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As I See It

By Elmore Philpott

NATO Future

CANADA'S Minister of External Affairs is one of the committee of three assigned to study ways and means of improving the peacetime side of NATO.

NATO is something like Mark Twain's famous remark about the weather: Everybody talks about what should be done to improve NATO; but when it comes right down to cases nobody knows exactly what to do.

The military side of NATO presented a simple but big challenge. Over a period of a few years, the NATO allies were able to build up their united strength to the point where a Russian attack would have been unprofitable to an aggressor, even with the certainty that hydrogen bombs would be used against such an aggressor in his own country.

But the civilian side of NATO presents quite a different problem. Article 2 was inserted in the original NATO Treaty at Canada's insistence. It says, in effect, that the 15 NATO countries will do everything possible to help each other in the political, social and cultural fields. Those principles sound fine. But when you come right down to cases, there is not too much that can be done through NATO, which is not already being done through other international organizations or which could not better be done by some other international organization, on a broader base.

HERE are some of the things which conceivably could be done by NATO. Below I give some of the pros and cons of their advantages and disadvantages.

The 15 NATO countries could swap passports, for travel anywhere within the entire NATO area.

The 15 NATO countries could agree to allow unrestricted migration of any NATO citizen to any other NATO country.

The 15 NATO countries could progressively lower all tariff barriers on all kinds of trade between each member nation. In fact, they could agree to adopt trade as free between the 15 NATO members as trade is now free within the 10 provinces of Canada.

The 15 NATO countries could set up a single monetary system for the entire area, thus wiping out all international problems of exchange in connection with commerce inside the entire NATO area.

On the political side, the 15 NATO countries could set up some form of federal union with a joint parliament and a single cabinet to handle the international affairs of NATO.

THE above are the ultimate possibilities, stated deliberately in too extreme forms—and ignoring the obvious objections.

We are moving toward elimination of passports and visas for travel between NATO countries. We are making considerable progress toward this goal, but here the picture is very spotty.

LAST year the president of a Canadian bank visited the parliament of Canada and advised MPs to advocate a step-by-step approach to complete free trade among NATO countries. There never was any real discussion of this, even among the registered members of the NATO Parliamentary Association. The reason for this silence is obvious. It would be impossible to get Conservatives and Liberals to agree on any such policy.

Likewise, with the proposal for a single monetary unit for the entire NATO area. It may be desirable at some time in the future, but it is not a practical possibility now.

Perhaps the most useful thing that can be accomplished by the three men committee which the NATO Council has appointed is that the possible courses of action will be set forth in plain print—but without taking any stand on the desirability, or undesirability, of any item in such a program.

Scriptures

Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification with which no man shall see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14.

We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews. It is reasonable to suppose that we cannot come into the presence with dark stains in our lives, but it is comforting to know that the worst sinner can be washed whiter than snow if he sincerely repents.

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OFFICIALS SIGN AN AGREEMENT in Ottawa for the construction of the western leg of the cross country natural gas pipeline. Left to right: W. M. Mulock and D. A. Golden, representing Northern Ontario Pipeline Crown Corporation; and N. E. Tanner and A. D. Nesbitt of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Ltd. The crown corporation will build the Northern Ontario link of the pipeline and will lend Trans-Canada up to \$80,000,000 for construction of the prairie section. (CP Photo)

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

EASILY the most interesting item in the new batch of several-hundred-odd tariff changes resulting from the latest five months of GATT negotiations is this:

From being a commodity subject to a thumping 22 percent duty—and thus not entering Canada at all from foreign sources—it suddenly is taken from behind this cosy protective covering and exposed to the chill, competitive winds of the free list.

Not within the memory of Parliament Hill veterans has any other major Canadian industry had its tariff blanketed snatched from it with such complete lack of ceremony.

The comment of the government experts who were on the job when the negotiations were under way is that the change is unlikely to make any practical difference to Canadian newsprint mills. They say that Canadian newsprint is the cheapest in the world, and that the producers of no other country can compete successfully in this market. If there have been cases in recent times of Scandinavian newsprint underpricing the Canadian commodity in Latin-American markets, the explanation is said to lie in subsidized ocean shipping rates, rather than in the actual newsprint price. The experts are satisfied that the subsidized shipping rates will not permit competition by the Scandinavian mills in the Canadian market.

If that reasoning is correct, it obviously means that the concession which appears superficially to be one of the biggest which Canada has thrown into the bargaining pool is worth just nothing to the countries that have received it. If this is so, it may be a slick enough trick. But some circles in Parliament don't like it and are disposed to be suspicious of it. They are disturbed by uneasiness as to how many of the negotiations, which Canada has helped may reasonably value quite date to believe that Canada was the only slick "customer" at the Geneva bargaining table.

Actually, the news of the carded lot changes resulting from the latest GATT negotiations has left the majority of MP's either cold or worried. In part their attitude stems from the somewhat surprising intimation of the government's negotiating team that relatively little change in trade should be expected from the changes numbering into the several hundreds. The answer to this apparently well-meant assurance which many MP's give is the obvious one: Why, then, make the changes at all and spend over five months in costly negotiations? But some of the MP's remain worried. They point out that each of the concessions which Canada has given has been asked for by some competing country which thinks that it can do business in this market. They are afraid that more damage has been done to Canadian industry in the recent months at Geneva than meets the eye.

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U.K. PRESS VIEW

Americans Said Dubious On Eisenhower Fitness

LONDON (AP)—The Washington correspondents of most nationally-circulated British newspapers told their readers yesterday that the American people are increasingly dubious of President Eisenhower's physical fitness for re-election.

GROWING U.S. View He Should Quit Flight, headlined the Daily Mail, Conservative.

"There is deep disquiet in the United States today over President Eisenhower's health despite the optimistic and almost ebullient statements of the doctors," The Mail said.

The pro-Labor Daily Mirror, which claims the world's biggest weekday circulation of more than 4,500,000, said bluntly:

"Public confidence in the medical opinions has been shaken by Saturday's operation, and it will take much more than publicity about Ike's golfing prowess to convince them that he is fit enough for another term."

RAP PARTY

The independent Times said the "political implications of his illness have possibly assumed a greater insistence than the fears inspired by his heart attack last year."

The middle-of-the-road News Chronicle asserted that "Neither America nor the world would forget if the politicians were to urge the president to work beyond his physical endurance."

The Daily Telegraph, Conservative, took a similar tack. It said the optimistic medical reports after the operation were seized upon with shouts of joy by the professional Republican politicians."

Sinclair Hopeful Of Insurance For Fishermen

OTTAWA (CP)—Fisheries Minister Sinclair says the government is hopeful that a way will be found to bring fishermen under federal unemployment insurance coverage.

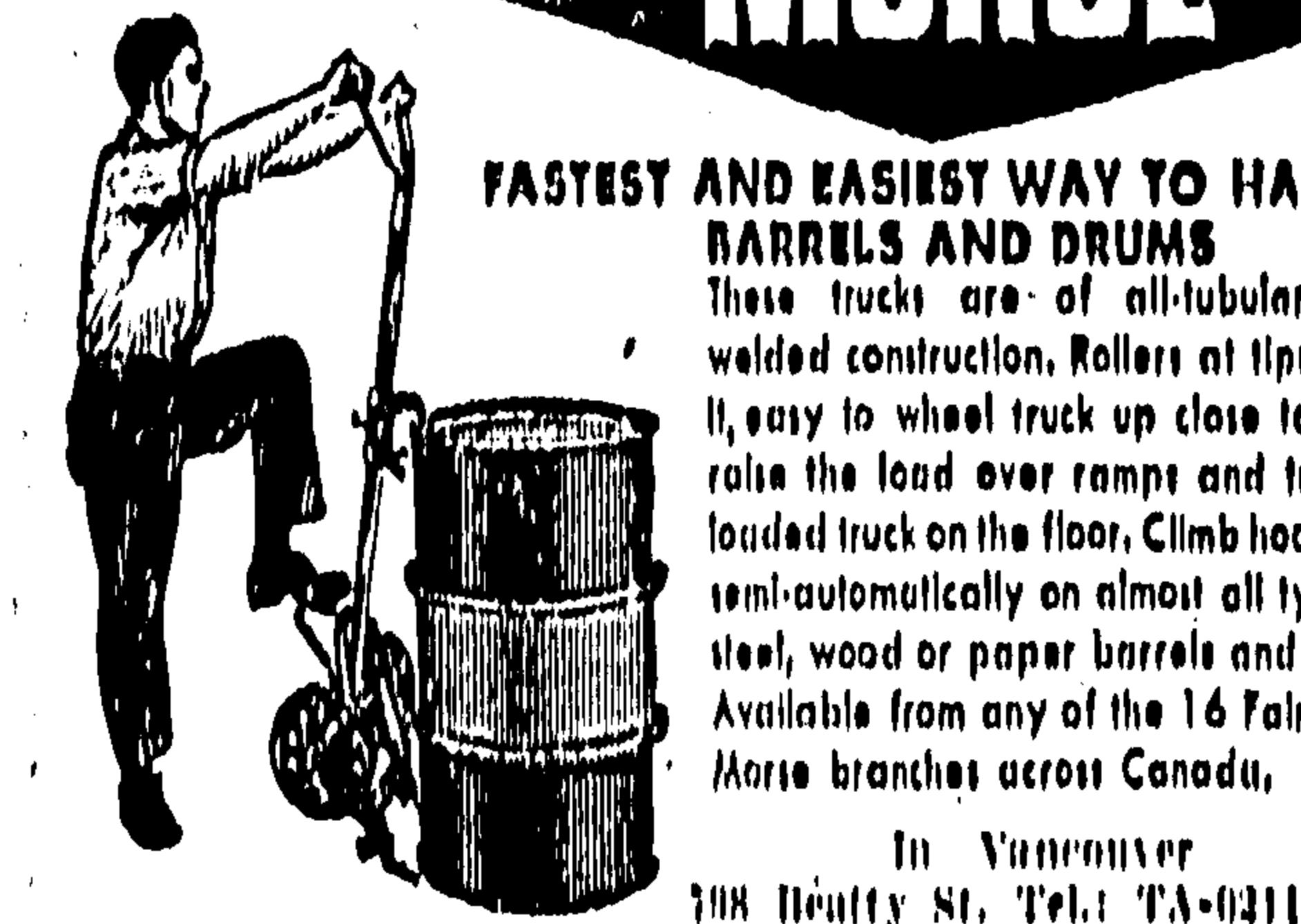
He said in the Commons an inter-departmental committee is studying the matter and is making good progress. It would not be too difficult to bring the west coast fishermen under the terms of the act because of the fixed fishing seasons there.

TRY Daily News Classifieds



SENATORS JOHN T. HAIG (PC-Manitoba) (left) and John T. Hackett (PC-Quebec) enter the Senate chamber for final debate on the government's pipeline bill which was approved by the Senate. Senator Haig is leader of the Upper Chamber's seven-man Progressive Conservative group. (CP Photo)

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Director Lauds "Post" Article On Fluoridation

Special to The Daily News
TORONTO—The Saturday Evening Post with its enormous circulation has done a great service in calling the true facts of fluoridation to the attention of the public in North America and Europe," stated Dr. Gordon Bates, general director of the Health League of Canada.

Dr. Bates was referring to an article entitled "The Fight Over Fluoridation" by J. C. Furnas, appearing in a recent issue of the Post.

"After submitting the scientific evidence in favor of fluoridation as a great discovery in the field of public health, the Post article proceeds to discuss the campaigns instituted in various cities to discredit the scientific evidence endorsed by competent authorities throughout the continent," continued Dr. Bates.

"It is perfectly clear after reading this article that the opposition is based on the fears and superstitions of the ignorant and that it has been extended by the tactics of self-seeking demagogues."

"It is well that the public should be aware, not only of the true facts, but of the extremely irresponsible and dangerous basis for the opposition, which has deluded some well-meaning citizens into a belief that they are justified in opposing a measure which will be important to the health of children and adults alike of future generations," concluded Dr. Bates.

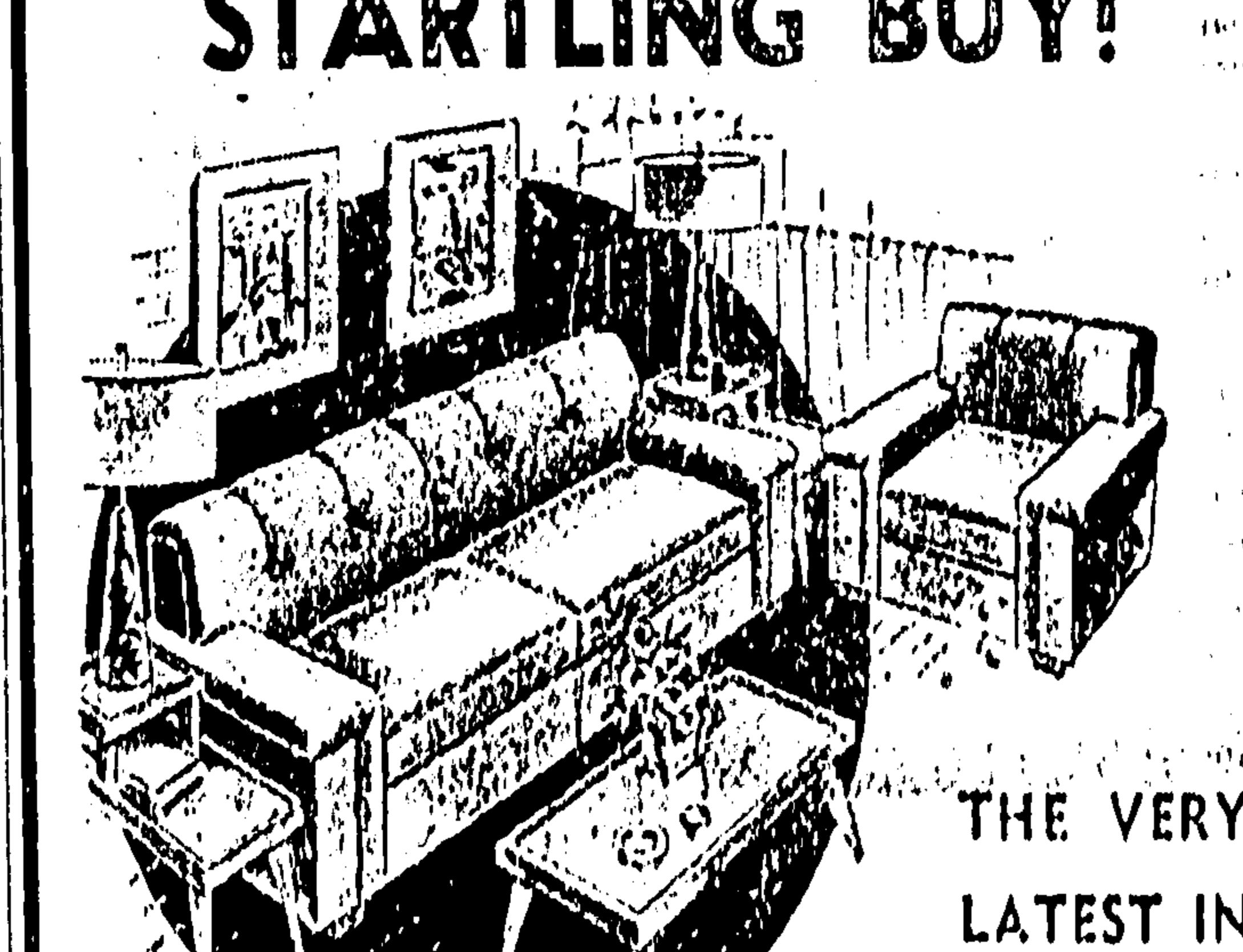
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