

# What's News—

## Business and Finance

**RETAIL SALES** rose a scant 0.1% in March to an adjusted \$86.94 billion, the Commerce Department said, as the 10th rise in a row, but was smallest since May, when sales fell 0.6%. The figures provide fresh evidence the economy is slowing after a very strong first quarter.

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**Atlantic Richfield** told Nigeria it is offering two oil-supply contracts covering 60,000 barrels a day. The move, retreating from the current oil glut, is the first action in several years and could bring Nigeria \$900 million annually if a buyer can't be found.

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**Chrysler** said it hasn't any further interest in a merger with Ford, which on Friday rejected a proposal for a combination. Separately, Chrysler Defense, a unit, received a \$216.8 million contract for 360 M1 tanks with an option for a further 209.

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**No tax compromise** is seen by Reagan on his planned 30% three-year tax reduction. He said he remains "fully committed" to the cut and hadn't authorized anyone in the administration to offer a compromise.

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**The U.S. dollar** hit its highest level in more than a year but lost ground after central bank intervention and a rise in interest rates. On the Comex, gold closed at \$478.00 an ounce, off 10 cents.

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**The Postal Service** was ordered by the White House to do a cost-benefit analysis of the controversial nine-digit zip codes. The new system, scheduled to start in March, could be further delayed by the move.

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**The prime rate** was raised to 17½% by several more banks. Higher costs of attracting funds were cited.

## World-Wide

**SPACE SHUTTLE** Columbia's pilots said it was "performing beautifully."

They prepared it for today's landing, scheduled for 1:28 p.m. EST at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Forecasts called for excellent weather. However, questions remained concerning how many of the craft's heat-resistant tiles fell off, as clouds kept the Air Force from taking pictures of the underside.

Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen were ahead of schedule with their shakedown tests. They played a practical joke at one point, addressing NASA by using a tape of another astronaut's voice that they smuggled aboard. Crippen did a flip on camera while Young talked with Vice President Bush.

"The only bad thing is we're going to have to come down," Young said.

**Rene Levesque's Parti Quebecois** won reelection easily to a second five-year term as Quebec's governing party. With almost all results in, it was projected to win 86 seats to 36 for Claude Ryan's Liberals. That would be a gain of 19 seats for the separatist Parti Quebecois and give Levesque a commanding majority for his second term as premier.

**The Pulitzer Prize** for public service was awarded to the Charlotte, N.C., Observer for stories on brown lung disease. The New York Times won prizes for national reporting, on illegal aliens, and commentary, for sports columns. The Miami Herald won for international reporting, on Central America. Beth Henley won the drama award for "Crimes of the Heart," and the late John Kennedy Toole won the fiction prize for "A Confederacy of Dunces."

**Slayings of up to 4 Atlanta blacks** have been "substantially solved," FBI Director William Webster said. They aren't related to the other 19 murders of young blacks since July 1979, he told the Atlanta Constitution. Webster said the FBI once thought it had found the person responsible for more than a dozen slayings.

**Lech Walesa** urged the Polish government to initiate social change without being forced by union "extortion." "Then we would believe that this is renewal," the Solidarity union leader said. The government, however, canceled talks with the union, and radio reported concern on meat supplies.

**Racial violence** in south London erupted

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