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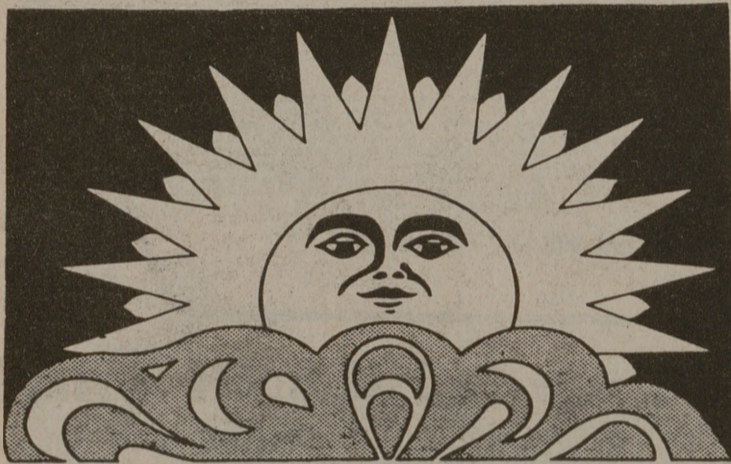
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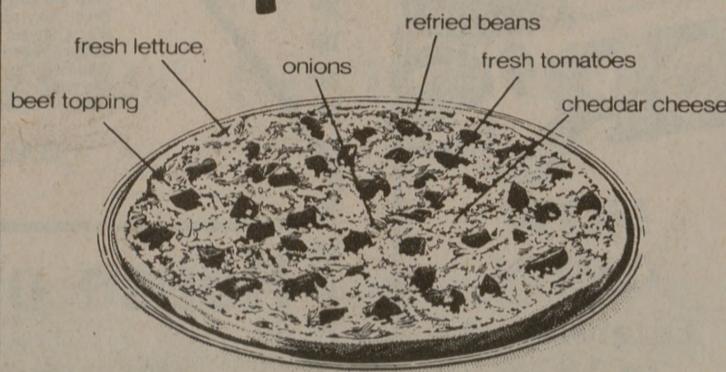
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Ambassador named U.S. to mediate talks

United Press International
 Robert Strauss, who admits to being a "high-stakes gambler," will be President Carter's Middle East ambassador-at-large to mediate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian self-rule.

Strauss, one of the few non-Georgians to penetrate Carter's inner circle of advisers, has been the president's chief international trade negotiator — a post he will surrender shortly.

The normally jovial Strauss was serious Tuesday as he stood with Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for the announcement.

"No one believes the road to peace in the future will be any less arduous than the path we've already followed," the president said.

"We've learned that perseverance, patience, faith and trust can overcome what appear to be impossible obstacles."

During a recent conversation with a reporter, Strauss admitted he loves to gamble. "I'm a high-stakes gambler," he said. "The more that's on the line, the more I like it."

The president's all-around trouble-shooter, answering questions after the announcement, said, "I've got a lot to learn." But he pledged to tackle the task with "my complete dedication."

Strauss showed a sensitivity when asked if the fact he is Jewish might hinder his position.

"I've never considered my own religious origins an obstacle to anything, not in this and not in anything I've ever done," he replied sternly.

"Next question."

The delicate diplomatic mission effectively removes Strauss from the U.S. political arena only months before the presidential campaign gets fully under way. His knack for unify-

ing divided Democrats could be sorely missed in the event of a primary challenge to Carter.

A wealthy man with Dallas broadcasting interests, Strauss said of all the positions he has held, his new assignment is "the most complex, the most difficult and offers the most rewards."

Carter said he considers the mercurial, smooth-talking Texan a gifted

negotiator capable of taking a role the president himself played for more than a year.

Carter said he had discussed selection by telephone with Egyptian President Anwar and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel.

"Their response was positively enthusiastic," the president

Bill would sink underwater lots

United Press International
 AUSTIN — Sen. A.R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, is taking an unscrupulous real estate salesman, charging they have sold up to 100,000 "underwater lots" to unsuspecting Gulf Coast residents.

Schwartz' comments came Tuesday as the Senate approved a bill and sent to the House a bill extending the life of the Texas Real Estate Commission until 1991 and requiring that citizen members be added to the agency's governing board.

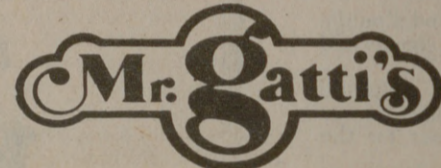
The proposal, which slipped through the Senate with only minor opposition, implements a number of the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission regarding the Real Estate Commission.

However, Schwartz argued the proposal, by Sen. Linda Williams, D-Galena Park, would not require real estate salesmen to tell prospective home buyers if their homes were in danger of flooding because of subsidence or hurricanes along the Texas coast.

"There are another 50,000 to 100,000 people down there who were sold some underwater lots and found out about it as recently as last week ago, and I think it's time the real estate industry took some responsibility for deceiving people," Schwartz said.

"The real estate industry is okay until you try to get them to be honest with the buying public, then they get defensive about it. The real estate industry is opposed to disclosure. What they want to do is keep on selling underwater subdivisions."

Williams later agreed to accept an amendment by Schwartz that would require real estate dealers to notify buyers along the coast that information on coastal hazards is available to show if their land is subject to flooding.



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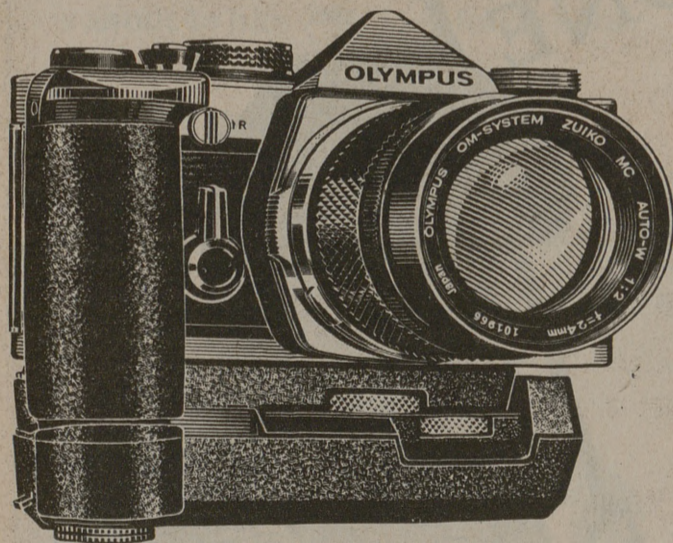
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