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Couple cut from Region's welfare rolls

write. He claims that when he went to the Manpower Office, he asked the girl there to read of the openings posted on the board. She said it wasn't her job.

He quit his last job as a janitor in a Don Mills condominium more than a year ago because he found himself working "with a bigger alcoholic than I was".

There was a dispute over one day's pay and it took until

November 11, 1978, for his former employer to sign a separation certificate so that he could apply for unemployment insurance.

Smith still has not managed to take the certificate to the UIC office. It is difficult to explain to UIC why he has not worked in six years. He said he made the mistake of being honest in the past "I told them I was an alcoholic. That was it."

He has mental problems too. Two weeks ago, he tried to commit suicide. "I was tired of being cold and hungry and thought 'what's the use' ". He was in the hospital for a few days and "could have stayed, but she couldn't haul logs for the fire in weather like this."

Mrs. Rivers, 53, has long, blonde hair but only six teeth.

One of them aches but welfare has no money to pull it "unless it is an emergency".

Her doctor says she can do only light work and there isn't any. She has lost her stomach and half a lung, her heart flutters, and her fingers are swollen with arthritis.

He has warned her that if she catches pneumonia with her smoking, there is nothing they can do. But she goes on smoking.

Mrs. Rivers said she spent the last \$5 of her welfare cheque on a gift for her son. He was taken away from her last year by the courts, but she said that on the advice of regional welfare staff, she went on collecting mother's allowance while the tug-of-war was on.

She later received a letter from the ministry of community and social services saying that she

owed the government \$5,380 and would she please repay it. "They might as well get blood out of a stone."

Previous debt or even an alleged fraud has no bearing on whether a couple can get general assistance from the welfare department, said Davies, the supervisor.

But it is difficult for Smith to believe that. The supervisor, he

says, is too young for the job. "He doesn't know what a wood stove is. He doesn't know what it is like to go hungry."

Smith wishes they would bring back government winter works programs. "At least then, you could get by and you were out doing something, instead of just freezing. Maybe they expect people to curl up and die and that's it."

Low prices

save .44 lb.



tenderloin portion
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2 1/2 - 3 1/2 lb. size
1.28 lb.

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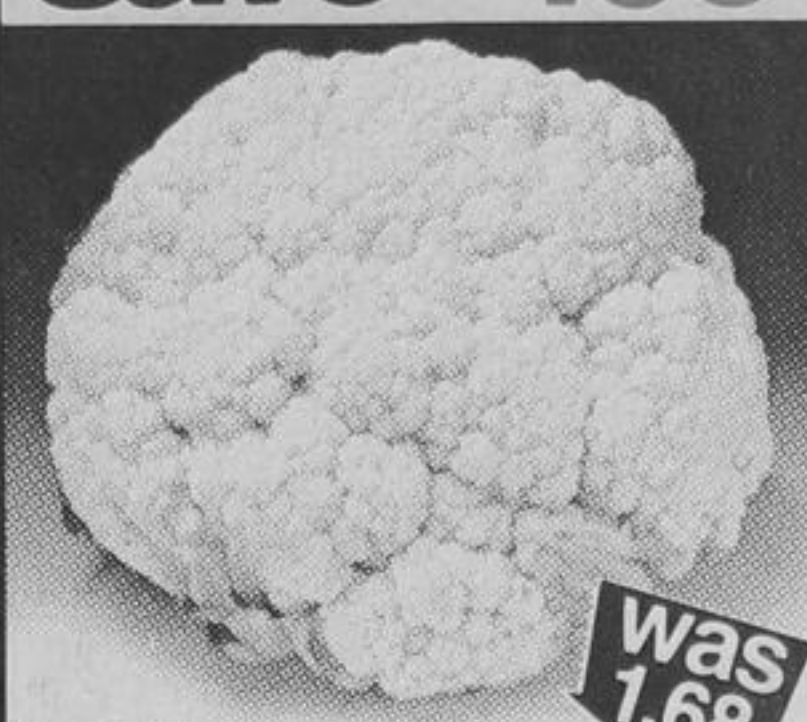


frozen, regular beef
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1.39

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from California #1 grade
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large size 12 each
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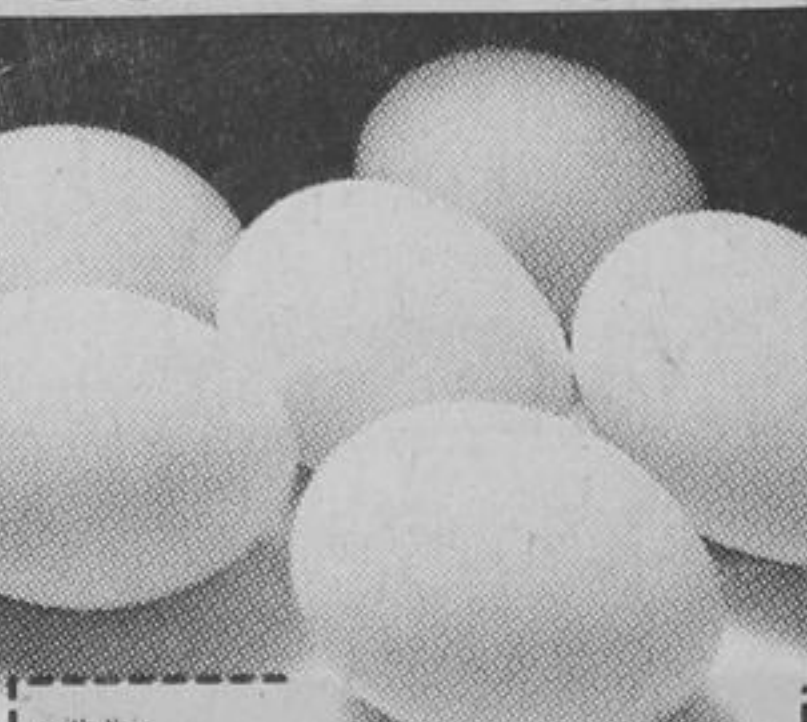


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(2-8 oz. tubs) 1 lb. sleeve
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romi pasta 2 lb. .93

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diapers Babyscott 24's pkg. 2.39

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save & fly travel vouchers triple value coupon

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