

World and Nation

December cold drives prices up

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — Retail prices made their steepest jump in seven years last month as consumers suffered from the leftover effects of December's high food and fuel costs, the government said Wednesday.

Analysts said that last month's 1.1 percent surge overstates the true pace of inflation and that price increases should moderate in the following months. There was concern, however, about higher prices posted for items outside the food and fuel categories.

The Labor Department said the increase in its seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index (CPI) was the largest since a 1.1 percent gain in June 1982. The department said that 60 percent of the January increase came in food and energy prices.

The frigid weather a month earlier — it was the fourth coldest December since records were first kept 96 years

ago — drove down fuel stocks and damaged fresh fruits and vegetables, driving prices up.

Analysts said food and energy prices should ease by March.

"In fact, we're already beginning to see food and energy prices come down," said Lawrence Chimere, senior economic adviser for the WEFA Group in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. "Certainly, starting with the March CPI number, we'll see much smaller increases."

Nevertheless, there was concern that the so-called core inflation — prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors — rose 0.6 percent last month, double December's increase and the largest since an identical 0.6 percent jump in January 1989.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater called the jump "disappointing news" but said the administration expects the core rate

to decline steadily over the year.

"We are hopeful that this is a bulge that will be temporary in nature, but inflation requires eternal vigilance and we remain on a policy of wanting steady growth with low inflation."

John Silvia, an economist with Kemper Financial Services in Chicago, said that in addition to food and energy, all other categories posted increases except apparel, which was unchanged.

"The surprising breadth of the increases ... suggests that core inflation is 4.5 to 5 percent. If we're stuck there, that means the Fed is stuck."

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress on Tuesday that a reversal of the "horrendous" January consumer price rise was under way but added that inflationary pressures remain too high and indicated the Fed would continue its tight-credit and high-interest policies.

Greenspan also said the Fed had lowered its overall inflation estimate for 1990 to between 4 percent and 4.5 percent, down from a June forecast of between 4.5 percent and 5 percent. The Bush administration is forecasting a 4.1 percent inflation rate.

Overall, food prices advanced 1.8 percent while energy costs increased 5.1 percent, including a record 26.3 percent rise for fuel oil. Gasoline prices rose 7.7 percent rise while natural gas and electricity costs combined increased 0.3 percent.

Prices of fruits and vegetables also posted a record increase in January, up 10.2 percent. Tomato prices rose 75.6 percent.

Grocery store prices overall were up 2.9 percent, their largest increase since a 7.1 percent rise in August 1973. Meat, poultry, fish and egg prices combined were up 1.9 percent.

German officials promise careful reunification plans

From Associated Press reports

EAST BERLIN — East Germany's foreign minister on Wednesday warned against rapid reunification, and his West German counterpart assured the victorious World War II Allies that nothing would be done behind their backs.

In East Berlin, the government sought to assure worried citizens that there would be no immediate increases in state-subsidized food prices and announced plans for large tax cuts to bolster private initiative.

Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer said during a Parliament debate that the reunification of Germany must be coupled with similar moves toward greater integration in Europe.

"German unity must proceed at such a rhythm that it corresponds to the interests of the victorious powers and German neighbors," he added that unification must not rattle European stability or the world's balance of power.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Germans must provide definite, binding recognition of European borders before German unification is accepted by all sides.

Bush hedges Constitution

WASHINGTON — President George Bush is nibbling at the edges of a major constitutional confrontation with Congress, and so far Demo-

News in Brief

cratic leaders are not calling his hand on it.

In a calculated act of civil disobedience, Bush has told Congress he won't carry out certain provisions of certain laws because he believes them to be an infringement on his constitutional powers.

It's a new twist on the old argument over line-item veto powers — long sought unsuccessfully by Republican presidents from Democratic Congresses.

Bush's first act of defiance came, little noticed, last November on a bill providing money for two federal agencies. He did it again last Friday on a \$9.8 billion State Department measure.

So far, the president's actions have generated little heat in Congress — largely because he hasn't done much to publicize them and, consequently, members generally seem unaware of what he's been up to.

"We're going to put someone on this right away," said Rep. Don Edwards, D-Calif., chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights.

Edwards, who usually keeps track of such things, said he had not been aware of Bush's assertions.

Czech leader speaks to U.S. Congress

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel told Congress Wednesday his nation was "returning to Europe" from decades of Soviet domination and asked lawmakers to help by pressing the Soviet Union to stay on its own road to democracy.

In a speech to a joint meeting of the House and Senate that was more philosophical than political, the playwright-

turned-president also said Americans needed to learn, along with his country, "how to put morality ahead of politics, science and economics."

Havel, who reluctantly accepted the popular mandate of his country to lead during its time of rapid transition, received a two-minute standing ovation from the standing-room-only crowd in the House chamber, and appeared somewhat stiff and surprised at the

reception.

Speaking through a translator, Havel called Czechoslovakia one of Eastern Europe's "wayward children" and said it wanted to coordinate its return to the economic and political mainstream with Hungary, Poland and other nations emerging from 40 years of Soviet domination.

The United States can best aid that

return, he said, by helping the Soviet Union on its "irreversible, but immensely complicated road to democracy."

"The more quickly and the more peacefully the Soviet Union begins to move along the road towards genuine political pluralism" and economic reform, "the better it will be — not just for Czechs and Slovaks, but for the whole world."

Americans in Colombia wary of death threats

From Associated Press reports

BOGOTA, Colombia — Americans hired extra guards and stayed close to home Wednesday because of a guerrilla "death to gringos" threat, and the government promised special measures to protect them.

"Every American client I've got was on the telephone this morning asking for more guards," said the owner of a security company that protects several U.S. companies.

A U.S. oil executive said his company had canceled all trips outside Bogota by American employees.

The National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish initials ELN, declared Tuesday that all U.S. interests in Colombia were its military targets.

It has kidnapped three Americans in a week. James Donnelly of Detroit and David Kent of Indianapolis still are held, but the guerrillas freed Francis

Amico Ferarri of Rochester, N.Y., a Roman Catholic priest.

Americans on the U.S. Embassy staff were told Wednesday to stay home except for necessary trips and were being escorted to and from work by armed guards, an embassy employee said.

The State Department already had considered Colombia so dangerous it would send only people who were single or married and willing to live apart from their families. Diplomats get hazard pay for service in Colombia.

Minister of Government Carlos Lemos, a member of the National Security Council, said after a council meeting Tuesday night the government was making special arrangements to protect Americans and U.S. business interests.

He said it appeared recently that attacks by ELN guerrillas also were meant to discourage people from voting in congressional and mayoral elections March 11. The National Liberation Army has become the most anti-

American and violent of Colombia's six guerrilla groups.

Manuel Perez, a former Catholic priest, commands the ELN, which in the past has idolized Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Two years ago, his guerrillas began blowing up sections of Colombia's largest oil pipeline an average of almost once a week.

The line, which carries 240,000 barrels of crude a day from northeastern Cano Limon field 500 miles to the Caribbean coast, has been attacked twice this week and seven times in 1990.

Ecopetrol, the state oil company, said the pipeline had been shut down since Monday because of the damage. A spokesman, who insisted on anonymity for fear of becoming a guerrilla target, said it should reopen in a few days.

The guerrillas have made their threat three times, first in a letter addressed to the families of Kent and Donnelly, the kidnapped Americans. It was published by the daily El Colombiano of Medellin, headquarters of the most powerful

cocaine cartel, where the men were kidnapped Feb. 13.

Amico told the Bogota daily El Tiempo he carried another copy of the threat when he was released, in the form of a statement from the National Liberation Army.

On Wednesday, the Spanish news agency EFE said it had received a threatening guerrilla statement that singled out Thomas McNamara, the U.S. ambassador.

No firm figures are available on the number of Americans in Colombia, but past U.S. Embassy estimates have been about 20,000.

U.S. oil companies operating in the country include Occidental, Exxon, Texaco, Houston Oil, Amoco and Chevron. Among the dozens of other U.S. firms are IBM, Xerox, General Motors, Colgate-Palmolive and Kodak.

The most serious attack on a U.S. company by ELN guerrillas occurred two years ago when a car bomb exploded outside Occidental headquarters in Bogota, wounding two guards and breaking most windows in the 10-story building.

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Name of Award	Nature of Recipient	Primary Area of Achievement
Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award	Senior—one man, one woman	humanitarian contribution
John Johnson Parker, Jr. Medal	Senior—man or woman	student self-governance
Frank Porter Graham Award	Senior—man or woman	improving quality of life of the University community through principles of equality, dignity and peace among men
Irene F. Lee Award	Senior woman	character, scholarship, leadership
Walter Spearman Memorial Award	Senior man	character, scholarship, leadership
Jane Craige Gray Memorial Award	Junior woman	character, scholarship, leadership
Robert B. House Distinguished Service Award	any undergraduate	unselfish commitment through service to the University and the surrounding community
International Leadership Award	any undergraduate	international awareness and understanding
Jim Tatum Memorial Award	any undergraduate	athletics plus extracurricular activities
Ernest H. Abernathy Prize	any undergraduate	student publications
Ferebee Taylor Award	Senior—man or woman	recognizes the principle of honor as one of the University's most hallowed ideals
J. Maryon Saunders Award	Senior—man or woman	preservation and enhancement of loyalty and good will between the University, its students, alumni and friends
Cornelius O. Cathey Award	any undergraduate	greatest contribution to the quality of campus life of the efficacy of University programs for students
Albert & Gladys Hall Coates Award	any undergraduate	recognizing service through the Student Congress
Eugene Jackson Senior Class Award	Senior—man or woman	member of the graduating class whose leadership and selfless dedication have strengthened class pride and University loyalty, enriched the lives of seniors, and made the most significant contribution to the University

Nomination forms are available at the Union Desk, Y Building and the Dean of Students Office (Steele Bldg. Basement).
The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 2, 1990.
For further information contact the Dean of Students Office, 966-4041

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