

January deals blow to housing industry

United Press International
Severe winter weather, high interest rates and the recession were all blamed for giving the struggling housing industry another pounding in January—a 22.8 percent drop in new home sales.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday only 25,000 new homes were sold during the first month of this year—the second lowest housing sales rate on record.

On a related front, six trade associations involved in banking and real estate urged President Reagan to reduce federal deficits they said are devastating their industries.

In a letter to Reagan Tuesday, they asked for cuts in the budget, possibly defense, or that scheduled tax cuts be rolled back, or new taxes imposed.

Groups signing the letter were: the American Bankers Association; Mortgage Bankers

Association; National Association of Home Builders; U.S. League of Savings Associations; National Association of Mutual Savings Banks; and National Association of Realtors.

The number of houses sold in January, if repeated for the next twelve months, would amount to an annual rate of 353,000 sales, the department said.

That is the lowest rate since September, when the fewest new homes were sold since records in the category were first collected in 1963, the department said.

During all of 1981, 436,000 new homes were sold, 20 percent less than in 1980.

"It seems to me we must be around the bottom of this cycle," said John Weicher, a housing analyst now conducting a project for the American Enterprise Institute and a former executive director of the president's Housing Commission.

"The important thing about January wasn't just that it was cold in the northern states," Weicher said. "It was cold in areas not normally cold, like the South."

Such monthly price declines, almost unheard of through the 1970s, have become common, as high mortgage interest rates and high prices make even the reduced number of units on sale too many for the market to handle.

A 1 percent drop in the maximum allowable interest rate for Federal Housing Administration home loans took effect Tuesday, a decline that should make it possible for more potential homeowners to buy.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development said the new interest ceiling for both level payment and graduated payment FHA single-family home mortgages is 15.5 percent, down from 16.5.

What's Up at Texas A&M

Thursday

TEXAS A&M EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: A special educational program with guest speaker Bill Shear will be at 7:30 p.m. in 206 Harrington. Everyone is welcome.

WEST TEXAS SAN ANGELO HOMETOWN CLUB: Short meeting and social outing at the Hall of Fame at 8 p.m.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Tymshare will be presenting a technical session on the topic of "Computer Networks" from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in 350 MSC.

OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE: Outdoor horizons conference from March 4 to March 6 at the MSC facilities.

CIRCLE K: Officer elections will be held at 7 p.m. in 140A MSC. All members are urged to attend.

CLASS OF '83: General meeting with Jackie Sherrill speaking in 601 Rudder from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Inquiry Class II will meet at 6 p.m. in the student center. Night prayer will be held at 10 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.

AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS CLUB: Topic will be "Computers in Agriculture" at the meeting in 209 Harrington at 7 p.m.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Women's bible study will be at 7:30 p.m. at 1002 Pershing St.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Leadership training class will be at 7:30 p.m. in 108 Harrington. Everyone is welcome.

STUDENT "Y" SPRING PROJECT: Assignments for run will be given at this final meeting in 601 Rudder.

TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB: Workshop for club projects center will be at 7:30 p.m. in 106 Highway Research Center.

MSC AMATEUR RADIO: Guest speaker Jake Canglose will speak on tornado spotting at 7:30 p.m. in 140 MSC.

TAMU INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS: Dance at 8 p.m. in 266 G. Rollie White. Newcomers are always welcome to come dance with us.

Friday

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Coffeehouse—The group "Southwind" will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the student center admission is free.

OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE: Outdoor horizons conference will be from March 4 to March 6 at MSC facilities.

TAMU CHESS CLUB: Weekly meeting will be in 302 Rudder.

TURKISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION: ISA materials meeting will be at 6 p.m. in 403 Rudder.

MSC POLITICAL FORUM: Gus Hall will speak on Communist politics in America at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theatre on Tuesday, March 9.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Friday night bible study at 6:15 p.m. Check MSC Video for room number.

MSC AGGIE CINEMA: "Arthur" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. "Caveman" will be shown at midnight in the Theatre.

LATTER-DAY SAINT STUDENT: Sandwich seminar with John Hopkin speaking on "The Role of the Patriarch in the Church and Patriarchal Blessings" at noon at 100 Dexter.

INTER VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Ed Haynes will speak at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Quran discussion session will be at 7:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder Tower.

Truck hits man's house

United Press International
HAYDEN, Idaho — Tom Hockett of Hayden was glued to the tube watching "Too Close for Comfort" when he heard sirens and saw flashing lights. Lucky for him he wasn't watching "M.A.S.H."

A truck with a Kootenai County sheriff's patrol car in hot pursuit was headed right for his living room but veered at the last minute and plowed into the front door of Hockett's closed garage.

The truck smashed a workbench and nosed halfway through a rear wall before coming to rest with the motor still running and lights on.

"I was watching 'Too Close for Comfort' and this was too close," Hockett said.

The crash climaxed a wild chase through Hayden that resulted in the arrest of a 20-year-old Rathdrum man, David Blaine Duvall.

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7:25-9:35
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Nick Nolte

7:45
REDS (PG)

7:30-9:45
ARTHUR
Dudley Moore/Liza Minelli

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Depression is common; causes, cures obscure

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Of all psychiatric disorders, depression is the most common. But the director of the Ohio State University Hospitals' Depression Clinic says research on its causes and cures is still far from complete.

Dr. Stephen L. Stern, an associate professor of psychiatry, says the year-old clinic is one of about six similar facilities in the nation trying to learn more about depression as well as treat it.

"By having a specific facility to deal with it," he said, "we feel we can offer high-quality care and at the same time, do research on treatment."

Patients are either referred to the clinic by their psychiatrist or they seek out the facility themselves. Those admitted must be diagnosed as suffering from clinical depression and as able to benefit from medication.

"Clinical depression is a condition in which a person has low moods that stay with him nearly all the time and last for at least two weeks," Stern explained. "It

differs from the blues — everyday ups and downs — in that the depression interferes with the person's ability to function."

Victims of clinical depression may suffer from a variety of physical symptoms, including appetite loss, insomnia, anxiety or guilt, and an inability to enjoy once-pleasurable activities.

Stern said the chances of developing major, clinical depression in a lifetime are one in six and about 4 percent of the population suffers from depression at any one time.

And, he said, there is a 60 percent chance of recurrence in former victims of clinical depression.

Still, Stern said, "The great majority of people can be helped."

Stern has treated about 50 patients at his clinic, and currently eight persons are participating in the clinic's first major study to determine the optimum dosage of the antidepressant drug desipramine.

"We are looking at the relationship between the amount

of the drug and the likelihood that the patient will be helped by it," he said.

"Until recently, a psychiatrist would prescribe the drug based on the dosage most people would need, but it is a lot different from one person to another according to how rapidly patients metabolize the drug. By measuring that, we'll be able to use the drug more effectively."

Stern and other clinic researchers, including co-director Bruce Jones, also do smaller studies piggy-backed onto their major investigations.

For instance, researchers — searching for a possible chemical cause for depression — are measuring the amount of certain chemicals in a patient's bloodstream to determine whether those levels change as the patient recovers.

But the causes of depression are not solely biochemical, said Stern.

"Generally the more biochemical symptoms that are present, the more likely medication is to help even if a psychological or social cause were involved," he said.

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It is 1997... and New York City is a maximum security prison.

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ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK