

Jelinek contends

Canadians angry

By JOHN CHALLINOR
Champion Editor

Canadians are really angry and aren't going to take it anymore and that pleases Halton MP Otto Jelinek.

Mr. Jelinek, speaking and answering constituency concerns at an Acton-Milton public forum in Milton Thursday night, sensed a feeling of outrage during the 90-minute question and answer period he hasn't experienced before.

"In a Liberal majority government situation that we find ourselves in today, it is up to individual Canadians to get outraged if they want change," he told the gathering of 75 residents. "We have been too complacent, at the cost of losing our freedoms and our potential as a country, and Canadians finally aren't going to take it anymore."

Amid numerous pleas of "what can we do?" from the audience, Mr. Jelinek urged concerned Canadians to write their MP, lobby the government by petition about their concerns, write letters to local newspaper editors for publication and, when the opportunity arises, vote the Liberal government out of power.

"The federal budget has shocked Canadians out of their complacency—the Liberal government will suddenly have to start listening," he said.

Mr. Jelinek told the audience Canadians aren't stupid—they realize there is a problem. He said Canada's major downfall is that it "is not dealing with the problem as well as others."

He cited statistics indicating Canada had the third highest standard of living in the world in 1968, the 13th highest in 1978 and is currently 24th in 1982.

"We should be number one," he told the audience. "We have the natural resources, human resources and the technological know how, but we're not taking advantage of it."

Mr. Jelinek was critical of Canada's dependency on the American automotive industry and, as auto critic for the Progressive Conservative party, said the 1965 Auto Pact should be scrapped.

He charged the Auto Pact has created a \$4 billion auto trade deficit with the United States. Similarly, Canada has a \$1.5-billion auto trade deficit with Japan. Canada sold a mere \$6.6 million worth of auto parts to Japan in 1981, he said.

Mr. Jelinek called upon the federal government to legislate that Japanese cars have Canadian parts in them and that the federal government provide incentives for the Japanese to invest in Canadian manufacturing.

"I wouldn't mind if Honda or Toyota built a manufacturing plant in Milton," he said. "At least they would provide jobs."

Canada was number one in strikes and lockouts in the world in 1981, logging 8.9 million lost man-hours. That figure was 3.3 million in 1977 and Mr. Jelinek said the right to strike should be taken away from essential services as a partial solution to the problem.

In a recent survey conducted by Mr. Jelinek, he found 93 per cent of Halton's residents agreed with his no strike proposition in essential services. He said 73 per cent of all Canadians support his notion.

Asked about voting the party position, Mr. Jelinek replied that he voted in the House of Commons in a fashion he believes is supported by the majority of his constituents.

"I take the party position in unemotional issues," he said. "When an emotional issue comes before the House, like capital punishment, I vote and voted as the majority of you wanted me to do."

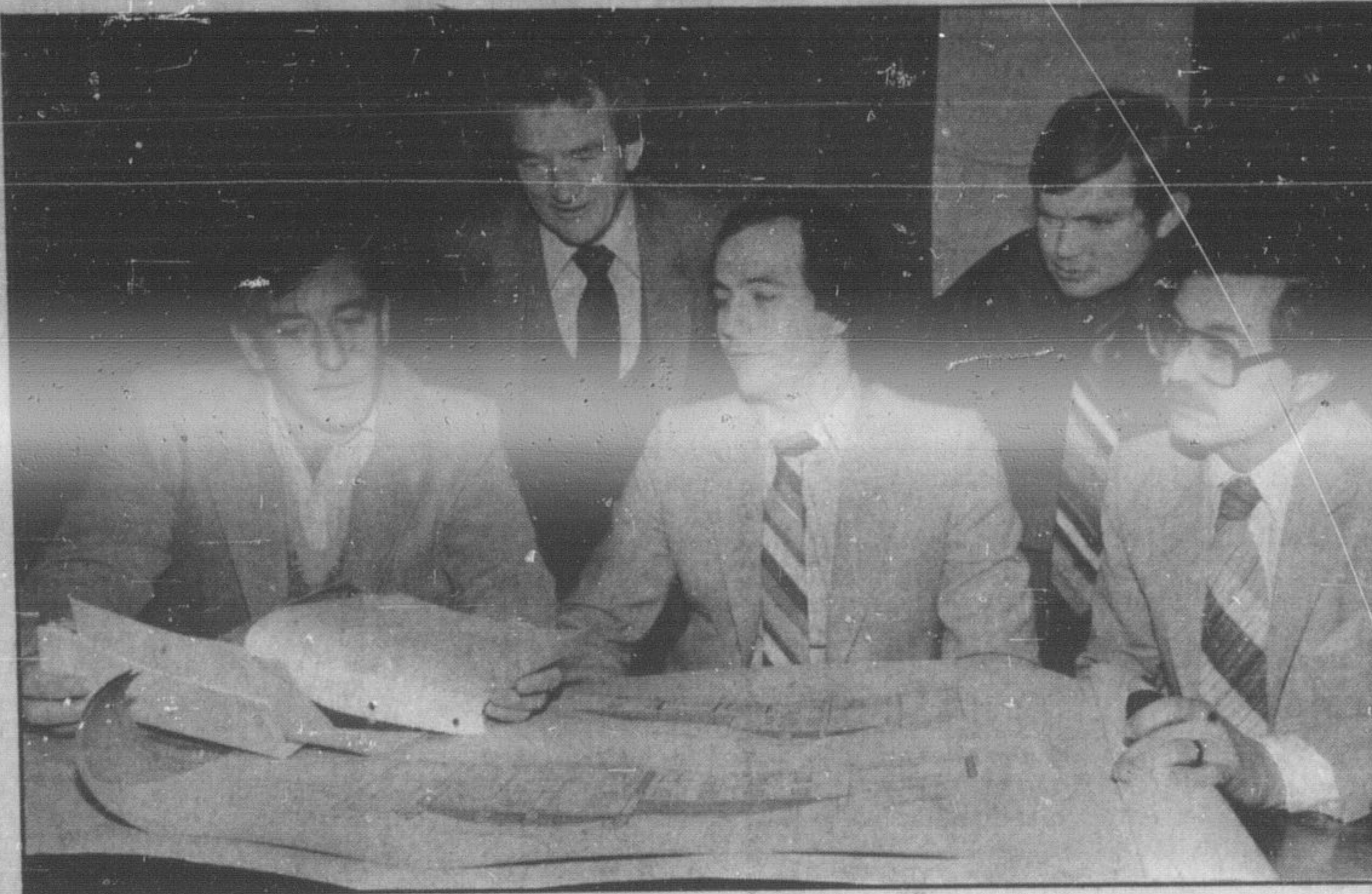
With respect to property rights, Mr. Jelinek said the Charter of Rights is "a step backward" in the freedoms of individual Canadians in this area.

"But, I'm just thankful and happy that the Constitution question is settled," he said. "It wasn't the federal government's mandate in the election—they wasted a whole year on it and this is probably one reason why our economy is so depressed."

Asked about high interest rates and their effect on housing and industry, Mr. Jelinek said lower interest rates would definitely be better. He suggested the government set interest rates at 2 per cent above the inflation rate.

He suggested the federal government incorporate the mortgage deductibility program the short-lived Clark government had proposed in its 1979 budget.

With respect to the current budget, Mr. Jelinek admitted it would be politically foolish for the government to withdraw the current budget.



Architect Carlos Ventin, town staffers Larry Arbic, Bill Roberts, Bob Zsadyani and Don Lougheed.

Restoration project

Five bid on courthouse

A \$210,000 Ontario Heritage Foundation grant pledge to the Town of Milton last April for initial stages of the restoration of the courthouse and jail complex will finally be spent this spring.

Tenders for phase one of the restoration of the Brown St. complex were accepted by the Town last week with five companies offering bids.

Council is expected to award the contract within the next two weeks.

Expected costs for the cleaning of the exterior and interior, removal of existing floors and concrete block wall and creation of a basement in certain portions of the building will be higher than the amount of the grant by \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The scope of the revitalization project goes far beyond this initial stage and will eventually cost the Town up to \$3 million. The courthouse and jail is the proposed site of municipal offices and council

chambers, but the entire project weighs on the sale of the property currently occupied by Town Hall and the surrounding municipally-owned block of land.

Town staff has received a few proposals from prospective developers, but development hinges on council's decision to place certain stipulations in the purchase. Members have been dealing with the problem of which buildings contained in the property should remain intact after the sale, but no decision has yet been reached.

Once these stipulations are laid out, the land will likely be advertised for sale, according to deputy clerk Bill Roberts.

The Town has already accepted preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the courthouse from architect Carlos Ventin, retained for the project more than one year ago.

Posties petition for mail delivery

By JOHN CHALLINOR
Champion Editor

Milton's 673 households not receiving door-to-door mail delivery have received support from what many would consider a most unlikely backer—the Letter Carriers Union of Canada (LCUC).

Bob Freestone, a 24-year-old LCUC Local 222 steward, presented Halton MP Otto Jelinek with a petition at his public forum Thursday night containing the signatures of 600 dissatisfied homeowners.

Mr. Freestone and fellow workers began the petition four days prior to the forum.

"Despite what most people may think, it's in our constitution to do our best to make sure people who require mail delivery get it," Mr. Freestone said. "We feel there is no reason why these people should not receive mail and we want to help them get it."

The LCUC, made up of outside workers at the new Canada Post Corp., has not taken strike action for more than 10 years and wants to improve its name and the name of the Post Office, Mr. Freestone said.

But, Mr. Freestone said he believes management of the corporation will "not be thrilled" by this actions and

may attempt to penalize him for what he has done.

"Because there is a rumor going through the service that Mr. Warren is planning to make major managerial cutbacks, management throughout the Post Office is afraid to make any decisions that would cost money—like hiring more carriers to handle routes in expanding areas," Mr. Freestone said.

And, for that reason, Mr. Freestone does not believe a lack of funds is preventing the Post Office from carrying out its appointed duty of delivering the mail.

Mr. Jelinek has Mr. Freestone's petition with him in Ottawa and is expected to take it into the House of Commons with him any day now.

Mr. Jelinek told the 75 residents who attended his forum that his office was studying where new service was and where service wasn't being incorporated across Canada to determine if political bias is involved in the decision-making process.

He plans to talk to Postmaster-General Andre Ouellet this week about the Milton situation.

Mr. Freestone is expected to hear from Mr. Jelinek later this week about Mr. Ouellet's response.

Halton roads bad

Along with all of its other attributes, Halton Region can also boast of some of the worst roads in Ontario, according to a study prepared for the Region.

Public works director Bob Moore told members of the Region's planning and public works committee last week that according to Provincial studies Halton has the second worst road conditions in Ontario.

"We're really starting to fall behind and it is a difficult decision," he said.

Mr. Moore explained that the condition of regional roads has become so

bad in some cases that money is being diverted from construction budgets to pay for the increased maintenance required, "but so far we have been able to keep the roads safe and passable."

The discussion was coupled with the receipt of an updated version of a Regional road needs study.

Consultant Bill Sears, who prepared the document, said up to 58 per cent of the region's roads fall below Provincial standards. Only one other area, where 61 per cent of the roads are poor, is worse than Halton.

Hook misses

Halton MP Otto Jelinek managed to dodge a few well placed left hooks from 1955 Canadian Featherweight Champion Benny (Red) Randell during his Acton-Milton public forum Thursday night.

Mr. Jelinek managed to skate around Mr. Randell's pointed remarks about his salary, a joke letter he sent to friends seven years ago that said Newfoundland was famous for stupidity and his contributions to this country.

Mr. Randell, a Maritime native now working as a masseur in Georgetown, unwittingly threw in the towel when he said Mr. Jelinek was not a Canadian because he wasn't born in Canada. He drew boos on that remark louder from the crowd of 75 people than his crony The Sheik would draw on a good night at the Gardens.

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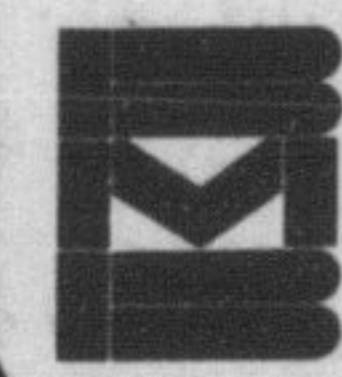
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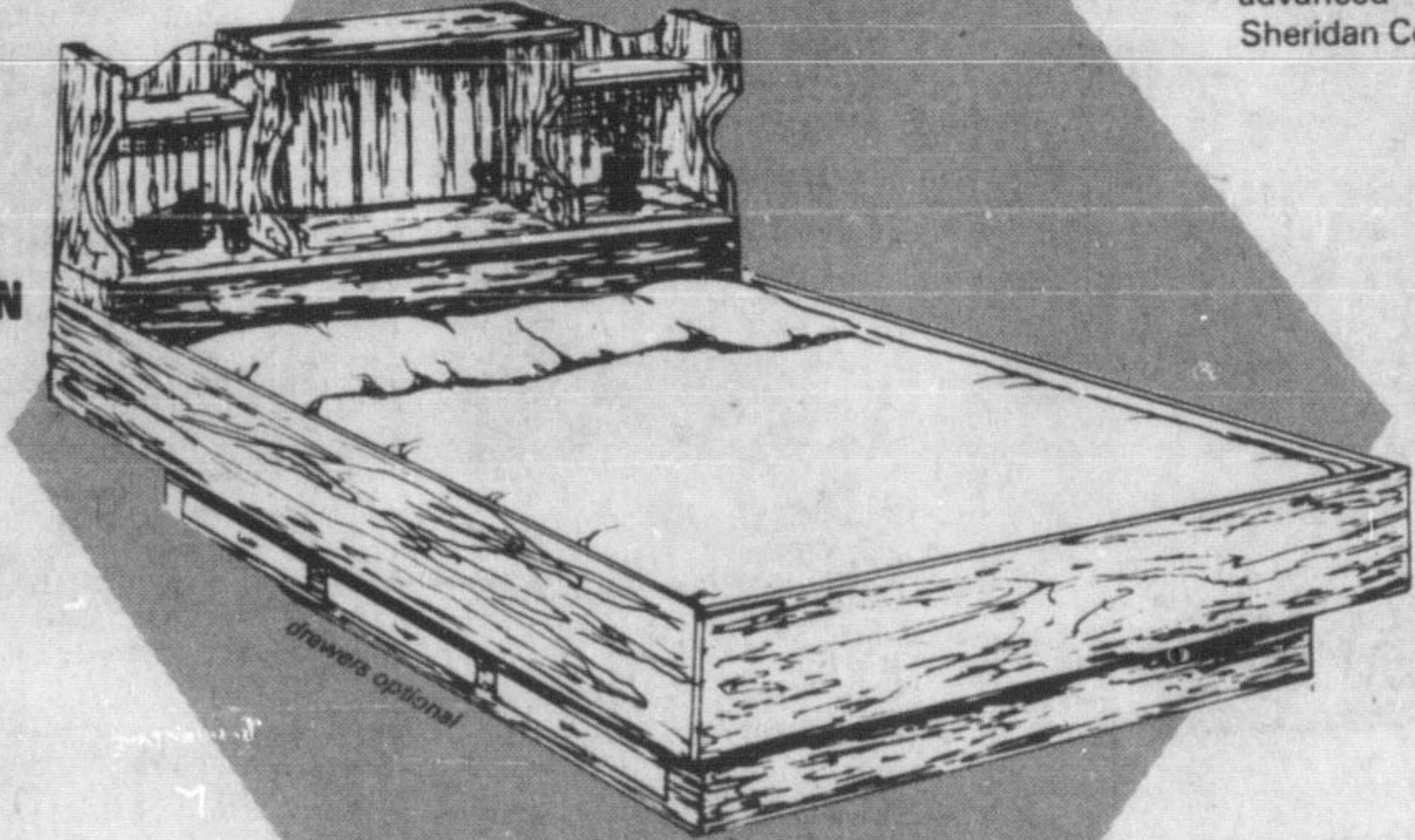
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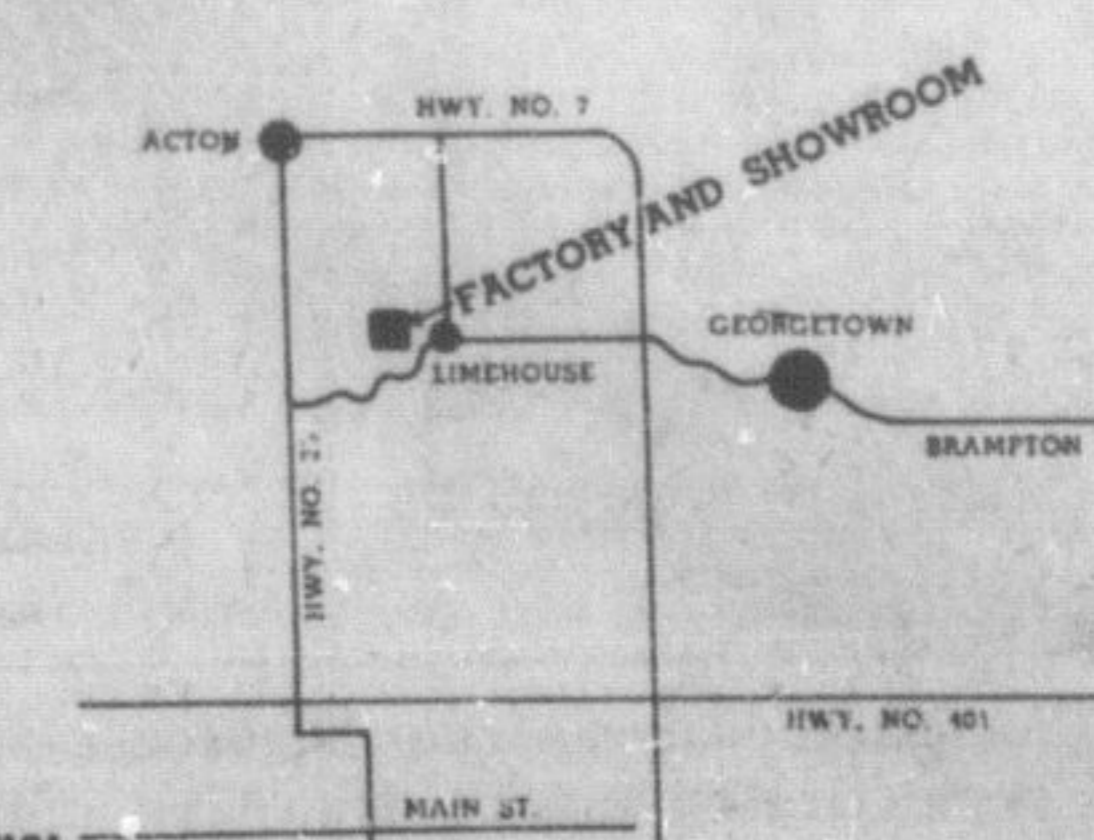
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