

# Notes and quotes in the week of a MP

**MP's Notebook:** As regulars will know, I have lately turned some attention towards the issue of taxes, which are too high - at all levels. And I have been encouraging taxpayers to come together and make some noise about the situation.

Until that happens, I believe we will never get real tax reform. By reform, I mean an integration of all levels of taxes and an end to this stupid practice of one level of government taxing, and then giving money to other levels to spend. The current system robs taxpayers of real accountability from politicians.

The government that spends should be the one that taxes. If Ontario, for example, controls health care and education, then it should tax to fund them. If the feds control national defence and old age security, then it should tax only to support them. If Halton or Peel fund policing, then they should tax for it.

That way, the people could have more control - through their votes - on levels of service, and levels of tax.

But I'd even go beyond that. Less government and a more integrated tax system, with fewer taxes, would suit me. In a report to Michael Wilson this week I'm urging him to call a federal-provincial-local conference on taxation, to discuss these important issues.

Meanwhile, there are some people who can't wait. Tax protesters, mark these two dates on your calendar - big turnouts of concerned taxpayers are expected:

- Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m., at Martingrove Collegiate in Etobicoke (corner of Eglinton and Martingrove).

- Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Com-slash to just 10 minutes. Also shortened is the time MPs will actually be sitting there in Ottawa.

So the changes will reduce the number of days Parliament

sits, but lengthen the hours in those days. As a consequence, the total debating time will be the same.

Also as a consequence, we will all be able to spend more plex in Caledon East. See you there.

Canada Post has been on my mind in recent days as we see more changes to postal service in several areas.

Quite abruptly last Monday, residents of Limehouse saw their service reduced as the retail postal outlet near there stopped providing full service. It was nobody's fault - things just didn't work out. But I will confess to being peeved that Canada Post provided almost no notice to people of the change.

I wrote a steamy letter to the Corporation's president, saying I expected more out of the outfit.

Then we heard that the post office in Palgrave is going to close, to be replaced later this year by another retail postal outlet. I have no great problem with this, so long as the level of service provided to Palgrave does not go down as a result.

Right now I'm arranging a Town Hall meeting so the community will have a direct opportunity of questioning Canada Post officials. Stay tuned for details of date and location.

Finally: I was not the first to know about the Palgrave postal situation - because Canada Post sent my notification to the wrong address!

Back in the House of Commons this week we are debating some proposed changes to the rules which govern Parliament. You may have read or heard about some of the changes, and reaction to them.

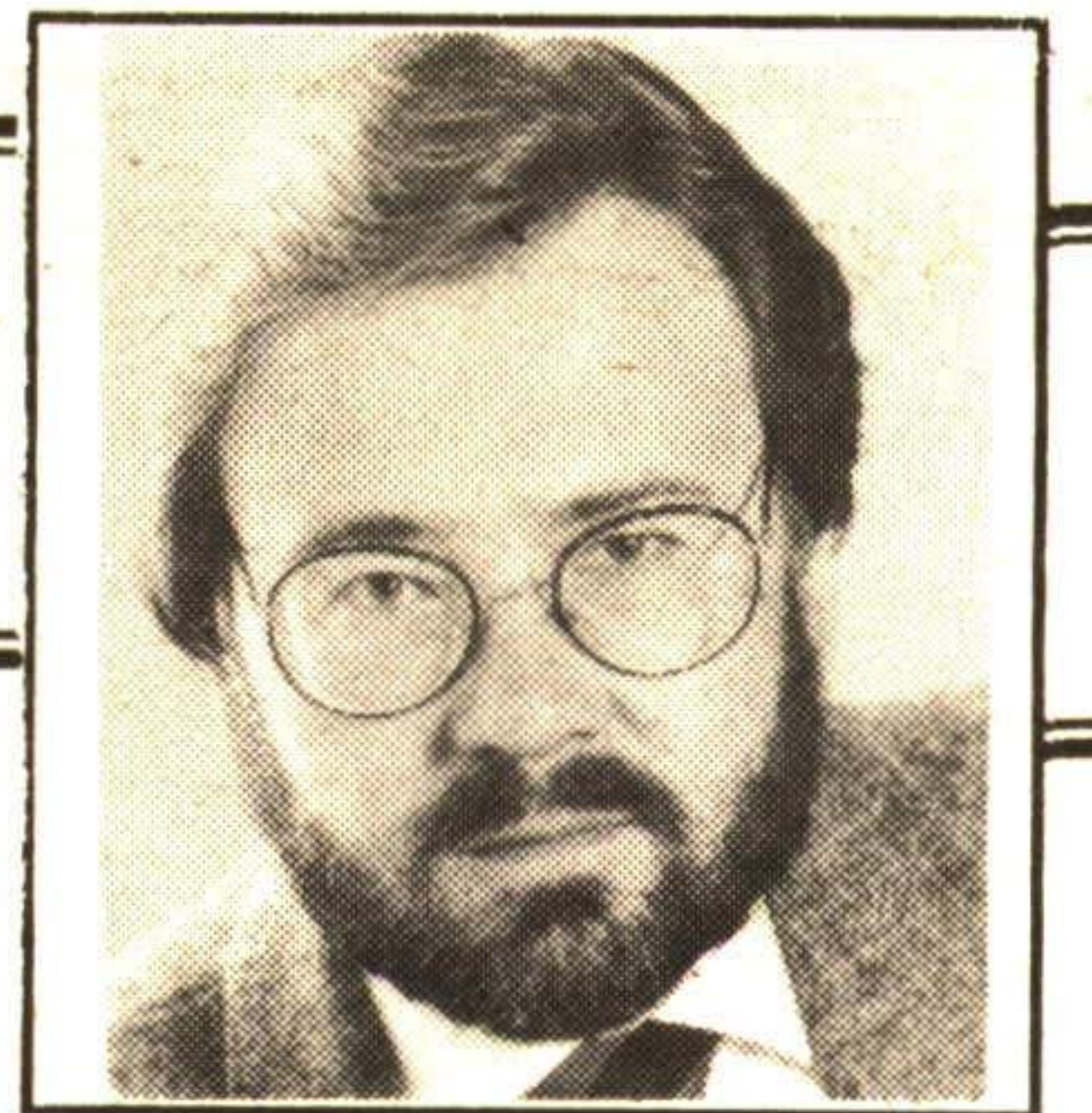
The reason is to make the House more efficient, because right now there are countless wasted hours as people make long, partisan and usually empty speeches. So the length of those speeches is going to be

time in our ridings. The plan to have the House of Commons sit for three weeks a month, allowing people like me a week a month to come back and do what I do in the riding - meet with people; hold public meetings; answer phone calls; help out through red tape; deal with immigration, taxation etc.; work with municipal and provincial officials; and, most important, listen.

## OTTAWA REPORT

By GARTH TURNER

MP for Halton-Peel



The opposition said this change was (and I quote) "fascist" - an attempt by the government to muzzle the House of Commons and put an end to democracy as we know it. Maybe democracy as we

know it should end. Maybe it's time all MPs spent longer with the people who elected them.

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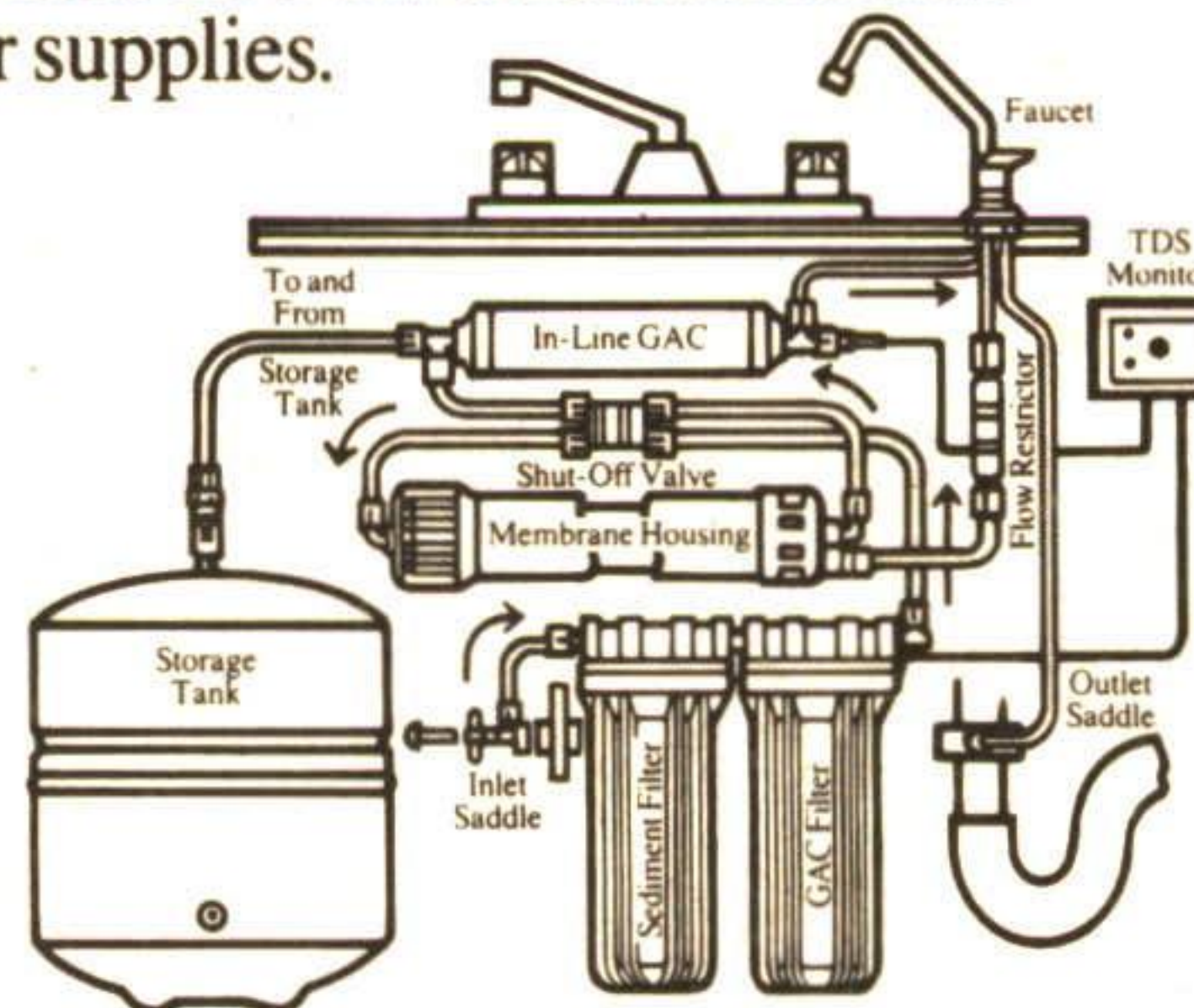
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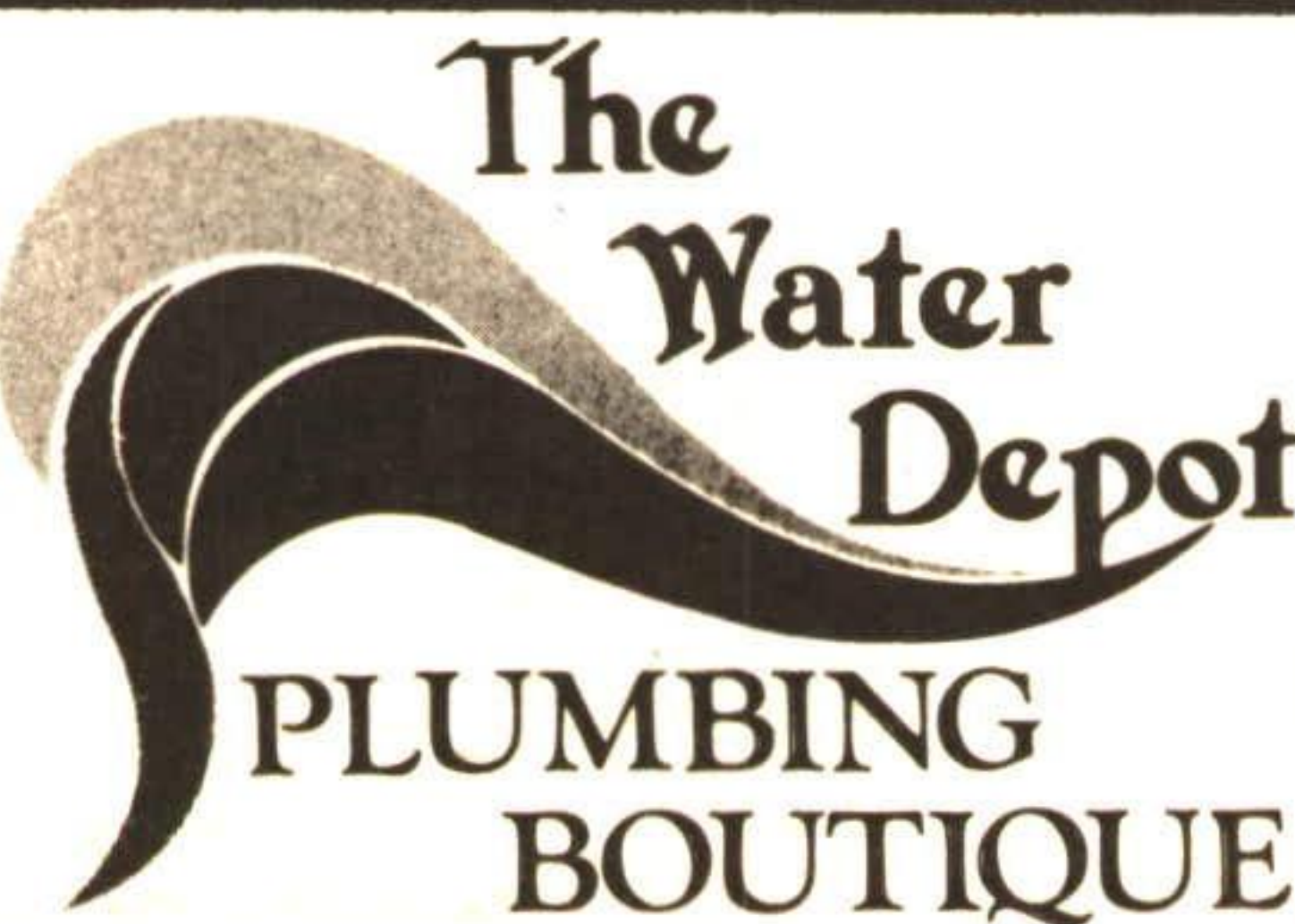


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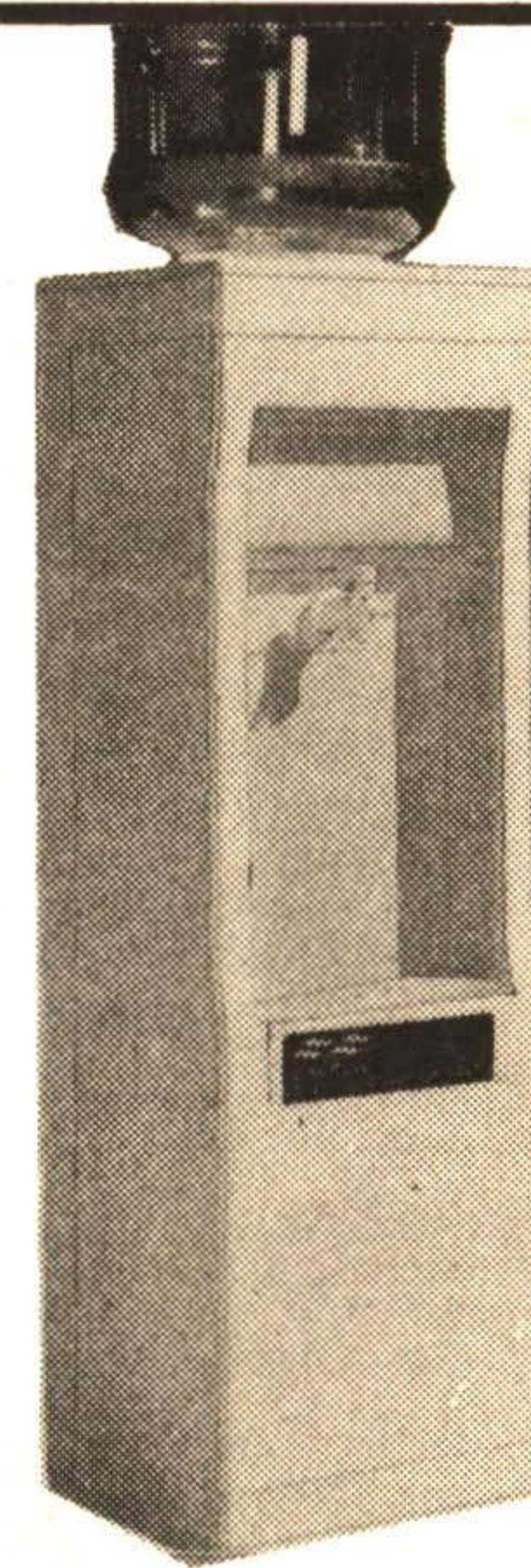
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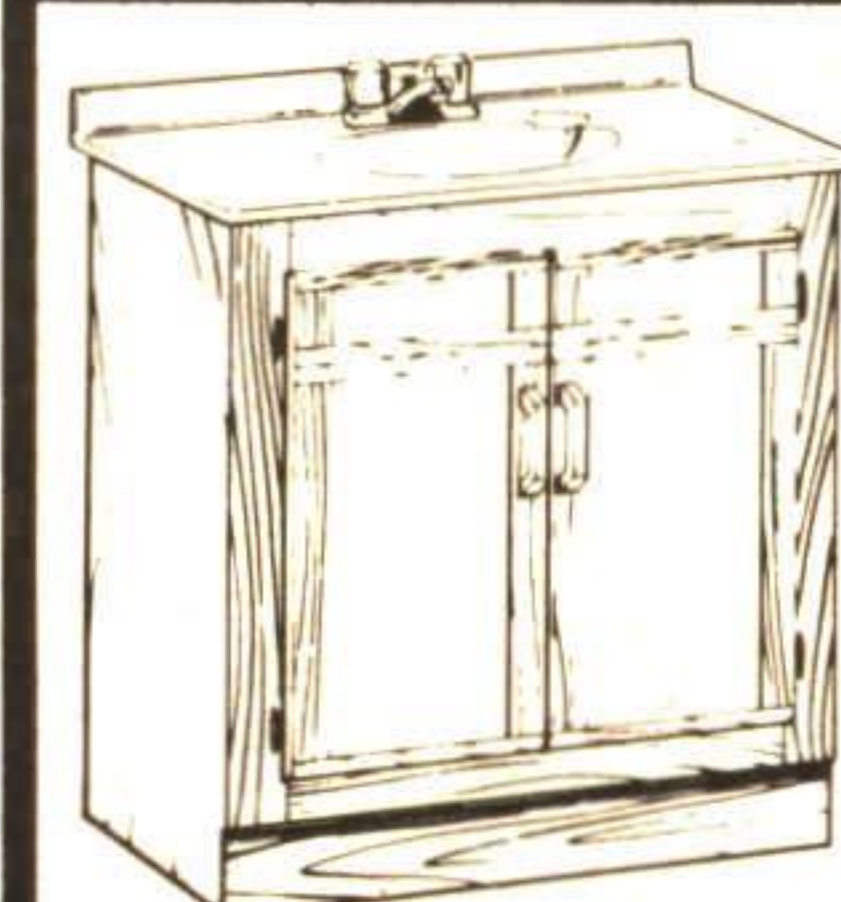


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