

State funds rules changed

By BILL BAER

HELENA (UPI) — The proposed new constitution would change the legislature with strict accountability and "proper" investment of state funds.

There would be some limitation on the legislature concerning investment of public school money.

The new constitutional section would replace all of the present section, which was called obsolete.

It was felt the legislature is best equipped to make decisions concerning investment opportunities for state money.

Although the legislature may well leave the handling and investment of surplus funds at the local level, its supervisory power will insure careful handling and treatment in the hands of local governments.

THE STATE DEBT limit is now \$100,000, which was probably large in 1889 when the constitution was adopted, but in today's picture, it is limiting.

So the new constitution would authorize the legislature to de-

cide the limits by either a two-thirds vote of each house or by the majority of the people voting on the issue.

A new protection for the Montana taxpayer would be an independent tax appeal board. It establishes a guarantee never provided for state taxpayers.

Under the present tax administration, the same governmental bodies that impose the tax also sit in judgment on the implementation of those taxes, making it hard sometimes for appeal.

As the convention said, "Overwhelming testimony indicates that the present procedure does not guarantee an independent,

non-partial, objective review of tax decisions."

AN ENTIRELY NEW article of the new constitution would cover environment and natural resources.

The new provisions would call for the state and each citizen to maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment.

The legislature would be directed to provide adequate remedies to protect the environment.

Water rights would be given constitutional recognition with the water being declared as property of the state for use of its people.



Speaker

Cliff Saylor of Glendale, Ariz., regional vice president of the Future Farmers of America, will speak at the state FFA leadership conference at Montana State University in Bozeman on April 7 and 8.

Penney's to reopen

BUTTE (AP)—The J.C. Penney Co. is on a crash schedule to get back into business in Butte by May 1.

The firm's Butte outlet was leveled in a multi-million dollar explosion and fire Feb. 28.

Leonard Kelly, the store manager, said eventually the company will rebuild at the site of the fire, but until then business will be re-opened at three vacant stores in the central business district. The retail merchandising company has sent construction foremen to work in all three sites and arrangements have been made for workmen from the Butte area to get all ready by the end of April, he said.

Kelly noted that the owner of the burned out building, Jeffrey Granger, had telephoned from New York with word that plans are being drawn up for a new department store complex at the fire site.

River project pushed

SIDNEY (AP) — State Sen. Cornie R. Thiessen, D-Lambert, has called for an all-out effort to realize an over-all watershed development of the Yellowstone River valley.

Speaking before the Upper Missouri Generation and Transmission Cooperative's annual meeting at Sidney, Thiessen said the raging river must be tamed to put an end to the flooding threat during the annual spring ice breakup.

He said he had written Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., for help and had contacted a member of the Montana Water Resources Board.

He said it was "nonsensical" for the flood threat and damage to continue in a nation that can spend billions of dollars to put a man on the moon.

If the project cannot be justified on the basis of flood protection, reclamation, recreation and hydro-electric power, he said, then it should be done as a social welfare program to bring about jobs for the unemployed and security for area residents.

Study horses

THERMOPOLIS, Wyo. — As part of the high school's lifetime physical education curriculum, a horsemanship class is being offered this year. Topics included are introduction to the horse industry, selection and judging horses, understanding horse health problems and fitting and showing horses.



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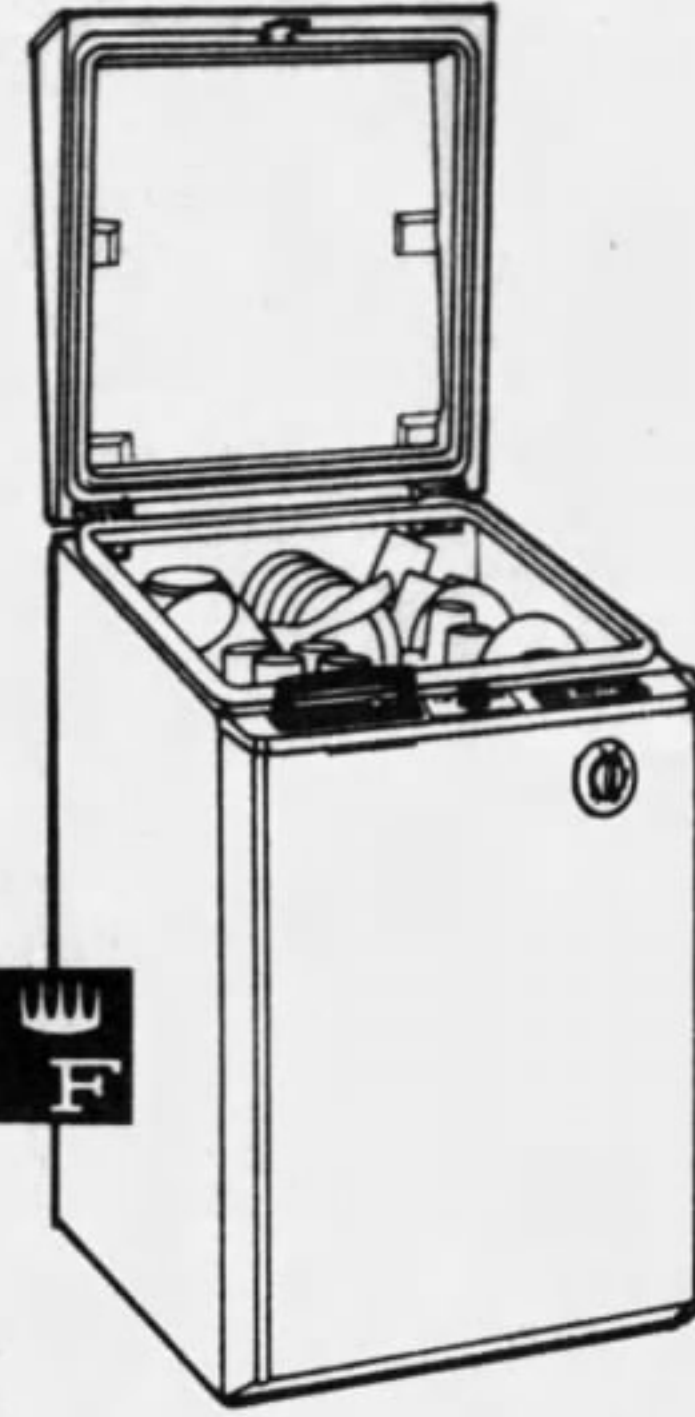
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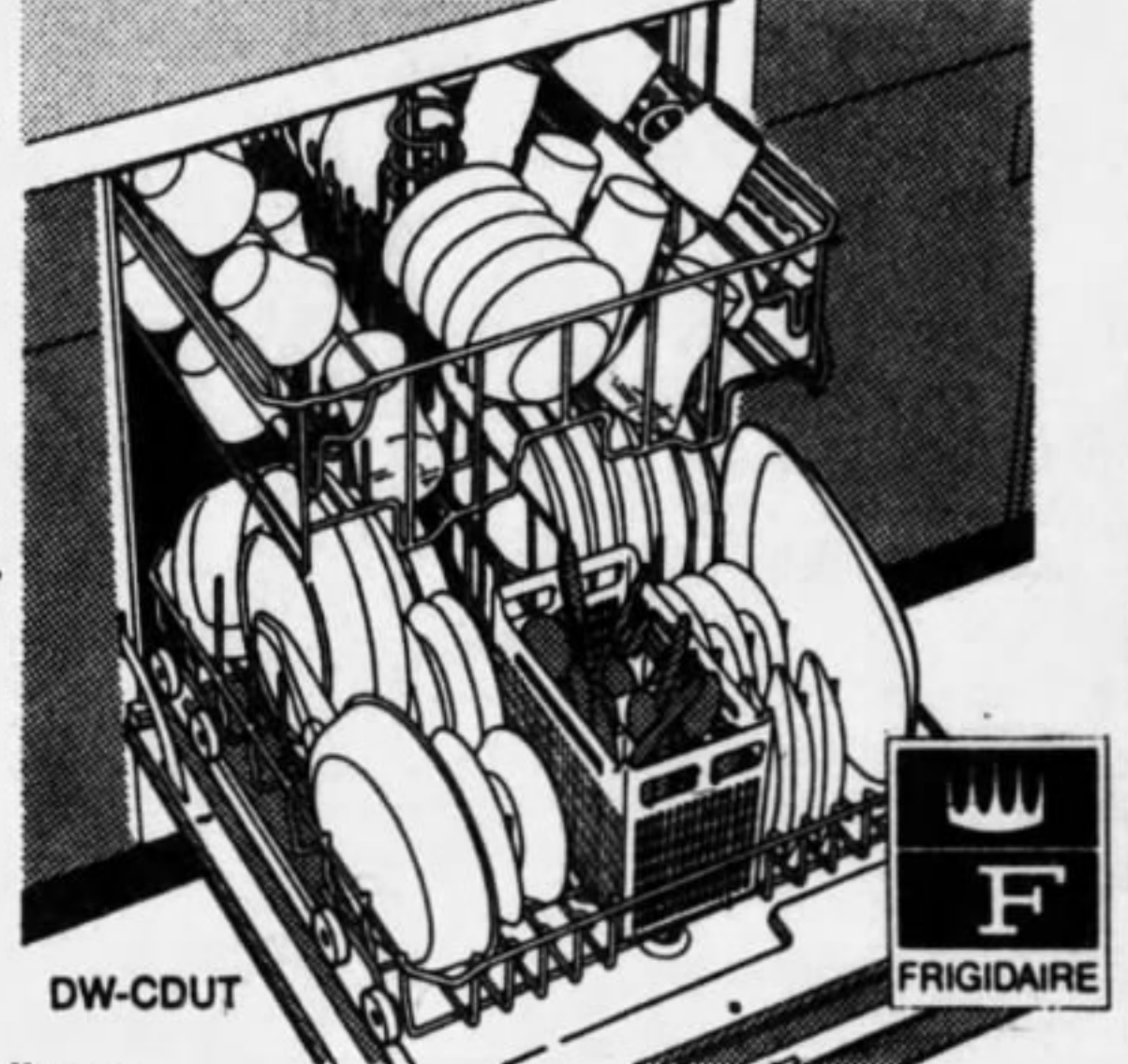
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