

Police services board has new chair: Don Robinson

Robinson replaces Jack Brewer

By HOWARD MOZEL

Special to The Champion

Donald Robinson is the new chair of the Halton Regional Police Services Board.

Mr. Robinson, who replaces Jack Brewer in the post, was unanimously selected by fellow board members Thursday morning following a brief election conducted by Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline.

"I'm always pleased to participate in any event the police are holding, but this is special," she said. "I'm really proud to be here today."

Burlington councillor John Taylor was elected vice-chair of the board.

After accepting the chair's job, Mr. Robinson — a provincial appointee — said it's a privilege to serve in that capacity, especially since the board is known for its "high level of commitment" to the

community.

Mr. Brewer, also a provincial appointee, said in passing the reins to Mr. Robinson that the board remains in good hands.

"I'm very pleased. The last two years (as chair) have been outstanding and I feel very good about turning it over," said Mr. Brewer, who remains on the board for another two years.

Mr. Robinson said that as a provincial entity — not a regional one — the board and its members must operate under the mandatory obligations of the Police Services Act, which are continually being amended.

That includes meeting provincial adequacy standards which, of course, come with increasing costs attached.

"There will also be additional costs that we don't know about," said Mr. Robinson.

For example, he said, there's no way to predict how many homi-

cides will occur in Halton.

Mr. Robinson said he likes the fact that the board is run "in a civilized way" with a free exchange of ideas and differing opinions between members, senior police officials and administration.

"The taxpayers as a whole should be really proud," he said.

Mr. Robinson said he will keep an eye on the problem of attracting new police officers and competent senior staff without getting into a "price war" with other services.

He also plans to talk to the Province about the issue of staggering appointees' terms so that a smooth continuity is enjoyed by the board.

Mr. Brewer, who lost his wife in 2000, joined the board four years ago and was chair for the last two. He said he enjoys the work immensely but, with two grown children living overseas, he would like to spend more time travelling to see them — a luxury the chair's workload simply didn't allow.

Trash pick-up changes next week

Residents will have to adjust their schedules starting next week when garbage collection moves to Wednesdays town-wide.

The new schedule is designed to better serve residents as a new

service provider comes on board with Halton Region.

The schedule concentrates waste pick-up in a specific area each day to provide better supervision of service and support for waste col-

lection operators as well as faster reaction to unforeseen circumstances.

Blue Box collection will remain on the existing schedule of alternating weeks.

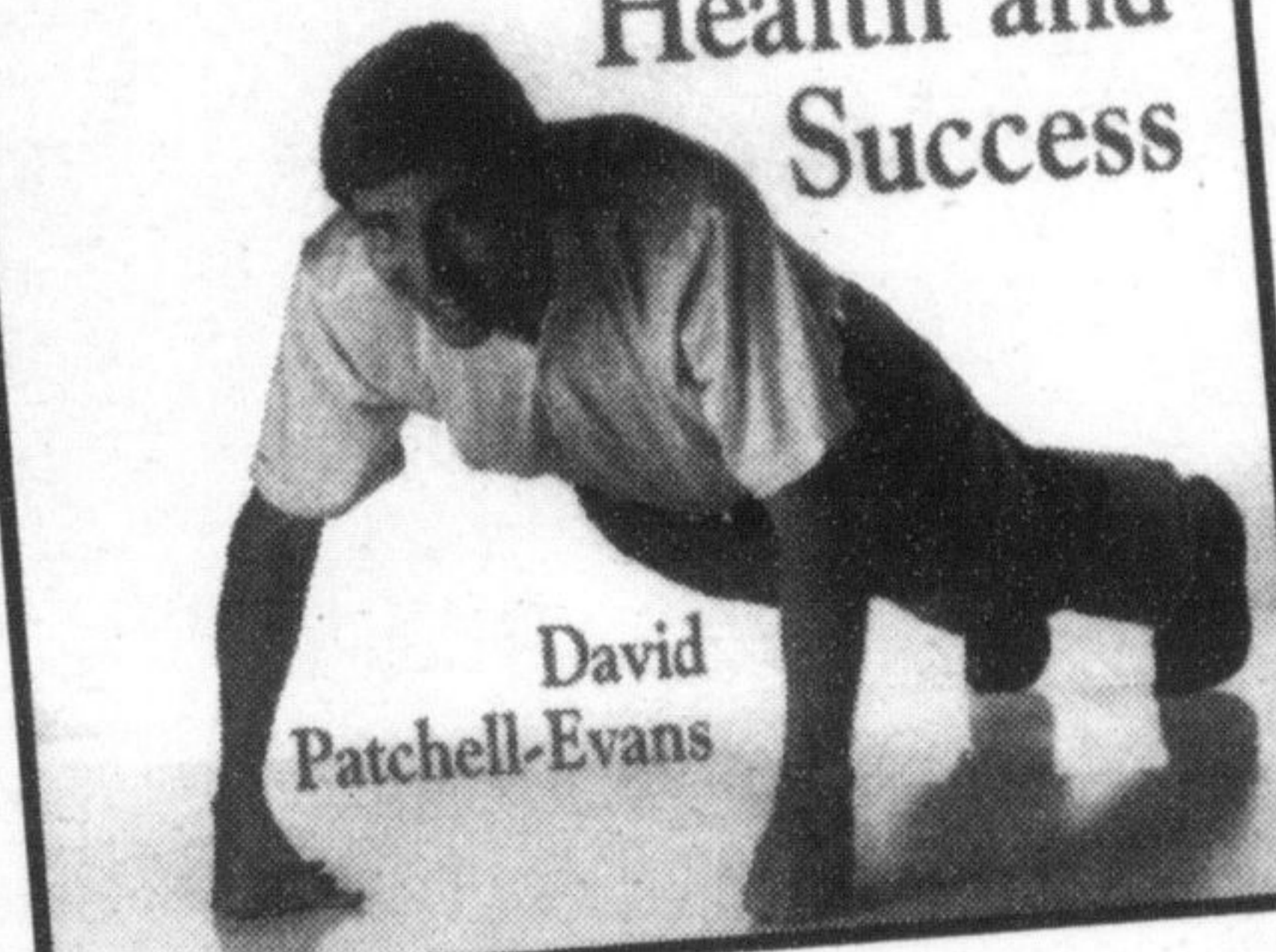
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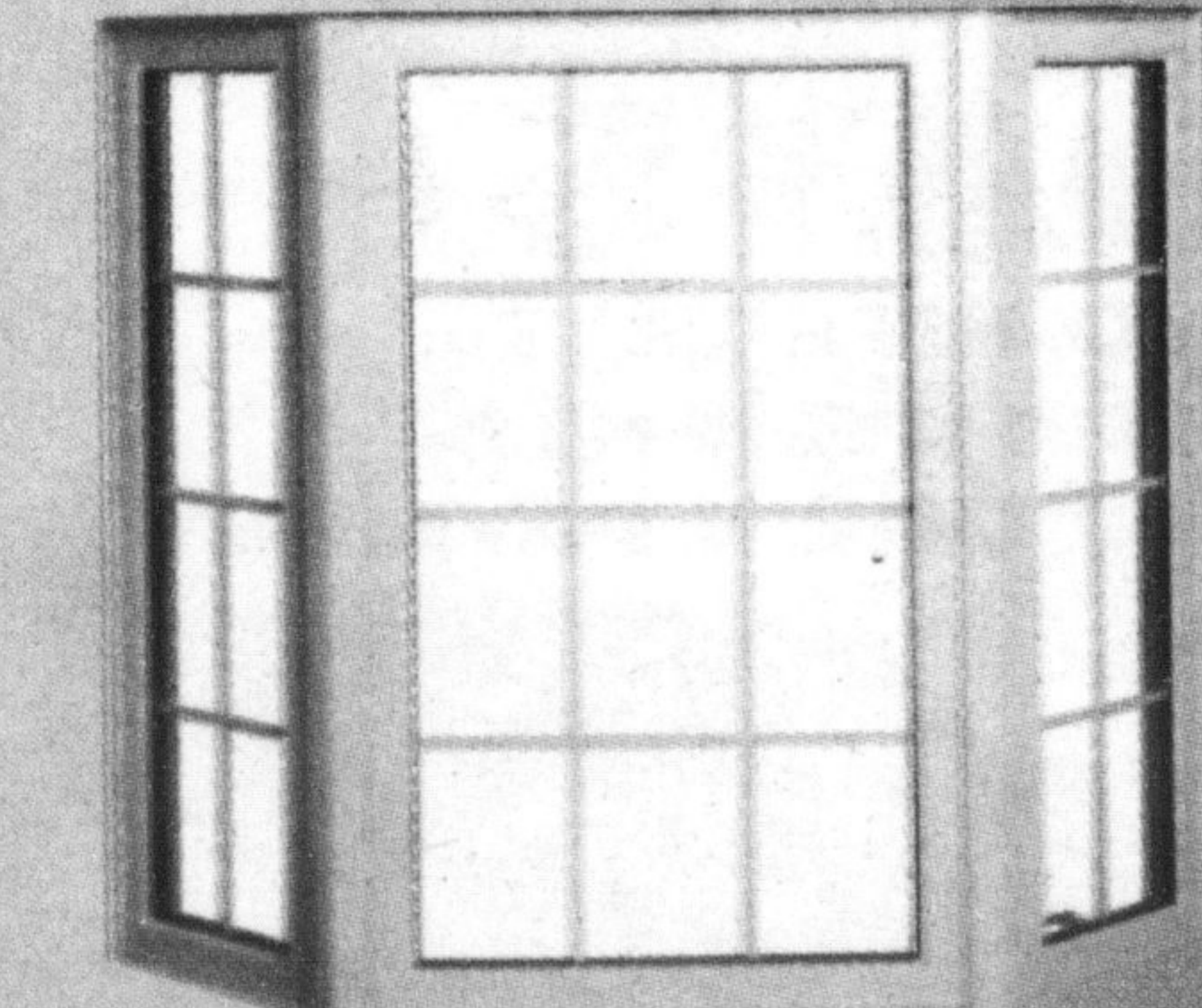
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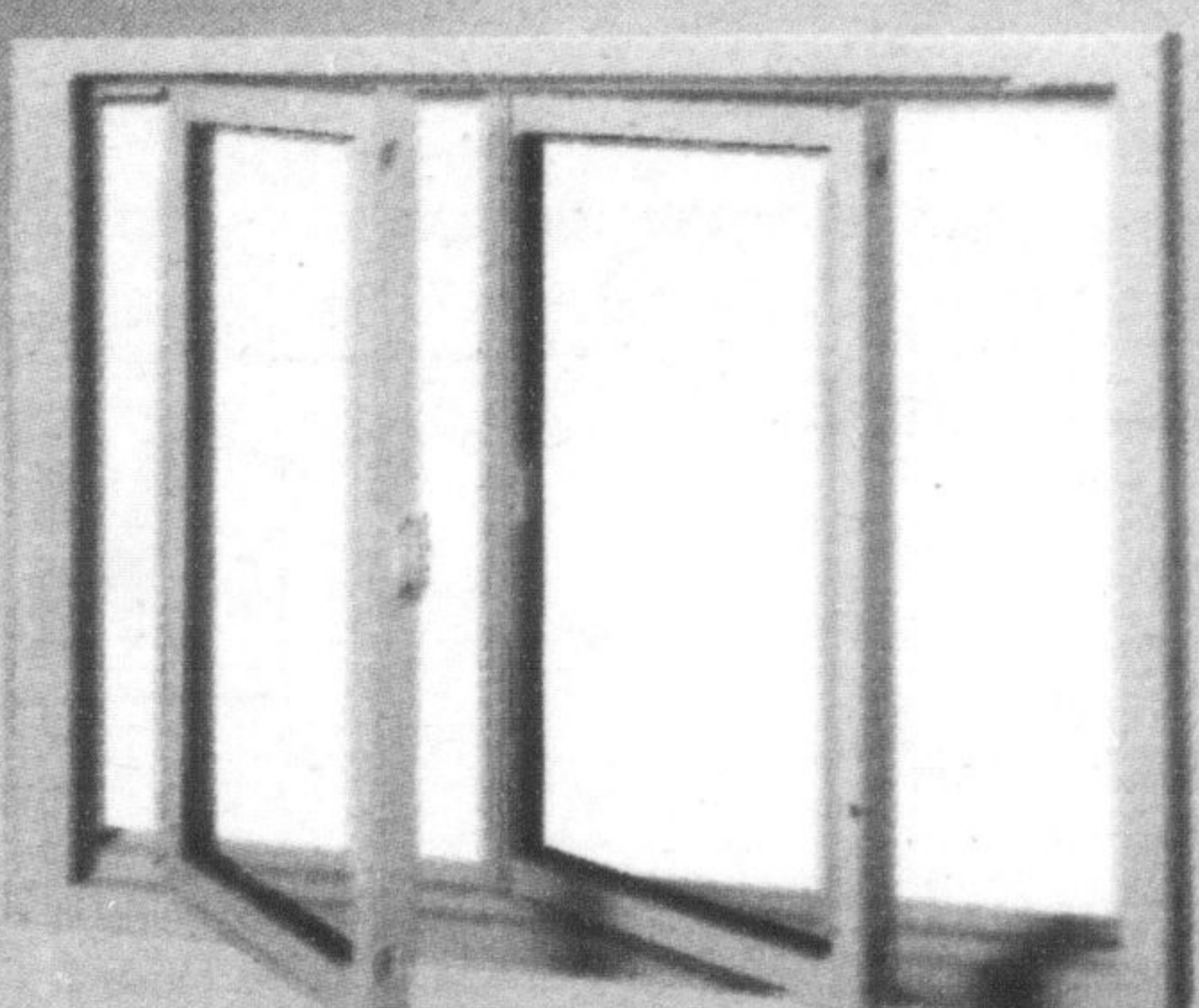
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