

**CEF Supports
2 U. S. Bills
On Parochial**

Washington, D.C. (RNS)—The national spokesman for Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF) gave his organization's backing to two proposed bills on federal aid to education of private school students.

William G. Polking, CEF's executive director, testifying before a House subcommittee, endorsed the School Children's Assistance Act, which authorizes "a two-year program of financial aid for all elementary and secondary school children in the U.S."

The measure provides an annual direct subsidy—regardless of whether the children attend private or public schools.

Polking also gave CEF approval to the National Education Policy Act, which calls for a comprehensive study of national school policy.

Although he endorsed the concept of tuition grants or vouchers as embodied in the School Children's Act, Polking said, "We would strongly urge a change in the mechanics or application of this concept. We would ask a voucher be granted directly to parents of all children in both public and non-public schools meeting the necessary requirements."

**Atheist Loses
Suit Against
'Space' Prayer**

Austin, Tex. — (NC)—U.S. District Court Judge Jack Roberts dismissed a suit by Mrs. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, an atheist, who sought to ban U.S. astronauts from saying prayers while off in space.

Judge Roberts said: "The first amendment (of the Constitution) does not require the state to be hostile to religion, but only neutral." He said to uphold the contention of the Austin housewife would violate the religious rights of astronauts.

Mrs. O'Hair gained national prominence six years ago when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a suit she instituted which banned compulsory prayers in public schools. In her complaint against the astronauts of Apollo 8 and 11, she said they engaged in religious ceremonies "to establish the Christian religion of the United States government before the world."

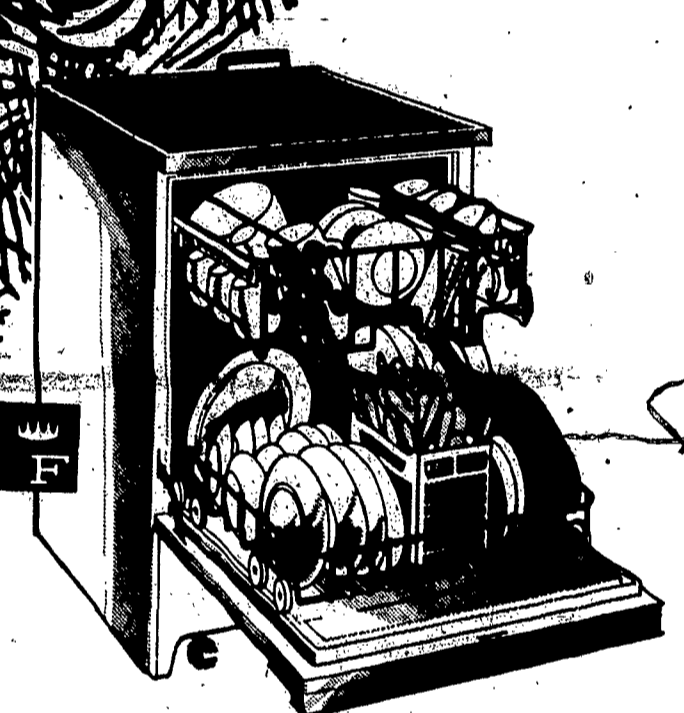
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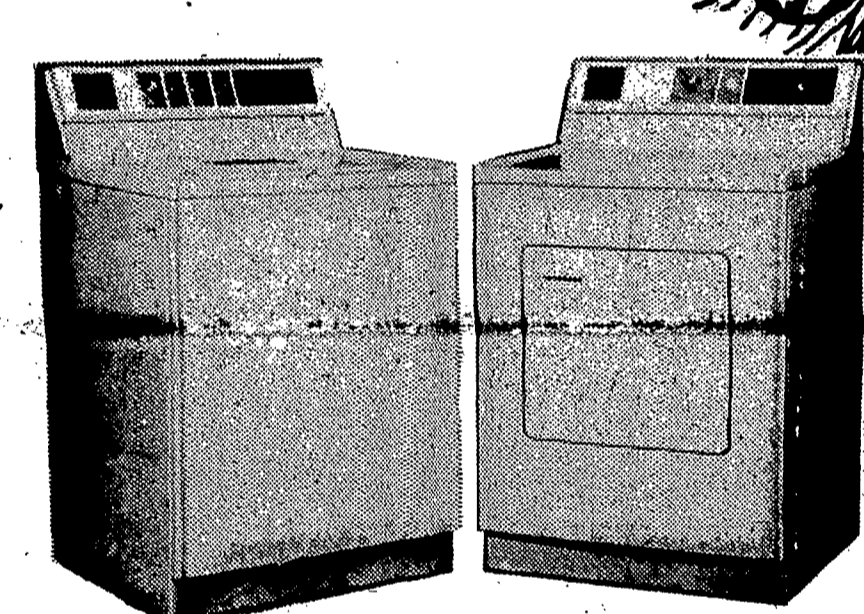
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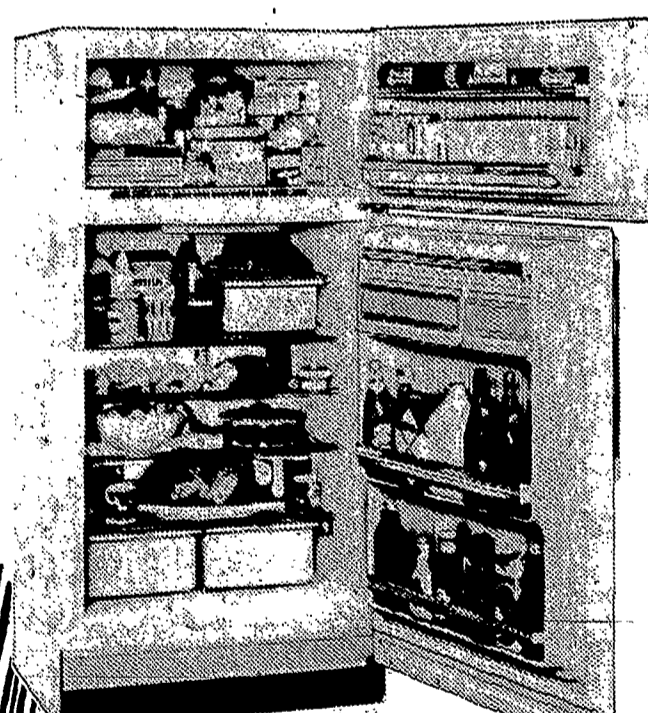
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