

**Report  
From  
Queen's  
Park**



by  
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MPP, Halton-Burlington

Report for Nov. 27, 1975

The report of the Special Program Review Committee headed by Maxwell Henderson, former auditor general, has been tabled in the legislature. It contains a clear warning that public spending is out of control and makes 184 specific recommendations for restraint.

Norman Webster, Queen's Park Globe and Mail columnist, commented "The message has come through starkly and painfully to the Davis government in the past year or so. The buoyant days when anything that seemed worthwhile could be paid for, have ended with a crunch. The province's cash deficit two years ago was \$708 million. This year, suddenly, it is \$1.9 billion and next year's projection puts it at more than \$2.5 billion. It just can't go on."

Treasurer McKeough is talking a tough new game... he vowed to hold the line and he is promising to produce a mean minded budget in February. He doesn't really have much choice.

"It all adds up to a significant moral victory for Liberal leader Robert Nixon who has been preaching precisely this line for years."

Some of the report's recommendations are as follows:

Discouraging unnecessary use of health services by imposition of \$2 and \$5 fees for doctor and hospital visits plus higher fees for private and semi-private hospital care. Also a 1,500 reduction in jail and health institution staff over the next three years.

Further introduction of regional government for restructured counties should be postponed and the housing ministry should stop buying land for future communities or parks, selling some of the land it already owns.

The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education should be abolished, provincial educational TV programming should be reduced and the education ministry should cut its regional office and curriculum staff by 200 people. Students should pay up to about 65 percent more to attend universities or community colleges.

Civil servants should not get automatic cost-of-living or merit pay increases and the legislature should set collective bargaining guidelines for all public servants including teachers.

Mr. Henderson warned that unless government spending is controlled, Ontario could face the same plight as New York City trembling on the brink of bankruptcy. "Government as we watched it has become too paternalistic. Taxes are taking too big a bite out of the average taxpayer's earnings and it's cutting into the incentive of people to do things for themselves."

The provincial cabinet cannot account for up to \$51 million received from the federal government for social, welfare programs which was intended to be spent on assistance for mentally retarded people. The minister of community and social services stated that his ministry received \$30 million in 1974-75 and \$18 million for the first six months of this year from Ottawa under the Canada Assistance Plan, and that the ministry's projected spending for the year was \$15.4 million increasing over the next few years up to \$64.9 million in 1978-79.

Assuming the \$18 million for the first six months would be matched by a further \$18 million for the second six months, this would mean a total of \$66 million received for the retarded over the year of (Continued on Page 8)



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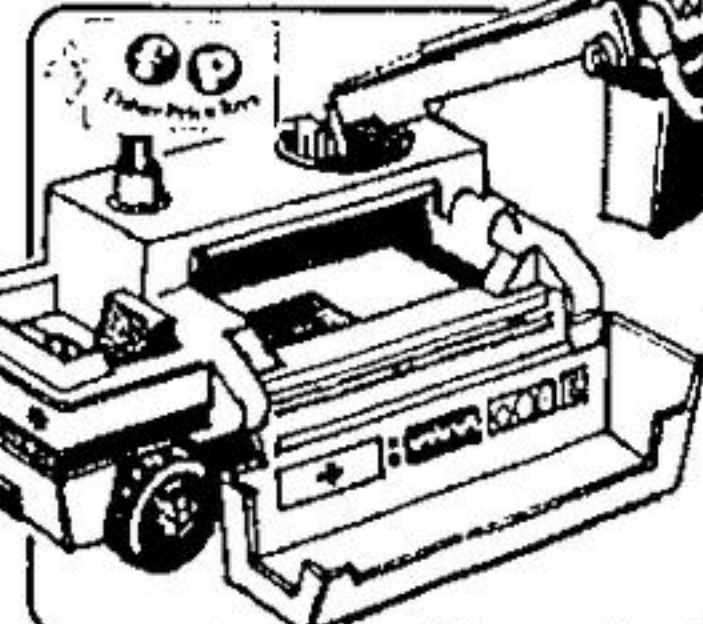
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**Evel Knievel and His Stunt Car**

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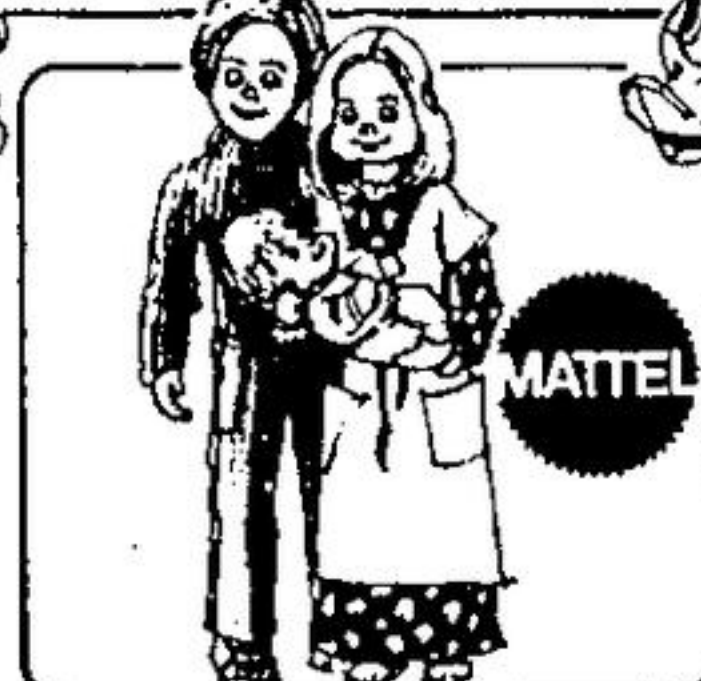
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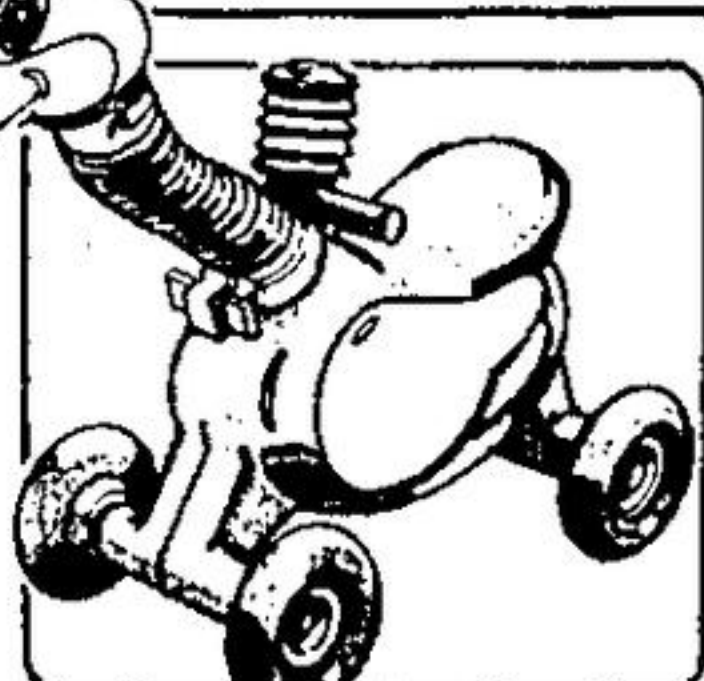
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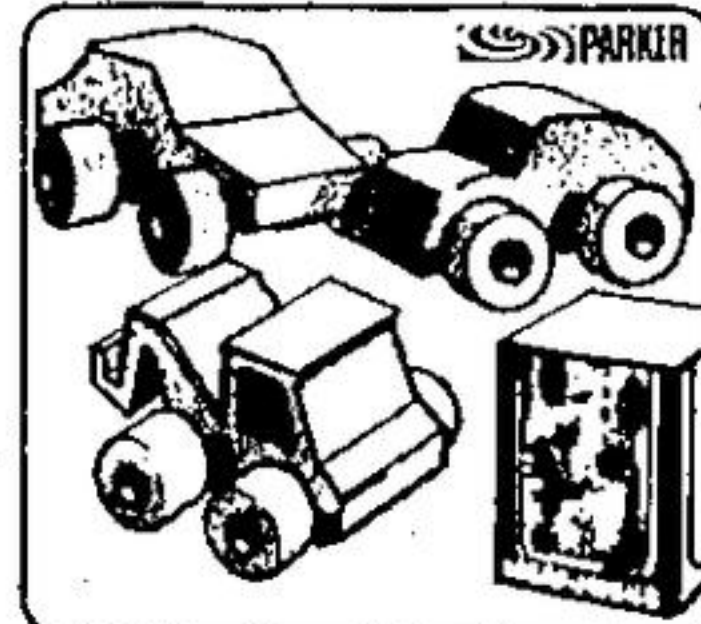
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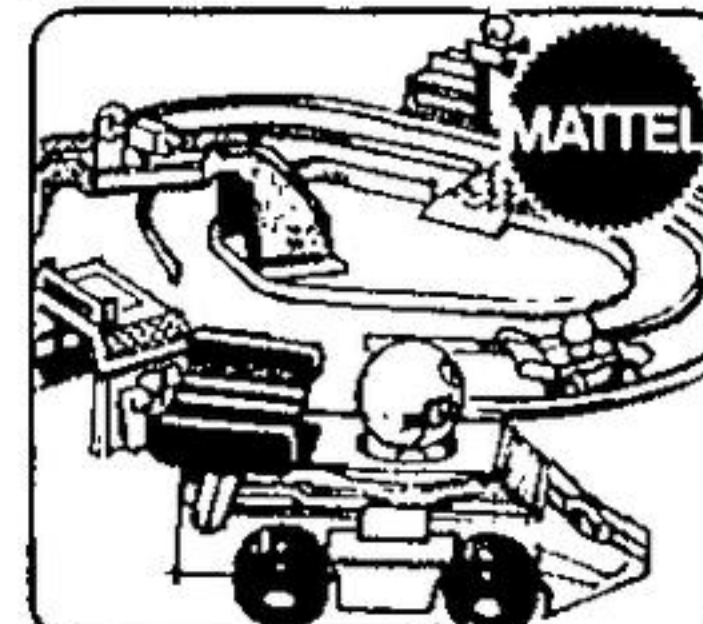
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**Nerf-Mobiles by Parker**

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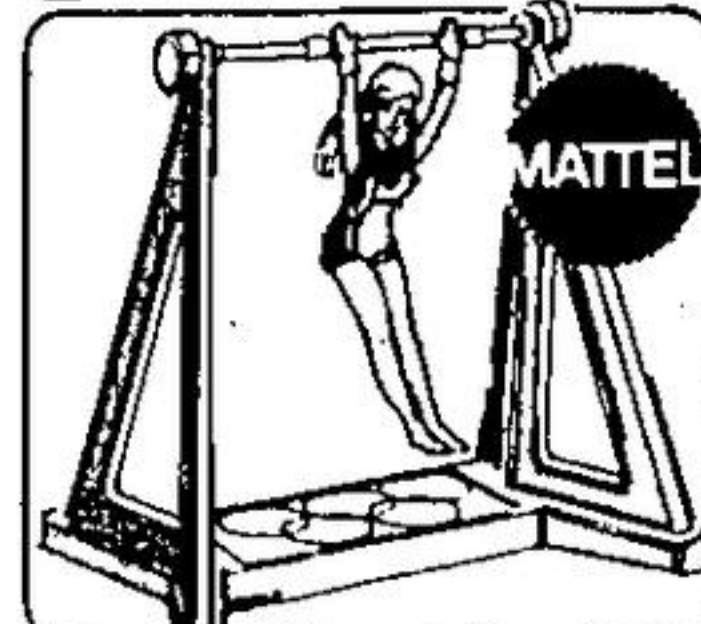
**3<sup>77</sup>** Each



**Motor Putt-Putt Speedway by Mattel**

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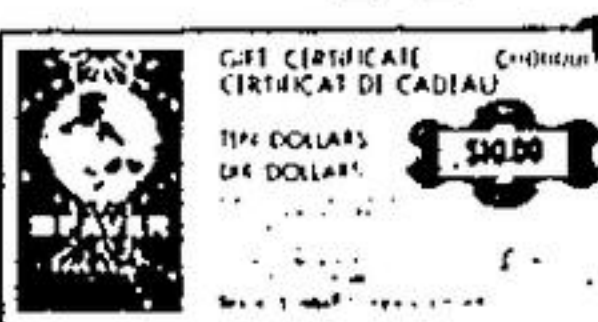


**Rub-A-Dub Dolly by Ideal**

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