

School Board Reverses Plan To Cut Supply Teachers' Pay

A wage cut of 25 percent for Halton's supply teachers was rescinded last week.

The Halton County Board of Education voted 15-2 to rescind the wage cut, which would have become effective Feb. 1. A final decision on the wage issue will be made by April 13.

Trustee Dick Goodin and a separate school representative, Hubert Clohecy, opposed the motion to rescind the wage cut made by Trustee Fred Armitage.

"I've had many thoughts about this," Armitage said. "I'm certainly not satisfied with the effectiveness of supply teachers we have in Halton County."

About 40 Halton supply teachers attended the board meeting as a show of unity.

SPECIALIST

In addressing the board, Armitage cited the case of one supply teacher who had an honors B.A. degree, had won a

fellowship to Columbia University, was top student at the Ontario College of Education, held specialist's certificates in two subjects and had been a supply teacher since 1947.

"We aren't recognizing good performers," said Armitage. "We are doing it for our regular teachers. Why couldn't there be a pay scale for supply that recognizes these attributes?"

NOT SOLUTION

"Do we lower the per diem rate to the level of effectiveness or raise the effectiveness to the present rate?" Armitage asked.

"I don't think cutting the previous rate is a solution," Armitage said. "I think we've taken advantage of a supply and demand situation, particularly in the elementary panel. As far as I'm concerned, this is a low blow."

Clohecy said he felt the wage cut "was one of the better moves

we, as a board, have made. We've concurred with an administrative decision," adding that he thought the new wage was "a fair and equitable wage for the service" the supply teachers provide.

PRESSURE GROUP

Trustee L. D. Palmer, the only board member to originally oppose the wage cut, said "we're asking some of our employees to take a 25 percent wage cut and this I cannot agree with."

Esquering trustee Bill Lawson said the comments from supply teachers "are coming from one area of the county only, and I think that's significant. I don't think the board should react to a pressure group."

The board had intended to cut the wages of elementary school substitute teachers by \$6.50 to \$21 and secondary school supply teachers by \$8.50 to \$27.

Receives B. A.



TOM HUNTER

Tom Hunter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Hunter, RR 2 Georgetown, received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in history at the Waterloo Lutheran University convocation. Mr. Hunter earned his degree by taking extension courses in the winter and summer for the past five years. He is currently teaching at Pineview elementary school near Hornby, and lives with his wife and family in Milton.

Support Student Transfers

Ramautarsingh Sees Few Problems With New System

Optional attendance areas recently introduced by the Halton Board of Education are a good idea, says Tom Ramautarsingh of Georgetown, president of District 9 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

Ramautarsingh says the boundaries previously used did not suit all students, with some pupils living closer to a school that was not in their attendance area. "The injustice has been rectified through the transfer system," he says.

Under the transfer or optional attendance area system, students can now transfer to a closer school or to another school that offers a special curriculum.

The board of education has included many safeguards in the new system — students are accepted for transfer only in schools that have available

space, the students must apply for transfer seven months in advance and must stay in the new school for at least one year.

The system was already in use in Halton, Ramautarsingh says, providing transfer for students who wanted a different program than that available in their regular school. "It's policy now," says Ramautarsingh. "Now it's for everyone, not just a certain

few.

"One disadvantage with the new transfer system is the transportation. The board has said a student can transfer, but because he must pay his own transportation costs a student may not be able to transfer."

He "can see few problems for the board caused by the transfer students."

Maplehurst has been proposed by the department of correctional service for the past three years. The location was announced last year.

The new correctional complex had been advocated for many years, particularly by county and Ontario supreme court grand juries which have been severely critical of ancient and inadequate facilities at the present Halton County Jail.

A flock of 1,000 starlings will consume about 65 lbs. of feed in one day.

May Start New County Jail This Year: Snow

Construction of the Maplehurst Detention Centre should start this year or next says Jim Snow, Halton East MPP and minister without portfolio.

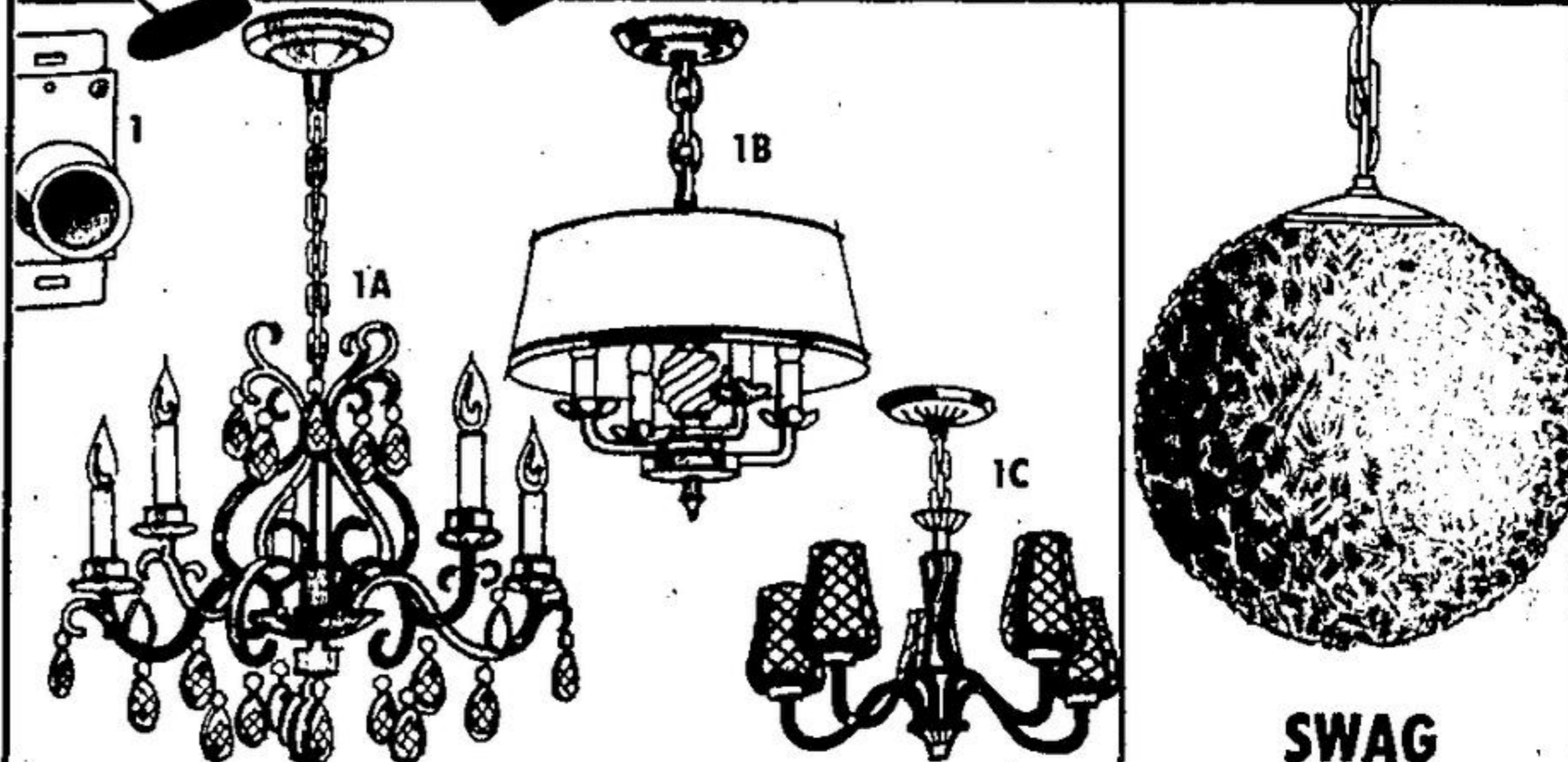
Snow said the minimum security prison is high on the priority list of the correctional

services department. It will be located south of Highway 401 on Highway 25 at Milton.

Snow said the land has been bought, services installed and architect's plans drawn up. The project is now ready for the calling of tenders.



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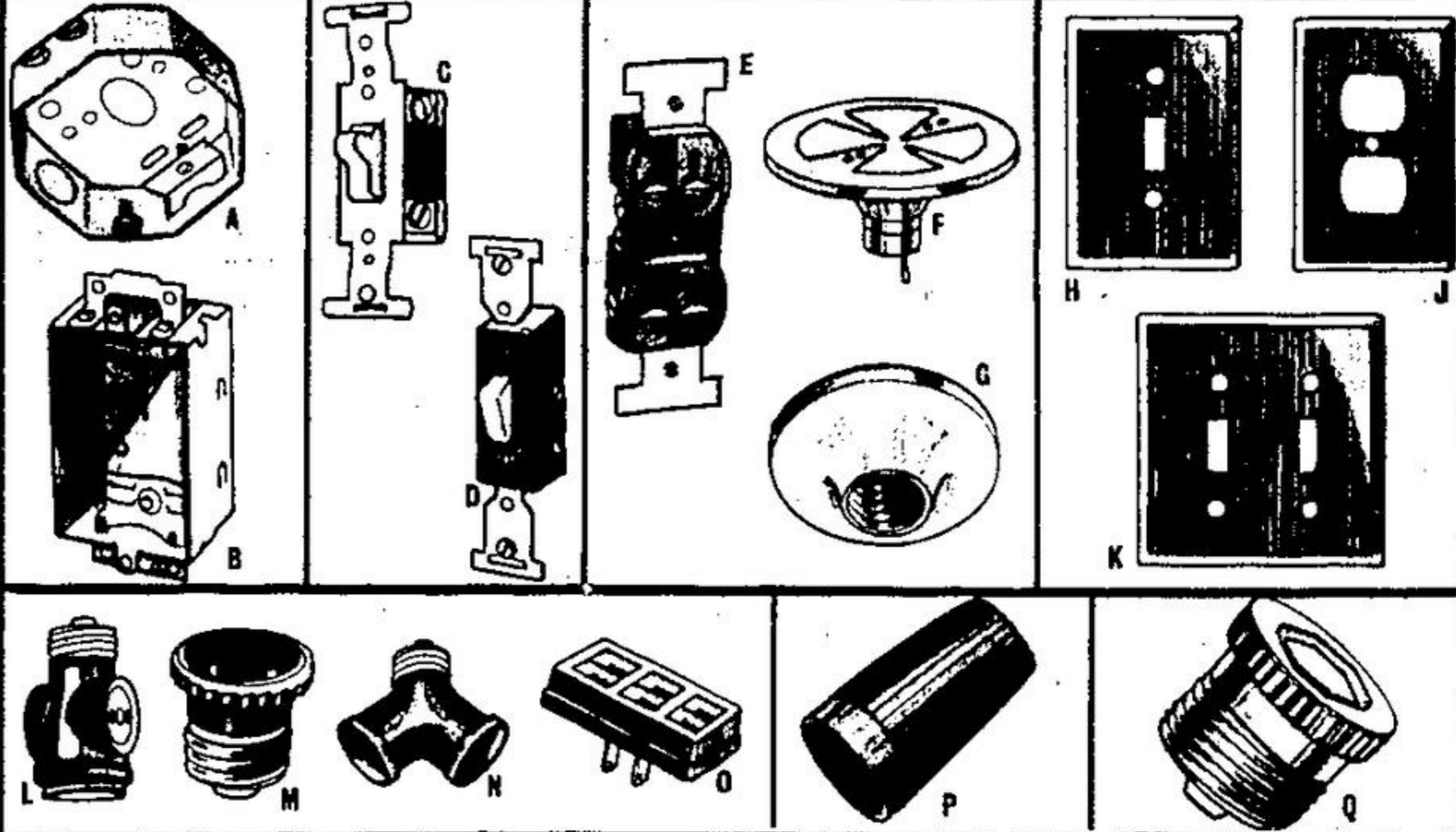
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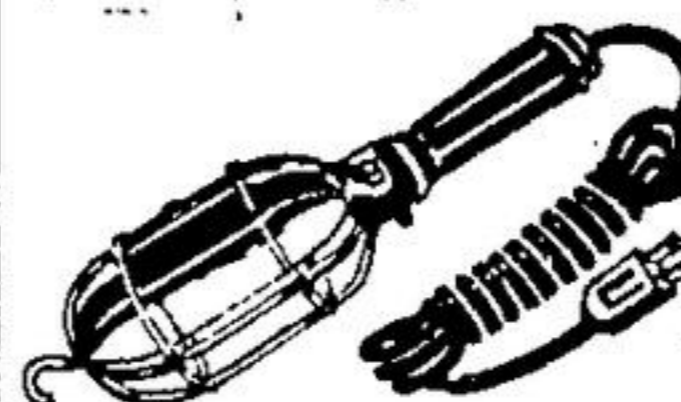
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