

'Peace Mass' Disturbed Peace

Eight leaders of a "Peace Mass" celebrated on the concourse of the Pentagon were fined \$25 each after their conviction in a U.S. Court here on charges of disturbing the peace. The sentences were suspended, pending appeal to a higher court.

The group included Mrs. Philip Hart, wife of Michigan's Democratic Senator, and Thomas Quigley, director of the Papal Volunteers for Latin America.

Another Biretta in the Ring

Father John McLaughlin, S.J., an associate editor of America, the Jesuit weekly review, and a former teacher, has declared himself a candidate for the U.S. Senate from the state of Rhode Island. He is seeking the Republican nomination, to oppose Democrat John O. Pastore, the incumbent since 1950.

Father McLaughlin remarked that his candidacy is simply "an extension of the public service of my past." The 43-year-old priest said he did not know of any other Catholic priests who had sought election to the Senate. He added that his campaign was "not symbolic."

Minneapolis Passes the Plate

The Minneapolis City Council has passed the collection plate to the city's churches and other owners of tax-exempt property for donations in lieu of taxes to cover the cost of city services.

Letters mailed to 421 owners of tax-exempt property (churches, private schools, hospitals, charitable institutions and cemeteries) asked contributions of one-half to one per cent of the market value.

DC Abortion Law to be Reviewed

Acting on an appeal filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Supreme Court announced that it would review the District of Columbia's abortion law next Fall.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell struck down the law last November as too vague. In its appeal, the Justice Department said that in Gesell's decision the law was being construed to mean that a doctor who acts in good faith is not subject to criminal prosecution for performing an abortion.

Meanwhile, in New York City a health official predicted that the demand for abortions at the city's hospitals would be somewhere between 20,000 and 100,000 a year after the new state abortion law goes into effect July 1. In St. Louis, a general conference of the United Methodist Church called on state legislatures to repeal all abortion laws on the grounds that abortion is a personal matter. The resolution also called for the removal of legal barriers to voluntary sterilization and urged church members to limit their families in an effort to protect "the quality of life."

Quakers Ask Israel to Spur Mideast Peace

Philadelphia — (NC) — Nine Quaker leaders have challenged Israel to take the first step towards peace in the Middle East by pledging to pull out of territories claimed by the Arab nations and occupied by Israel since the end of 1967's six-day war.

In a 20,000-word study released here April 25, spokesmen for the American Friends Service Committee urged Israel, as the dominant military power in the Middle East, to withdraw from the captured lands and to aid Palestinian refugees as indications of Israel's commitment to peace.

The Quakers suggested that the Arab nations respond to Israeli overtures by making an "unequivocal public commitment" to accept the state of Israel as an independent nation. The study also suggested that interested parties negotiate to define the frontiers of Israel.

"We firmly believe," authors of the report declared, "that it is possible to be both pro-Jewish and pro-Arab. We believe that to ignore or to deny the essential rights of one group will lead to the ultimate destruction of the rights of the other."

Serra to Promote Permanent Diaconate

Chicago — (RNS) — Serra International, which promotes vocations to the Roman Catholic priesthood, has pledged its support of plans to restore the permanent diaconate.

for the plan at a board meeting here. Serra will give the diaconate considerable attention through its 340 chapters throughout the world and at its international convention in Mexico City in June.

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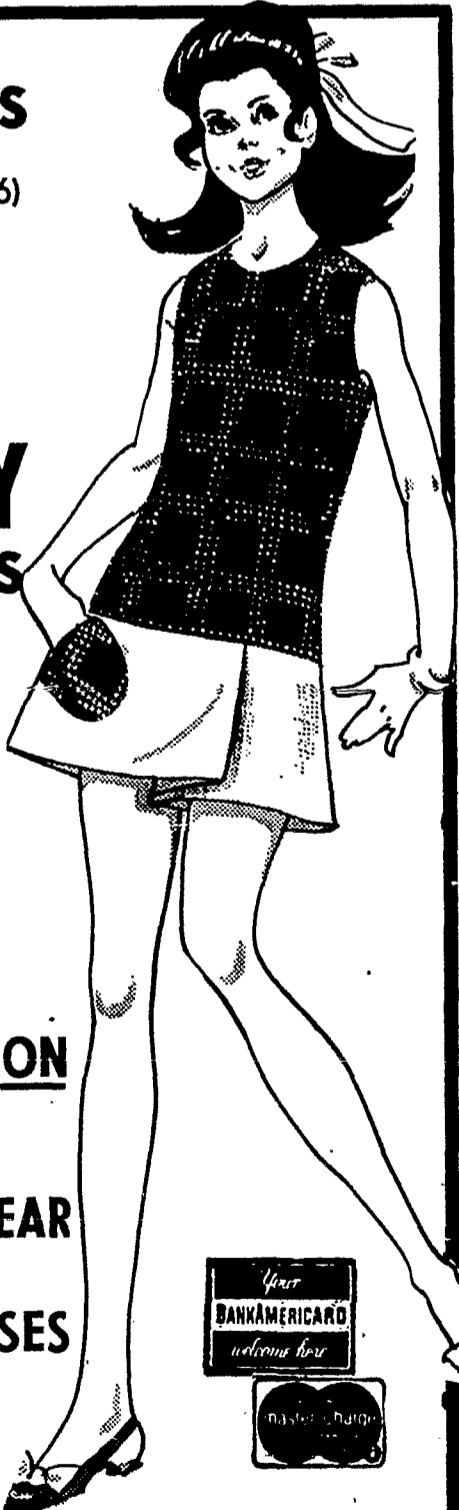
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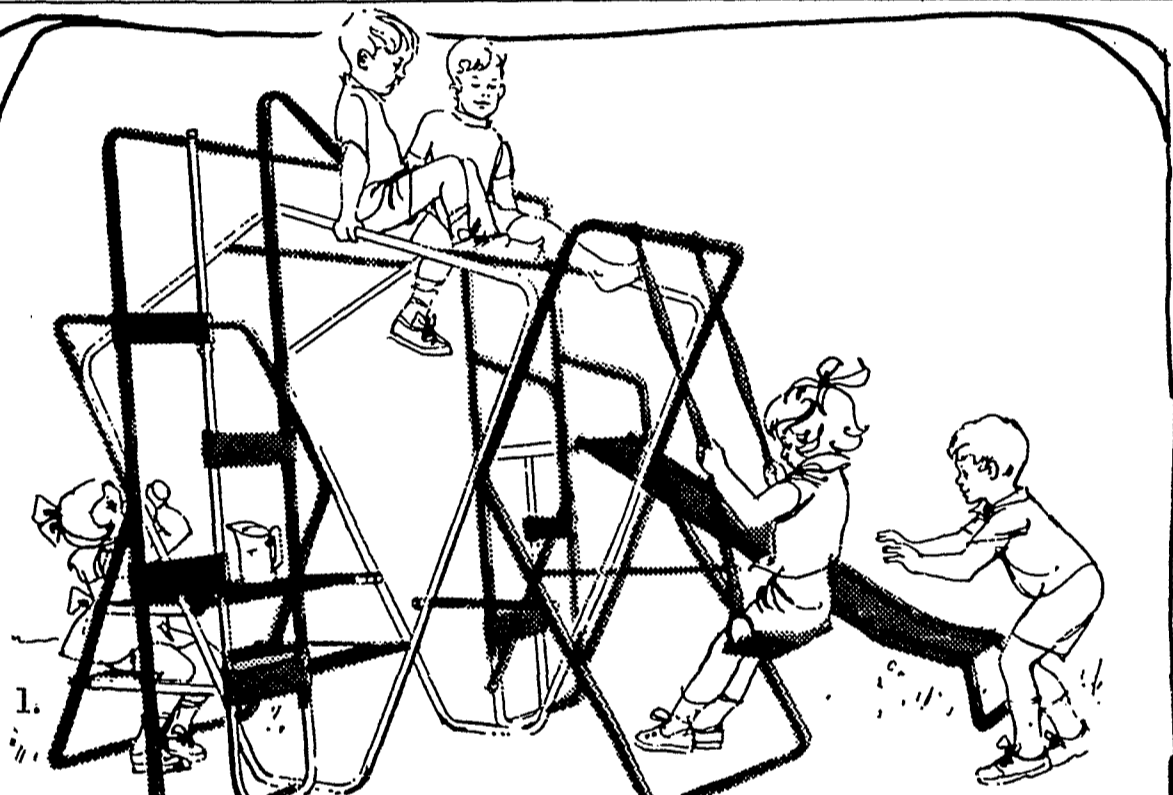
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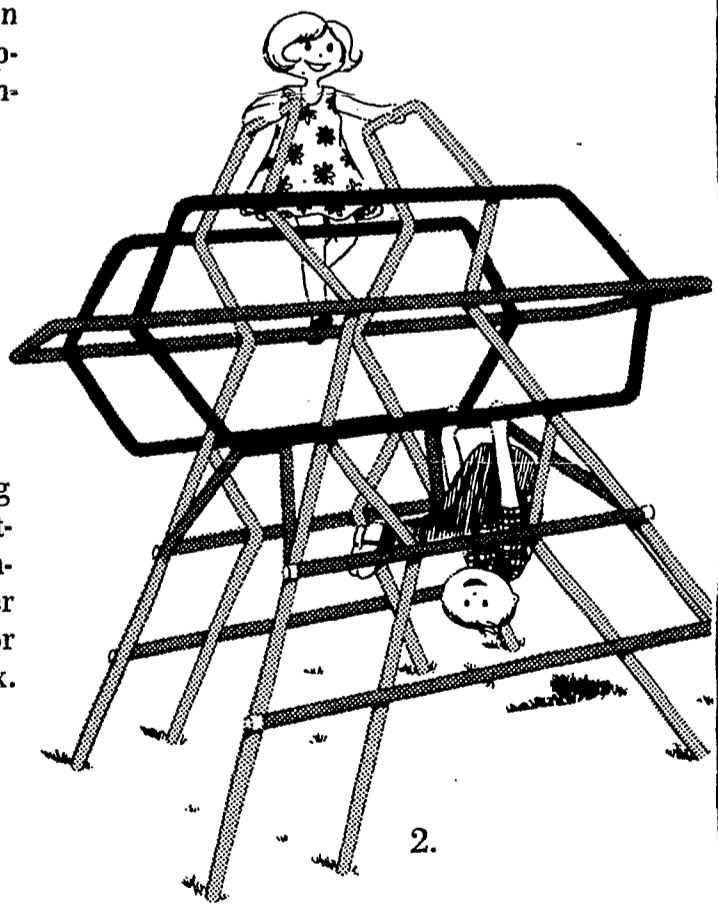
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