## surprise to union Size of Disston sale is

By BOB RUTTER

Special to the Herald Sale of the Dission Canada Saw plant in Acton and the loss of more than 100 jobs "comes as a bit of a blow", a spokesman for the United Steel Workers of America Union said today.

Disston Canada announced last week that R. Hoe and Company of Scarsdale, New York, had purchased company operations in Acton, Quebec and Vancouver Oct. 1 subject to the approval of the federal Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRA).

'We just negotiated an agreement and we were told a month ago that some product lines would be sold but we didn't have any idea of the magnitude," sald Jim Pudge, a union representative for Lo-

cal 8603. - He said negotiations between parties is hampered by a three-week plant shutdown for vacation and little official information is available. Steel Workers Union officials plan to meet with officials of both firms in August to discuss the announcement.

"We want to see what's happening before we decide what we will do," he sald. DIVERSE HOLDINGS

Disston Canada is a subsidiary of the Sandvik Group, a Swedish firm that has diverse manufacturing holdings including a conveyor manufacturing operation in Guelph.

Mr. Pudge said the difference in divisional responsibilities between the Acton handsaw plant and the Guelph plant prevents a shift to Guelph.

"They (management) told us the (Acton) operation lost some \$2 to \$3 million in the time they had it," Mr. Pudge sald. Sandvik purchased the firm in 1976.

"We don't really think they gave it much chance; not much was changed down there," he said.

Employees have been telling union officials that improvements in production could be made, he added.

Commenting on the short ownership by Disston Canada Mr. Pudge said "the disturbing point is that a Swedish plant comes in and buys a plant and then shuts it down

## Motorbike report is sought

Acting chief W.I. Harding of the Halton Regional Police told the police commission last week there is a problem with motorcycle gangs in Halton.

Deputy-chief Harding was commenting in response to a letter to Attorney-General Roy McMurtry, a copy of which was sent to the commission. In the letter, T.W. Dowling, president of Thomas Dowling and Associates Ltd., a real estate firm in Burlington, expressed his concern about motorcycle gangs in the cities.

Deputy-chief Harding acknowledged that there is a problem, but said he would prefer to make a confidential report to the commission on the nature of the problem in Halton. He added that he would be prepared to make some comments during the in camera portion of that meeting. The commission agreed to handle the situation as he suggested.

In the letter, Mr. Dowling said he is "very gravely concerned with the violence and intimidation of the biker gangs in our cities.

"My business associates, neighbors and friends are appalled at the utter ruthlessness of these animals, and alarmed at their connection with organized crime," he said

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He added that it appears to be "manipulation" of Canadian laws governing foreign ownership that require new firms to purchase an existing plant rather than establish a new operation.

Union officials described the 25-month contract settlement in February as "a helluva breakthrough" in labor-management relations.

Also described as a "model contract", union officials at that time said negotiations were conducted under a good

atmosphere. Benefits included a cost-of-living clause, improved contract language, improved vacation benefits and improvements to medical.

pension and dental coverage. "We really threw the old contract away and started from scratch," Mr. Pudge said

in February. FORESTRY EQUIPMENT

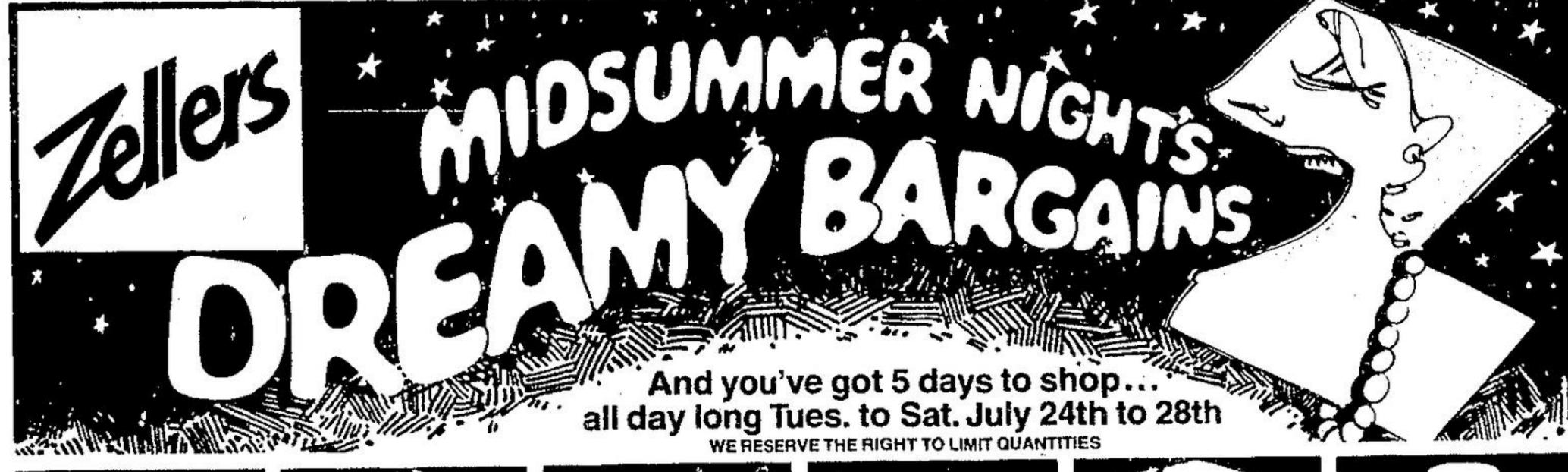
Unconfirmed Information surrounding the Disston plant sale indicates R. Hoe and Company has been seeking an opportunity of penetrating the Canadian forestry equipment market.

The firm will manufacture band and circular saws primarily for the forestry indus-

It is believed that under the terms of the sale, R. Hoe will continue to lease the Acton facility for about two years, raising possibilities that some of the redundant workforce may be rehired.

Should the FIRA application be approved, it is also behaved R. Hoe will eventually close the Acton plant and move operations closer to the Highway 401 transportation corriLEASING A CAR OR TRUCK

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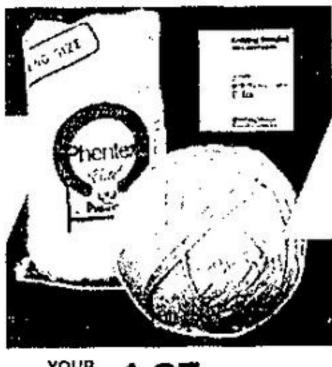
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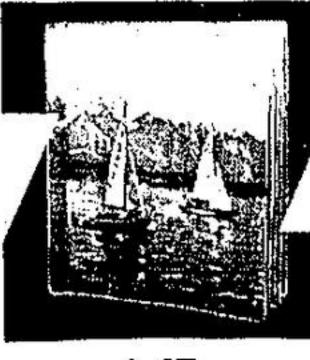
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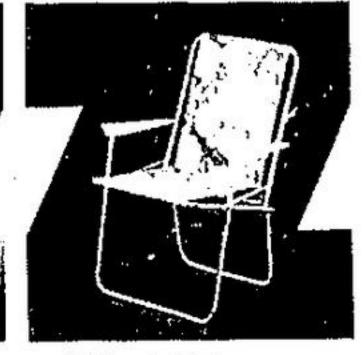
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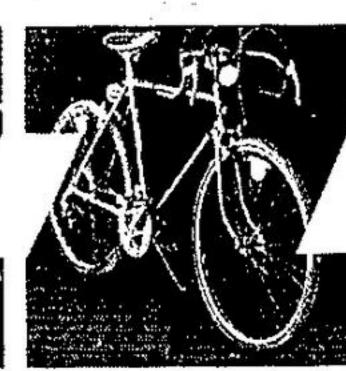
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