

### Coffee pact lifts quotas on exports

Associated Press  
LONDON — The 63-nation International Coffee Organization approved on Wednesday a world coffee pact that for the first time includes concern about the price of a cup of coffee to the consumer in times of shortage and high prices.

Two previous world agreements were mainly aimed at shoring up the price of coffee beans to give exporting nations, all developing countries, higher income and assistance in developing their emerging economies.

The new International Coffee Agreement suspends the price supporting export quotas every time a crop failure or other production crisis creates a shortage and causes prices to spiral. With quotas lifted, producing countries would compete without restrictions and eventually this would presumably bring prices down again, to the benefit of the coffee drinker.

When it becomes effective on Oct. 1 next year, the pact will operate without the quotas as long as the present world coffee shortage lasts.

Once the shortage is over, the quotas become effective to insure that prices don't fall low enough to threaten the jobs of millions of coffee workers and push exporters and governments to bankruptcy.

The agreement, hammered out in negotiations that opened in London on Nov. 3, does not try to lower now or within the next three years the present high level of coffee prices. Experts said it is not possible before three years to make up the shortage caused last July by a frost that killed 90 per cent of the coffee trees in Parana State in Brazil and reduced that country's export capacity to a trickle.

As the Brazilian shortage is felt more and more in the coming two years, prices may even rise higher.

It is expected that the higher prices will encourage the planting of new trees and after three to four years growing time coffee could again be plentiful and prices would fall. Then the agreement's quota system becomes effective to keep prices from plummeting.

### Estrogens could raise cancer risk

Associated Press  
BOSTON — Using estrogens to relieve the symptoms of menopause may increase the risk of cancer of the uterus by five to seven times, according to two independent studies to be published Thursday.

The statistical studies give added weight to a growing concern about the popular practice of giving women estrogen, the primary female hormone, to slow the signs of menopausal aging.

While the studies do not establish a definite cause-effect relationship between the use of estrogen and cancer, the researchers said the results strongly indicate a link. And the scientists called for more followup studies to pin down the relationship.

Because of the two new studies published in the New England Journal of Medicine and a larger, yet unpublished, one being compiled on the West Coast, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Obstetrics and Gynecology Committee has scheduled a meeting for later this month.

That panel will discuss the studies and make recommendations, possibly calling for more restrictions on prescribing estrogen.

Medical authorities say millions of American women are taking estrogen daily to counteract the symptoms of menopause. Some authorities say the drugs may be over-prescribed.

During menopause, which normally occurs between the ages of 40 and 50, the ovaries stop producing eggs and estrogen and degenerate. Symptoms frequently reported are nervousness, menstrual disturbances, flushes and chills, excitability and depression.

Replacing decreased natural estrogen with estrogen pills helps decrease these symptoms, but the new studies say this may increase the risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus. There were 27,000 new cases of this disease in 1974 in this country.

A research group at the University of Washington in Seattle compared the records of 317 patients with such cancers with an equal number who had other types of cancer.

The study found that women exposed to estrogen therapy had about a five times greater risk of the cancer in the uterus lining.

However, Drs. Donald C. Smith, Ross Prentice, Donovan J. Thompson, and Walter L. Herrman said their study of these women — 48 years of age or older — did not address dosage, type of estrogen used or how long the woman used the hormone. They said these variables could affect the ultimate risk.

Drs. Harry K. Ziel and William D. Finkle of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Los Angeles studied the records of 94 women. They found a five to seven times increased risk factor of the cancer in middle-aged women on estrogen therapy.

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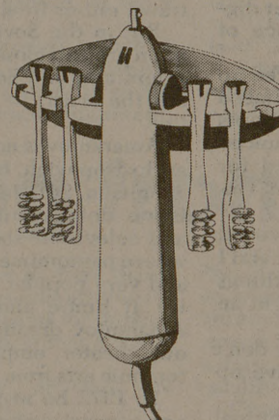
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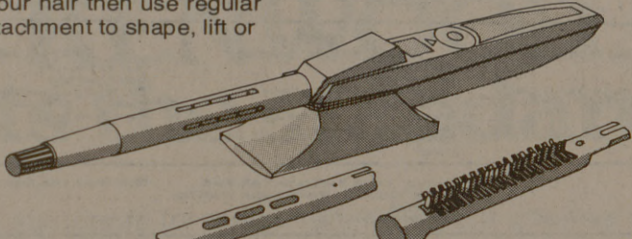
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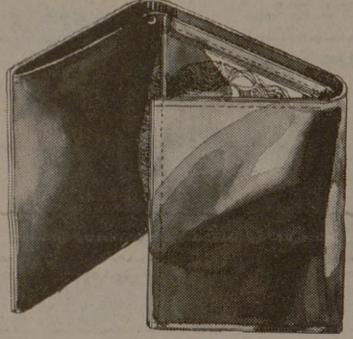
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