

Leans toward acceptance

Bentsen considers guard offer

Associated Press
WASHINGTON - Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Tuesday he probably will make a decision within a day on whether to accept Secret Service protection for his presidential candidacy.

At the same time he indicated he was leaning towards accepting the protection, although he said it would put restrictions on his travel and cost him a degree of personal privacy with his family.

The Texas Democrat said at a news conference that he was reluctant to be among the few who

had decided not to accept the Secret Service guards.

Bentsen is one of six candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination offered secret service protection so far.

Rep. Morris Udall and Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace have accepted and former North Carolina Gov. Terry Sanford has turned it down.

Sen. Henry Jackson and former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter haven't announced a decision.

Bentsen also said that President Ford should stay out of crowds on his trips around the

nation. He said Ford had an obligation and right to travel the country, "but for the few extra hands he can shake in a crowd - that's too much. The President has an obligation not to go into crowds."

Bentsen also said that he didn't believe the Secret Service should be permitted to round up wholesale individuals whom they suspect as threatening to the lives of persons under Secret Service protection, including the President.

Continuing on the theme of the recent assassination at-

tempts on the life of Ford, he said they had not changed his views on gun control and that the only laws he would like to see enacted are tough penalties for carrying handguns or using firearms in the commission of crimes.

On his presidential plans, Bentsen said he still hadn't reached any decision on what primaries, except Texas, he would enter, and that he had shifted some of his campaign work from New York City into upstate New York to do more work in that part of the state.

Oil firm tries to block price, allocation controls

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO - Basin Inc., a Texas oil marketing firm, filed suit Tuesday to block extended federal controls over crude oil prices and allocations.

Present Ford signed Monday an extension of federal controls through Nov. 15. The original controls, enacted by Congress in 1973, expired Aug. 31.

Basin asked for an injunction claiming that it contracted to buy 350,000 barrels of oil per month since the controls expired and before the controls were extended.

Lawyers for Basin said in the suit that the extension is unconstitutional because it retroactively reinstates civil and criminal penalties for violations under the original act.

"Unless Basin and its suppliers are assured the freedom to continue purchases and sales or

crude oil pursuant to their contracts," the suit said, "Basin will lose those sources of crude oil."

Criminal penalties for violation of the original act carry a fine of up to \$5,000. Civil fines of up to \$2,500 per day may be levied also.

Basin, headquartered at Midland, Tex., claimed that restraints under the act have stopped it from operating at a profit, losing \$210,000 since its founding in Oct. 1973.

The suit said extension of the controls placed a new burden on the firm and destroyed its ability to compete effectively in the oil industry.

Basin claimed in the suit that the 350,000 barrels of oil it contracted to buy represented 55 per cent of the firm's total monthly purchase of crude oil.

The company named the Federal Energy Administration and its head, Frank Zarb, as defendants.

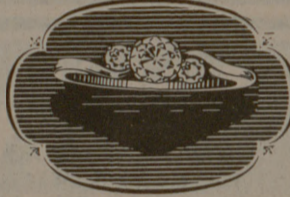
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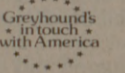


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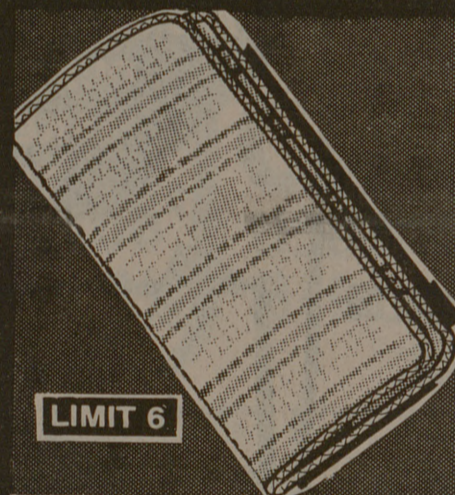
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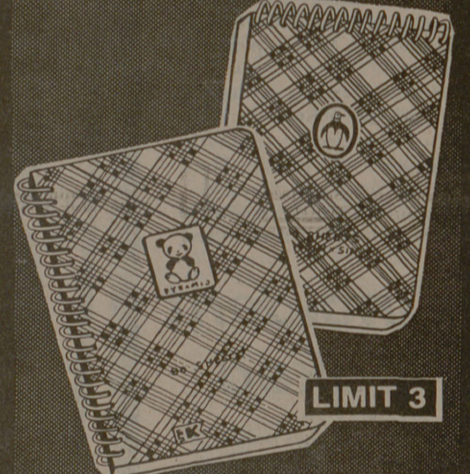
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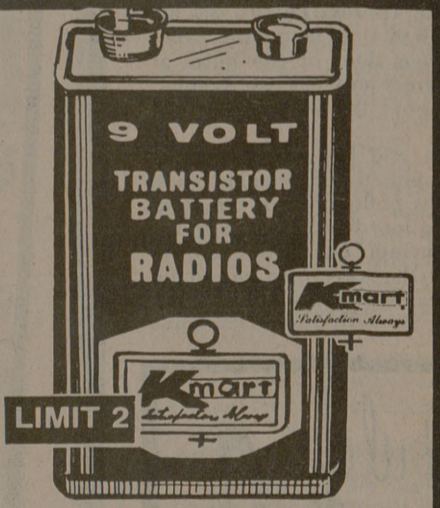
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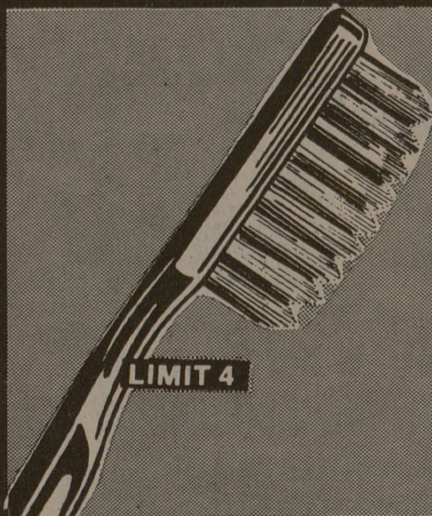
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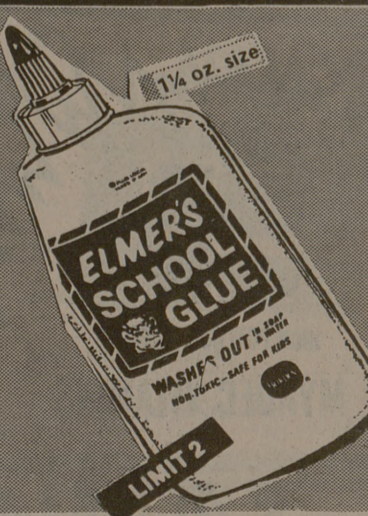
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