

Low turn-out at MP's Acton meeting

If you're going to protect freedom in your country, you should protect it in other countries as well.

That was the consensus at a "town hall meeting" arranged by MP Garth Turner, Wednesday night in Acton. The meeting was set up to give residents an opportunity to discuss the Persian Gulf War with the MP.

About a dozen people attended, mainly men of varying age — late twenties to early seventies.

In a low key discussion, most questioned why there was a war in the first place.

"I think the war could have been avoided by setting a deadline to talk," one man said.

"I can't buy that argument," Turner said. "While the rest of the world was talking, Saddam was preparing for war."

The MP compared Saddam to Hitler's in the 30's and 40's as a man who rose from obscurity to a head of state by manipulating the spiritual sensibilities of his people impoverished by years of war and poor economy. He described Saddam as an intelligent, but mis-directed man who had no scruples or morals.

"There is no good war, but Saddam must be stopped," agreed a Georgetown man. However, he pointed out that the same people who are fighting Saddam now, were helping to arm him only just a few months ago. He argued that maybe the war could have been avoided if there had been stricter trade restrictions with harsh penalties that were enforced.

"Why are the Americans so gung-ho?" he asked. Then answering his own question, he said the American armament industry needs this war. The Pentagon is one of the largest employers in the U.S. and what would these people do now that Cold War with the USSR is over?

"It's jobs ... our children are dying for jobs."

In fact, this war emphasizes several hypocrisies. For instance, it is supposedly an United Nations coalition, yet the Americans are controlling the war entirely — even making the decision to fire the first shot.

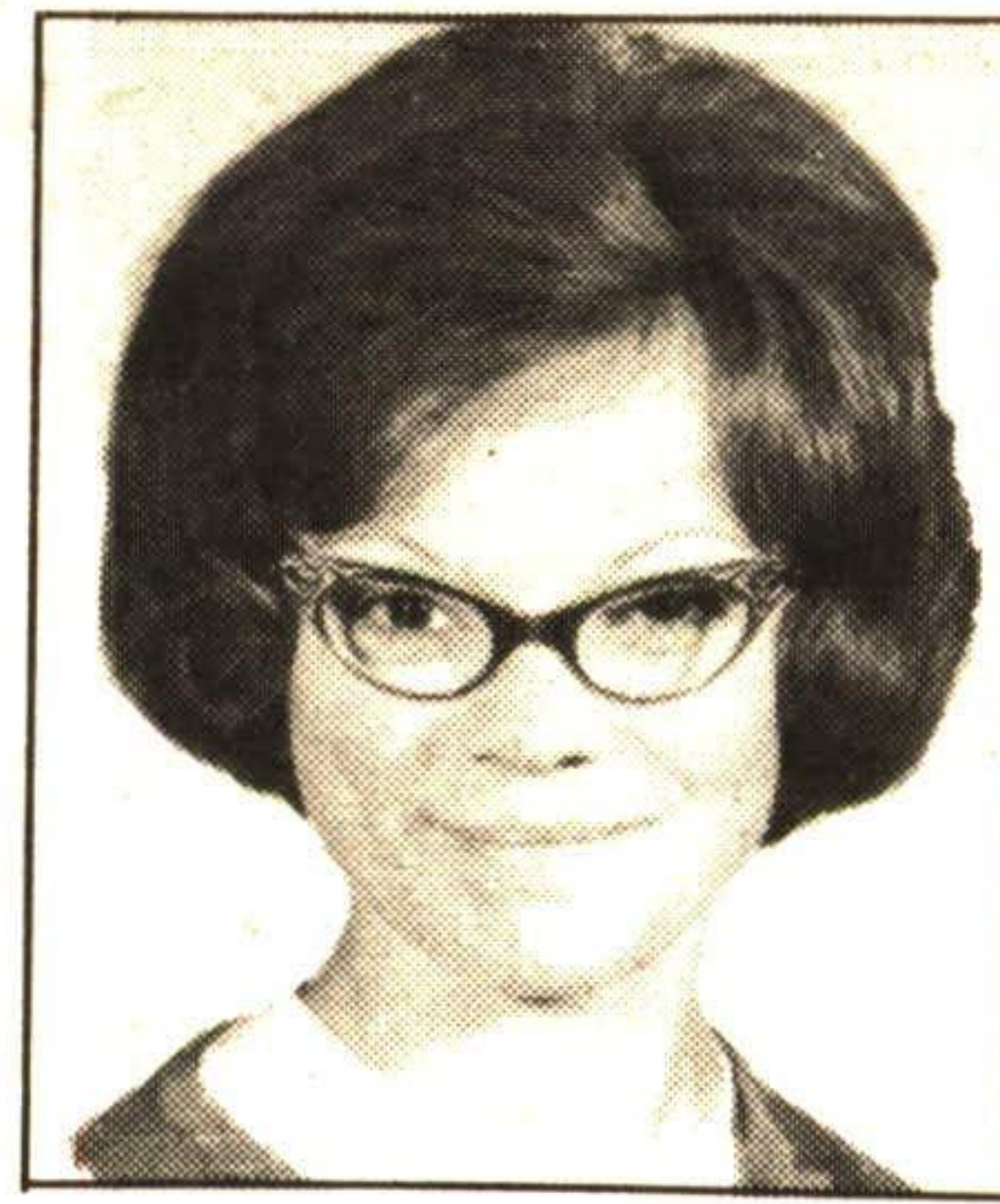
"And to say the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is wrong and support for the Israeli occupation of Palestine is right, is hypocritical," a Georgetown man said. "There are two standards there."

Turner suggested that Canada

will soon break from the U.S. position and support a peace conference on the Middle East involving the Palestinian issue.

Turning to Canada's own internal problems — namely Quebec's threat to re-negotiate the Constitution or they would separate, again consensus seemed to be the order of the day.

"Anything Quebec negotiates, we would expect nothing less," said one man, while another commented "I'd like to live in a country with a loose accord — I don't see any disadvantages in that."



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Auctions are 'big, big business'

By SCOTT KLINE

By "pointing out the success of the American experience," a new north Halton auction company hopes to get more area residents interested in auctioning property.

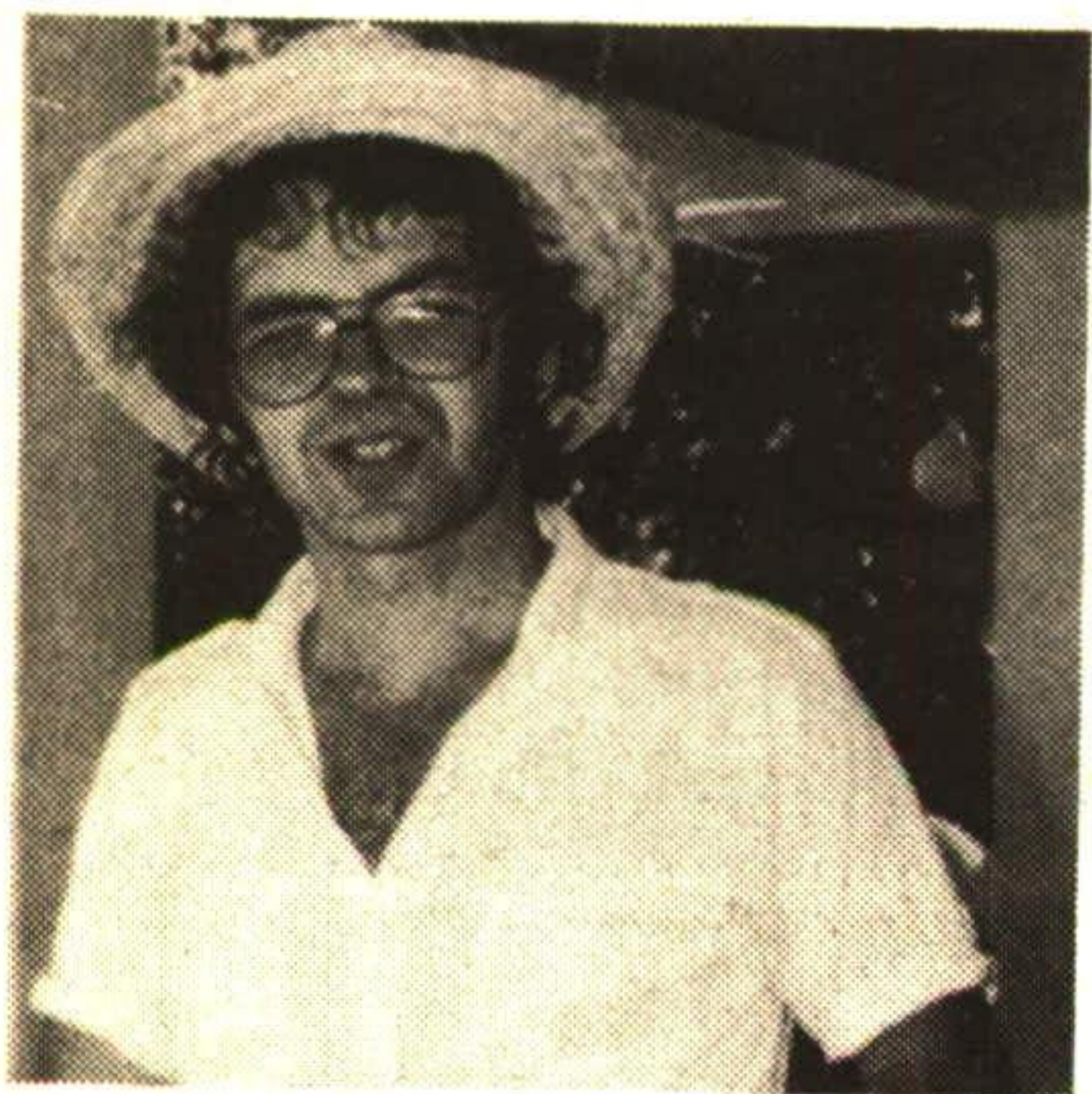
David Blaney, the business manager for the Central Ontario Auctioneers says auctions are "big, big business" in the United States, but in Canada, most commercial and industrial auctions are arranged through receivers.

"When companies want to convert inventory into cash they should go to an auctioneer," Blaney said.

He added that an auction company takes away the headache of arranging a sale, having to advertise and a host of other problems associated with liquidating inventory.

Anyone wishing to find out more about the company or the advantages of holding an auction can contact Blaney at 796-8140.

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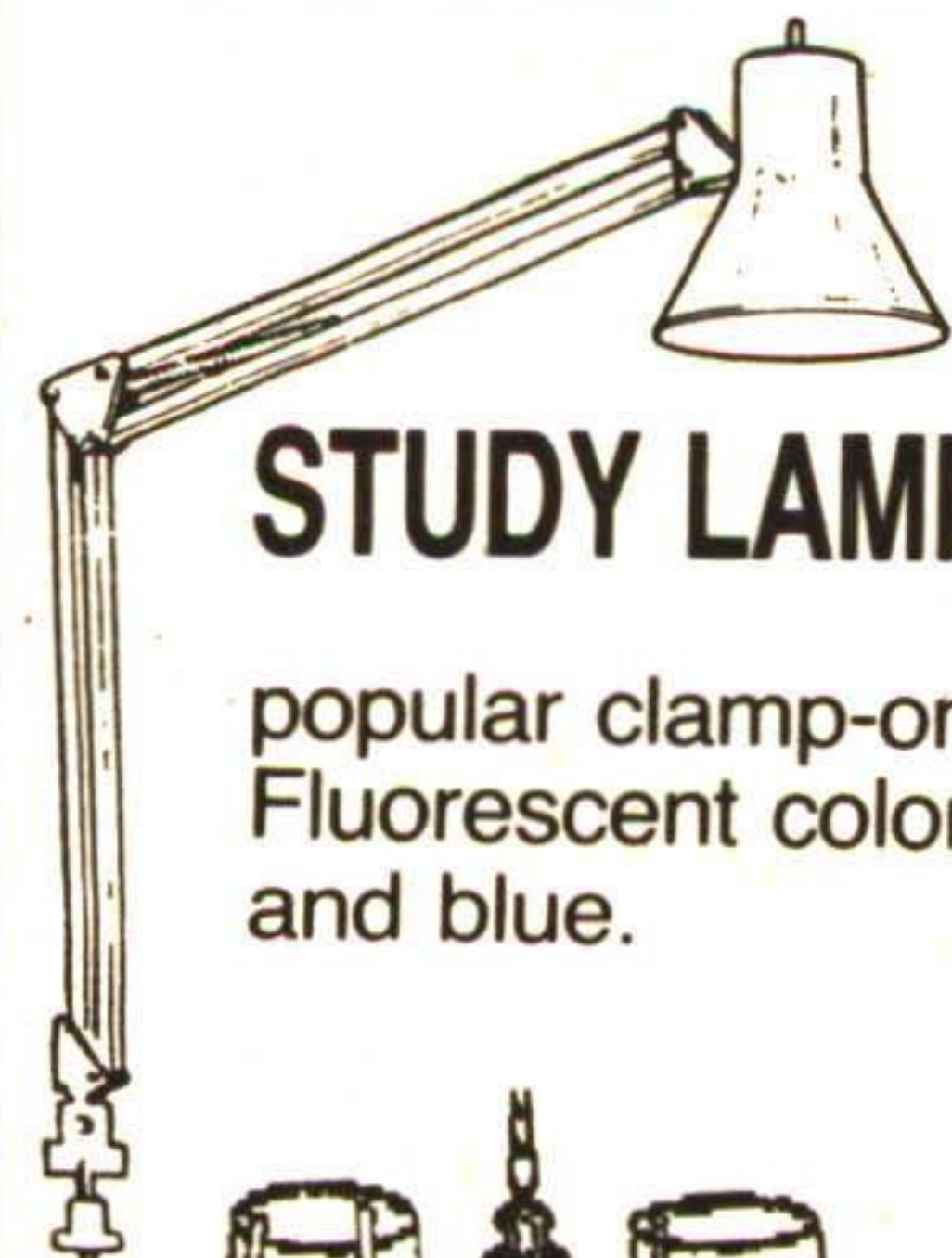
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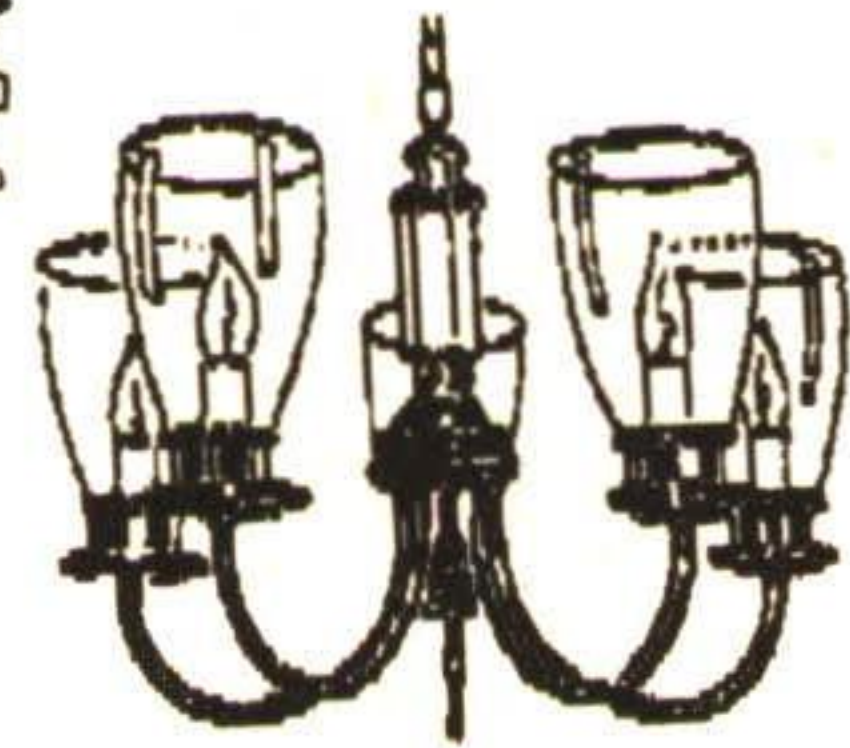
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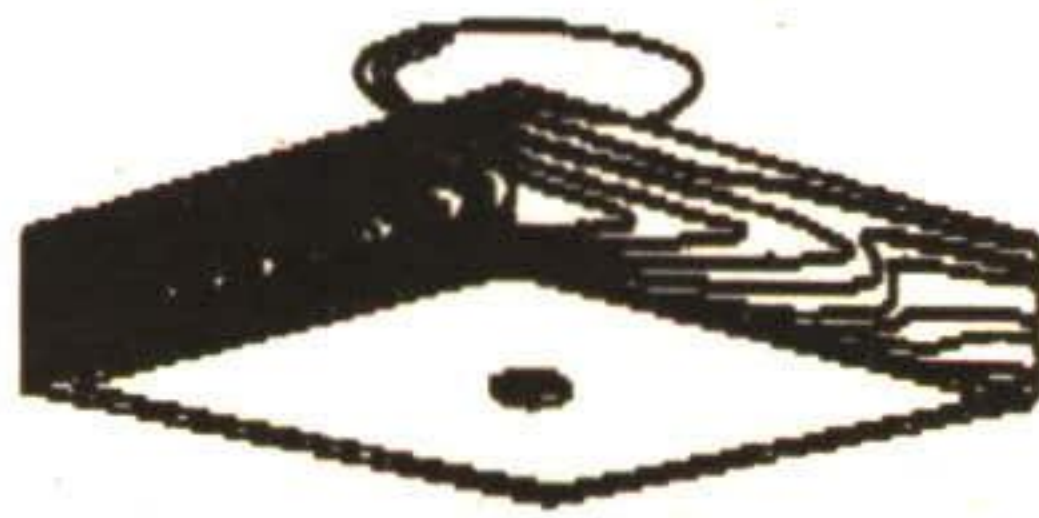
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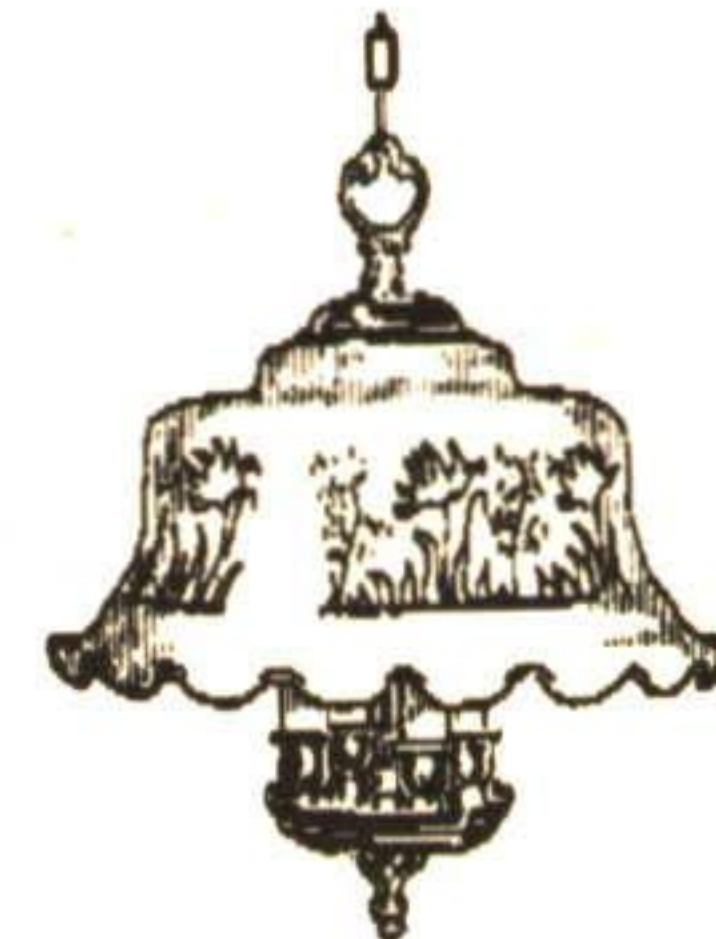


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