

Rusk Probes Red Intent Over Berlin

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk is trying to discover whether Russia has changed her Berlin position enough to warrant full-scale East-West negotiations on the issue, the State Department said today.

A U.S. spokesman made the statement to reporters just before Rusk and Russian Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin were scheduled to resume the "exploratory talks" which were broken off last October during the Cuban missile crisis. The spokesman said there had been no advance indication one way or another as to whether the Kremlin had shifted its basic position on the Red-encircled city.

The new series of "exploratory" talks between Rusk and Dobrynin was scheduled at Russia's suggestion, however, raising at least the prospect that the Soviets had something new in mind.

U.S. officials have made clear there can be no full-scale East-West negotiations on Berlin until Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev drops his demands that the Western powers pull out of West Berlin and permit it to become a demilitarized "free city."

Disarm Meet To Adjourn

GENEVA (UPI) — The United States and Russia today were reported in agreement to override neutralist objections and adjourn the stalled 17-nation Disarmament Conference for a four-week Easter recess.

Informed sources said the two nuclear powers hoped that a "cooling off" period from April 11 to May 7 might improve the political climate for more fruitful negotiations.

U.S. Ambassador Charles C. Stille and chief Soviet negotiator Semyon K. Tsarapkin tentatively set a meeting for this afternoon to discuss details of the recess.

There was no formal conference session today.

Conference sources said the recess would permit desirable consultations in the various capitals and would enable the four Western delegations to celebrate Easter at home and the five Communist delegations to mark May Day.

The decision to adjourn for four weeks angered the eight neutral delegations which consider a nuclear test ban treaty urgent. They want the nuclear powers to negotiate nonstop until some agreement is reached.

City Manager Claims Frame

NEW YORK (UPI) — Defense counsel for City Manager Joseph Mitchell, Newburgh, N.Y., said today that charges of bribery for which he is being tried were "a deliberate, premeditated plan to frame" him for political reasons.

Mitchell's lawyer, former Criminal Courts Justice Edward Chapman, said in his opening statement to the jury that the case was "a very mysterious one."

Chapman said Mitchell had become "more or less of a national character" because of his campaign to tighten up on welfare programs and was a victim of his fame.

Both Mitchell, 40, who suspended himself as city manager, and co-defendant Lawrence DeMasi, 42, a Hillsdale, N.J., realtor, have pleaded innocent to three charges of bribery and one of conspiracy.

Mitchell was indicted on a charge of demanding and receiving, through a go-between, \$20,000 from twin brothers, Stephen and Joseph Wahrhaftig, Monticello, N.Y., to push through a zoning change.

Petition Asks Town Formation

FLORENCE, Ore. (UPI) — A petition has been prepared calling for formation of a town named "Danes."

Sponsors said it carried signatures of 206 registered voters who live in the Wonlink Lake-Siltcoos Lake areas, and would be submitted to Lane County commissioners in Eugene.

A spokesman said it would not conflict with a National Seashore as proposed by Rep. Robert Duncan, D-Ore.

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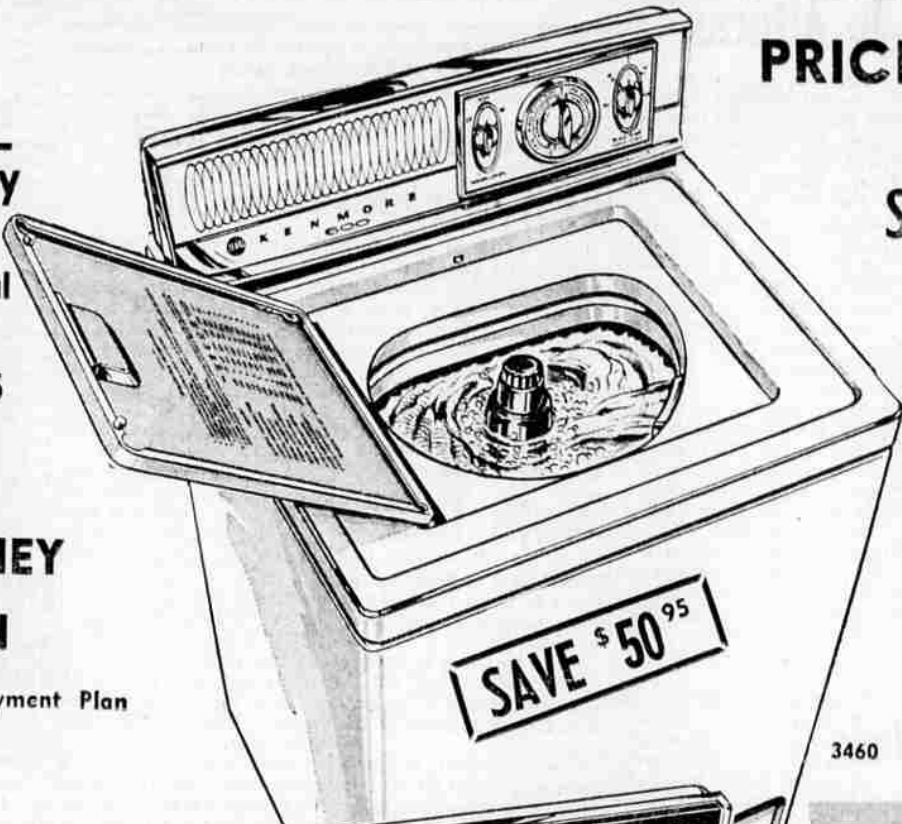
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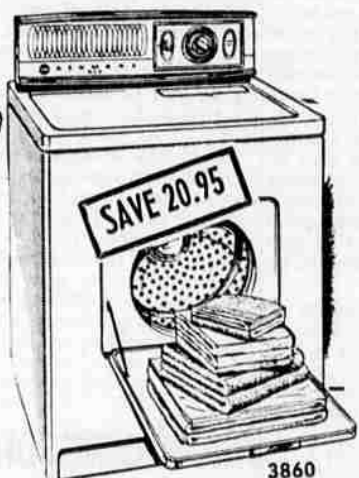
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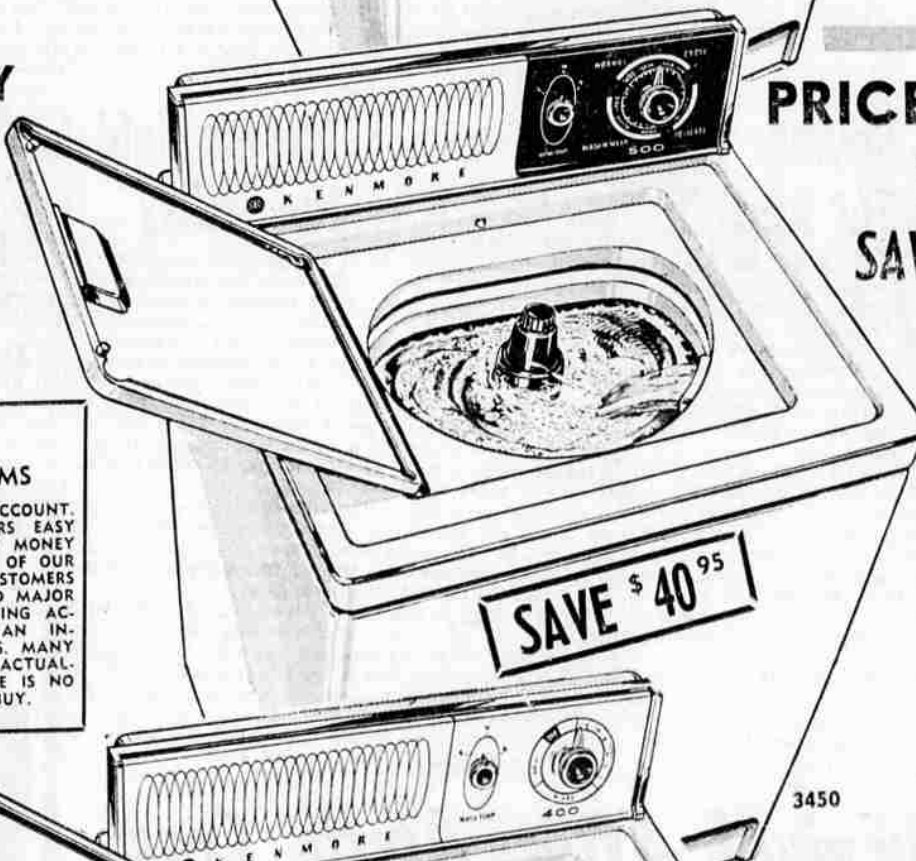
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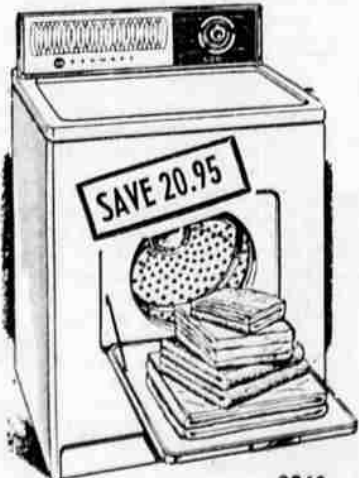
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