

## Construction slows in 1991

### Slow-down worst since 1940s

WASHINGTON — Construction spending on homes, office buildings and other projects shrank 9.3 percent in 1991, the sharpest contraction since World War II, the government said Monday.

The severe cutback was concentrated in the first half of the year and spending actually picked up in the past six months, though it was down again in November and December.

Separately, a survey of 300 corporate purchasing executives suggested that as the year began the rest of the economy remained sluggish and the manufacturing sector continued to decline.

The National Association of Purchasing Management said Monday its index of business activity was unchanged in January at 47.4 percent. A reading of less than 50 percent suggests manufacturing is declining; a reading under 44.5 percent would indicate the overall economy was shrinking.

The Commerce Department said residential, non-residential and gov-

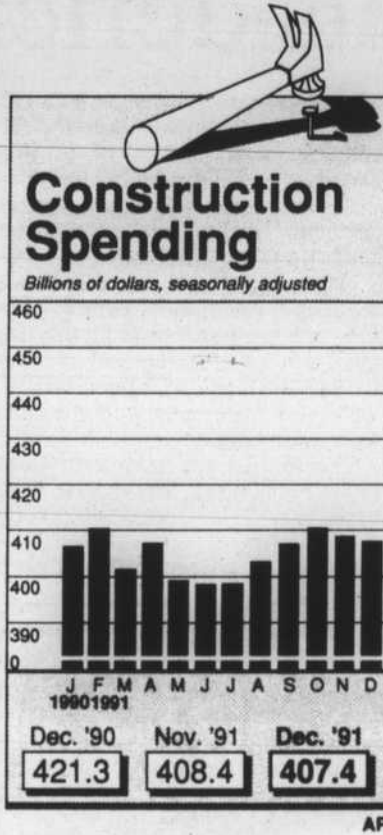
ernment spending on construction totaled \$404.9 billion last year. That was down from \$446.4 billion in 1990 and marked the lowest level since 1985, when \$377.4 billion was spent on apartments, factories and other private and government buildings.

Last year's decline also was the first since the recession year of 1982, when spending fell 4.0 percent. It was the steepest since spending plunged 36.6 percent in 1944.

Economist David Berson of the Federal National Mortgage Association said most of the decline occurred during the first half of the year. Construction spending actually picked up at a 5.7 percent annual rate in the last six months, he said.

Analysts attributed the collapse from January through June to the Persian Gulf War, the recession and a glut of already-built structures such as office buildings and shopping centers.

Despite the slack economy and its effects on revenues, government spending edged up 0.5 percent last year to \$109.2 billion, although it slipped 0.3 percent in December.



## Courts draw attention

### Noriega defense claims he was a U.S. ally

MIAMI — Manuel Noriega was the United States' closest ally in Latin American drug wars and served its political ends in Central America and the Grenada invasion, his attorneys said Monday as they opened his defense.

"At the end of this case you may wonder why General Noriega was ever indicted," attorney Jon May told jurors.

The prosecution case in Noriega's 10-count drug and racketeering trial ended in December, but the defense was delayed seven weeks after U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler underwent heart surgery.

In a brief opening statement, May argued that Noriega could hardly have sold his nation to Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel while at the same time identifying its couriers to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, raiding laboratories and seizing cocaine-refining chemicals.

The ousted Panamanian leader even broke his own nation's bank-

ing secrecy laws to help the United States in major drug cash investigations, one of which led to the arrest of the Medellin cartel's top money launderer, he said.

"The level and quality of the cooperation given by General Noriega to the United States was unprecedented among the leaders of Central and South America," said May.

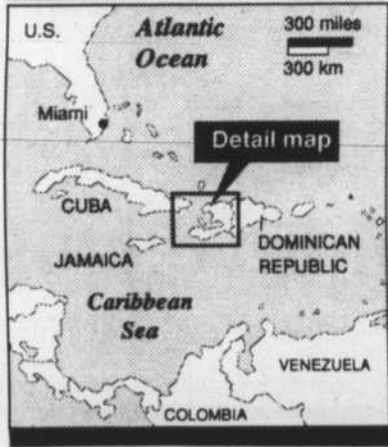
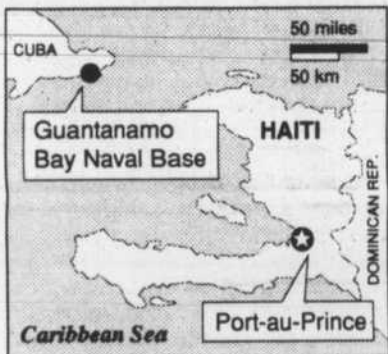
The defense took direct aim at two key prosecution issues — an alleged \$5 million bribe the cartel offered Noriega to protect its cocaine chemicals, and a July 1984 meeting with Cuba's Fidel Castro. Prosecutors said the Castro meeting was to smooth out a dispute with the cartel after Noriega raided a Panamanian drug lab.

May said the defense would show the \$5 million bribe attempt was reported to the DEA when it was discovered.

If convicted on all 10 counts, Noriega could be sentenced to 140 years in prison. He has been jailed since he surrendered to U.S. forces following the December 1989 invasion of Panama.



## Economic refugees return to Haiti



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The United States began its repatriation program for thousands of Haitian refugees Monday, turning over 381 people to Haitian authorities with \$15 in their pockets and an uncertain future.

U.N. officials and human rights advocates warned that many of the 12,000 boat people in U.S. custody face death or intimidation at the hands of Haitian security forces if they return to their towns and villages.

Officials at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba said those who returned on two Coast Guard cutters Monday did so voluntarily, while others did not want to go back.

Dozens in the first group said they had risked their lives fleeing in rickety boats to get away from Haiti's poverty and not political persecution.

The United States has denied asylum to most intercepted Haitians, saying they were not political refugees as U.S. law requires. The Supreme Court opened the way Friday for their repatriation by overturning a federal judge's order that had blocked their return for months.

"Had we been any other country,

we would have had a chance," Florence Comeau of the Haitian Affairs Committee in New York said Monday. "The Cubans can come in any time. The Cubans are people, the Haitians are people, but one is light-skinned and the other is not."

In Washington, White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the repatriation was being monitored by U.S. Embassy officers as well as representatives of the Organization of American States and the Red Cross.

"We have received no credible reports of reprisals against any individual Haitians who attempted to reach the United States, including those who are repatriated after the coup" that toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Sept. 30, Fitzwater said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees issued a statement at its Geneva headquarters criticizing the repatriation, warning that many returnees could "be exposed to danger."

"Continuing reports of serious human rights abuses and violence by security forces since the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Haiti are cause for great concern," it said.

## Scientist scans ax victims

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Almost a century after Lizzie Borden was accused in the ax murders of her parents, a forensics expert scanned their graves with radar Monday for clues in one of America's most celebrated mysteries.

Lizzie was acquitted in court but was convicted in verse: "Lizzie Borden, with an ax, gave her mother 40 whacks. When she saw what she had done, she gave her father 41."

James E. Starrs used the ground-penetrating radar to search the hill at

Oak Grove Cemetery where Lizzie, her father, stepmother and sisters are buried. His first task was to find the parents' skulls, which were removed from the bodies and displayed by the prosecutor in the trial.

If the skulls are there, Starrs hopes to win permission from a court and Borden's relatives to exhume them, hoping modern science might shed light on the case.

The radar found evidence of two burial sites where the skulls might lie, but Starrs said it will take at least a month to analyze the findings.

## Experts testify about Dahmer's insanity, say he couldn't control his urge for sex

MILWAUKEE — Jeffrey Dahmer had uncontrollable urges to kill and have sex with dead bodies, and planned to create a temple made of his victims' body parts, a psychiatrist testified Monday in the serial killer's insanity trial.

"He planned to preserve entire bodies, but he did not do that. He saved the bones. He bought an aquarium that was going to house a head in the middle," said Dr. Fred Berlin, a defense witness who specializes in sexual disorders. "He

even sketched it out."

Dahmer told Berlin during interviews that he planned to devote the temple "either to the devil or to himself," Berlin said.

Dahmer, 31, couldn't control his urge to have sex with corpses, but he knew right from wrong, Berlin testified.

"I would think if a policeman were standing there watching him that he would be able... to control his behavior," Berlin said. "The real issue is, when there isn't anyone else present to help him control his behavior... can he then apply his own willpower to stop."

## Victim's friend testifies against Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS — A teen-age beauty contestant blurted out, "He raped me!" and looked as if "something had taken her soul away," another pageant participant testified Monday in boxer Mike Tyson's trial.

"She said she felt so stupid. She just wouldn't stop talking," Stacy Murphy told the Marion Superior Court jury.

"I just wanted to comfort her. I didn't know what to do. I knew she needed help, and I knew I couldn't help her."

The prosecution neared the end of its case as the trial entered its second week.

Tyson, 25, is charged with rape, confinement and criminal deviate conduct. If convicted, he faces up to 63 years in prison. The defense maintains that the woman consented

to sex and has implied that the former heavyweight boxing champion will testify.

In six hours of testimony last week, Tyson's accuser said he pinned her on a bed July 19, stripped her, raped her and laughed while she cried in pain and begged him to stop.

Murphy said she and the 18-year-old woman became friends during the Miss Black America pageant and joked about how neither had any rhythm during dance rehearsals.

At rehearsal on July 19, however, Murphy said the woman seemed preoccupied and told her about being raped.

"I asked her what was wrong with her, and she turned around and looked at me," Murphy said.

"People say a look says so much - this look said it all. She didn't even look like herself. She was like a zombie, like something had taken her soul away."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Bill Vobejda, 472-2588. Subscription price is \$50 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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## Senate subpoenas reporters who revealed Anita Hill's allegations

WASHINGTON — Two reporters were subpoenaed Monday by a Senate special counsel investigating leaks of sexual harassment allegations against Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

The subpoenas seek personal appearances this month by Timothy Phelps of Newsday and Nina Totenberg of National Public Radio, lawyers for the journalists said.

The special counsel, New York lawyer Peter E. Fleming Jr., subpoenaed Newsday, NPR and William Buzenberg, the public radio network's

vice president for news and information.

Phelps and Totenberg were the first to report allegations by Anita Hill that Thomas had sexually harassed her.

The stories led to televised Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, at which Hill, now a University of Oklahoma law professor, described the alleged harassment in sexually explicit terms. Thomas vehemently denied ever sexually harassing Hill and shortly afterwards was confirmed to the high court.

Lawyers for the reporters and their organizations said the subpoenas tread on the First Amendment's protections of a journalist's right to gather news and protect confidential sources.

Floyd Abrams, representing Totenberg, Buzenberg and NPR, said Buzenberg will appear Feb. 18 as requested and Totenberg on Feb. 25 to answer questions from Fleming. Abrams said they will not tell him what he wants to know.

"This seems to me the beginning of an unnecessary, futile and unconscionable effort to force Nina to break

her word to her sources," Abrams said. "That she will not do."

Abrams said the subpoenas were issued "in stark violation of the First Amendment. The idea of an appointee of the Senate requiring a journalist to break a word to her confidential source is inconsistent with the most basic First Amendment principles."

Theodore Olson, lawyer for Phelps and Newsday, said no decision has been made on whether the journalist or anyone else from the New York newspaper will appear as directed on Feb. 13.