

Corey Testimony On Conflict of Interest Shocking

Washington — (AP) — An administration official Wednesday disputed an ousted grain storage officer's sworn testimony that his Agriculture Department superiors never told him there were rules banning conflict of interest.

The controversy resolved around the case of Earl C. Corey, former director of the department's commodity office at Portland, Ore.

Corey, in testimony before a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), admitted clearing a net profit of more than \$53,000 as a silent partner in a grain storage firm which got contracts through his office.

Corey testified he never was told that such dealings violated Agriculture Department regulations and federal law.

Others Investigated

Rut Ralph S. Roberts, administrative assistant to the agriculture secretary, testified under oath today that "we do have evidence which shows he (Corey) had ample notice of the regulations."

Roberts also told the subcommittee that some additional Agriculture Department employees are being investigated because of outside business interests which may conflict with their government jobs. Federal law and regulations forbid a government employee to reap personal profit from the government business he transacts.

It was understood that about 12 employees are involved in the group to which Roberts referred. He said those found to have acted without wrongful intent will be given a chance to dispose of questioned holdings. But he said that "in each case... where the facts warrant the case will be referred to the Department of Justice for appropriate action."

Symington, whose subcommittee has been investigating agriculture department grain storage operations, described the Corey situation as a "clear-cut conflict of interest case."

Resigned in January

Corey, a government employee for most of the time since 1938, resigned late in January after Agriculture Department investigators questioned him about his interest in the grain storage firm and his stockholdings in several other companies which do business with the Agriculture Department. The Justice Department said March 11 it was presenting the case to a grand jury at Portland.

Symington said Corey's testimony that he had never been told of conflict of interest regulations was "shocking." He accused the department of "a sad and serious defect in either administrative competence, or administrative ethics, or both."

But Roberts, presenting a long list of regulations and instructions, insisted "the department has not been neglectful" in this field. He conceded he had no evidence that Corey was contacted personally on the subject, but he produced instructions which he said were sent to heads of all department commodity offices.

Last December, Roberts said, the department stepped up its vigilance by sending a questionnaire on outside financial interests to 15,045 employees. A new regulation, he said, require future reports from any employee who acquires an interest in a firm doing business with the department.

Dr. Earhart Takes Vancouver Position

Dr. Samuel D. Earhart left the veterans administration domiciliary at Camp White last week to assume duties at the VA hospital at Vancouver. He will take over the post held by Dr. George H. Adler, who died recently following heart surgery.

Both Dr. Earhart and Dr. Adler practiced in Klamath Falls before becoming associated with the VA. At one time they were rivals for the office of coroner, which Dr. Adler held for many years, in addition to his position as physician and surgeon at the Klamath Indian reservation.

Dr. Earhart developed his practice in the region before retiring to take over a post in the VA hospital at Memphis, Tenn. He came to Camp White in 1953.

The two physicians had adjoining offices at Camp White before Dr. Adler transferred to Vancouver.

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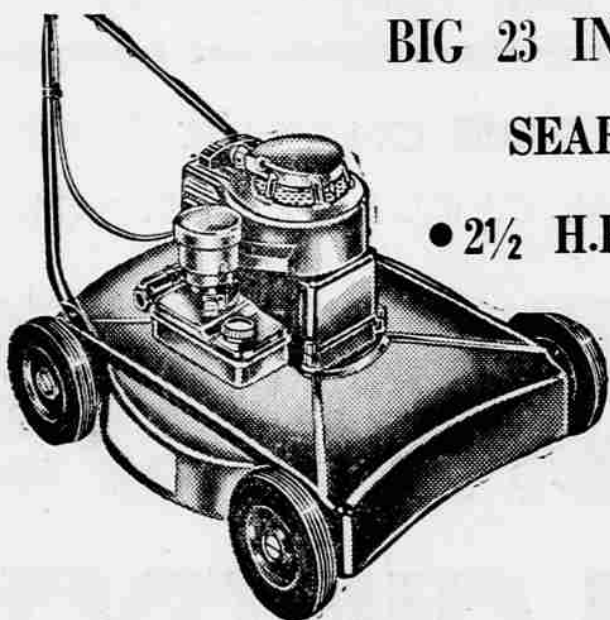
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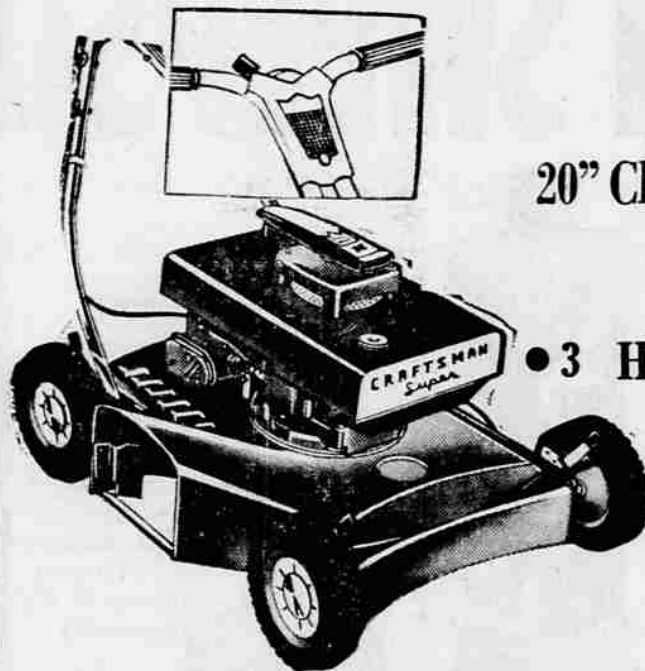
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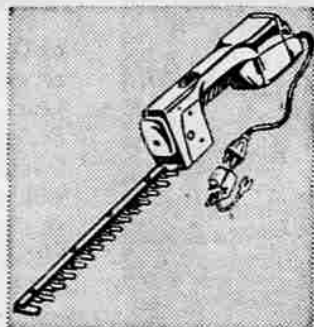
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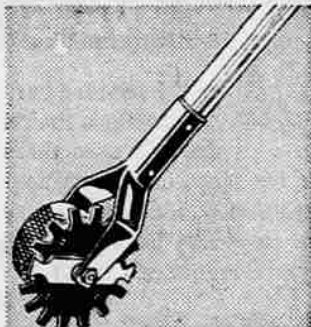


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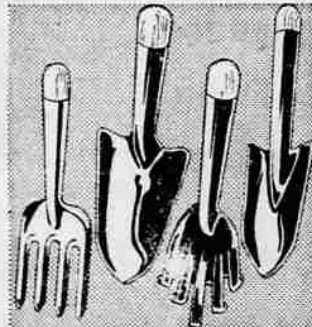
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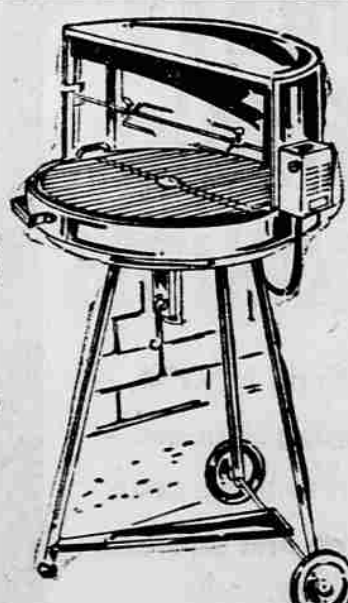
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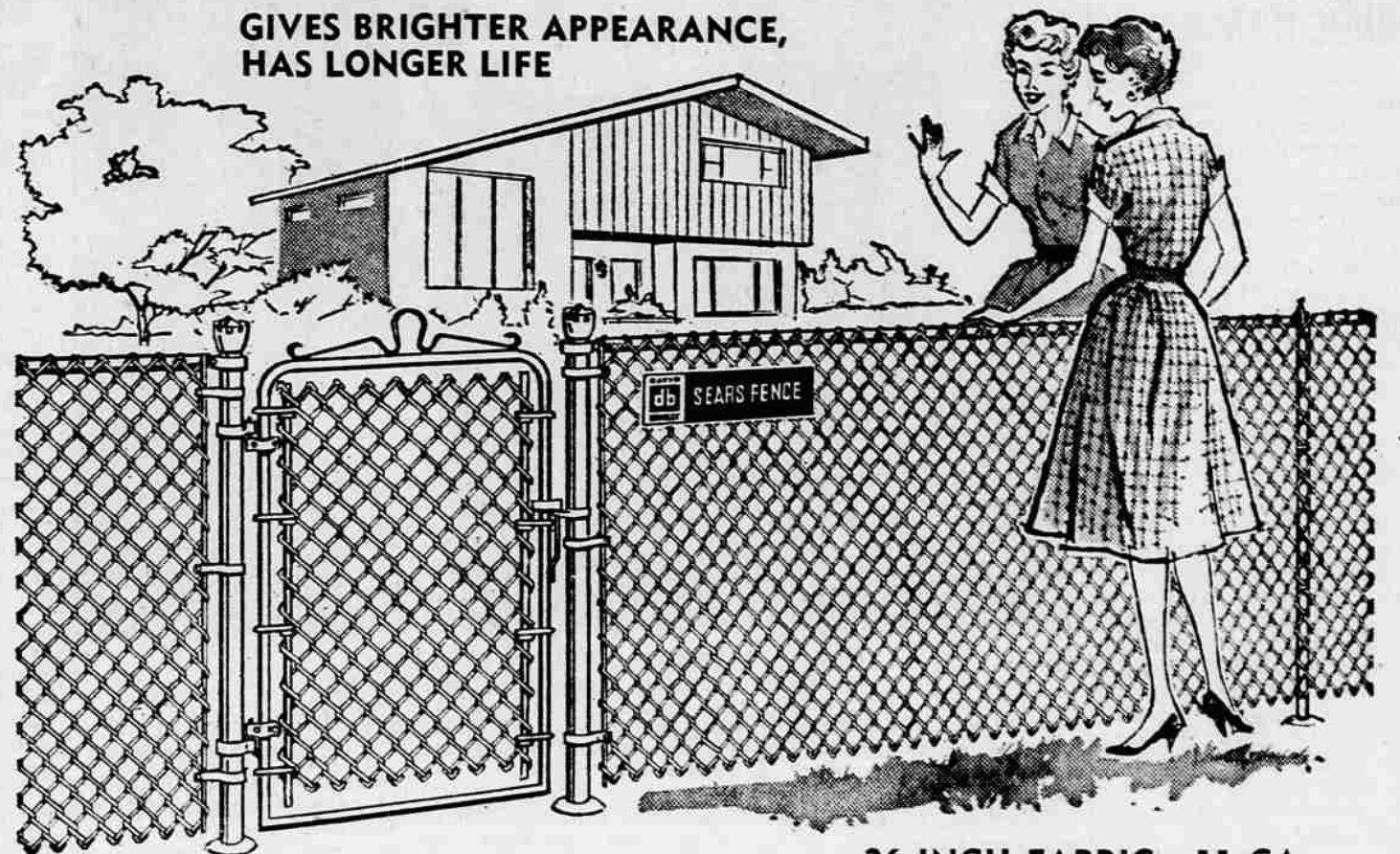
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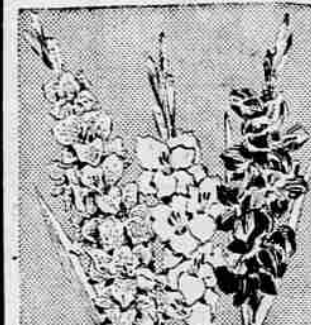
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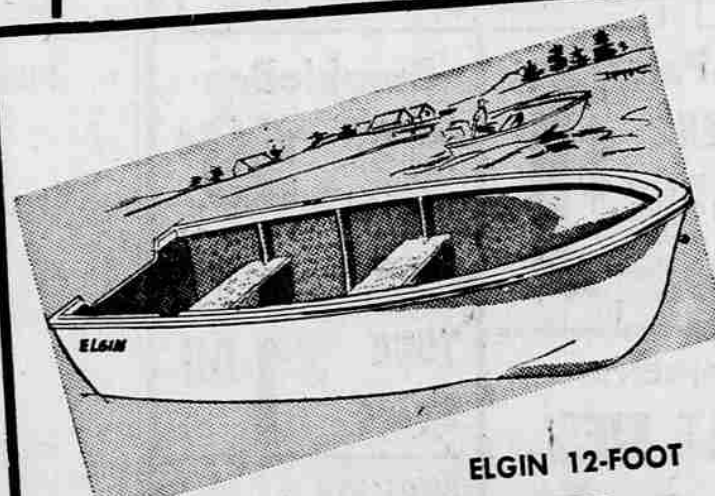


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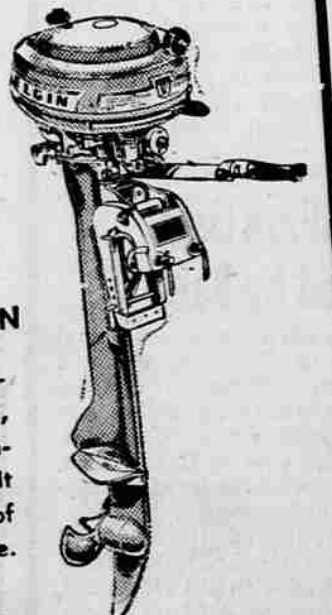
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