

Millions wasted by delay

NEW WESTMINSTER (CP) — A Canadian Merchant Service Guild spokesman says millions of Canadian tax dollars have been wasted because a task force report on consolidation of the federal government's civil fleet was never implemented.

Captain John Bragg said if the report, made by L. C. Audette in March 1970, had been implemented the Canadian Coast Guard fleet could have been tripled with little or no cost to the taxpayer.

Commenting Sunday on a recent bid by the coast guard to take over marine rescue operations, he said the guild believes the federal civil fleet has not been consolidated because the departments concerned—transport, national defence, environment and public works—cannot agree who should head the fleet.

Captain Bragg said that because recommendations in the report were not carried out, service has been duplicated and some government vessels operate only seasonally. He urged consolidation of the government civil fleet and said this would at least double manpower available to handle search and rescue vessels.

There now are 75 federally-run vessels on the British Columbia coast, 15 of them coast guard vessels.

The Canadian Merchant Service Guild represents approximately 5,000 ships' officers in Canada.

Nothing gained by visit

by ROD CURRIE

LONDON (CP) — The state visit of Gen. Ernesto Geisel, president of Brazil, has raised controversy over what Britain hopes to gain from their guest in Buckingham Palace, and whether the price is right.

One theory is that in Britain's present economic plight, it would be right to extend the courtesy of a state visit to the devil if it would help sales of brimstone.

No one, not even left-wingers and Brazilian exiles mounting anti-Geisel street demonstrations, has tried to make out that he is a devil. But some argue that while the visit helps give Brazil's military regime an air of respectability, there is comparatively little to be gained on Britain's side.

The invitation was extended in principle, to a former president, when the Queen visited Brazil in 1968. Many observers suggest that Geisel now has taken it up on grounds it will give his government a seal of acceptance from one of the Western democracies—and one led by a socialist government, at that.

This is important to Brazil at a time when some international bankers are growing restive over Brazil's ability to carry foreign debts that now exceed \$22 billion.

On the British side, authorities concede they do not anticipate any vast Anglo-Brazilian deal to be signed during the visit.

But some argue that Brazil with a thriving economy and a population of 100 million, opens a vast market to international competition. If Britain does not join in, the argument goes, the orders will go to France, Japan and other industrial countries.

In this context, a 90-minute meeting has been scheduled at Buckingham Palace between Geisel and a group of leading British bankers and industrialists.

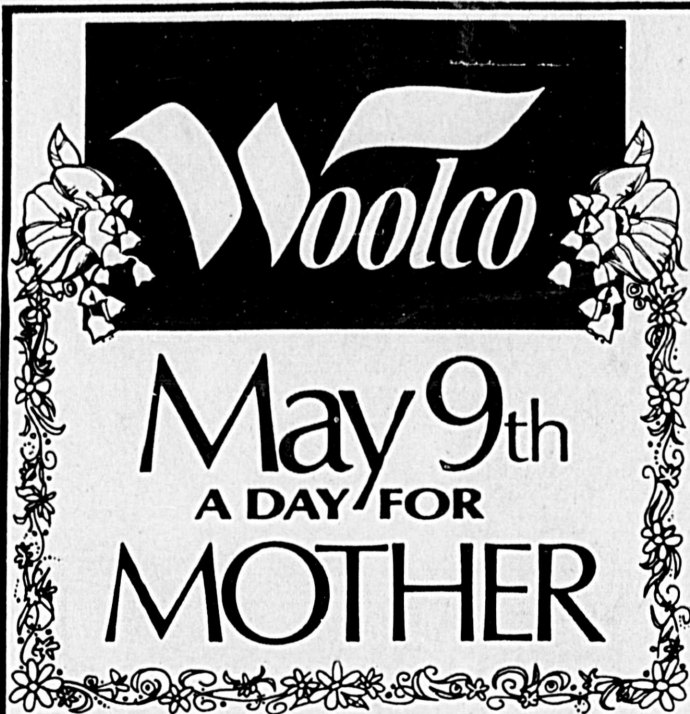
Despite its foreign debts, Brazil's recent record of economic growth has been remarkable—as illustrated, for instance by a motor industry that exports even to West Germany.

But the new wealth of Brazil is unevenly distributed, leaving pockets of chronic poverty. A former colony of Portugal, it is rich in still-untapped resources. But it has been under a succession of military regimes since 1964.

In essence it is a dictatorship, maintained by a consensus of senior military officers, protected by a stern censorship law, and permitting only a closely controlled "opposition party."

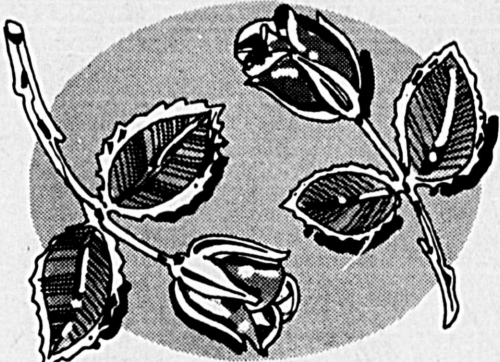
Street demonstrators here, and in Paris during Geisel's visit there earlier, maintain the regime is sustained by a system of torture, and point to the testimony of churchmen, Amnesty International, and other groups.

Others argue, however, that not one Brazilian would be better off if Britain shunned trade overtures—the argument long used to defend Western trade with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.



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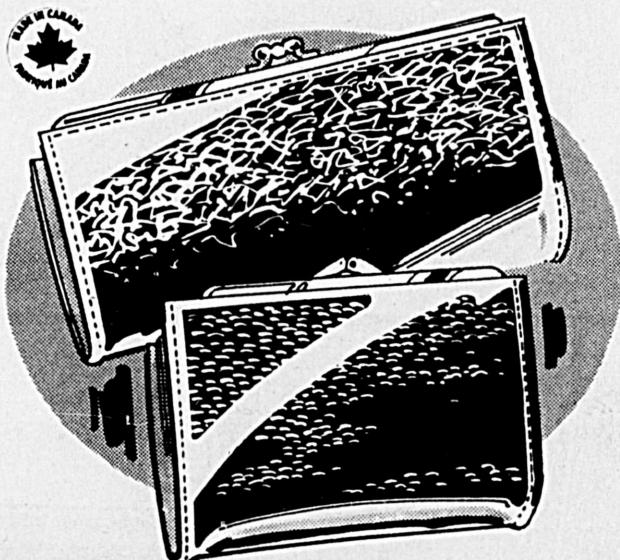
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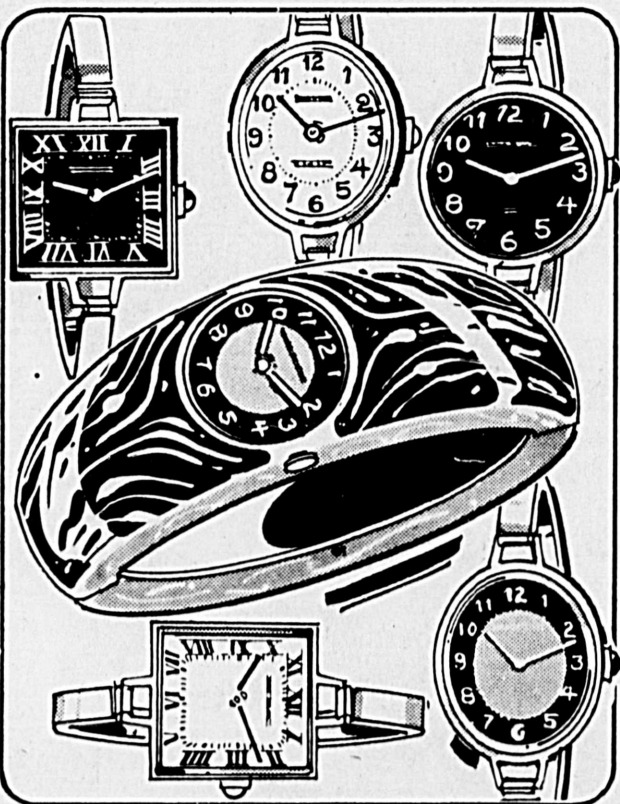


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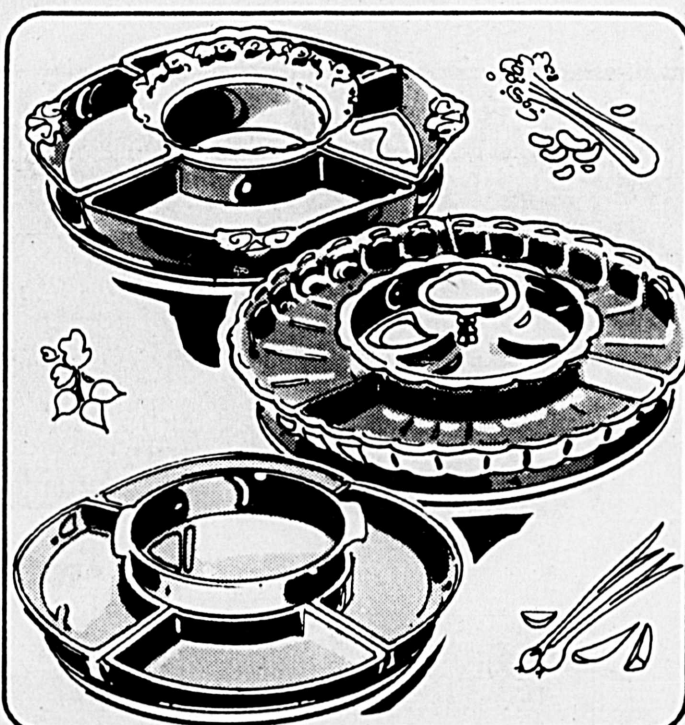
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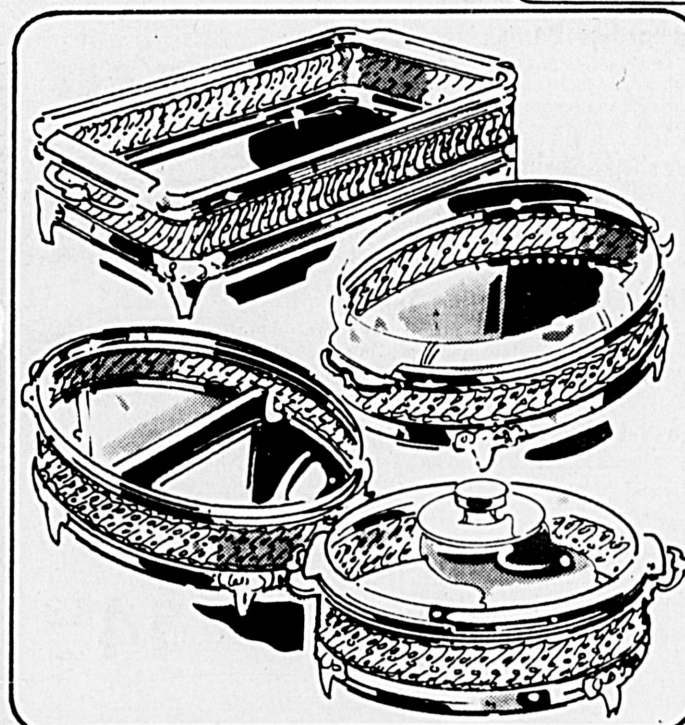
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