

Oral Contraceptives Seen As Revolution

By JOHN TRACY
ABOARD EMPRESS OF CANADA (CP)—A British family-planned expert told Canadian doctors that oral contraceptives have been the greatest factor in bringing about a revolution in world attitudes to birth control.

"One of the greatest social changes in the Western world during the past decade has been acceptance of birth control as a part of the pattern of marriage," Dr. Aviva Wiseman said in a paper prepared for the annual scientific assembly of the College of General Practice of Canada. The assembly is being held aboard ship during a 10-day Caribbean cruise.

Dr. Wiseman, medical officer and director of contraceptive research at the Slough Family Planning Clinic in England, said the subject of birth control once had been taboo. Early social workers who campaigned for a reduction in excessive repeated pregnancies served prison sentences for their beliefs.

"In contrast to 10 or even five years ago, family planning now is openly discussed between patient and doctor, husband and wife, between engaged couples and groups of women," she said.

In 1960 when trials of contraceptive pill started at the Slough clinic only 25 per cent of those attending would use what Dr. Wiseman called The Pill. Three years later, requests for the pill equalled requests for other types of contraceptive and by 1965 four out of five patients asked for it.

"I believe The Pill is a popular topic at coffee parties—and is also, I am reliably informed, discussed during Bingo sessions. Documentary films on birth control are now widely shown to mixed lay audiences—and searching unembarrassed questions and discussions usually follow."

She quoted John Peel, lecturer in sociology at the University of Hull, as writing:

Any assessment of the impact of the oral contraceptive on family planning habits in this country must take into account the indirect influence which the wide public discussion of The Pill has produced.

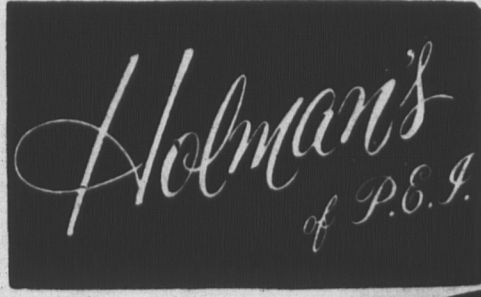
"The pill has shown its impact largely at the two ends of the social hierarchy—on the one hand amongst the sophisticated rich, on the other among the poor and naive."

Describing the pill as 100-per cent effective when taken according to instructions, Dr. Wiseman said it is acceptable to a wider group of users than any single previous method.

Side effects were minimal. Slight nausea in early stages did not worry women unduly—"as is shown by the high rate of continuing users."

There were some beneficial side-effects.

"It is not for nothing that so many women refer to their menstrual flow as 'the curse'—and a frequently-heard and grateful comment by pill users is 'I don't even know I'm having my period now.'"



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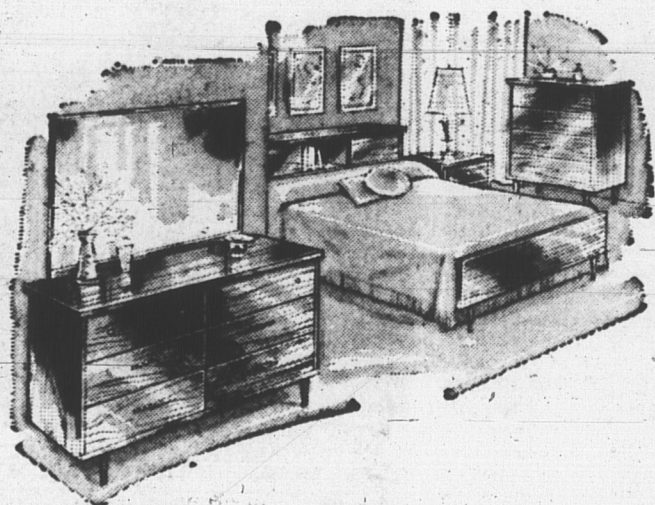
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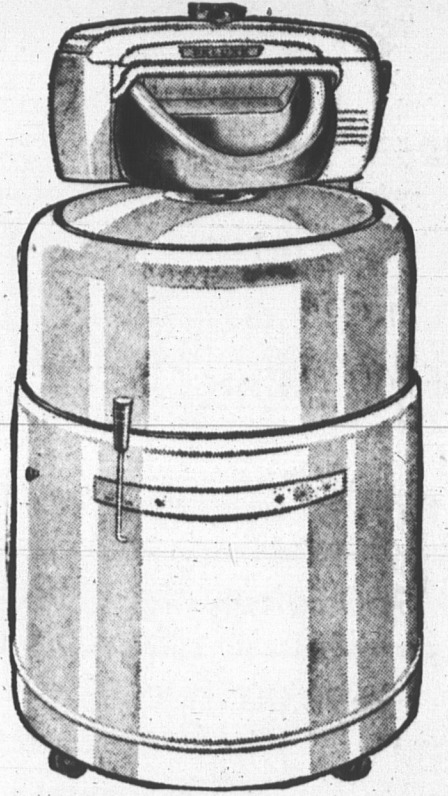
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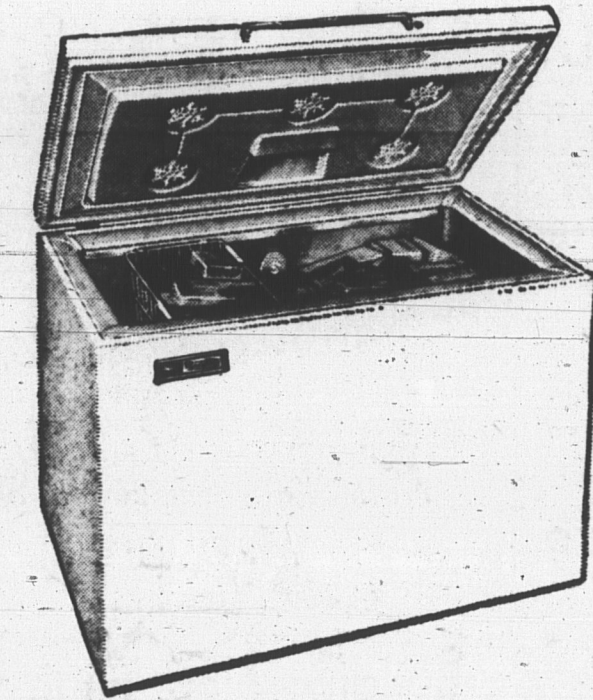
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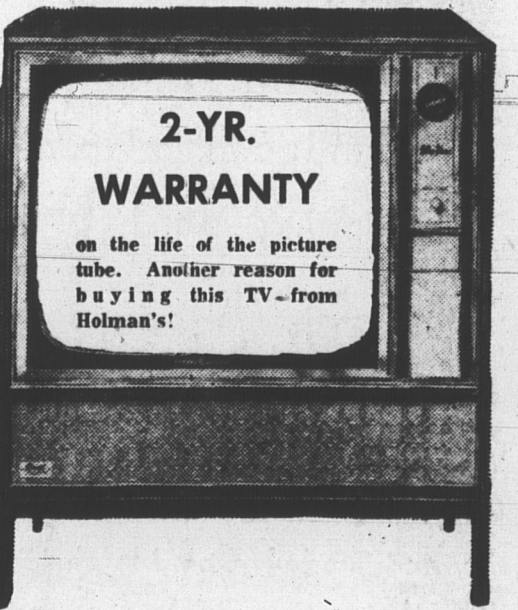


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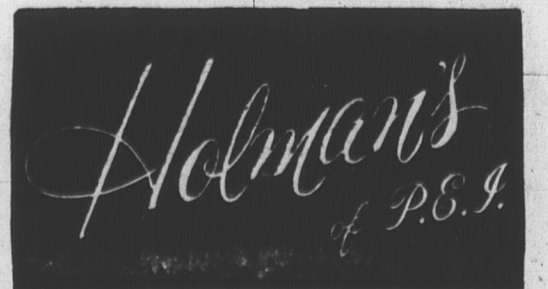
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MONTREAL (CP)—Rene Filion, 18, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the slayings of his mother and father.

He had been charged with capital murder but when the trial opened Monday he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of non-capital murder.

Rene Filion senior was beaten to death with a hammer and the body of his wife was found with stab wounds and a pillow over her face.

They were killed last Nov. 5 but their deaths were not discovered until a few days later after the son was picked up with two other youths for a traffic violation.

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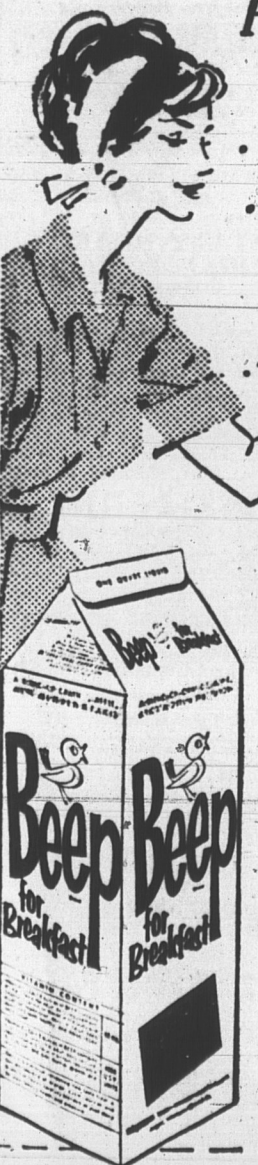
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