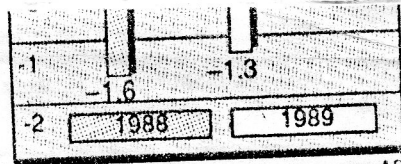


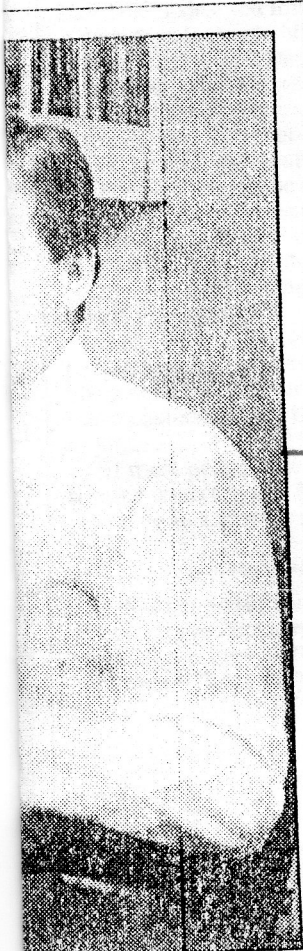
... productivity growth has averaged 1.8 percent a year. While a slight improvement over the 1.2 percent average growth rate in the 1970s, it was still far below the 3.3 percent rate of increase posted in the two decades following



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor

AP

SEE PRODUCTIVITY, 3D



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# Illinois-based manufacturer purchases CRG

By **CYNDY FALGOUT**  
Advocate business writer

U.S. Robotics, an Illinois-based computer modem manufacturer, announced Monday it has purchased Communications Research Group, a Baton Rouge software developer, for an undisclosed amount.

CRG's innovative "BLAST" software, which allows communications between personal computers and mini or mainframe computers, will provide the technology for U.S. Robotics to expand its product offering in those areas. Jonathan Zakin, executive vice president for marketing and sales, said from his Skokie office.

U.S. Robotics' modems now allow communication only between personal computers, Zakin said.

"We've been looking for a year and a half to find a company we really wanted to work with," he said. "We finally found the right partner."

Daniel Henderson, who founded CRG in 1980, will remain as president, responsible for daily operations, hiring and planning, Zakin said. Henderson was attending a conference in Washington and could not be reached for comment.

Zakin has been named chief executive officer. He will serve as a liaison between the Baton Rouge and Skokie plants but will not move to Baton Rouge, he said.

U.S. Robotics chairman Casey Cowell has become chairman of CRG.

The company plans to keep all of CRG's 50 employees, Zakin said.

"That's our hope," he said. "We don't have any plans to let anyone go." The company does not need to move its software branch near its hardware manufacturing site in Skokie, Zakin said.

A plan to expand the research and development capability at its Baton Rouge location is not complete but may call for

SEE CRG, 3D

## AutoZone distribution center to open in Dec.