

# Inflation up 1 percent; rising gas prices cited

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The inflation rate shot up 1 percent in May for a double digit annual rate of 12 percent because of increased gasoline, overall housing and food costs, the government said Tuesday.

The 1 percent May increase in the Consumer Price Index was the steepest climb since September's 1.1 percent monthly hike and far above the average for all of last year of 8.9 percent.

The report was an unpleasant departure from the previous seven months of exceptionally moderate price hikes that included the first monthly decline in 17 years, a 0.3 percent decline in March.

And it suddenly jeopardized the single biggest area of economic progress claimed by the

Reagan administration, the dampening of inflation.

The cumulative inflation rate for the first five months of this year climbed to 3.5 percent, if sustained at the same level for the rest of the year.

Gasoline price hikes accounted for three-fifths of the entire acceleration in the index, reflecting what the report called a "dramatic reversal" from April's record decrease of 6.7 percent. In May gasoline prices went up 0.9 percent.

Mortgage costs were up 1.7 percent for the month.

Food prices climbed 0.8 percent, led upward by 2.1 percent costlier meat, poultry and fish, the department said.

Analysts in and out of government had foreseen an increase because of gasoline prices, but

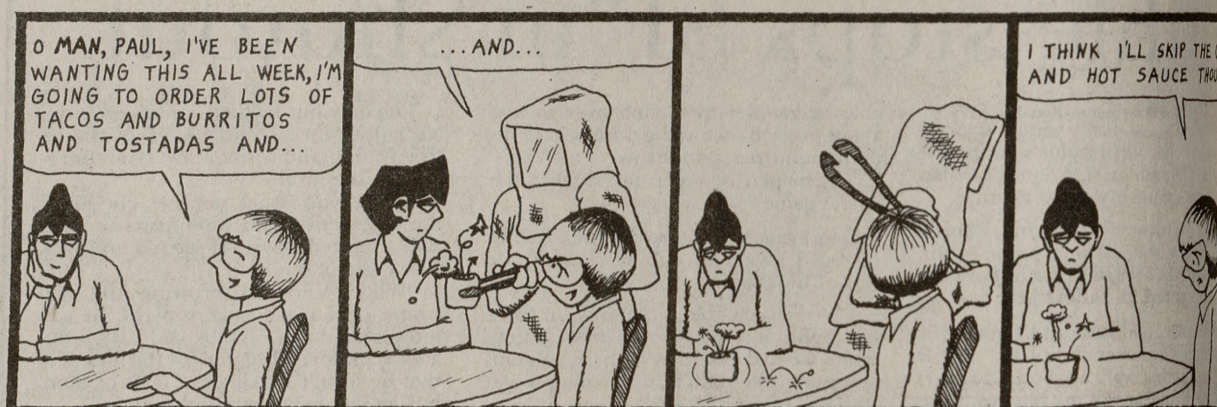
had universally predicted no more than a 9 percent annual rate for May. The Consumer Price Index for May went up to 287.1 before adjustment for seasonal variations. That meant the government's sample "market basket" of goods and services that cost \$100 in 1967 had increased in price to \$287.10 by last month.

The overall housing index climbed 0.8 percent, the result of the increase in mortgage costs and a 2.6 percent increase in house prices.

The transportation index was up 0.4 percent, but the gasoline portion was heavily weighted to have a major influence. Gasoline prices had dropped almost 15 percent since March 1981, before turning up in May.

Medical care climbed 0.9 percent, about the same rate of increase as in the past year. Hospital and medicine costs plus physicians' fees have kept the health care category growing more expensive by 12 percent over the past year, the steepest climb of any major component of the index.

## Warped



By Scott McCull

## Path cleared for state job suits

# High court rules for employees

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A Florida university secretary and four Connecticut state workers have won important victories in the Supreme Court that will smooth the way for others with complaints against their employers or state officials.

In two significant discrimination rulings Monday, the justices kept the federal courthouse doors open to a growing number of civil rights claims and also said an individual may take an employer to court over a single job practice that acts as a barrier to minorities.

On a 7-2 vote, the justices gave Georgia Patsy permission to pursue her federal lawsuit against Florida International University.

Patsy, who holds a master's degree, claims the college passed her over for several job promotions because she is white

and female.

Her lawsuit had been in jeopardy of being dismissed because she failed to try to resolve the problem at the state level first.

Coming to Patsy's rescue, the high court rejected the notion that people with civil rights complaints against public officials must try to settle their problems at the state level before filing a lawsuit in federal court.

The ruling is important overall because it permits anyone who feels a state official has violated his rights to shoot his complaint straight to federal

court, which is widely regarded as the quickest, least costly and most reliable means of civil rights suits.

In the second case, the court on a 5-4 vote ordered the state of Connecticut to the business necessity of ten job promotion exams that was failed by nearly all black employees who took them. Only 20 percent of white employees passed.

The case, filed by four state workers who claim state welfare department gives individual employees power to challenge promotion practices.

# Soviet killer satellite tested; it scored 'hit,' report says

United Press International  
NEW YORK — A Soviet satellite was reportedly fired into space and swiftly attacked an orbiting target, in the first suc-

cessful test of a fast Soviet "killer satellite" that could threaten some U.S. satellites.

The RKO News report, quoting U.S. intelligence sources, said the test took place Friday, with the Soviet satellite moving close enough to explode and destroy the target satellite.

The report said U.S. intelligence believes the Soviet system, while far more sophisticated than similar U.S. weapons under development, does not now pose a threat to communications and weather satellites.

"They could, however, endanger a variety of reconnaissance and navigational satellites now in use," the report said.

Both Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger conde-

mned the Soviet test weekend but neither provided details.

At the United Nations Foreign Minister Gromyko rebuked Haig comments, saying "there were systems that have been destroyed."

The sources told RKO that the Soviet satellite, Cosmos 1375, was launched at about 10:30 p.m. EDT Friday.

"Almost exactly three after the launch of Cosmos 1379, its adjusted elliptical orbit took it close enough to the target satellite to score a 'hit,'" the report said.

The "hit" is electronically recorded without actually destroying the target.

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