

Welcome. Rev. Robert Lennox hopes Grace Anglican Church will become a parish where young families will feel welcome. The new pastor will also encourage his congregation to become involved in important social issues.

## New Grace Anglican church minister aims at 'comfortable' Milton Church

By Jo Ann Smith  
When Rev. Robert Lennox heard Milton was a hockey town, he knew he'd made the right decision to move to Grace Anglican Church.

An admitted hockey nut who was once scouted by the Boston Bruins, Mr. Lennox was inducted as the new rector of Grace Church Sunday March 15, taking over the reins from the Rev. Peter Ford.

Mr. Lennox chose to take the post in Milton because of its reputation as being a fast growing community.

"I like working with people and I felt the opportunity of working with more people would be exciting," he said.

As part of a young community the 32-year-old pastor felt that he, his wife Barbara and their two sons Patrick 3, and Daniel 1, would fit in well.

"There are a lot of young families around," he said.

"I found that appealing. We are a reasonably young family and we would have that in common."

One of Mr. Lennox's prime objectives is to make Grace Church a more family-oriented congregation. He plans to stress the importance and strengths of the family through his preaching and counselling.

"I would like children and young people to be comfortable here."

"We are already planning a Christmas pageant, parish suppers, picnics and other family events."

"I would also like to connect with teens."

"I hope to give young people the opportunity to become involved," he said.

Mr. Lennox plans to operate Grace Church as a "middle of the road" parish that does not fall into one category of being a strictly "high" or "low" church. As the

only Anglican church in Milton Mr. Lennox believes it has an obligation to appeal to a wide variety of people.

"In the years ahead I want to establish Grace Church as a church where people from different backgrounds and styles moving to Milton will feel comfortable," he said.

Viewing trends within the church, Mr. Lennox sees a danger in the current tendency towards a more conservative religious lifestyle.

"I hope the church doesn't forget its outreach responsibility in the 80's."

"It must continue seeking to help the poor and victims of injustice," he said.

Mr. Lennox believes it is the duty of the church to bring together the two aspects of personal faith and social outreach.

"People must strengthen and renew their spiritual life with God and then reflect on

His son's charity in the world—His unselfish concern with the poor," he said.

Mr. Lennox arrives in Milton from a two point charge near Fort Erie—Ridgeway Anglican Church and St. John's in Stevensville.

Prior to that, he spent three years at St. Luke's in Burlington and two years in an Indian community church in

Northern Manitoba. After being in Milton only seven weeks Mr. Lennox feels quite at home.

"So far, so good," he said.

"I've been very pleased with the parish and other people I've met here."

"There are a lot of talented people around and I'm excited about working with them."

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For Information

## North Halton may lose credit counsell

Credit plagued northern Halton residents face the loss of credit counselling service because of regional council's refusal to provide financial assistance to a social service agency.

Last week the councilors approved a committee recommendation to deny a \$2,500 grant to the Halton Consumer Credit Counselling Service.

The HCCCS, started by the Oakville Family Service Bureau, provides assistance to people who have lost control of their debts and face bankruptcy without assistance.

In an interview after last week's council meeting, Jaime Watt, president of the agency, said "serious con-

sideration" would have to be given to denying service to northern residents because of the refusal.

"If we are getting 25 per cent of our clients from the north and there are no voluntary dollars to provide service, then something may have to be done," Watt said.

In a special presentation to council Watt said the service last year helped 325 Halton residents pay back almost \$250,000. Most clients, he said, owe more than \$10,000 to up to 15 creditors.

When the agency's original request was considered by the Health and Social Services Committee it was rejected because some members felt it was not a social service and were not swayed by

arguments that credit problems can lead to indirect demands on other social services provided by the region and other agencies.

"It just isn't fair for us to use dollars raised by the Oakville United Way to provide service to people from the north of the region," Mr. Watt said.

The HCCCS operates with one full time counsellor and support services provided by the Oakville Family Service Bureau. Efforts are being made to expand the staff by a part time counsellor.

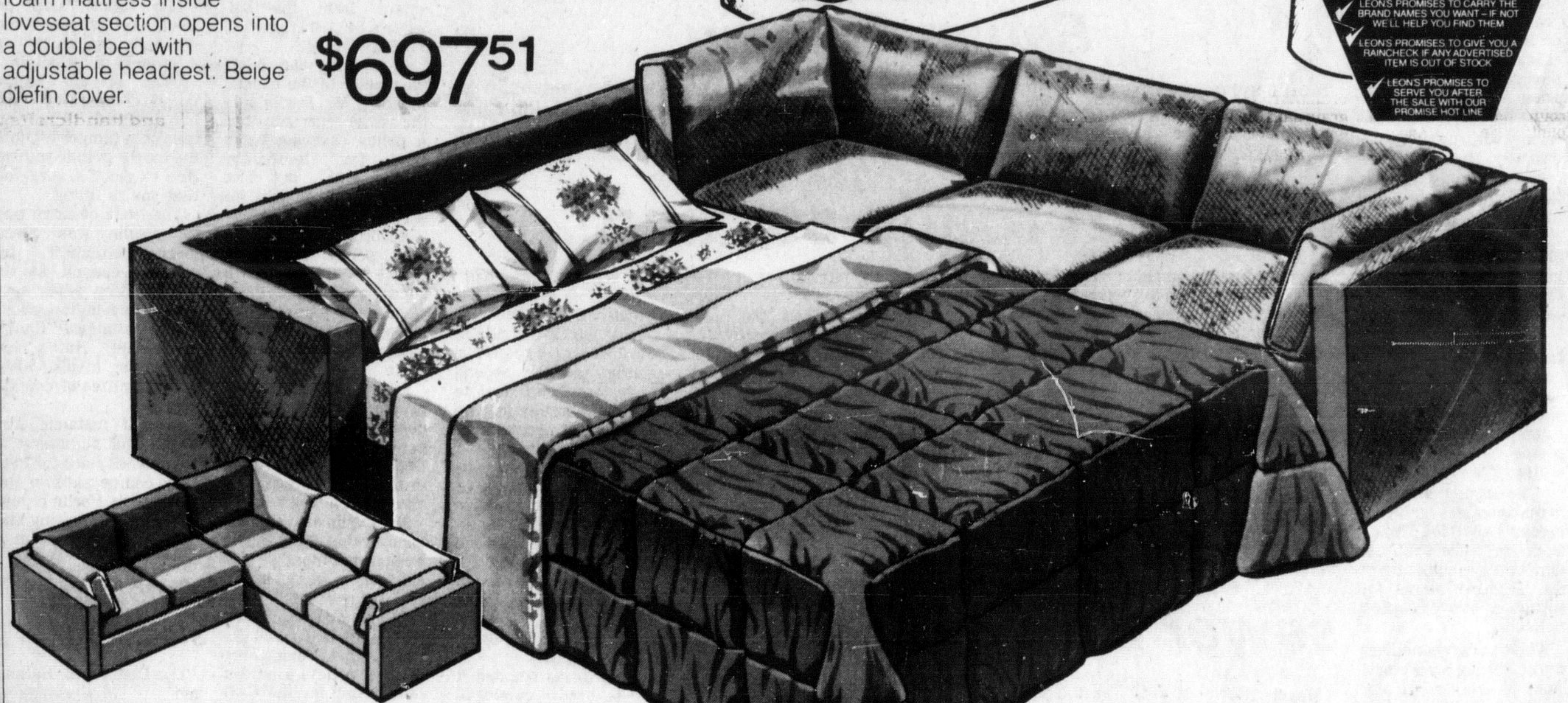
"We will be approaching our funders for help and if we cannot get it," Mr. Watt said, "there is no question that we will have to consider cutting out service to the north."



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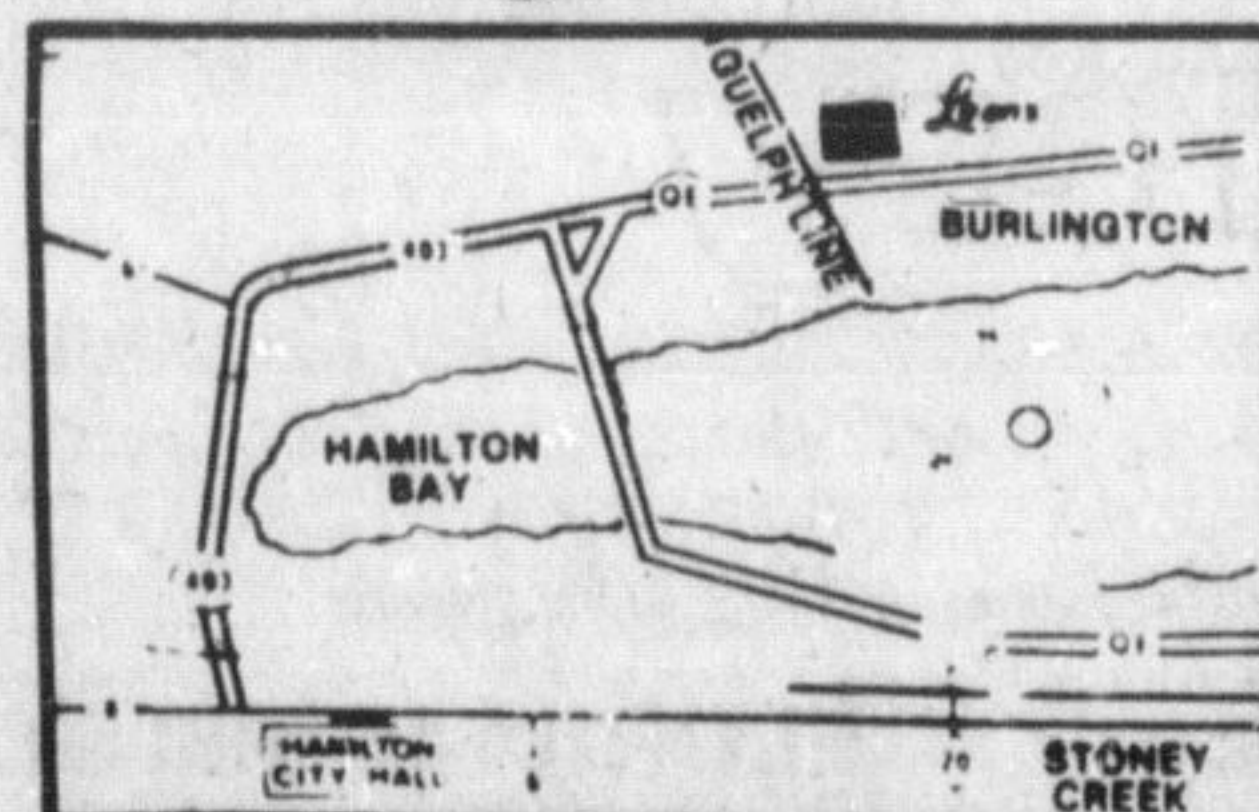
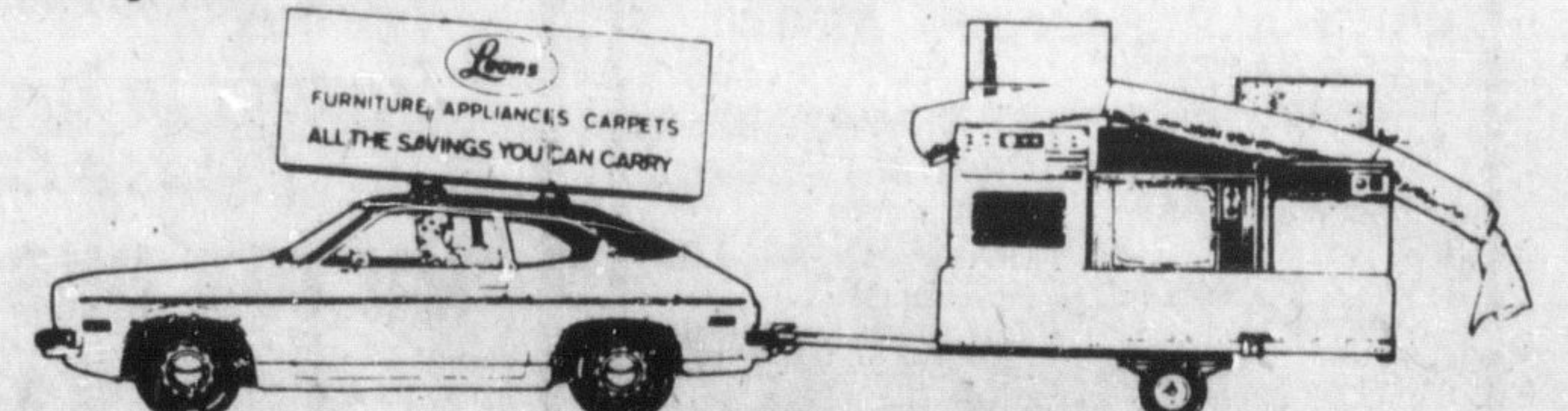
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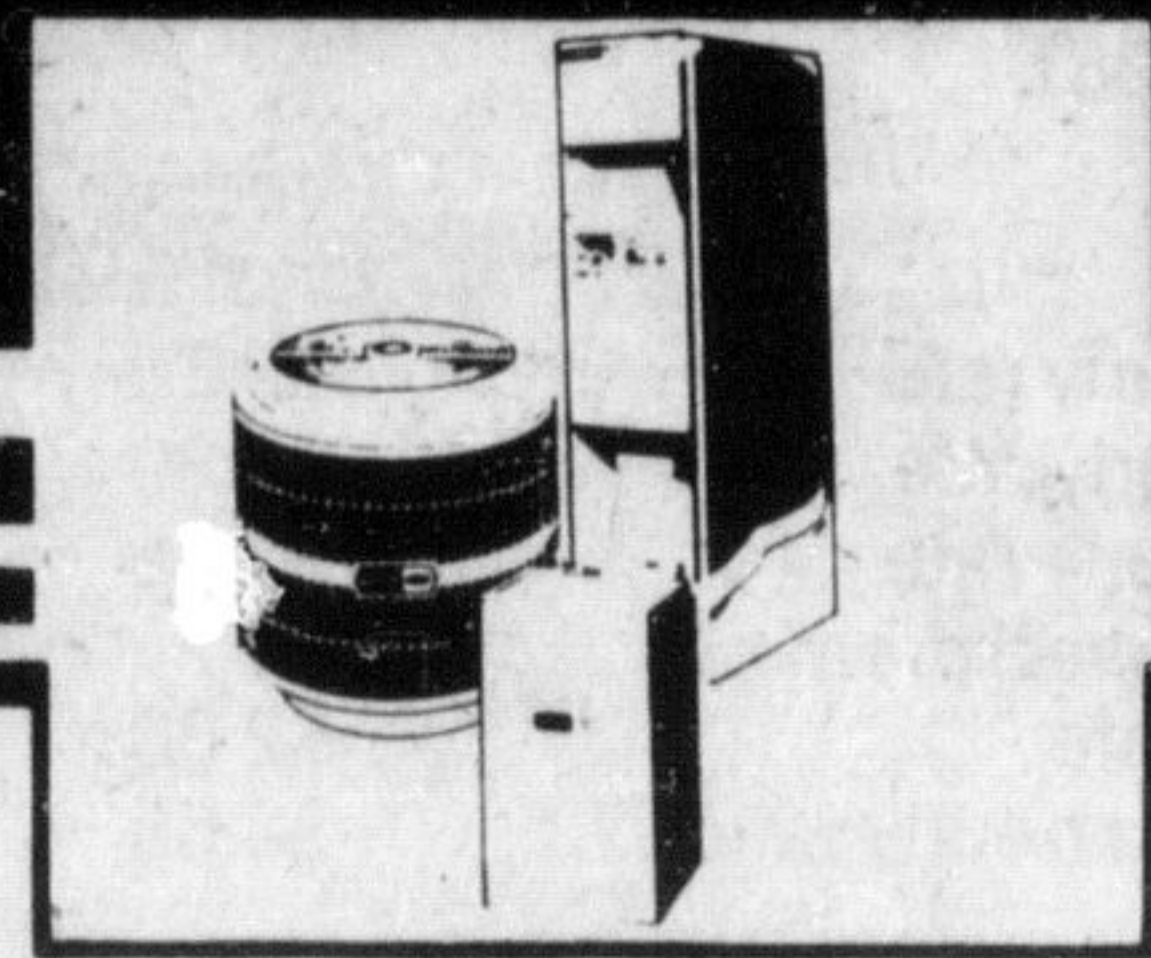
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