



FRED SCHOLL, new Terra Cotta Inn Chef, dress in native German clothes to barbecue steaks for the Canadian German Businessmen's Association barbecue last week.

Reed joins opponents of farm income stabilization

Bill 96 the farm income stabilization legislation which last week failed to get past a first reading and brought the Davis government to a vote of non-confidence, was opposed by Julian Reed, MPP for Halton-Burlington.

"It just didn't do what they claimed for it," Reed said in an interview. "The bill itself does not protect anybody's income."

All those farmers whose product is governed by provincial and national marketing boards were not included in the bill, Reed said. "It was designed to cover only 15 percent of farmers."

He said that fruit and vegetable growers were now negotiating with Ottawa for a farm income stabilization programme. "Once that comes into effect, Ontario's bill will be vitally redundant."

What Ontario's bill has to do is to make farming more attractive an enterprise to get into, Reed said.

"If farmers continue to get short shrift," he said, "what you'll see happening is that the age of the farmers won't decrease nor will youngsters take up farming."

In returning the bill to the government with a stipulation

that it be brought back to the house before October 31—"Halloween night," Reed said—an amendment was included containing two key instructions.

The first is that the income protection plan be open to all farm products on a voluntary and contributory basis.

Bill 96, on its first reading was "a price base plan," Reed said, and "farmers don't want controls. What they want is a chance to have equitable incomes."

The second instruction in the amendment is that the government "provide a public forum for full discussion with the farm community before reintroduction of the bill."

Reed said he was against mandatory plans which "are one step away from mandatory products control and quota levels."

The cost of the farm income stabilization programme has produced guesses varying from \$70 million to \$135 million, Reed pointed out. "I can't say what a good plan would cost."

Although the "actuarial aspects" of different plans would need to be examined, Reed said, "the plan has to be related to the costs of food wherever that is going."



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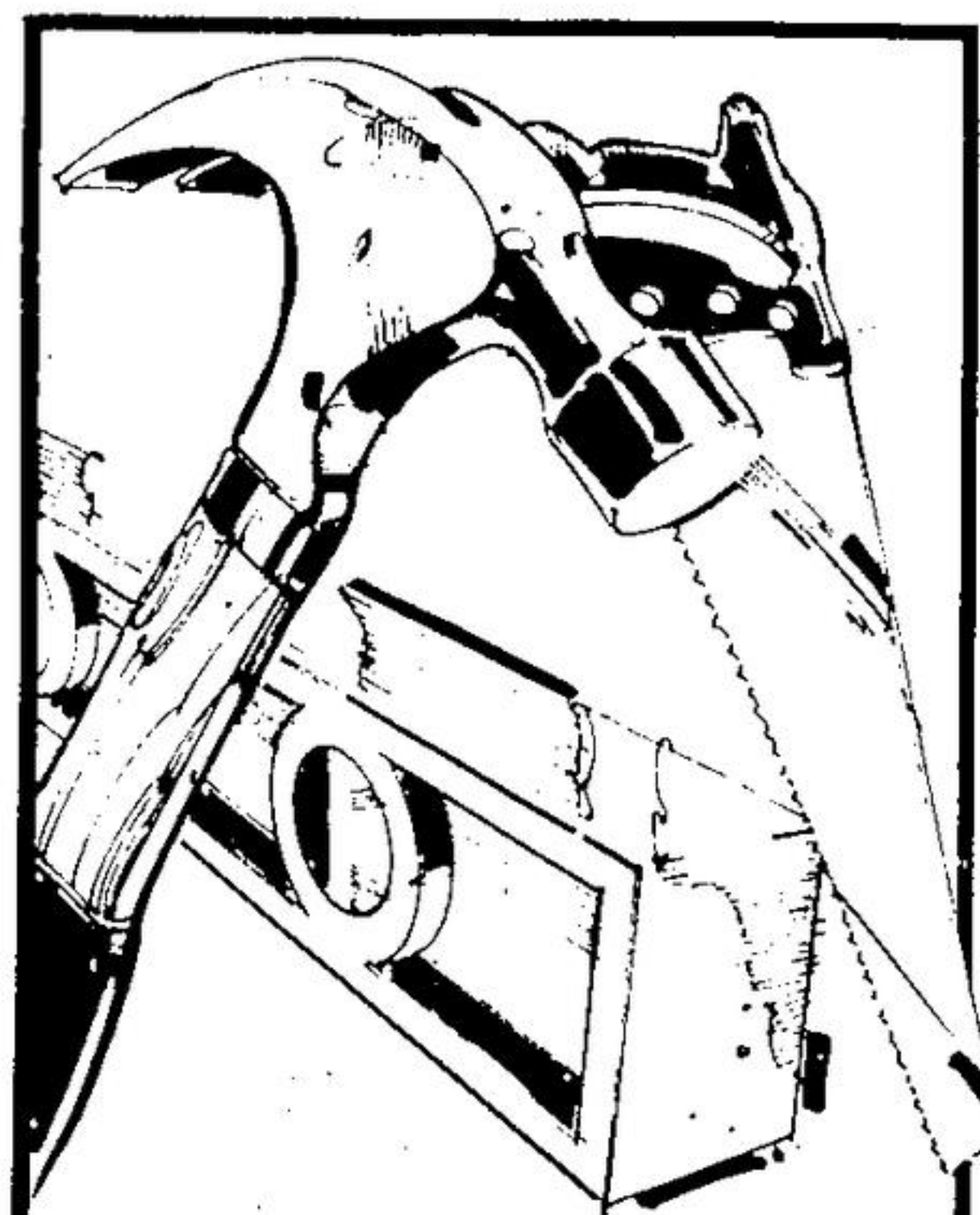
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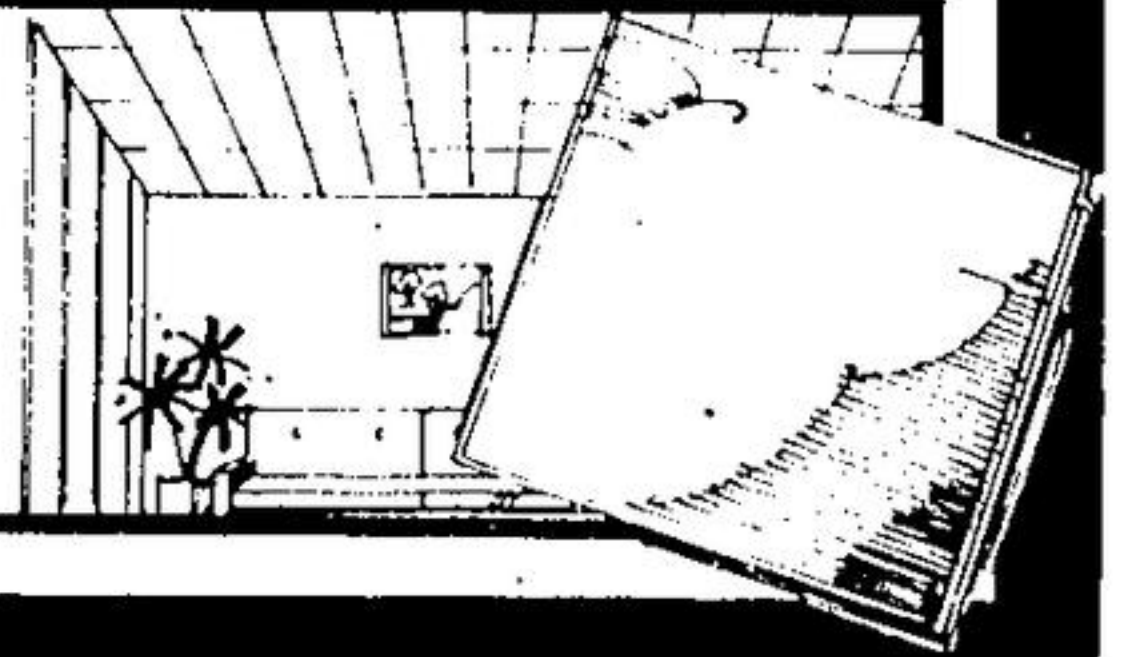
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