

GNP at 'all time high'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The nation's gross national product is surging at a strong 7 percent rate in the current quarter on top of its 9.7 percent April-June burst of speed, the government projected Wednesday.

In addition, the fundamental inflation rate still is shrinking, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said.

The department's tentative first look at the July-September health of the economic recovery, dubbed its "flash" report since it is based on partial data, confirmed the best expectations of economists in and out of government.

The latest back-to-back quarterly jumps, following a weak first quarter and the 1981-82 recession, are lifting the U.S. output of goods and services to an all-time high

even after inflation is subtracted, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said.

The continuation of a strong economic recovery in the third quarter "puts the value of U.S. production of goods and services 1.7 percent above the previous peak reached in the third quarter of 1981," Baldrige said, making up for the recession's damage and then some.

The GNP figures indicate "we are on a path of economic vitality we can sustain," deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said.

The broad GNP inflation measure, known as the "implicit price deflator," is growing at an annual rate of only 3.2 percent rate in the third quarter, even less than the moderate 3.3 percent rate in the second quarter, government analysts said.

Jury still deliberating multiple rape case

United Press International
AKRON, Ohio — The jury deciding whether to convict a medical doctor of 21 rapes and 39 other criminal charges or acquit him by reason of insanity deliberated for more than six hours Wednesday without reaching a verdict.

In its first full day of trying to determine the fate of Dr. Edward Jackson Jr., of Columbus, Ohio, an internist and father of two teenage daughters, the Summit County Common Pleas jury asked one question — the definition of the word "released."

In two kidnapping counts against Jackson, 39, the jury must decide if the defendant released victims in a safe place unharmed. If the panel finds he did, seriousness of the charge would drop from a first- to second-degree felony.

The seven-man, five-woman jury, which received the case late Tuesday after a 21-day trial, was scheduled to resume its deliberations Thursday.

day in his jail cell reading the Bible, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to the charges.

That admission, plus testimony from seven mental health experts who said Jackson was dangerous, prompted visiting Columbus Judge Frederick Williams to revoke Tuesday the \$300,000 bond that has kept Jackson out of jail since his arrest a year ago.

William Jackson of Columbus, who is not related to the doctor but has strikingly similar looks, was freed from an Ohio prison last year where he spent five years after being wrongly convicted of rape. The doctor later was accused in the case.

Jackson sent a letter during his first day in jail to the State Medical Board, turning in his license to practice medicine.

Florida to charge killer Lucas

United Press International
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The state Attorney's office was considering Wednesday whether to bring murder charges against Lee Lucas — who claims to have killed 156 people in 16 states — in three Jacksonville slayings.

against Lucas, who currently is being held in Texas on five murder charges there.

The State Attorney's office will decide if there is sufficient evidence to ask a Duval County grand jury to indict Lucas on first-degree murder charges.

State Attorney Ed Austin said one of the unsolved slayings being considered for grand jury action is the death of Regina Azell Campbell, 24, the granddaughter of Neptune Beach

Police Chief Howard C. Basil.

Campbell was found strangled on July 12, 1980, under a car near the Basil house, where she had been staying. She was seen leaving a local lounge earlier that night in the company of an unidentified male.

In the next two weeks, Booth said he will ask the grand jurors to indict Lucas as a co-defendant in the 1982 death of a 64-year-old man who died from injuries in a boarding house fire.

The grand jury already has indicted Otis Elwood Toole, 36, on first-degree murder and first-degree arson charges stemming from the Jan. 4, 1982, death of Nicholas Sonneberg in that fire.

Booth said Lucas implicated Toole in Sonneberg's death and Lucas is suspected of assisting Toole in that slaying. Toole is currently serving time at a Florida prison for an unrelated arson conviction.

Watt may not sell coal

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate voted 76-18 Wednesday to approve a \$8.04 billion Interior Department spending bill that Interior Secretary James Watt is opposing.

An \$8.08 billion House bill Watt has been approved, so a conference committee will have to work out differences between the two before it is sent to President Reagan.

Sen. James McClure, R-Ore., warned that Congress was inviting a veto and said a \$1 billion would have to be trimmed by the Senate-House negotiators to insure acceptance by the White House.

Watt criticized the Senate action, telling a group of businessmen, "The world (is) ready to buy the second Texas oil field, and your secretary of the Interior has to deal with 535 members of Congress that don't want to be concerned about the energy supply in the Court Justice Department."

He said U.S. energy supplies are threatened by the possible seizure of the Iran-Iraq war oil fields of nearby Saudi Arabia and other oil producers, and that the U.S. is fighting in Central America to close the Panama canal punishment.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., won approval for \$450,000 to pay attorneys for New Mexico Indians fighting for water rights.

It does carry an amendment from Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., prohibiting coal leasing for 90 days after a special commission reviews Watt's leasing practices and makes its report in January.

Gas suit settled for \$2 million

United Press International
MEMPHIS — A family has agreed to accept nearly \$2 million as an out-of-court settlement in a \$21 million suit against Greer Corp. and two subsidiaries for a 1982 mobile home explosion.

The settlement was announced Tuesday in the Greer Boleman suit against Greer, the natural gas company serving most of the Texas Panhandle, and its subsidiaries, Greer Gas and Westar Transmission.

The agreement came after a year in state district court that started in late August.


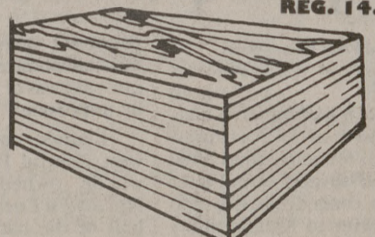



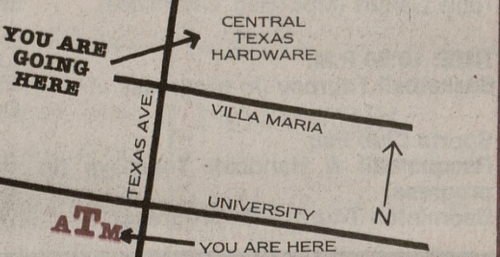
Boleman, 30, his wife Ana, and their infant Anna were killed when their mobile home exploded.

The suit said Mrs. Boleman and her daughter, now 1-year-old, suffered second- and third-degree burns to more than 60 percent of their bodies. Boleman received less serious burns to his hands and back.

They said a gas inspector failed to find gas coming from an uncapped copper gas line.

The line had been connected to a clothes dryer, the suit said. It added Mrs. Boleman would never be able to have a normal life again.

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