

Gas Company Opposes Rate Increase

Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies filed a motion with the Federal Power Commission this week requesting that national regulatory body to consider the legality of a \$10,000,000 increase in gas rates proposed by the El Paso Natural Gas Co., the out-of-state supplier of the Southland companies.

Action of the gas companies

was taken, a spokesman said, in response to the decision of the California Public Utilities Commission December 5, which ordered the Southland companies to file such a motion.

The order of the California Commission was based on a November 21 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the case of Memphis Light, Gas, and

Water Division vs. the Federal Power Commission, which found that a pipeline company could not file an increased rate unless the rate was specifically agreed to by the purchasing company. The ordinary procedure under the Natural Gas Act has been for rates to go into effect under bond and subject to refund after the Federal

Power Commission held public hearings.

Representatives of the local companies have always taken an active part in such hearings to protect the interests of Southern California customers. Meanwhile, it is understood that certain of the parties in the Memphis case have requested a stay of the lower court's order, while an appeal is taken to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In another action today, the

two Southland companies filed applications with the California Public Utilities Commission for an increase in rates to offset increased costs of gas they must pay to a major California supplier, Pacific Lighting Gas Supply Co.

Under the PUC decision December 5, the Gas Supply Co. was granted new wholesale rates estimated by the PUC to produce additional gross revenues of \$2,840,000 annually.

Wholesale priced articles at local store

Norman Fazekas, co-manager of Texder's Department store, 1150 Redondo Beach boulevard, just returned from a successful buying trip in New York last

week and announced that \$187,000 worth of goods will be offered to the public at wholesale prices for the present Christmas season.

The "offset" increase, if authorized by the Commission, would amount to about four cents per month for the typical residential customer, effective January 1.

"We shall continue to sell first quality merchandise at retail prices below any discount house, department store or chain store. Our merchandise is all brand name quality which

we cannot mention in our advertisements!" stated Fazekas. A veteran of military service spent in Japan, Fazekas is 30 years old, married and has been co-manager of Texder's since March.

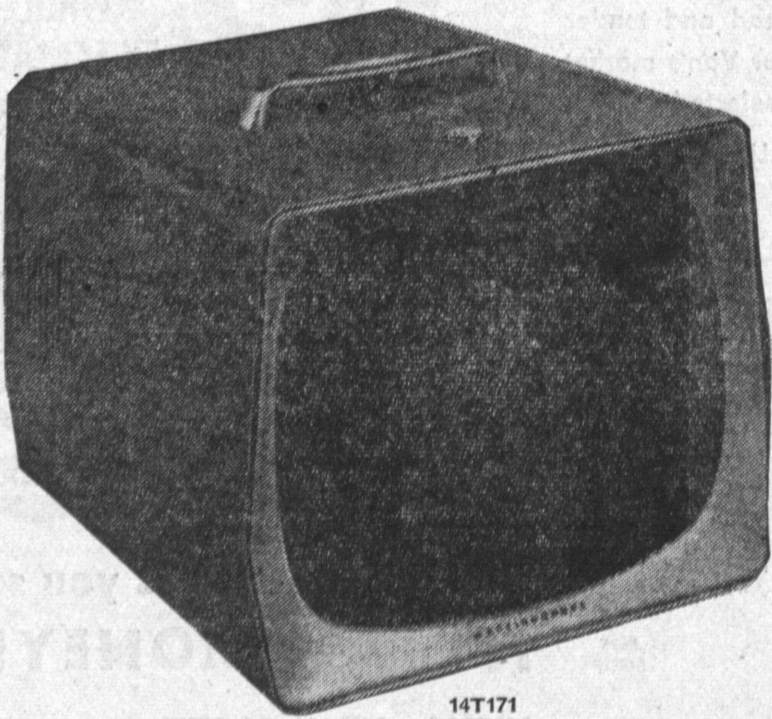
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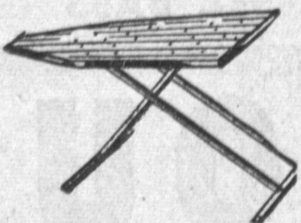
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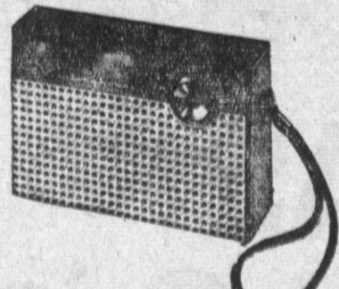
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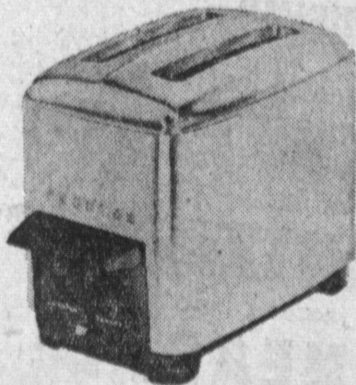
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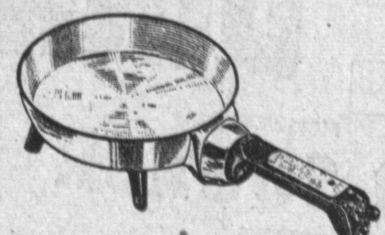
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