

Britain's Storied PM Fighting Tough Battle Sir Winston Mentally Fatigued After Many Years of Hard Work

By ARTHUR GAYSHON
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LONDON.—Tough old Winston Churchill is fighting the creeping onslaught of a foe who always is in the end.

Britain's storied prime minister, now 78, it is a fight at time. Mentally fatigued, with shaky and waning powers of concentration, Churchill has on the task of trying to lead the great United States and Russian powerhouses.

The undertaking is vast enough to quell a man half his age. It demands wisdom, sustained patience, endless and many other attributes.

It is an enterprise which Churchill, a long-time foe of communism, has assumed for dramatic effect.

It is basic British policy the role of an honest broker between Washington and Moscow. If Churchill were to go, his successor could be expected to carry on where he left off, in search of a cold war settlement.

But, Churchill, with unique international prestige and sense of history, has dramatized that policy in a way few other men could.

That very reason has given rise to speculation that his illness may be "diplomatic" and designed to make it easier for Russia to come up with a plan to ease world tension.

Two of Britain's outstanding physicians have ordered the prime minister to quit work for at least a month or risk collapse and worse.

Churchill doesn't believe in being sick. He has always driven himself as hard as he has driven But this time he had to

his country home in Kent, Churchill quietly tends her and's needs, restraining his impulses to work, read or speak much or to play too hard with his lively grandchildren.

Simply buckled under the strain of being prime minister, the foreign office as well as Anthony Eden's illness and acting as host to statesmen at the 74 nations who attended the month's Coronation.

In addition to that Churchill personally to lift international relations out of the dumps by pushing for face-to-face talks between East-West leaders.

The sudden withdrawal did more than bring about postponement of the Bermuda parley with

Changes Mood of Parliament
Some officials even now pass doubt to his Charter of Freedom for approval. Churchill's withdrawal also has to have changed the mood of Parliament. The old man to answer questions or make announcements as prime minister with a combination of geniality and acidity and belligerence.

Since his absence, Parliament has gone along with few if any changes.

Most higher-ups feel Churchill's retirement can transform the political climate at home and abroad. At present, it probably rules out a general election this year and the question as to who will succeed him as Conservative leader when the time

main candidates are believed to be Eden who, though now, is a vigorous, ambitious theoretician, and Richard A. Butler, 50-year-old chancellor

of the exchequer, who is presiding over cabinet meetings in Churchill's absence.

Abroad it gives U.S. leaders more time to sort out their thoughts about Europe and Asia and about Britain's call for a meeting with the Kremlin bosses.

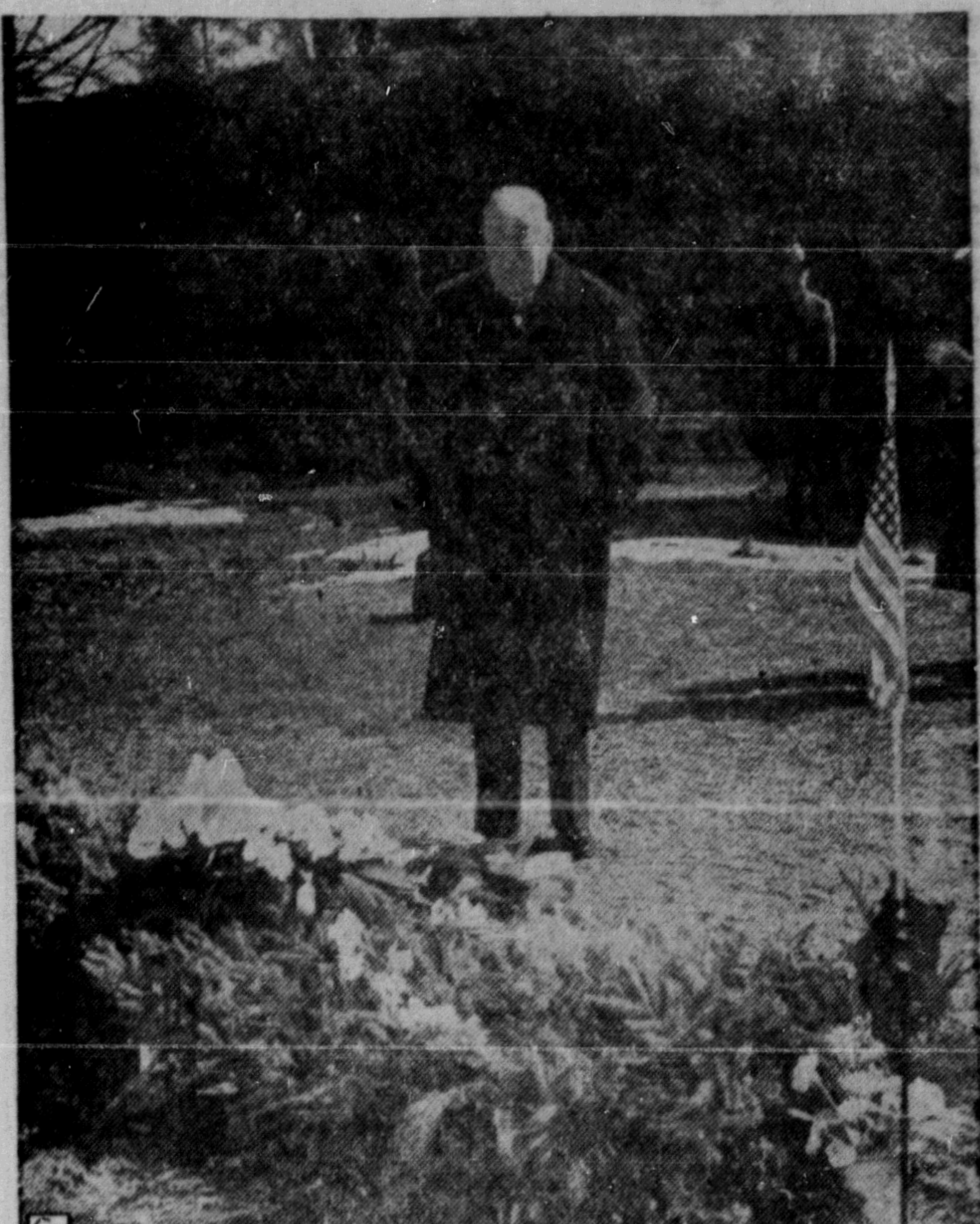
The lull gives France's new government a chance to dig in after a record-breaking crisis.

It also gives Russia a chance to make a move proving the sincerity of her "peace" campaign.

For Russia, receptive to Churchill's plea for an East-West parley, had growled that the planned Bermuda talk was not the way to prepare for one.

The doctors tersely have described Churchill's condition as nervous overstrain. Aides said a complete breakdown at his age would lower his resistance to other organic weaknesses, such as pleurisy and hardening of the arteries.

Prince Rupert Daily News
Thursday, July 9, 1953



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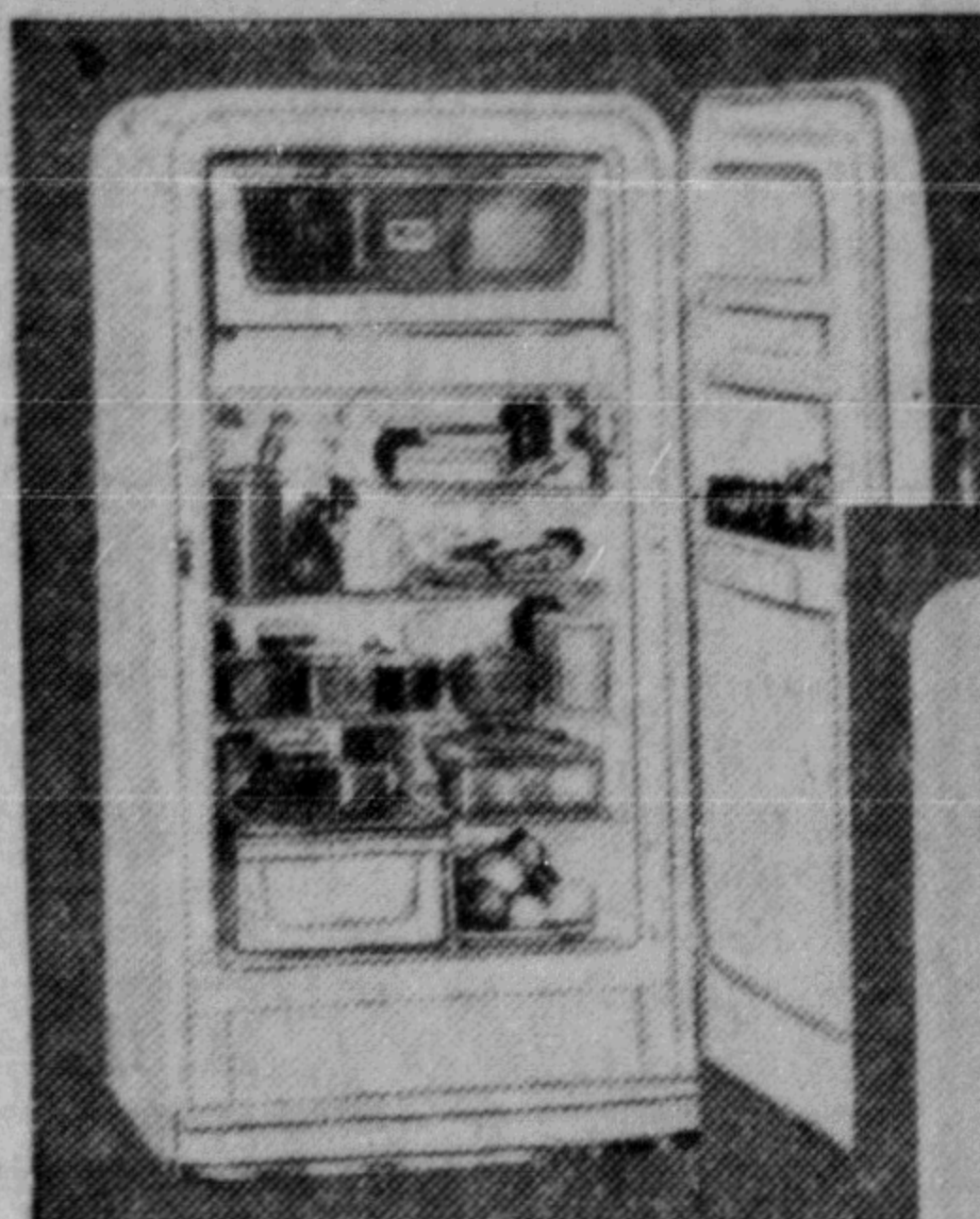
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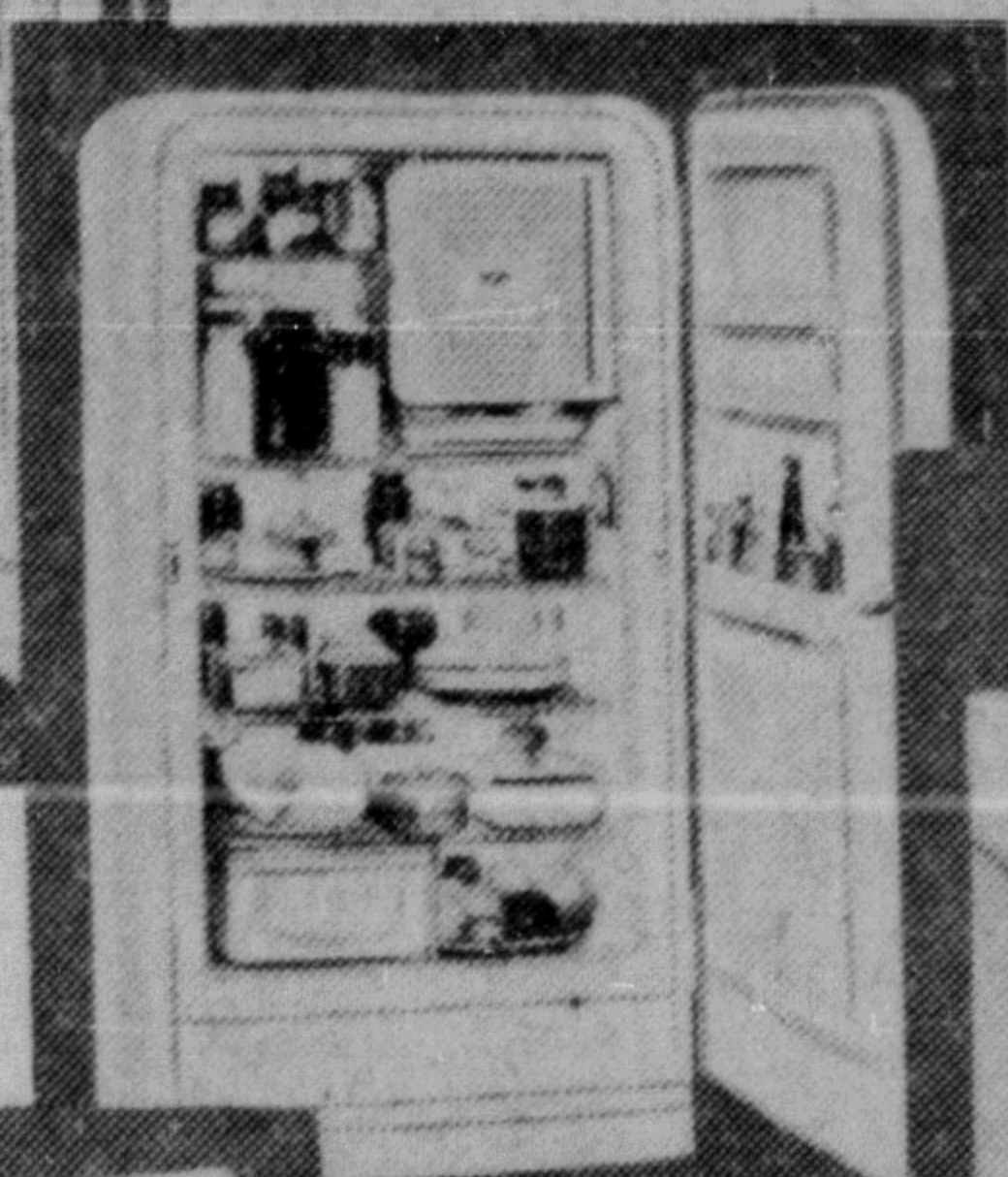
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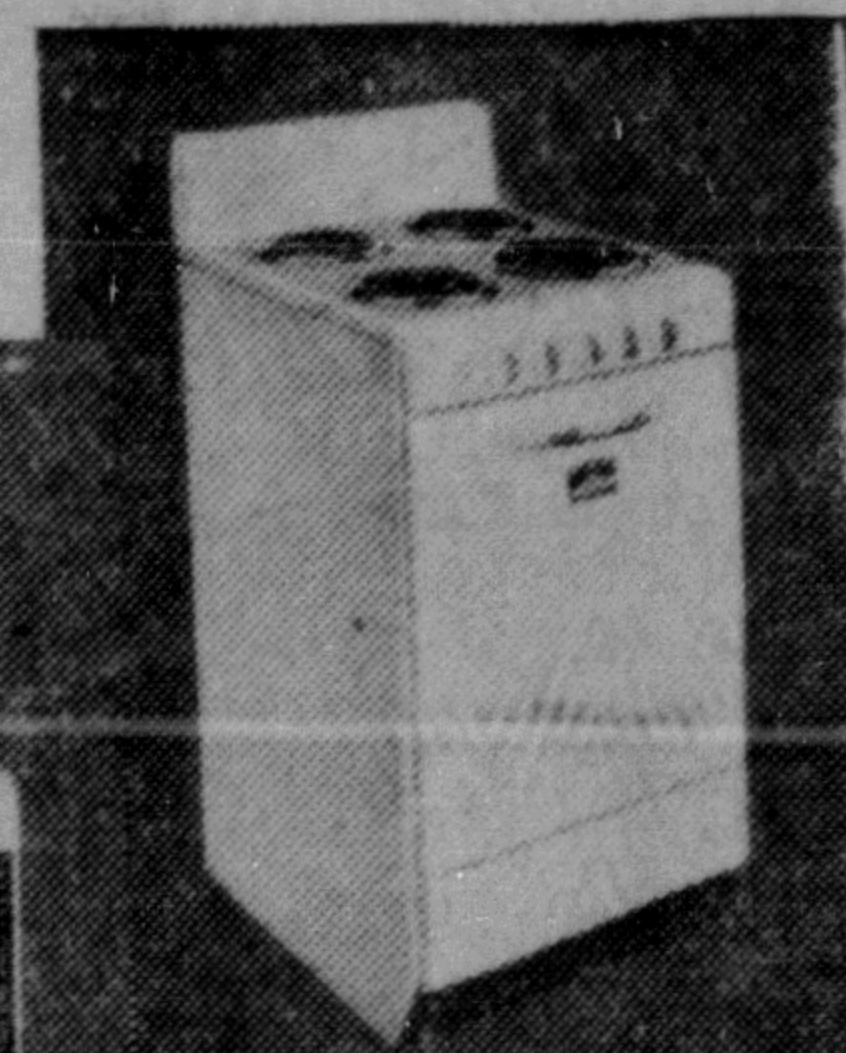


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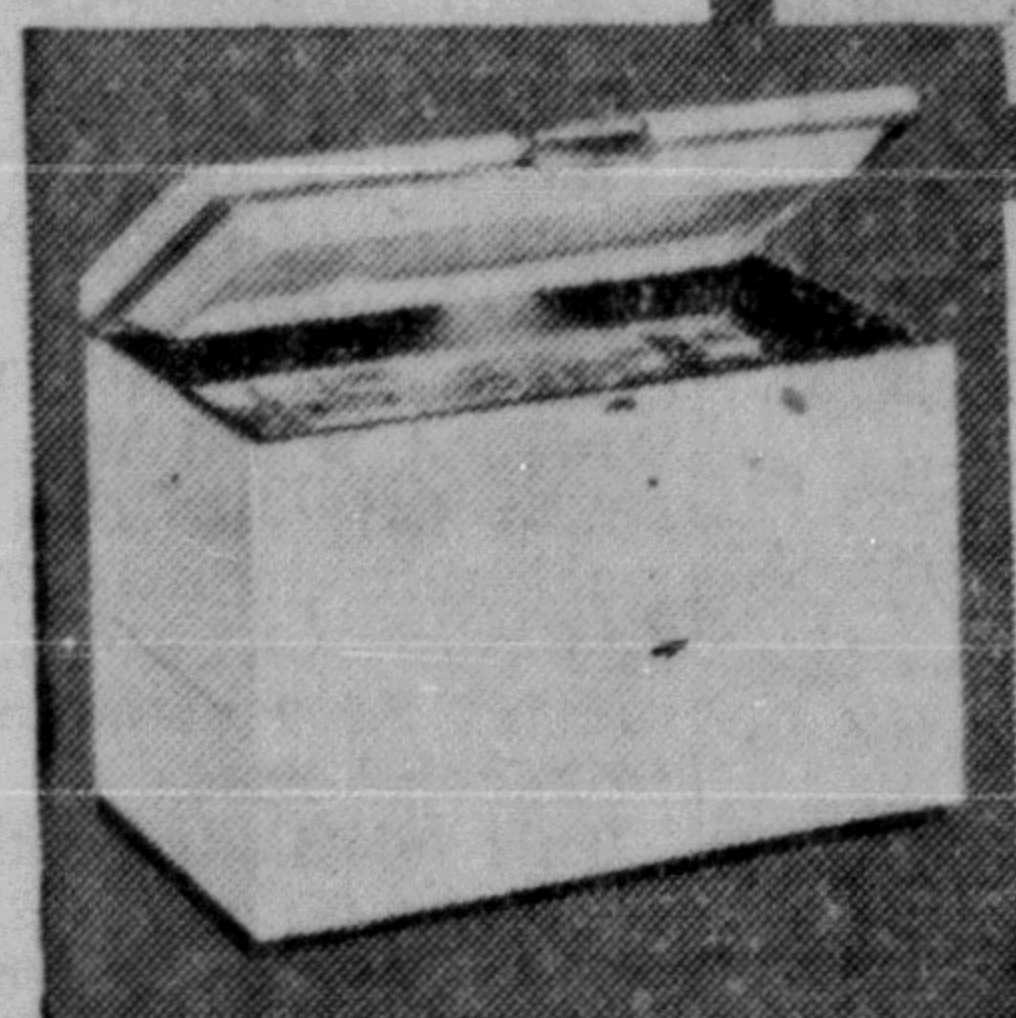


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