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City to Hear New Note

WITHIN a few hours "Number, please!" in Prince Rupert will be no more. The work of two years will be officially over and a new age in city communications will commence.

In the anticipation of the moment the past has no place but it may be remembered that the dial telephone system was not won without a fight. As voters were called upon to make their choice between the old and the new in September of 1952, there were protests that the city could find better ways to spend money. It was argued that we needed a new city hall, fire hall and police station, and that the waterworks could do with some attention.

There was also bitterness over the fact that the old liquor store, now housing the new exchange, would be lost as a potential source of tax revenue. The criticisms were mostly sincere and to some extent sound but better sense prevailed. Those concerned solely with the financial side of the issue took too lightly the fact that, as one of the city's most profitable operations, the telephone system must be kept in efficient working order. To allow it to deteriorate would be an injustice to the public paying for it as well as a mistake in economy. Repairs and maintenance were on their way to costing more than a complete new installation.

An equally important consideration was the fact that unless a city has reliable communications, the rest of its services may suffer. What good are new fire halls and police stations if they cannot be reached promptly by phone? It is not recorded whether the old system ever prevented an emergency call from going through in time but the danger of this happening was always there. It was therefore not good enough.

At one minute past midnight Prince Rupert will be listening for the dial tone. It will be the steady, humming note of a city going ahead.

Careless Parents

PUNISHMENT too often is not severe enough for parents who leave children in automobiles while they are drinking in beverage rooms. In a case the other day for instance, a man, father of five and a woman, mother of two, left six children, the eldest six, in a car while they were drinking beer. A fine of \$10 and costs for the man does not seem very severe. It seems a queer kind of fatherhood and motherhood to leave children all that time while they are drinking.

—Niagara Falls Review.

All Aboard

By G. E. MORTIMORE

In bars and smoke-filled rooms everywhere, local athletes are passing unkind remarks about the Lake Ontario swimmers who didn't make it. "That Mrs. Leuzler—pha!" said a thin man who would have drowned in a bathtub if somebody turned the tap on. "She calls herself a distance swimmer. A-huff! Aahoooff! Sorry, just a little cigarette cough. That's the funniest thing I... a-huff! Aah-huff! huff! Distance swimmer That's a joke."

"Yeah," said a fat, burly who looked a cinch to win a floating contest, but a poor bet for any swim over ten yards. "And I'm sure disgusted with that Florence Chadwick," the fat burly said. "What a quitter she turned out to be." "Florence Chadwick is too old," said a man of 75, stroking his white mustache. "Never liked her style of swimming anyway," said a man with a moustache and red face. As he spoke he hoisted a stein of beer—the only exercise he had taken for 20 years.

"They'll be calling her Bob instead of Flo, pretty soon," said the local wit, a man of middle age, bent double with

rheumatism. "Sure liked that headline in one of the newspapers, 'Nausea Beats Chadwick,'" the local wit said. "I didn't even know Nausea was swimming. One of those late entries, I guess. Probably swam second to Marilyn."

At this point a real-life swimmer broke into the conversation. He had entered the bar by mistake, thinking it was the YMCA.

"I've been hearing you guys talk," he growled, "and you sure give a nerve. Not one of you could swim across a puddle."

"What difference does that make?" the wit demanded. "We curse at horses when they run fifth. That doesn't mean we have to run in the race ourselves, does it? We leave that to the horses."

Everyone at the table nodded agreement. The swimmer had to confess defeat. He was so disheartened that he ordered a beer. But he only drank half of it, and left. He couldn't stand the company.

Maybe the old-time uncensored movie kiss was naughty but at least it was perpendicular.



As I See It

BY

Elmore Philpotts

MPs Cry—Halt

THE Members of Parliament from twenty-one different countries, on all continents, who have met here in London to consider questions of world peace, have now finished their work.

They have drafted both a long range and a short range plan for a world organization to establish world law. That short range plan simply lists the things which the UN might now do, at once, such as to admit all the nations which are now excluded. The long range plan is a thoughtful document setting forth the MP's ideas for a practical set-up of a future democratic world government.

BUT the most spectacular part of the work of the meeting has been the framing of the so-called "London Manifesto of 1954."

In this proclamation the MPs warn mankind in general and governments in particular that the world is now engaged in the most frenzied and costly armament race in the history of the world. They show that similar armament races have in the past invariably ended in war.

But they also show that the nuclear weapons have interjected a new factor. For if this arms race ends as all previous arms races have ended, they say, whole countries will literally be wiped off the face of the earth and there is the possibility that life itself will become impossible anywhere on the planet.

The MPs then argue that even a portion of the enormous sum of forty thousand millions pounds sterling (\$120,000,000,000) per year now wasted on arms would finance schemes to raise the standard of living all over the more impoverished parts of the earth.

They strongly urge amendments to the UN Charter whereby by all nations would give up the "right" to wage war beyond their own borders, and where no nation would be permitted to maintain any armed force whatsoever, beyond the level necessary for purely internal police purposes and for obviously legitimate self-defense.

In other words these MPs who are part of the parliamentary system in their own countries wish to see the parliamentary system also established at the world level.

IS THIS dream of a world government just a vision or visionary idealists? A remarkable change has taken place here since I attended the first similar conference, some four years ago.

In the first place there is a much more solid type of actual delegate here. We have actually had two cabinet ministers in office, attending our sessions—the one an African and the other a Frenchman. But apart from

the calibre of those in attendance, the actual discussions have been much more practical and helpful.

These people who are out to lay the foundations of what Tennyson called "the parliament of man" have come to see that it must inevitably come as an extension of what we already have in the UN.

They have faced the fact that we must start from where we are and work with the actual tools we have.

THIS year I found a great deal more optimism that this world plan might someday soon succeed in crumbling down that sinister Iron Curtain which divides mankind so ominously.

Up till now the Communists have been the bitterest enemies of the whole principle of world government as we advocate it however the obvious reason that they have a perfectly prepared world government plan of their own—which is of course poles apart from the one we stand for as the London plan is based solidly on western style freedom.

Apart from the Communists, the strongest opponents of the world government idea are the McCarthyites and the arch jingoists like Col. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune in the U.S.A.

But there are signs that in both these camps more and more people are coming to see that it literally is a case of "one world or none."

The A-bombs and H-bombs have made the old system of the nation-state obsolete. The MPs here are convinced that the real question is—will we act on this truth in time to avert a third world war or only when we try to pick up the charred pieces?

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

If the Federal government has to provide work this winter a good many could assist the government by aiding in obliterating the word "Dominion." Has anybody ever asked the reason why. Plenty of things are far more of a nuisance.

DIFFERENCE IN TASTE

Horror yarns and blood and thunder tales by the hundreds of thousands are not being read any more in the United States according to advice from major publishing houses of a certain type. But this will not mean anything of consequence, except readjustments of taste and judgment.

A politician, according to Governor Stevenson, is a man who approaches every question with an open mouth.

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It's the fewest ever able to observe the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding ceremony, but the Basset-Jones who pioneered in Prince Rupert a long time back could say it. They are living in Vancouver Island and glad to see any old timers from Skeena regions.

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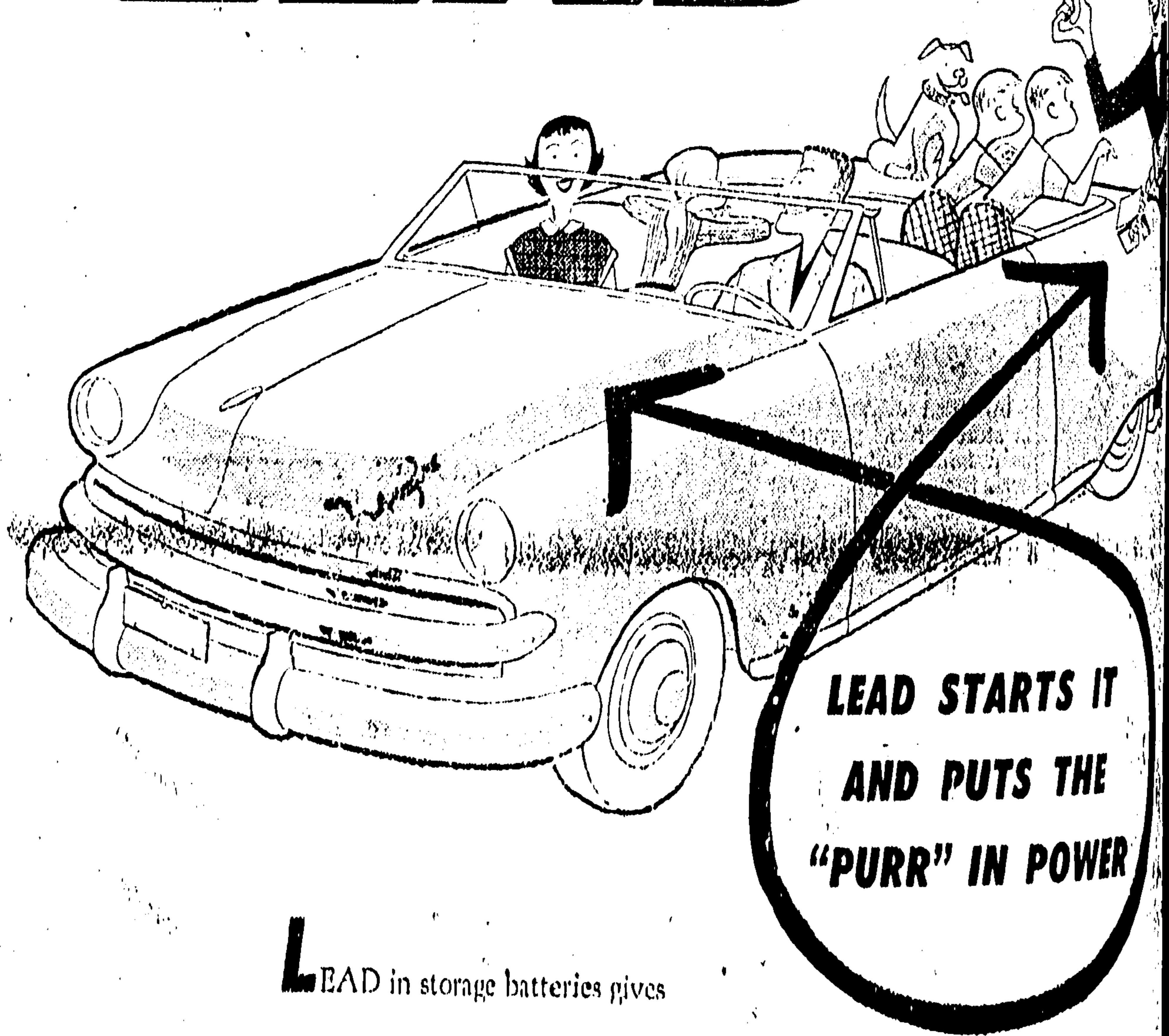
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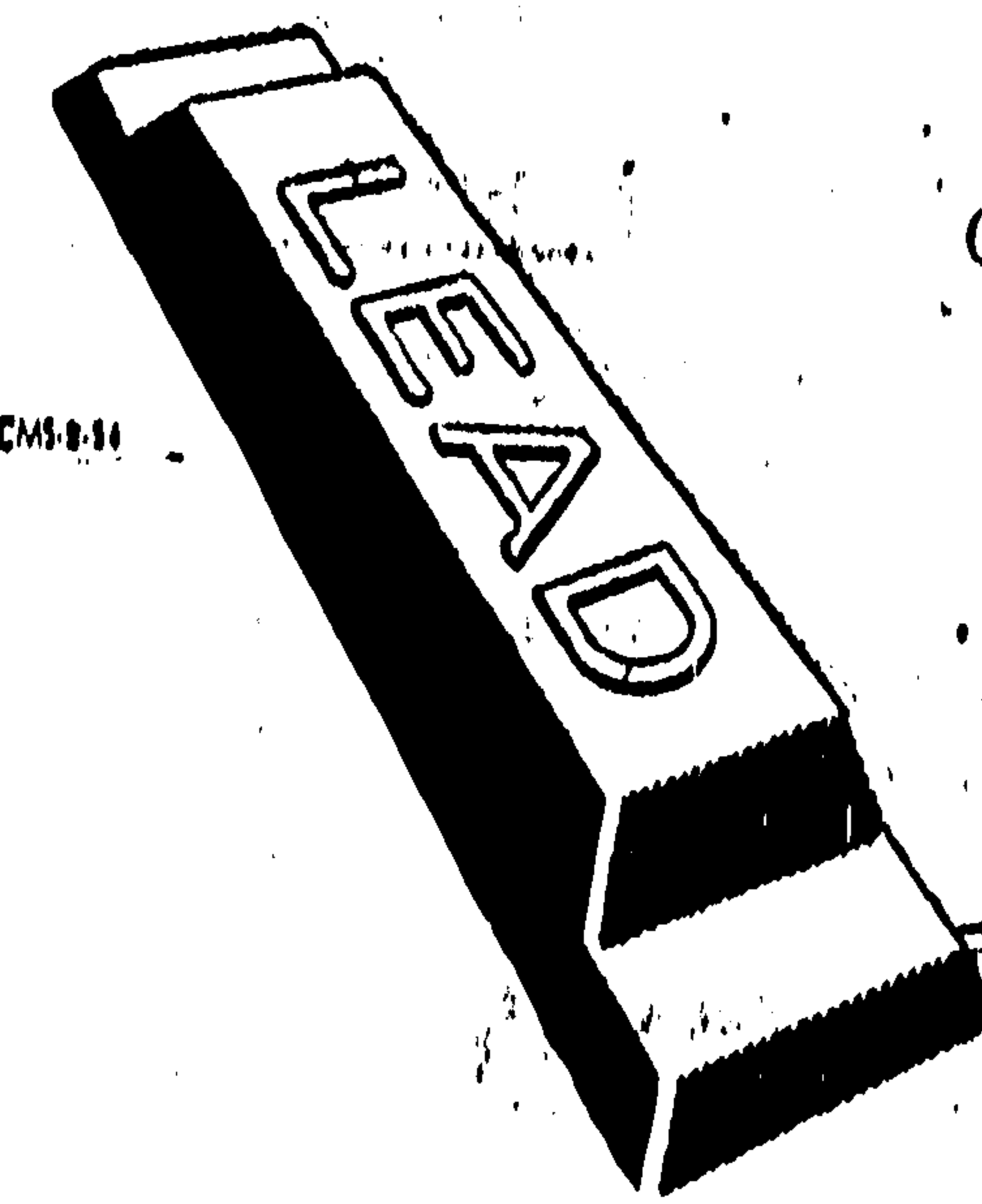
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