

Reagan: economy a mess

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, declaring that the nation is suffering from its "worst economic mess since the Great Depression," said Thursday night that the government must make dramatic cuts in taxes and spending because the economic judgment day is at hand.

He held government policies responsible for the situation and said his remedy would begin with three years of 10 percent cuts in income tax rates and spending reductions "in virtually every department" of government.

"Over the years, we have let negative economic forces run out of control," Reagan said in his first nationally broadcast report to the nation. "We have

stalled the judgment day. We no longer have that luxury. We are out of time."

Reagan's address was studied with statistics, but short of details. He said those will come when he unveils a legislative program to Congress on Feb. 18.

"It will propose budget cuts in virtually every department of government," the president said. Moreover, Reagan said his Cabinet will search out "waste, extravagance and costly administrative overhead" to produce additional reductions.

"At the same time we are doing this, we must go forward with a tax relief package," he said. "I shall ask for a 10 percent reduction, across-the-board, in personal income tax rates for

each of the next three years."

"It is time to recognize that we have come to a turning point," Reagan said. "We are threatened with an economic calamity of tremendous proportions and the old business as usual treatment can't save us."

Seated at his desk in the Oval Office, the president sought to portray the statistics that peppered his speech in graphic, personal terms.

"There are seven million Americans caught up in the personal indignity and human tragedy of unemployment," the president said. "If they stood in a line — allowing three feet for each person — the line would reach from the coast of Maine to California."

He used a chart to illustrate increasing tax revenues and government spending, and U.S. currency to portray inflation.

"Our spending cuts will not be at the expense of the truly needy," he said. "We will, however, seek to eliminate benefits to those who are not really qualified by reason of need."

making the news

American free lance journalist Cynthia Dwyer denied charges of espionage at her trial by an Iranian Revolutionary Court and the prosecutor indicated she was tricked into agreeing to a fake plan to release the 52 American hostages, an Iranian newspaper reported today.

According to the newspaper Ettelat's account of the Wednesday trial, the prosecutor Mrs. Dwyer, 49, of Amherst, N.Y., met two revolutionary guards after she arrived in Tehran last spring, and they told her about a fictitious group of armed Iranian students who wanted to free the American hostages.

The prosecutor said she agreed to help and tried to get radio equipment to aid the supposed attempt to free the hostages, the paper reported.

Ettelat also said the prosecutor implied that Dwyer knew in advance of the failed April 25 attempt by U.S. commandos to rescue the hostages and discussed it at a party at the home of a Japanese journalist.

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jon Hinson, R-Miss., pleaded innocent today to a misdemeanor charge of attempted oral sodomy and was released on his personal recognizance by a District of Columbia judge.

Hinson, re-elected last fall after admitting he had visited two homosexual hangouts, was arrested Wednesday in a men's room in the Longworth House Office Building by Capitol Police.

Hinson was initially charged with committing oral sodomy, a felony carrying a maximum fine of \$10,000 and sentence of 10 years in prison.

The U.S. attorney's office today reduced the charge to a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum one-year penalty.

Appearing at his arraignment in D.C. Superior Court, Hinson remained silent while his attorney, Joseph Clancy, submitted the plea to Judge William Thompson and agreed to a trial date of May 4.



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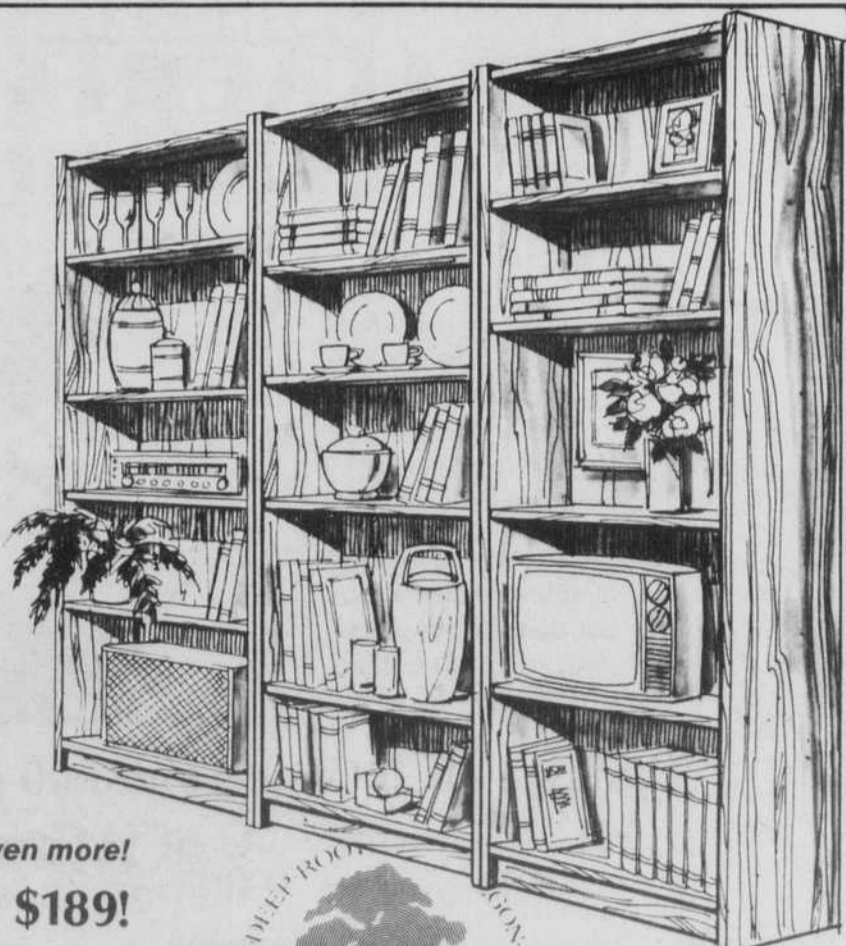
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