

Trade deficit grows as import rate soars

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The nation's trade deficit expanded to a record \$9.5 billion in January, a bitter loss for farmers and manufacturers who compete with imports, the government said Wednesday.

The deficit was more than \$1 billion worse than the previous record of \$8.4 billion set last October.

If anything, the January figures suggest that the gap in the values of what the United States buys from other countries and what it sells abroad could exceed the \$110 billion forecast by the Commerce Department for 1984.

It is going to be a "tough year" for trade, William Brock, the Cabinet-level trade official in the Reagan administration, told Congress after the figures were released.

"We were bound to start up fast the way the economy was moving," Commerce Department trade economist David Lund said. He conceded, however, that the figure was worse than even pessimists in the department expected.

Imports totaled \$27.8 billion in January, the highest total ever, as imported cars, television sets, machine tools and steel helped boost import pur-

chases 15.7 percent over the December level.

Had it not been for the surge in imports, the 5.9 percent increase in exports for the month would have been encouraging.

Despite a \$637 million setback in aircraft business, export sales totaled \$18.3 billion, what Lund called "the nicest rise ... in a long time."

Panels working on deficit cuts

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Senate Finance Committee, working on a \$100 billion deficit-reduction package, considered Wednesday letting the Internal Revenue Service hire private agencies to collect past-due taxes.

The panel also studied a proposal to apply tax refunds directly to other taxes owed by a taxpayer before sending a refund check.

In the House, the Ways and Means Committee worked on a tax package of

its own to bring the government's income closer to its expenditures. It hopes to increase revenues by \$50 billion in four years.

The proposals to use private collection agencies to glean delinquent tax payments and to withhold any back taxes from refund checks were recommended by the Grace Commission, a panel of business executives President Reagan asked to come up with money-saving ideas.

Finance Committee chair-

man Robert Dole, R-Kan., suggested changing IRS rules to allow use of collection agencies would help make sure the government gets the money to which it is entitled. Assistant Treasury Secretary John Chapoton, however, warned that using collection agencies might hurt the image of the IRS and reduce compliance with tax laws.

"They (the private agencies) would use tactics that we wouldn't use," Chapoton said.

Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J.,

expressed concern about how such a move would affect the public attitude toward compliance with tax laws.

"The question is are we going to shoot ourselves in the foot," he said.

The Grace Commission estimated \$1.7 billion could be saved by using private agencies to collect overdue taxes, but Chapoton said that would be offset by an undetermined amount to pay for the agencies' services.

TE awards \$25,000 to College of Education

University News Service

Texas A&M's College of Education has been recognized by General Telephone and Electronics for excellence in the critical area of training math and science teachers.

In providing a \$25,000 grant, TE officials said they were pleased to know that Texas A&M has continued to place an emphasis on the training of teachers, especially in the critical shortage areas of math and science.

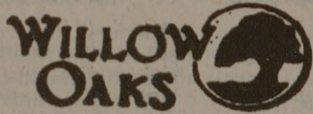
Texas A&M was one of 11 universities to receive the grant in recognition of outstanding programs in math/science teacher training. The selection process was administered by the

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education.

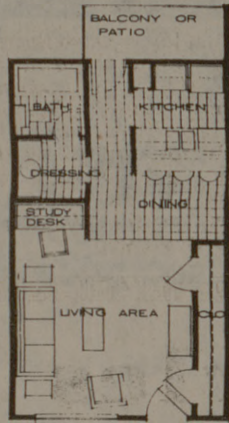
Dr. Dean Corrigan, dean of College of Education, said the grant will be added to the Scholar Loan Program which was begun last fall to encourage and provide financial assistance to outstanding students who choose a career in teaching math or science.

Corrigan said the \$25,000 grant brings the total for the loan program to more than \$200,000.

"This (grant) is another indication that the collaborative program we have under way with the College of Science is being viewed as one of the outstanding programs in math and science teacher training in the United States," he said.



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