a coalition of Cambodian rebel groups to fight 200,000 Vietnamese troops occupying Cambodia.

Deng and his allies have launched a major campaign against holdover officials from the era of Mao Tse-tung and also against corrupt, inefficient and aging cadres.

It was the first time Deng's movements have been disclosed by the official Chinese media since a Jan. 12 session with military leaders in Peking.

### Who's County Seat?



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# TWO HEAVY HITTERS TOUCH BASES ON BATS, BALLS, AND BEER.

**BOOG POWELL** (Former American Baseball Great): Koichi here has been giving me a new angle on baseball. It seems the game's a little different in Japan.

**KOICHI NUMAZAWA** (Former Japanese Baseball Great): そう、例えばフィールドが小さめですな。

**BOOG:** That's right. The field is

smaller over there.

**KOICHI:** つまり、ショートで小さめな日本人の体格に合わせたんですよ。

**BOOG:** Well, now that you mentioned it, I guess you guys are kinda smaller. Does that mean you drink Lite Beer 'cause it's less filling?

**KOICHI:** いやー、おいしいから飲むんですよ。

**BOOG:** Tastes great? That's why I drink it, too! I guess we have a lot more in common than I thought.

**KOICHI:** その通り! どうです、日本の野球チームに入りませんか。

**BOOG:** Me? I'm too big to play on a Japanese team.

**KOICHI:** そんなことないですよ、ショートに最適ですよ。

**BOOG:** Shortstop?! Very funny.



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