

Queen's Park Report

Liquid waste - where will it go?

By ALF STONG
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requested such legislation as long ago as February, 1977.

The Report utilizes a table giving the present whereabouts of Ontario's hazardous liquid wastes — a table which is questionable, to say the least, being based upon estimations and approximations.

How can it be otherwise when the Ministry has not yet received replies to letters sent to some 240 industries requesting information on their waste disposal problems and practices?

The picture is further clouded by the Ministry's failure to implement an effective way-bill system in Ontario.

Former Environment Minister, George Kerr, stated that industry should be responsible for its own waste disposal, absorbing the cost as a business expense.

In direct contradiction the Task Force recommends that "the Ministry of the Environment, alone, or in conjunction

with private enterprise, should acquire and approve sites and processes."

Regrettably, the Task Force has failed to address many of the problems raised in the Report itself. No legislation is proposed to close loop holes in the Ministry of Environment's way-bill system.

There are no recommendations as to how the Province should acquire and license disposal sites. There are no incentives for established industries to redesign their processing facilities in order to recover, reuse, exchange or sell their wastes. The Report refers only to new industries.

There is no provision for requiring immediate replies from those industries which have been sent letters from the Ministry requesting information on the whereabouts of wastes which are generated.

The Task Force concludes "it would appear that no increase in the

number of outlets will occur in the near future."

This conclusion, based on an enumeration of project proposals currently before the Ministry, is a further indication of the very serious problems of toxic liquid industrial waste disposal in Ontario — problems which urgently require solution.

A number of people have already questioned the wisdom of taking action based solely on the recommendations of the Metro-Provincial Task Force on Liquid Industrial Waste Disposal as — recommendations which have been formulated on the basis of

incomplete information provided by the Ministry of the Environment.

Such recommendations must, inevitably, fail to recognize the wide ranging and serious waste disposal problems of the Province.

The Metro Task Force has obviously not really been able to come to grips with the very serious environmental hazards posed by innate measures for the disposal of liquid industrial waste. Many of the concerns and questions raised in the Report must be given urgent consideration by the Standing Committee on Resource Development.

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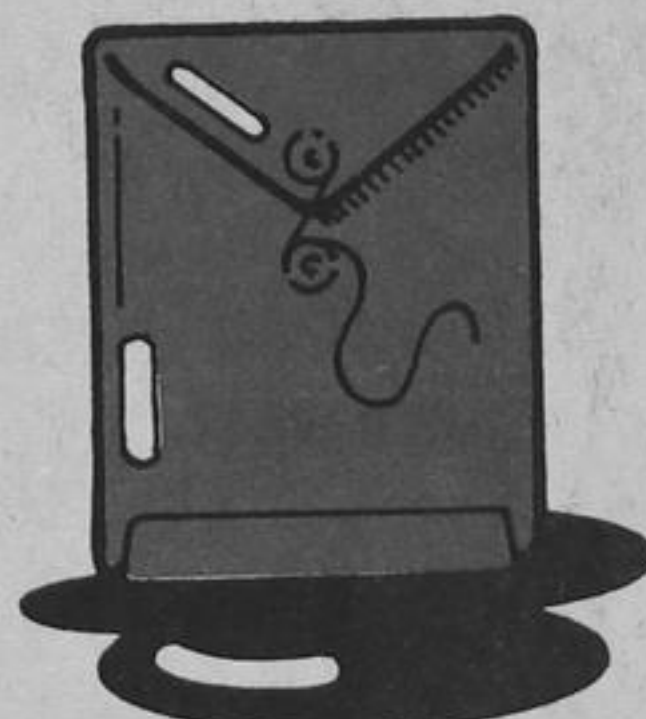
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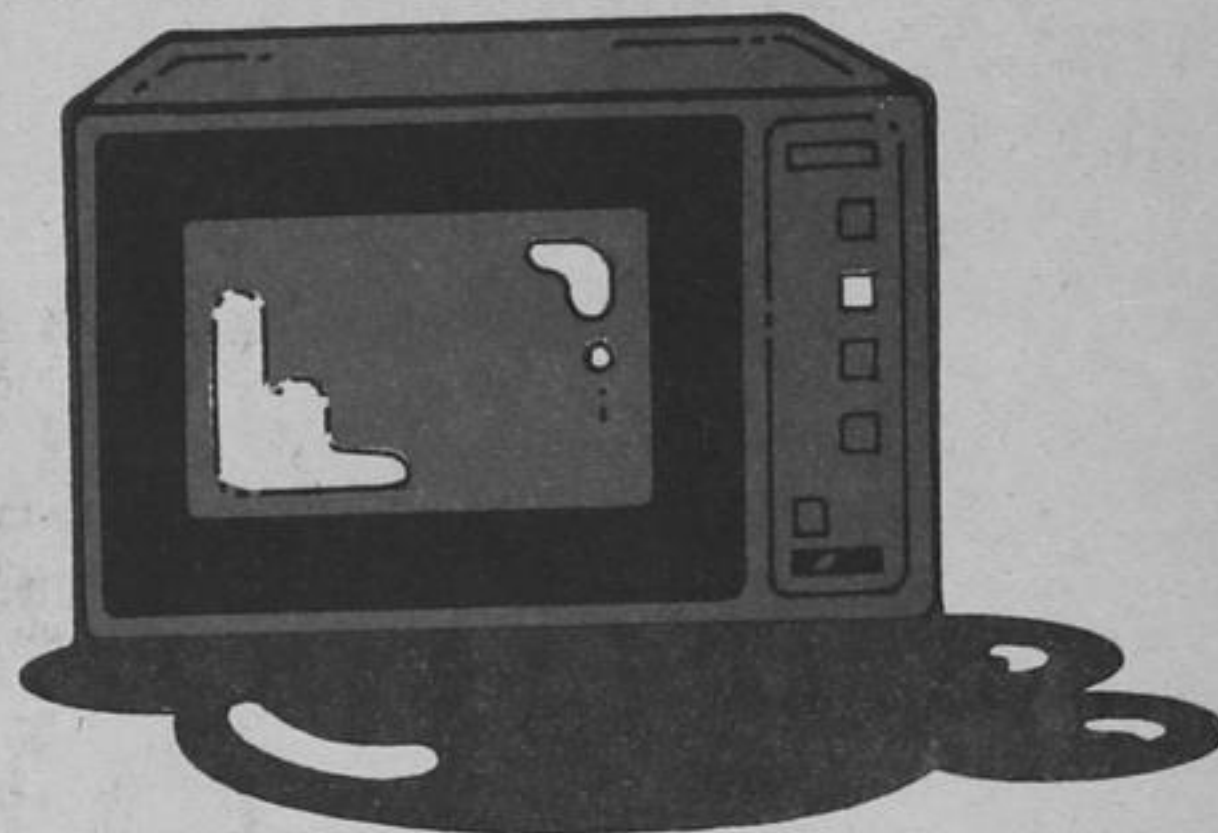


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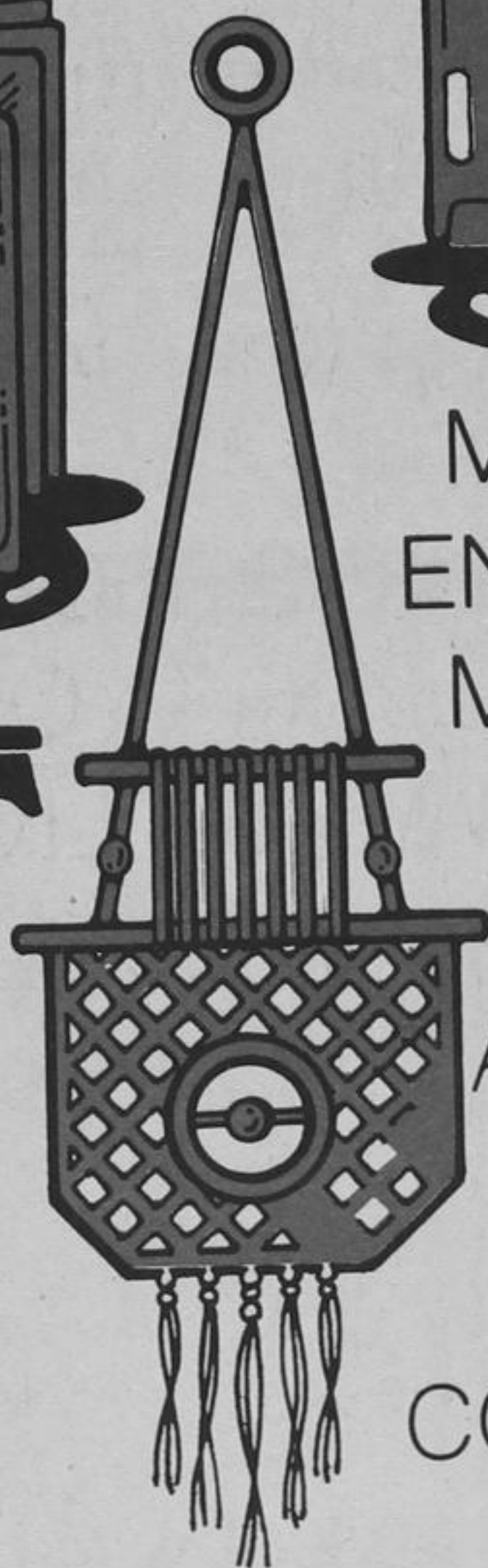
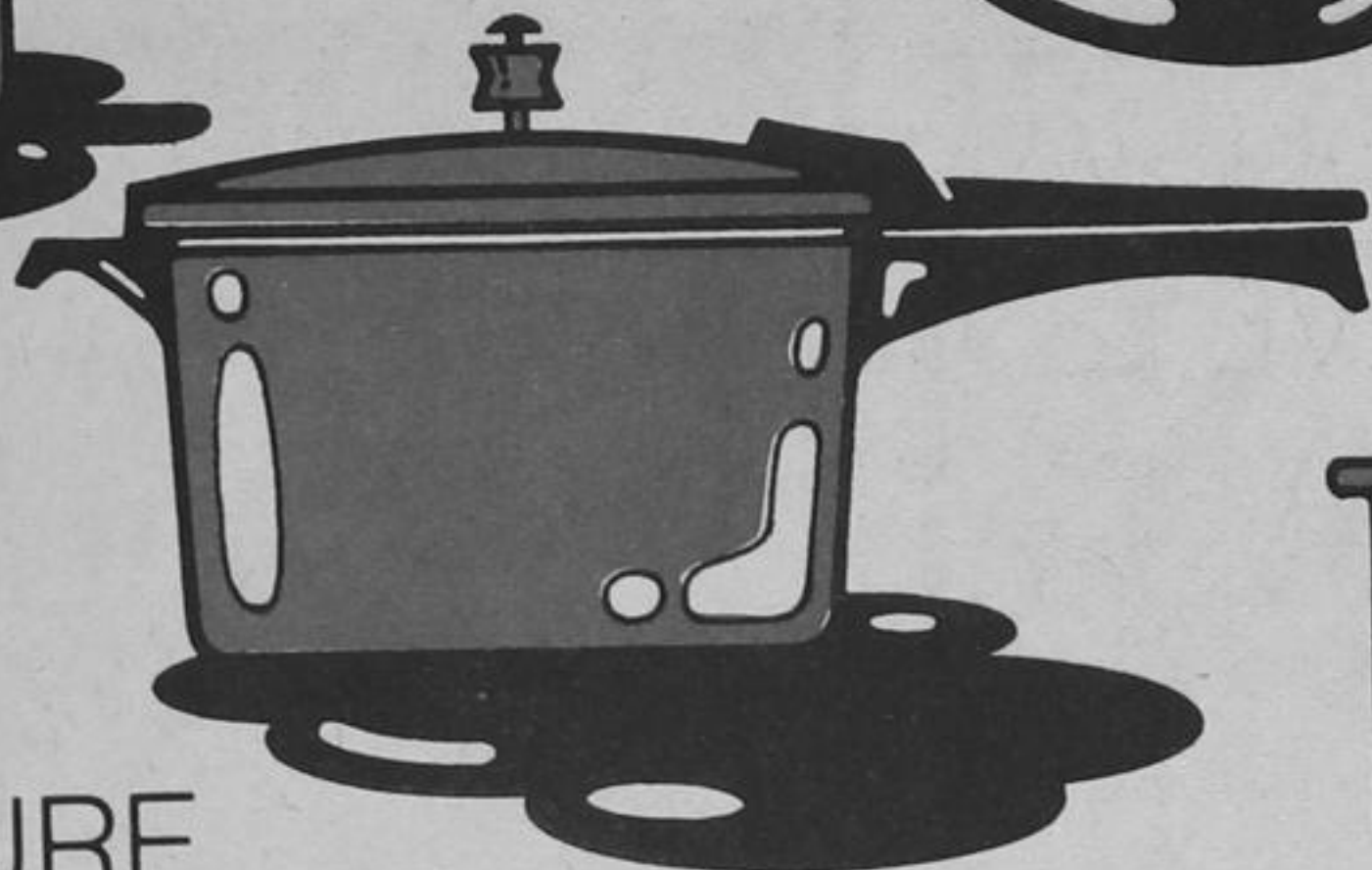
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