



INTENDED VICTIM—James Ricco, 38, comforts his children, Sharon, 5½; Stephanie, 7, and Pamela, 9 (holding dog, Brandy), in their home in New York. Police arrested Ricco's wife and two other women on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder. Cab driver Fred Bezer told police the women wanted him to run Ricco over with his cab, killing him, so Mrs. Ricco could collect \$3000 insurance and then sue the cab company for \$100,000 damages.

Knight Seeks Unity For GOP; Sen. Morse Sees Fate of Whigs

Washington — (U.P.) — Gov. Goodwin J. Knight of California stepped forward today with a plea for his Republican party to "heal its wounds" quickly in order to remain in power in 1956.

The heir to Earl Warren's political mantle admitted frankly that the GOP is divided between right wing and liberal factions. But he said, "I think it can be healed."

"I think the division has been unduly emphasized by small groups who do not really represent the great thinking and the great convictions of the large groups of Republicans and the large mass of Republicans," he said.

Must Face Responsibilities

Knight said the divisions can be erased if the GOP faces up to "international responsibilities as well as national responsibilities and if that is accepted as the policy of the party."

He spoke as Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon Independent who bolted the Republican party in 1952, charged that the GOP is so split into "various conglomerations of discord and hisharmony" that it may disappear entirely.

Morse made the statement in commenting on the condemnation of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy in which 22 Republicans voted for and 22 Republicans voted against the resolution to condemn the Wisconsin Republican.

"The McCarthy debate served clear notice on the country that one can no longer speak of a single united, Republican party but must now speak in terms of the several Republican parties," Morse said.

Party May Vanish

"We now have the Eisenhower Republican party, the Knowland Republican party, the McCarthy Republican party, the Jenner Republican party and Republican parties with various conglomerations of discord and disharmony," he added.

"It is not beyond the bounds of probability that, within the next few years, the Republican party will go the way of the Whig party, and if it does American history will not suffer," Morse said.

The Whig party elected presidents in 1840 and 1848 but tore itself to pieces in the middle 1850's in the controversy over slavery.

Knight, speaking in a television interview with columnist Drew Pearson, said his fellow Californians Sen. William F. Knowland and Vice-President Richard M. Nixon have "honorable and decent and vigorous ambitions." But he refused to commit himself on whether they have presidential ambitions.

Fugitives Found In Old Mine Tunnel By Cop, Newsman

Las Vegas — (U.P.) — Three Clark county jail fugitives, including one murder suspect, were captured early today in an abandoned mine tunnel by a police detective and a reporter.

The trio and a woman companion were taken into custody about 10 miles east of this gambling resort by policeman Paul Dewert and Colin McKinlay, city editor for the Las Vegas Sun.

Police said a woman's tip that she saw some men near the abandoned Frenchman Mine led a group of police to the scene. While others were searching the general mine area, Dewert and McKinlay, both armed, entered the mine and finally came upon the escapees asleep at the end of a tunnel.

Escape Yesterday

Dewert held a rifle on the group while McKinlay went for help.

The trio which escaped yesterday after overpowering a jailer was identified as Walter Sefton, 32, who was to go on trial today on charges of murdering a woman, J. D. Tucker, 33, and Clifford F. Lair, 31, held on forgery charges. Police said a woman identified as Deborah Faye Vassar, 22, was with the men and was believed partly responsible for the escape. Police said she had been allowed to sleep in the jail Saturday night.

Sefton was arrested in Flint, Mich., last spring and allegedly admitted the fatal stabbing of Jacqueline Kelly, 42, Las Vegas, last Dec. 22.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT — Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, 48 (above), was installed as third president of National Council of the Churches of Christ, nation's largest religious organization.

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Merry Christmas

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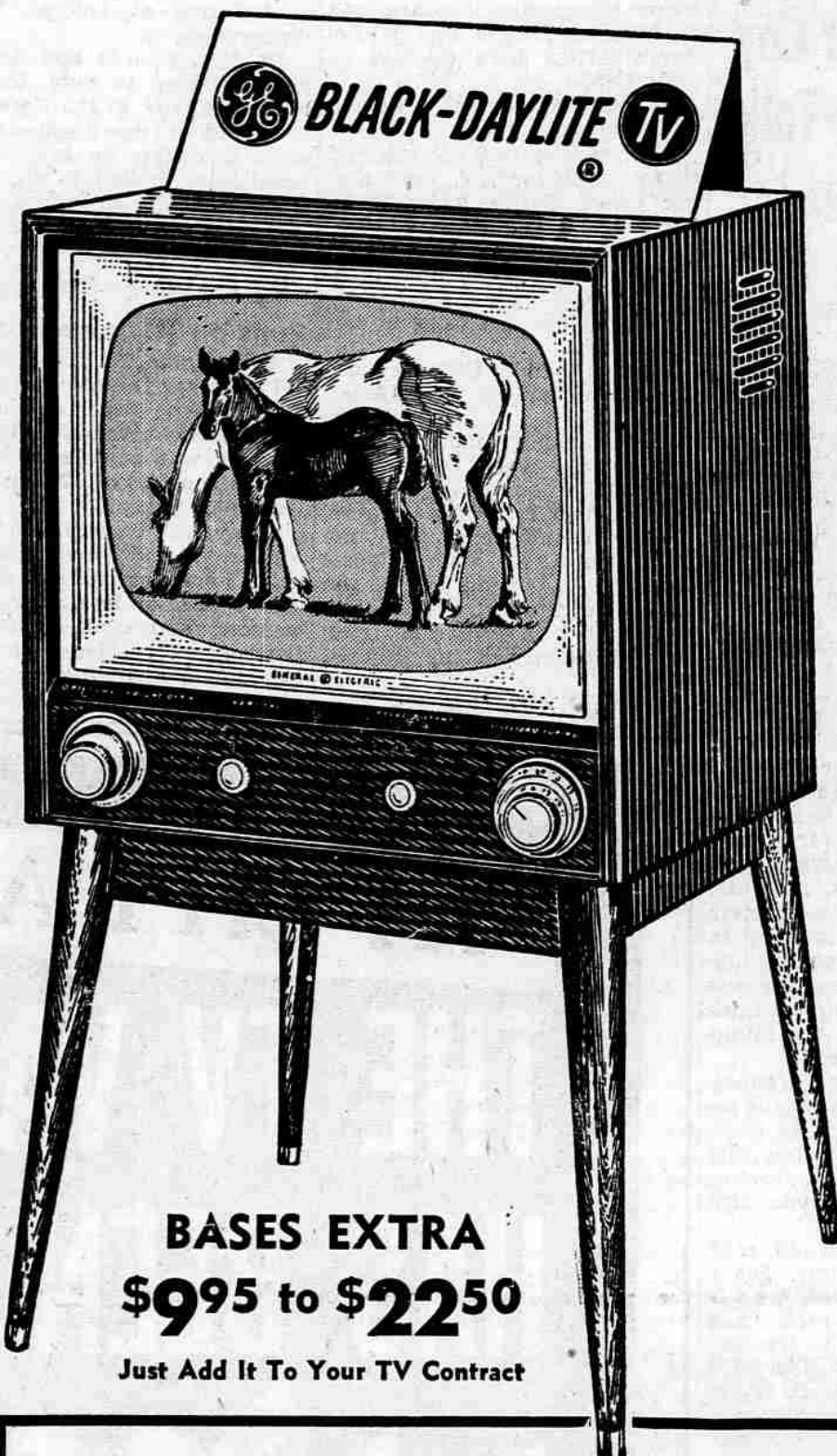
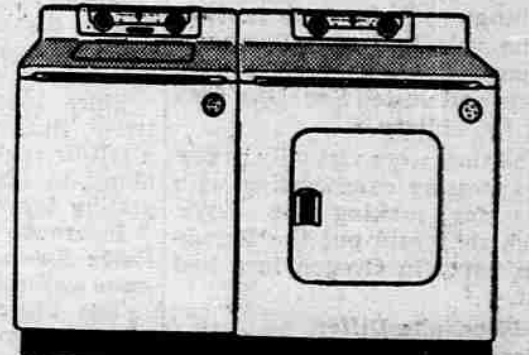
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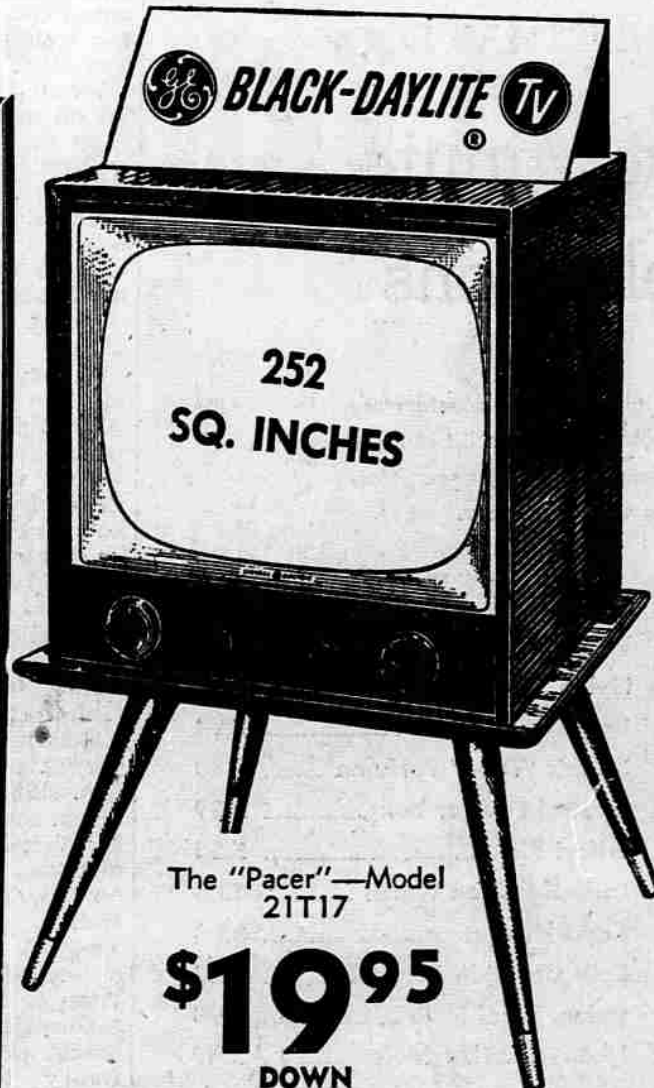
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