'entagon creates rticcounting weapon

United Press International ASHINGTON — The Pen-n has created a paper rine the Navy says exists only accounting purposes.

It saved the Pentagon \$11.2 on in the final quarter of 2, but only on paper.

Similarly, the quarterly cted Acquisition Report to gress released by the Penta-Tuesday is laced with other okkeeping maneuvers de-ned to show defense costs been brought under conresulting in savings of \$18.4 from the third to the irth quarters of last year.

The attempt by the Pentagon depict cost savings when the o by the ace tag of some weapons pending ually increased seemed cero infuriate Congress at a

I by an 82-15 vote, but after

ef debate sent the package

time when a bipartisan effort is the same submarine. under way to cut the defense budget by as much as \$30 billion

The newly created sub has no cost history and, therefore, no for fiscal year 1984.

The Pentagon is required by law to make quarterly reports to Congress on the cost of major weapons to keep tabs on price

The most glaring discrepancy in the report was the Trident, a \$1.2 billion nuclear-powered submarine. Fifteen Tridents are to be built, three of which have been completed.

missiles and the remaining type of sub. seven with the D-5 only. The Kelso agr Pentagon controller designated these seven the Trident II and eliminated the Trident I from the report even though both are

of the Trident II for the first time anywhere was for accounting purposes only.

"That's all it is," Kelso said.

cost increases could be shown. Yet the total cost of the Trident submarine program went up \$2.8 billion to \$31.2 billion between the third and the fourth

The report said there was a net decrease in costs of \$11.2 billion which was a result of a schedule stretch out and a quantity reduction of seven ships.

"There's no new submarine," Kelso said. "It is one program. The Navy has not cut back (on The first eight subs of the C-4 The Navy has not cut back (on class are to be fitted with the C-4 the 15 Tridents it wants to buy) missiles and later with the D-5 and has not introduced a new

Kelso agreed the appearance

obs measure delays could disrupt benefits

jobs bill, the first recesthe money. elief measure of the 98th ress, has won basic approvom Congress but hit a snag could disrupt unemploy-benefits in 27 states and his expected signature, but worked out by the conferees. perhaps not in time to prevent. It insisted on its original ve istrict of Columbia. he Senate Tuesday night disruption of jobless benefits in initial approval to the over-27 states and the District of Col-

The lopsided Senate vote percent.

United Press International back to the House to work out came just hours after the House ASHINGTON—The \$4.6 differences on how to distribute voted, 329-86, in favor of the compromise bill worked out in a The next step was up to the House-Senate conference com-House Wednesday. If it concurs mittee, but 277-132 against the with the latest Senate effort, the formula for distributing the bill goes to President Reagan for money to states and localities

> It insisted on its original version that would allocate about \$2 billion to localities with an un-

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Gasoline leads price decline

United Press International WASHINGTON — Gasoline

prices falling at the pump pulled consumer prices down 0.2 percent in February, and food and housing costs held steady to account for the second monthly overall decline in the govern-ment index in more than 17 years, the government said Wednesday

The drop in the Labor Department's Consumer Price Index for February, after seasonal adjustment, canceled the 0.2 percent increase for January to produce a zero rate of inflation for the first two months of the

Gasoline prices dropped 6.7 percent, part of an enormous 10.8 percent decline in the last four months.

Auto financing costs drop-ped 2.7 percent, the seventh consecutive monthly decline, the department said

Both factors pulled down the major category of transportion prices 1.6 percent in February while food and housing costs did

not change at all.

The Consumer Price Index for February, before adjustment to show changes beyond routine seasonal patterns, was listed at 293.2, equivalent to a cost of \$293.20 for the government's sample "market basket" of goods and services that cost \$100 in 1967.

The department said the purchasing power of the 1967 dollar remained at 34.1 cents, the same value as in January

If the drop in fuel prices had not been included, the overall index would have risen a moder-

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ate 0.3 percent, the department

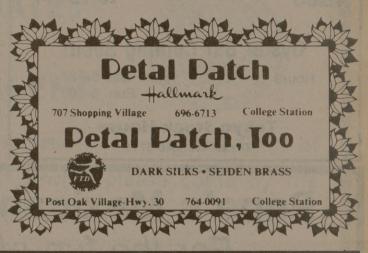
Clothing costs went up 0.5 percent, reflecting the slowdown of sale prices for winter merchandise and the introduction of more expensive spring wear, the department said.

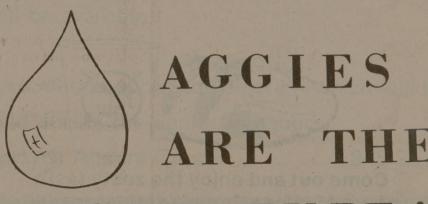
Medical care costs kept escalating at a double digit annual rate, with February's overall medical costs climbing 0.8 per-

While the subcategory of pre-scription drugs and medical supplies was up 0.3 percent, doctors raised their prices a full I percent and hospital charges jumped 1.6 percent in the single

A narrower index covering prices typically paid by wage earners and clerical workers, also went down 0.2 percent after seasonal adjustment.







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