

Leadership...

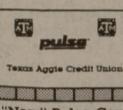
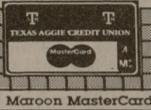
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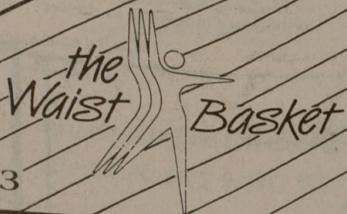


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World and Nation

Retail sales growth slows in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retail sales grew just 0.1 percent in May, the government said Wednesday in a report analysts predicted would help ease fears of inflationary pressures in the economy.

The Commerce Department said sales by retailers, which represent about one-third of U.S. economic activity, edged up a scant 0.1 percent in May to \$131.9 billion, after a 0.4 percent drop in April.

Much of the slowdown came from two successive drops in auto sales, but other categories, including department store sales, also were anemic.

"If you put the two months together, there is not much evidence of strength," said Sandra Shaber, an economist with The Futures Group, a Washington-based consulting firm. "Department store sales are a major barometer, continue to be very weak."

But Shaber and other analysts said slack spending, while bad for retailers, is good for the economy as a whole because it should calm the markets that troubled financial markets earlier this year.

Economists have been looking toward retail sales as a cure for the swollen U.S. trade deficit. Retail sales jumps of 1.6 percent in March and 1.6 percent in February fueled concern that price rises as manufacturers found it difficult to meet demand from both foreign and American consumers.

Reagan wants probe of Wright by counsel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan suggested Wednesday that "everyone would feel that it was more proper" if House Speaker Jim Wright were investigated by an independent counsel instead of the House ethics committee.

The committee is looking into allegations by Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and others that Wright, D-Texas, has violated House ethics rules by misusing his office for personal gain and improperly intervening with federal regulators.

Some Republicans, including Vice President George Bush, have suggested that it would be better to have the investigation conducted by an independent counsel.

Reagan, asked whether he agreed, said: "I have to wonder if it should not be an independent counsel from the standpoint of the relationship of the speaker to the majority of the committee. And I think everyone would feel that it was more proper if it was done by an investigator outside — an appointed investigator."

Although Reagan spoke of the majority of the committee, the panel is actually evenly divided among Republicans and Democrats, with six members from each party. The chairman of the committee is Rep. Julian Dixon, D-Calif.

Wright was not immediately available for comment.

World briefs

Rebels kill U.S., Peruvian agronomists

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Leftist rebels dragged a U.S. agricultural adviser and a Peruvian colleague from their farm truck and killed them, officials said Wednesday. It was the first death of an American in Peru's insurgency.

Police Col. Cirilo Pacheco said a cadre of Shining Path rebels halted the agronomists' pickup truck on an isolated road in the

central Andes Monday and checked their papers and killed each man with two shots in the back of the head.

Pacheco and the Agrarian Research Institute identified the victims as Constantino Gregori, 38, of the United States and Gustavo Rojas, a 35-year-old Peruvian.

Salk: Tests of AIDS vaccine promising

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The pioneer of the polio vaccine presented encouraging but preliminary test results Wednesday of a new vaccine intended to keep people infected with the AIDS virus from getting the disease.

Dr. Jonas Salk described the experimental use of his vaccine on nine men who had ARC, or AIDS-related complex, a disease

that often precedes full-blown AIDS.

Although Salk made no claims about the initial results, he persuaded him to give the vaccine to 34 men who have been infected with AIDS virus but who have not become ill with ARC or AIDS.

"We believe we might possibly get a positive answer," he said.

Soviet textbooks criticized for lies

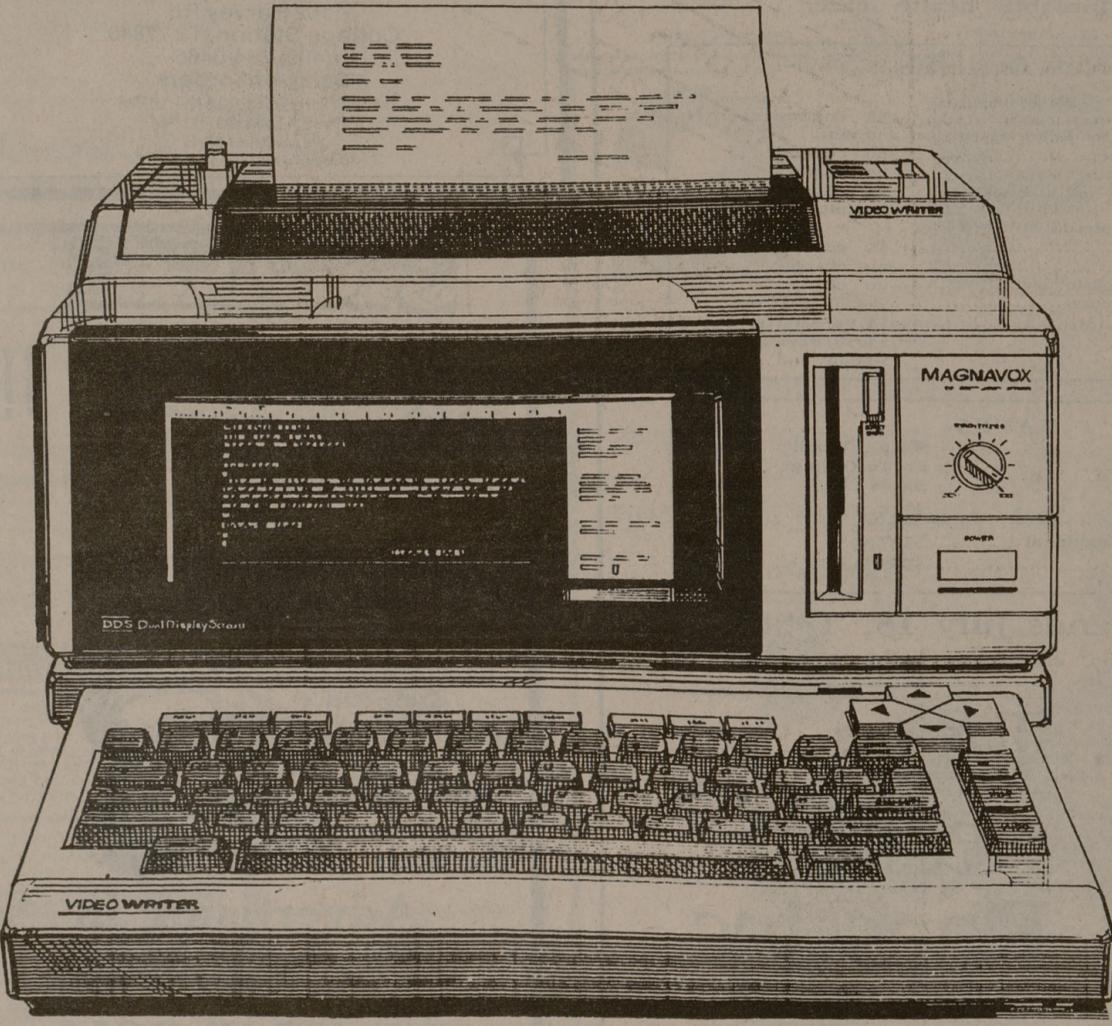
MOSCOW (AP) — President Kennedy was murdered in a plot by Texas oilmen. The Red Army won World War II virtually alone. These and other lies have fatally flawed Soviet textbooks, according to the official media and educators.

"Huge, unmeasurable is the guilt of those who deluded generation after generation, poisoning their minds and souls with lies,"

the government daily thrust recently in an attack on the books and on their authors.

History texts are so out of step with Gorbachev's campaign "glasnost" that 160 teams of authors have competed to write textbooks and history exams been canceled for students in their final year of school.

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