

Economic news remains discouraging

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a rash of discouraging economic news, the government said Thursday that orders for factories for durable goods dropped sharply in December and business layoffs were continuing to rise through the middle of this month.

A separate report said consumers' spending was up only slightly last month in yet another sign of economic stagnation. Americans' personal income was up, but that was partly due to rising jobless payments

because of the national economic slump.

The Commerce Department reported that orders for long-lasting, usually expensive durable goods such as cars and computers fell to a seasonally adjusted \$117.7 billion in December. The 5 percent decline was the largest since orders plunged 11.2 percent in November 1990.

Orders were down 4.6 percent for all of 1991, the largest loss since the

recession year of 1982 when they fell 6.7 percent.

Transportation orders were down 13.9 percent in December, accounting for most of the overall decline. If not for the transportation problems, total orders would have been down just 1.6 percent.

Military orders soared 86 percent and without that gain the overall orders decline would have been a staggering 8.9 percent. Military hardware orders

are expected to decline in coming months because of cutbacks in the Pentagon budget.

The Commerce Department said consumer spending slowed to a 0.3 percent gain from November's 0.4 percent increase. Spending was up just 3.9 percent for the year after rising 6.4 percent in 1990.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

SDI gets increase in funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration is pushing for a huge increase in spending on Star Wars missile defenses even as the overall Pentagon budget shrinks and many of the military services' cherished weapons projects get the ax.

The Strategic Defense Initiative to develop a shield against ballistic missiles of all ranges is the biggest winner in President Bush's proposed 1993 defense budget.

The most prominent losers are the Seawolf attack submarine program, which would end after a single \$2 billion sub is built - instead of 36 - and the B-2 stealth bomber program, which Bush wants to cancel after 20 planes - rather than 75 - are built.

The Army took some heavy hits, too. Its light helicopter of the future, the Comanche, would stay in the development lab longer instead of entering production. Bush also opted to delay money for the Army's next-generation tank.

The Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI, has benefited on Capitol Hill from a perception that Iraq's use of Scud missiles in the Persian Gulf War - and the Patriot missile's success against the Scud - makes SDI urgent.

Breast-fed children found to be smarter

LONDON (AP)—Children who were fed breast milk scored significantly higher on IQ tests than children who received formula only, according to a study of 300 children who were born prematurely.

The study is not definitive proof, but "very strong evidence," that an as-yet-identified substance in breast milk affects mental development, said Dr. Alan Lucas, the researcher and head of Infant and Child Nutrition at the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Unit in Cambridge.

The results are reported in the Feb. 1 issue of the *Lancet*, a British medical journal.

Previous studies linking breast milk to intelligence have caused considerable controversy. Many doctors wondered whether benefits attributed to the milk were in fact due to mothers' motivation and education, or bonding during feeding.

In the new study, investigators said they were able to isolate and assess the effects of the milk itself because both groups of children had been fed via tubes. They had been too premature to suckle.

Dr. Neville Belton, a University of Edinburgh pediatrician specializing in nutrition, said Lucas is a well-respected investigator and this study will draw "considerable interest."

Lucas's study found that 193 children who had gotten either breast milk alone or breast milk plus formula scored significantly higher on IQ tests compared to 107 who had gotten formula only - scoring 103.7 points versus 93.1. The IQ tests were given at age 7 1/2 or 8.

After taking into account the mother's social and educational status, children who were fed breast milk still maintained an IQ advantage of 8.3 points, said Lucas.

Police shoot bus hijacker

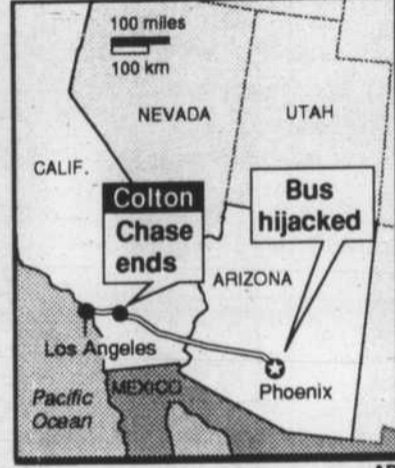
COLTON, Calif. (AP) - A man apparently desperate to return home to talk to God hijacked a Greyhound bus Thursday, taking eight people on a 320-mile dash across the desert before police killed him in his own driveway, authorities said.

Reynaldo Andrade Gonzales, 33, described as suffering "religious hallucinations," commandeered the bus in Phoenix and careened west on Interstate 10 for 4 1/2 hours with police in pursuit.

The passengers, seven adults and a child, weren't hurt during the chase, which reached speeds up to 80 mph and included a collision in which a California Highway Patrol car was forced off the road near Palm Springs.

Police set out five different sets of spikes to puncture the bus' tires, but the bus didn't stop despite several flats.

The chase ended when Gonzales turned down a residential street in this blue-collar community 50 miles east of Los Angeles, and "The good guys and the bad guy came together," said Sgt. Terry Dunn of the San Bernardino County sheriff's office.



The bus stopped in front of Gonzales' house.

Gonzales, who was unarmed, was shot to death at 3:45 a.m. by a Colton officer after a struggle with officers in his own driveway, said Sgt. Dennis Casey of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"It seems like he was determined to reach his home," Casey said.

CFA recommends cuts

By Rainbow Rowell
Staff Reporter

The Committee for Fees Allocation recommended Thursday night that \$174,385.11 in student fees be allocated for the University Programs Council in 1992-93.

The 22 UPC committees requested \$238,687.59 for 1992-93. They were allocated \$189,802.19 for 1991-92.

Thursday's recommendation includes reduced funds for advertising and elimination of funds for American Films.

CFA Chairman Rob Broomfield said he was satisfied with the overall recommendation.

"We wanted to cut the fat," Broomfield said. "A lot of the committees had good programming ideas, but if they want to pull them off, they'll have to work harder on their own and not rely on student fees."

CFA recommended an allocation of \$6,200 for the African American committee - an allotment \$239.60 less than the committee's request and \$187.45 less than its present allocation.

American Films requested \$3,389.75. According to the CFA recommendation, the request was denied because the committee is no longer necessary. The recommendation cited a

lack of student interest, the advent of dollar theaters, residence hall movie nights and student possession of VCRs.

The CFA also stated that the committee had failed to live up to its mission, as stated in the UPC handbook, to offer students an alternative to mainstream films.

Best of the Rest received a \$2,050 recommendation - an allocation \$1,760.90 less than its request and \$1,058.50 less than its present allotment. CFA recommended that the committee eliminate four programs.

CFA approved a \$1,322 recommended allocation for COLAGE by a 6-4 vote, after members debated the validity and necessity of COLAGE programs such as a Coming Out Dance. CFA recommended a \$1,450.10 allocation for the Homecoming committee - an allocation \$2,823.25 less than the committee's request. Recommended cuts included advertising and Comedy Night.

KLPAC requested \$106,267.15, and CFA recommended a \$85,500.10 allocation. Recommended cuts included the elimination of a proposed dinner theater and no increase to the Kimball-Lied Series donation.

CFA recommended that Major Concerts eliminate Cornstock because of a lack of student interest. CFA recommended an allocation of \$4,501 - \$11,597 less than the committee's request.

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