

Schmidt Tries To Reduce Wife's Check

By WAYNE SARGENT
United Press Staff Correspondent
SACRAMENTO, Calif., (UP) — Airman Daniel Schmidt is trying to reduce his wife's government check but still provide for his small son, it was disclosed Thursday.

Schmidt, 23, is the modern-day "Enoch Arden," whose wife, Una, 20, said she remarried in the belief that he was dead. Schmidt was in a Chinese Communist prison camp at the time. He was held captive 32 months.

Meanwhile, Howard P. Welch, Schmidt's attorney, said he would file a divorce and custody suit against Una in California, possibly Monday. There has been speculation that the suit might be filed in Idaho, where Schmidt enlisted and where he and Una were married.

Downward Direction

After a conference with two Air Force finance officers, Welch said: "We are contemplating a realignment in a downward direction, but not to a point where it will make care of the child substandard."

Although Una said she married husky logger Alford Fine, 21, in September, 1954, she continued to receive Schmidt's allotment checks of \$200 a month through July of this year.

The current August allotment of \$117.10 was being held up pending "final instructions" from Schmidt. Welch said his client is not now planning any legal action to recover any previous payments to Una.

"We have not been vengeful," he said.

An application for a reduction from \$117.10 would drop Una automatically into \$51.30 a month bracket, Welch said.

Proper Care

"But we feel that amount is insufficient for proper care of the child, Daniel Jr.," he said.

Welch said he did not know how much more than \$51.30 the final adjustment would be.

An Air Force finance officer said regulations permit a reduction in allotment payments where there is a divorce or "ample showing" of marital misconduct.

Una's attorney, Harold Berliner of Nevada City, said Wednesday that Una and her second husband are not now living together. The child is with Una.

Una was located publicly Wednesday for the first time since Saturday through a series of telephone calls from San Jose. In one call to Schmidt's mother, Mrs. Nellie Peters of Portland, she indicated she wanted a reconciliation with Schmidt.

Schmidt has flatly opposed such a reconciliation.

Mother of Former PW 'Won't Meddle'

PORTLAND (UP) — Mrs. Nellie Peters, mother of Airman Daniel Schmidt, said Thursday "I am not going to meddle in any way" in a divorce action planned by her son against his wife, Una, who said she remarried while he was a prisoner of the Chinese Communists.

"My boy's happiness means more to me than anything," she said.

Mrs. Peters is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her son from Sacramento. She has not seen him since he went overseas and was later captured after his B29 was shot down over North Korea.

She said she had talked to Schmidt on the telephone last night but that the divorce action was not discussed.

Mrs. Peters earlier revealed she had received a telephone call from Una and that Una was hopeful of a reconciliation. Asked how she felt about a reconciliation, Mrs. Peters said, "It's my boy's life. He'll have to live it in the way he sees fit. He is a man and has his own life to live. I am not going to meddle in it in any way. When my boy asks me anything I'll help him whenever I can."

She said she did not urge him to get in touch with Una.

"Any decision he makes is all right with me," she said.

Mrs. Peters said that when she talked to the airman's wife she sounded frightened and expressed fear of losing her son. Schmidt said he would seek custody of the two-year-old boy.

Good Grain Export Year On Forecast

SEATTLE (AP) — One of the finest grain export years in the history of the Pacific Northwest is due to barley as well as wheat.

More than 16 million bushels of barley moved out of the Pacific Northwest in the first seven months of this year. Earle Corey, regional director of the Commodity Stabilization Service, predicts another five or six million bushels will go out before the season ends.

At elevators on Puget Sound and on the Columbia River, ships are waiting in line to bring the barley to the Orient and European ports.

Corey said some barley has gone to Japan but most of it has been sent to new European markets through such ports as Rotterdam and Antwerp. Europeans are using Pacific Northwest barley to feed their stock and to feed their breweries that use malt barley.

Wheat has shown well too, said Corey. In the year ending June 30, the Pacific Northwest shipped more than 45 million bushels of wheat. Last month — July — another seven million bushels was shipped.

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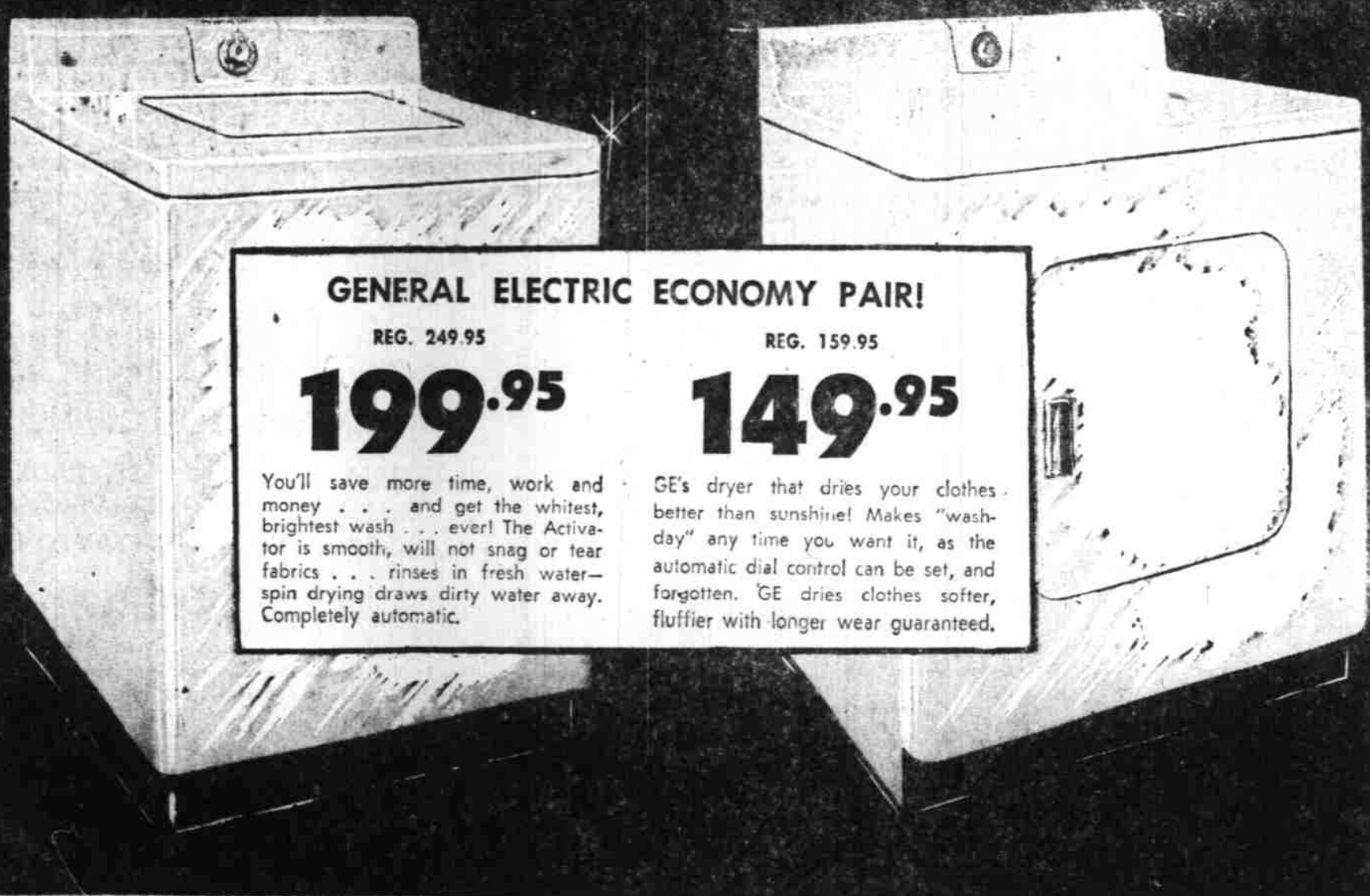
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