

# Pomeroy criticizes opponents' 'innuendo' tactics

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not be in the best interests of the Region to pursue it as an option, she added.

"We'd prefer if you take a look at (Grier's) statement, and request further information from the minister before proceeding quickly with the recommendation of the committee," Peterson said. "The EFW process came from a different government, but the new government has a different direction."

Van de Valk echoed Peterson's concerns, adding that waste management director John MacKay assured her that the proposals could include EFW plants.

She also charged that the Region and Municipal Waste Management Committee has not met since it was formed almost two years ago, and questioned council why that was so. Van de Valk added that she felt the committee would do a better job than any member of the private sector would.

"We often hear that the private

sector can do things more efficiently than the government, but at what cost?" she asked. "Well, it's at a tremendous cost to the environment and the taxpayer. I'm asking you not to pass the recommendation, because this is a perfect opportunity to pursue the 3Rs and composting as aggressively as you can."

Van de Valk also noted that a subsidiary of Laidlaw, GSX, and BFI have been charged significant fines in the United States for price fixing.

However, Halton Chairman Pete Pomeroy later countered that the track record of American subsidiaries of the Canadian companies being considered should not be a factor. He criticized "small interest groups...trying to discredit waste management initiatives" through what he termed as disinformation tactics.

"Every time someone tries to take the initiative, the way to combat it is to try and discredit it, and I take those comments personally," he said. "I'm sick of being criticized for trying to resolve the waste

management issue...The slander from small groups of people — and they are small — the lying, and the discrediting to try and sway the public. I'm sick of that innuendo.

"Let's deal with this issue — it's a good proposal. The companies have been responsible, and operating within the law. I don't like it when they're not being considered because the (parent) companies have done something wrong in the States. Don't stop doing business with them because of a bad record. It has no place in this council chamber...and I hope it never happens again."

However, a handful of councillors were opposed to the proposal, saying it will end up costing the Region millions of dollars in the end.

Oakville's Janet Mitchell dismissed the idea that the Region is under no obligation to use the companies for its waste management. She argued they will be under "a moral obligation because of the tremendous amount of time, energy and money" the corporations

will spend in drafting their proposals.

"We can't ask them without a clear understanding that we are going to choose one of the proposals," she said.

Burlington's Walt Mulkewich agreed, adding the Region should have a clear vision of how it should proceed with waste management initiatives before asking for proposals. He urged council to stop having "knee-jerk reactions" to the garbage crisis.

He also criticized Pomeroy, Chief Administrative Officer John Fleming and then-public works commissioner Bob Moore for privately meeting with waste company officials this summer without open discussions.

"I think this recommendation is the worst one we've ever had," he said. "The mini-SWISC idea is proven unworkable with the past Expressions Of Interest, and this is the same thing. It can't work -- in two years SWISC spent a lot of time, paid consultants a lot of money with no results. And now we're

going to have to start all over again.

"You're abdicating Regional responsibility — this must be done in partnership with the private sector, but you're saying farm it out...It amounts to a blank cheque, and it's not keeping with the restraint theme of this time. Gold is garbage, and the question is, if it's gold, why give it away?"

But Halton Hills councillor Joe Hewitt countered it will save the Region money because the corporations will be doing "all of our homework for us at no cost."

"It's very important and fortunate to have the private sector completely willing to take on this role, and then let us review and decide what's best," Hewitt added.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson also supported the proposal, believing it "would be foolish not to listen" to the ideas that the private sector may have.

"We're looking for a state of the art waste management system, and what better way to look for it than through people in garbage?" she said.

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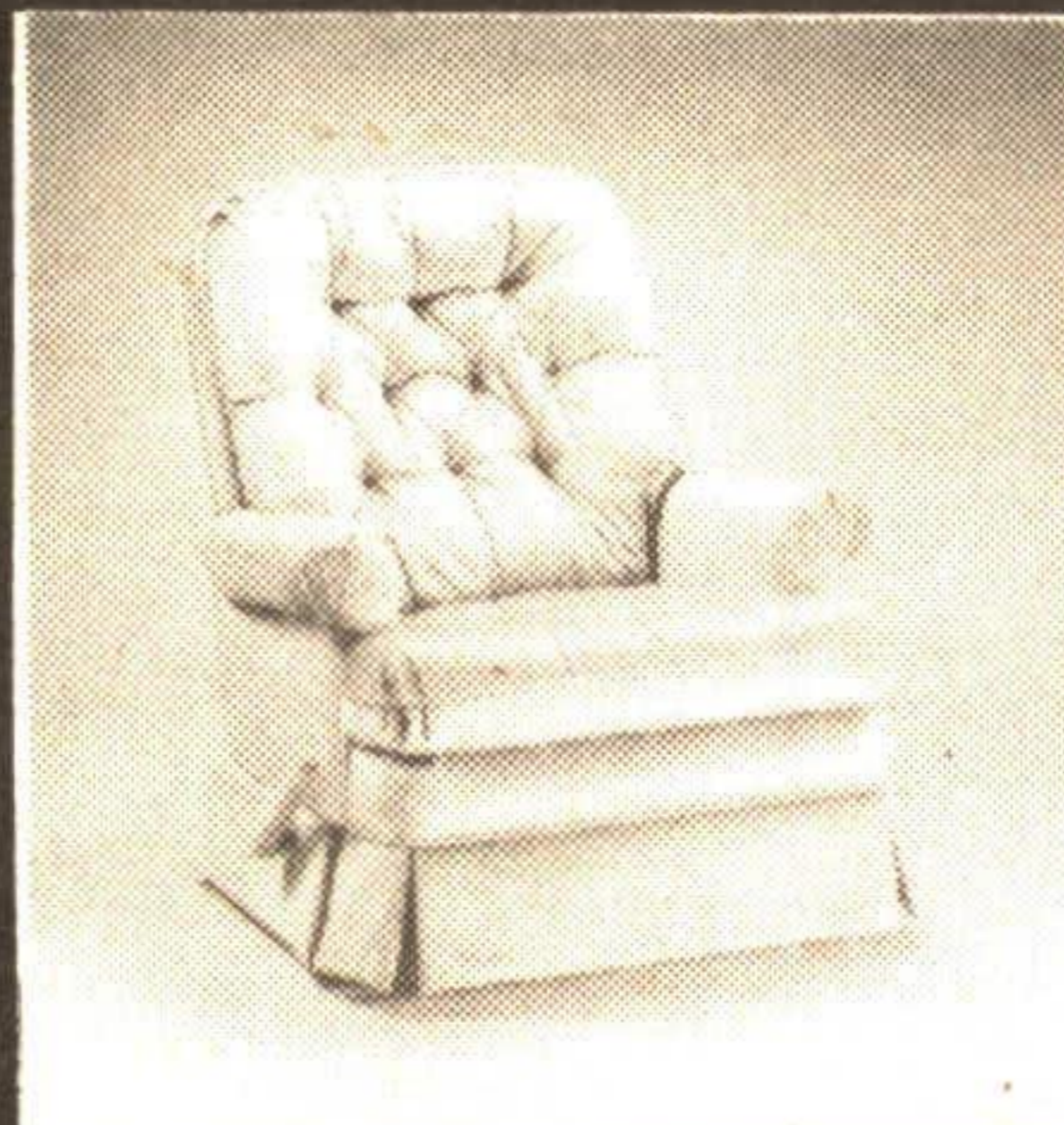
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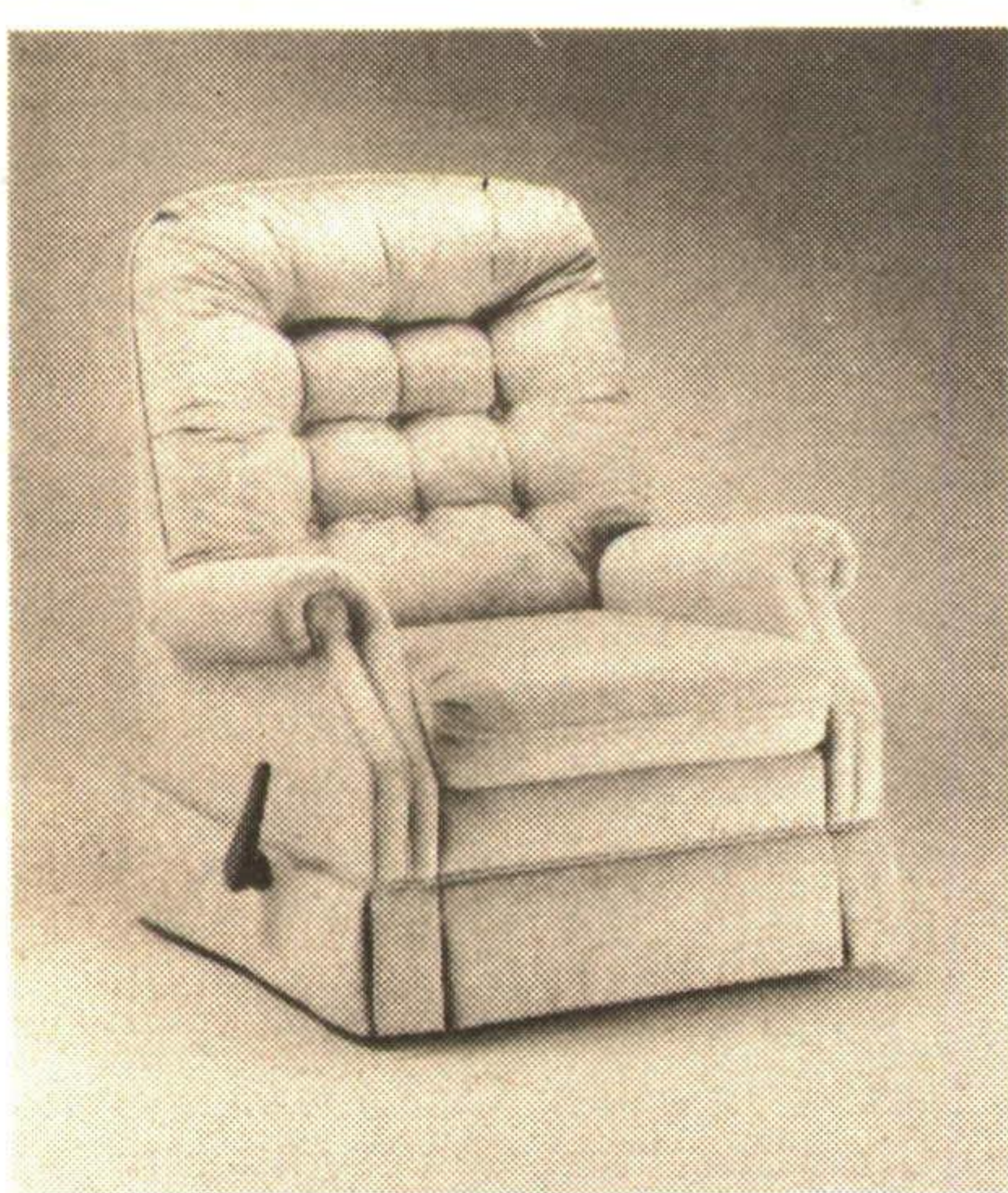


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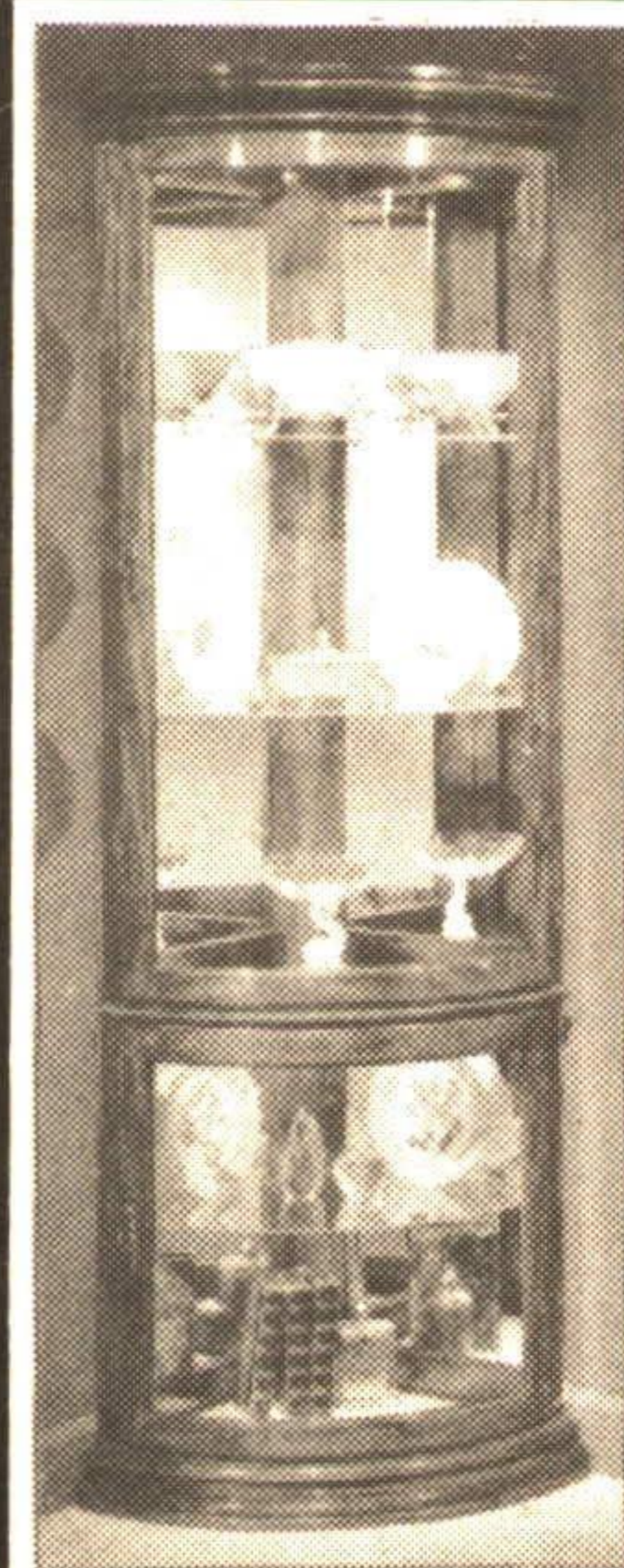
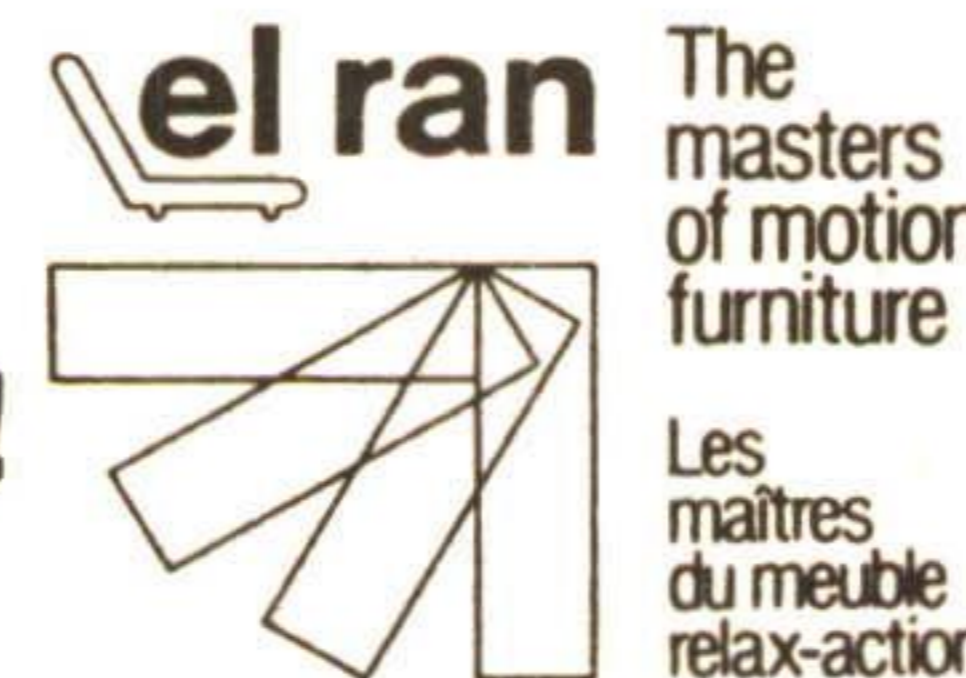
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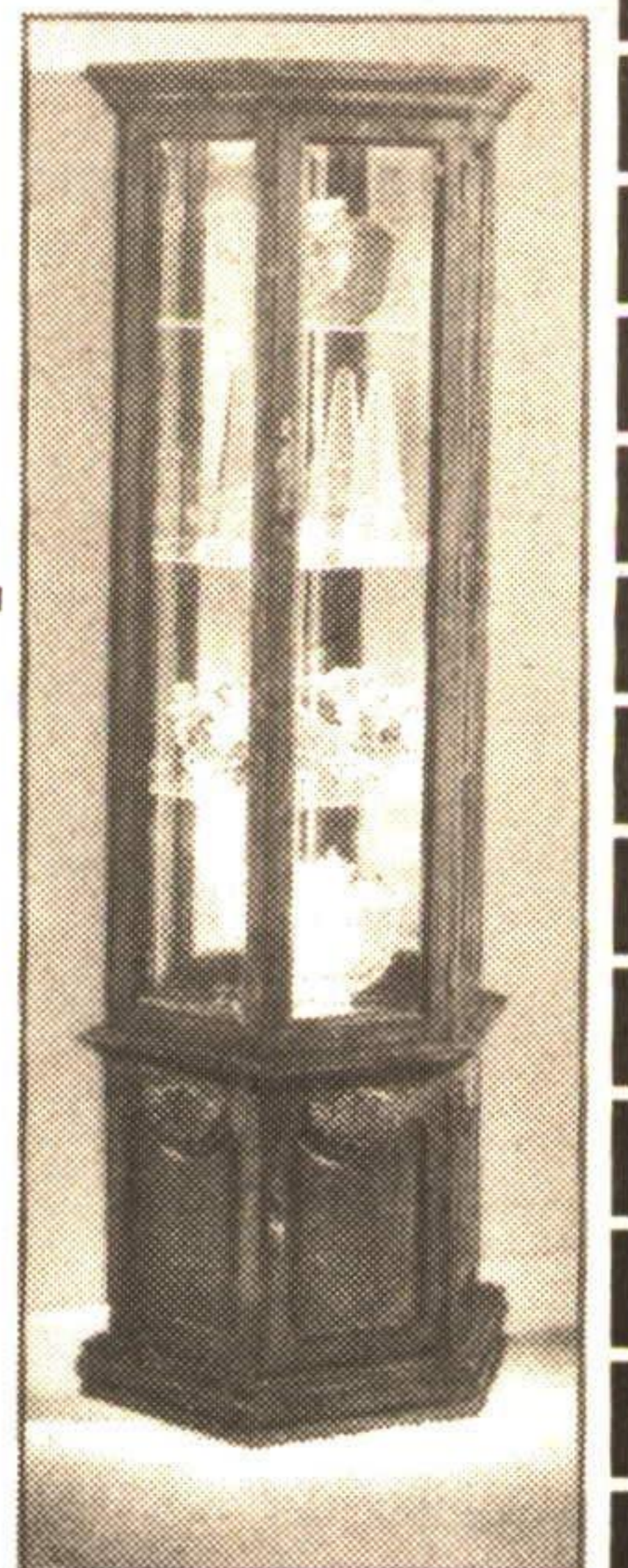
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