

Los dilemas del Congreso ante el conflicto de Chiapas

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México- El Congreso de México inició el 1 de septiembre su año legislativo con una agenda rezagada, en la que los dilemas cruciales se centrarán en cómo resolver el con-

flicto armado en Chiapas, la crisis de las instituciones financieras y el crecimiento de la criminalidad. El conflicto social, político y militar que se desarrolla en Chiapas desde enero de 1994 tiene como centro de gravedad el estancamiento

de las negociaciones entre el Gobierno y la guerrilla zapatista desde 1996, debido a que los Acuerdos de San Andrés sobre derechos y cultura indígena (firmados ese año) no se han convertido en ley de la Constitución. La Presidencia presentó una propuesta de ley enviada en marzo al Congreso destinada a reglamentar los derechos de los pueblos indios. El Partido Acción Nacional (PAN,

conservador) elaboró su propia iniciativa de acuerdo con las "cartas municipales" aplicadas en las zonas indígenas para reorganizar su administración. La legislativa Comisión de Concordia y Pacificación (Cocopa, plural) presentó, por su parte, una propuesta basada en una interpretación de los acuerdos de San Andrés, rechazada por el Ejecutivo y aceptada

por el Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional. En cuanto a la economía, líderes empresariales y dirigentes del gobernante Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI, casi 70 años en el poder) aseguran que México se enfrenta al peligro de sufrir un período de recesión económica si el Congreso no aprueba el paquete financiero propuesto por el Ejecutivo.



Chiapas Needs Election Observers in October

Alianza Civica, Mexico's non-partisan electoral watchdog organization, is convening an international support delegation to watch over municipal elections in Chiapas Oct. 4.

Some observers contend that ongoing violence, political polarization and a deadlocked "peace process" could make fair elections in Chiapas nearly impossible. Peace talks between the government and Zapatista rebels broke off nearly two years ago. Human rights groups contend that government-backed civilian paramilitary squads have been terrorizing Zapatista supporters and other dissidents.

The international human rights groups Global Exchange will be assisting Alianza Civica with the delegation. Foreign election observers participated in the 1994 presidential election, regarded as perhaps the least corrupt in the country's modern history. Mexico has been ruled by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) for nearly 70 years.

President Ernesto Zedillo and the governor of Chiapas are members of the PRI, though opposition candidates have made real gains.

Alianza Civica recently sent an expert team to Chiapas and is preparing a report to be released in early September.

Convocan a zapatistas a discutir soluciones

Cientos de organizaciones y personalidades convocaron a los zapatistas a un encuentro para discutir su participación en la consulta nacional para elegir propuestas de solución al conflicto en el estado mexicano de Chiapas.

En un anuncio publicado en la prensa, formularon "atenta y cordialmente una invitación al Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) para analizar propuestas y llegar a acuerdos sobre la realización de la consulta y además para un intercambio de juicios, puntos de vista y alternativas posibles de solución al conflicto".

La convocatoria está firmada por más de 50 diputados, presidentes municipales, intelectuales y cientos de organizaciones no gubernamentales, campesinas, sindicales, barriales y políticas.

La demanda a los zapatistas se formuló un día después de que se

cumplieran dos años de interrupción del diálogo entre el gobierno y el EZLN y pocas semanas después de que éste formulara un llamado a una consulta nacional para que el pueblo elija vías de solución al conflicto en Chiapas.

Los firmantes recordaron que en más de cuatro años del alzamiento armado del EZLN ha habido numerosos diálogos, negociaciones, "rupturas de acuerdos, campañas de odio y calumnias y movilizaciones nacionales e internacionales de intensa solidaridad".

"Sin embargo, y de manera sorprendente, el desgaste natural y el desgaste inducido no han sido suficientes para aquietar o eliminar la búsqueda de la paz digna y el apoyo a las reivindicaciones indígenas, a su exigencia de derechos humanos, al deseo mayoritario de que Acteal, la matanza y el proceso dilatorio, no se repitan", agregaron. (AFP).



Un niño que vende dulces en las calles de San Cristóbal de las Casas mira en los televisores de una tienda el discurso de Zedillo sobre el estado de la nación. Zedillo dijo que sólo con conversaciones y negociaciones se puede terminar con el conflicto en Chiapas.

Deployment of Troops Trigger Fears of Civil War, Massacre

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico, Sep 30 (EFE).- Troop movements in a jungle bastion of Zapatista rebels in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas have triggered fears among indigenous communities and civic organizations of a civil war or a repeat of a 1968 military massacre of civilians.

Opposition politicians and non-governmental organizations have denounced the troop movements inside the Lacandona jungle and warned indigenous communities to leave their villages to escape "a possible military repression."

The situation provides for a tense background to Sunday's polls, aimed at electing 103



mayors and 40 representatives to a local legislature.

Troop movements are reportedly occurring near villages sympathetic to the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), which has been wag-

ing a 4-year fight for indigenous rights. Some observers say the movements are meant more to remind Zapatista rebels of the military's strength in the area -- 70,000 soldiers according to estimates of non-governmental organizations -- rather than provide a "direct threat" to their positions.

But Manuel Lopez Obrador, national council head of the oppositionist Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), said the military presence in the area posed a threat to Sunday's polls.

"It could unleash a civil war and turn Chiapas into another Tlatelolco," he said, in allusion to an October 1968 massacre by soldiers of some 37 youths, although non-government estimates placed the number of fatalities of that incident at more than 400.

Although defense ministry officials have qualified the movements as "routinary" and part of the need to "supply and change troops," they refused to specify the number of soldiers involved.

The movements are not meant to harass or intimidate the people, they added.

Spokesmen of a civic organization allied to the Zapatista National Liberation Front -- the EZLN's political arm -- told EFE that army had conducted "uncommon" maneuvers in its San Quintin headquarters.

They said troops were sent to the village of El Prado -- some 850 km southeast of the Mexican capital -- and advanced deep into the Lacandona jungle.

The Coalition of Autonomous Organizations in Ocosingo -- one of the access points to the jungle -- denounced late Tuesday that tanks and other vehicles entered Lacandona "for disuasive purposes" and urged residents to evacuate to escape "a possible military repression."

Porfirio Encino, PRD majority candidate for Ocosingo, said more than 200 army vehicles -- trucks carrying supplies, artillery and troops -- entered the northwestern section of the Lacandona jungle, Encino said.

But the local Chiapas military command, although admitting there had been some troop movements, denied there were tanks involved.

They are only troop transport and supply trucks, it said.

Amigos de David Gutierrez

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Salud

Libro en español para mujeres embarazadas

Después de que se vendieran millones de copias de la guía sobre el embarazo escrito por Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi E. Murkoff y Sandee Hathaway con consejos prácticos para las madres que esperan bebés, una nueva versión en español ahora está disponible. "Qué se puede esperar cuando se está esperando" es el nombre en español de la publicación y abarca un amplio abanico de temas que despejan dudas a las futuras mamás.



Desde los primeros síntomas del embarazo hasta el cuidado postnatal, detalle a detalle el libro explica lo que la mujer suele sentir física y mentalmente mes a mes. Consejos de salud, nutrición, dietas, ejercicios, sexualidad, el desarrollo del bebé y más se explican en la publicación, que fue traducida y asesorada por una conocedora de la cultura hispana, la Dra. Juanita Jenyons, directora de obstetricia en el Pabellón Allen del Centro Médico Columbia-Presbyterian de Nueva York.

También se aborda cómo es el proceso del parto y paso a paso las tres fases por las que se pasa cuando se da a luz, los procedimientos médicos que se usan y cuándo puede ser necesario una cesárea.

News Briefs

Henry B. Vows to Support Clinton

U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, ailing and absent from Congress for a year, said he will defy doctor's orders and return to Washington to support President Clinton if impeachment actions are taken.

The 82-year-old San Antonian criticized the president for his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, according to the San Antonio Express-News. But he called the offense a personal matter. Gonzalez rejected any notion that punishment is necessary because the president was "disingenuous" and not "forthright with the American people."

"This is a personal flaw and a failure on the part of the president. It's of a moral nature, not political," said Gonzalez, who once called for the impeachment of Presidents Reagan and Bush. He is not seeking reelection.

Hispanic Leaders Slams Church For Sale to Pay Pedophile's Debt

DALLAS--Hispanic leaders blasted the Dallas Catholic Diocese for selling a school in a predominantly Latino neighborhood to help pay for a \$30.9 million sex-abuse judgment.

Located in a neighborhood known as "Little Mexico," St. Ann's was used by the Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe as an outreach center that provided English classes, parenting courses and counseling, among other things.

Ronnie Villareal, a board member of the Guadalupe center, said a community coalition tried to purchase the school for \$2 million. However, the bid was rejected for a higher one, he said. "We consider it a great injustice," he said. The diocese has been mortgaging several properties to pay for the judgment of former priest

Rudolph Kos, who was convicted last March of child molestation.

In San Antonio, the Archdiocese has also asked parishioners to help pay off a multimillion dollar lawsuit judgment against it because of a another priest convicted of child molestation.

Judge Gives Favorable Bilingual Education Ruling

A judge ordered the state Board of Education to consider allowing school districts to keep bilingual programs despite voter approval in June of the anti-bilingual Proposition 227.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Henry Needham refused last Thursday to block local enforcement of Prop. 227, which requires districts to replace bilingual education with "English immersion." But he ruled that the California Board of Education must consider a school district's request for a waiver, which would let it keep its entire bilingual program.

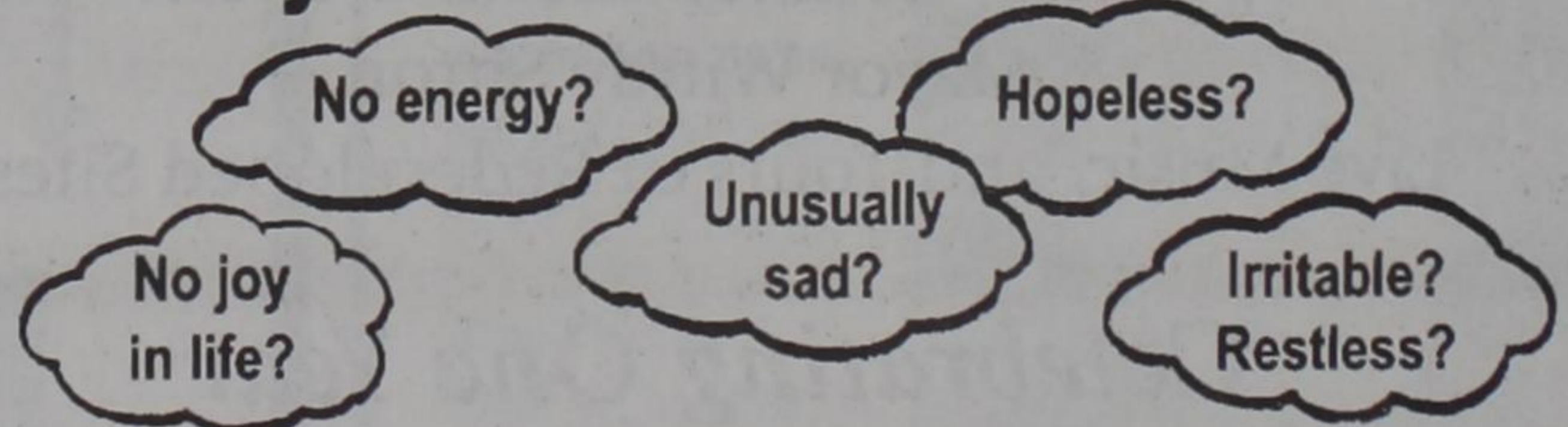
The local districts filed suit after the Board of Education refused to consider waivers earlier this summer, contending it had no authority to grant them for entire school districts. The board was advised by the office of the state legislative counsel and their staff attorneys that they could not legally consider the waivers.

Ron Unz, a Silicon Valley software developer who chaired the Prop. 227 campaign, said he was disturbed by Needham's ruling. He said he believed it violated the state constitution. Local school district leaders, however, were pleased. "We think it's a good decision," said Joe Symkowick, the San Francisco School District's legal counsel. "We don't think it could have gone any other way." The school board will probably decide whether to appeal the ruling at its next meeting, Sept. 9-11 in Sacramento, said board attorney Rae Belisle.

Prop. 227, approved by 61 percent of the voters, has been upheld by federal courts and takes effect with the new school term, already under way in some parts of California.



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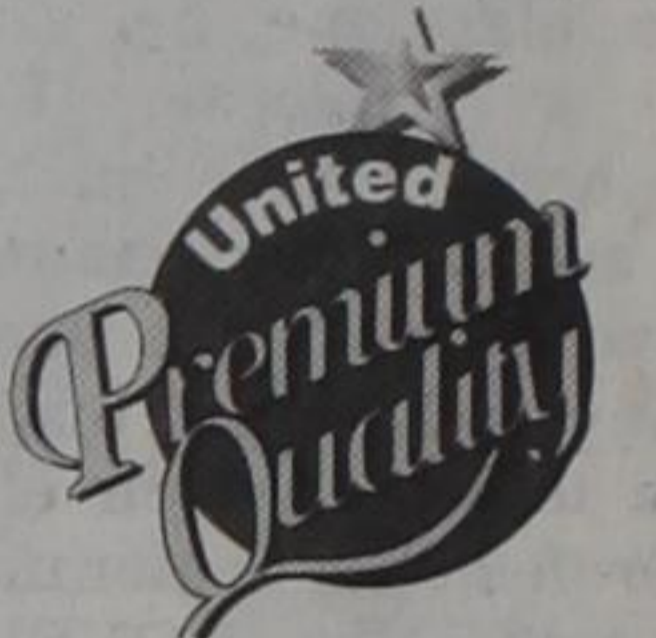
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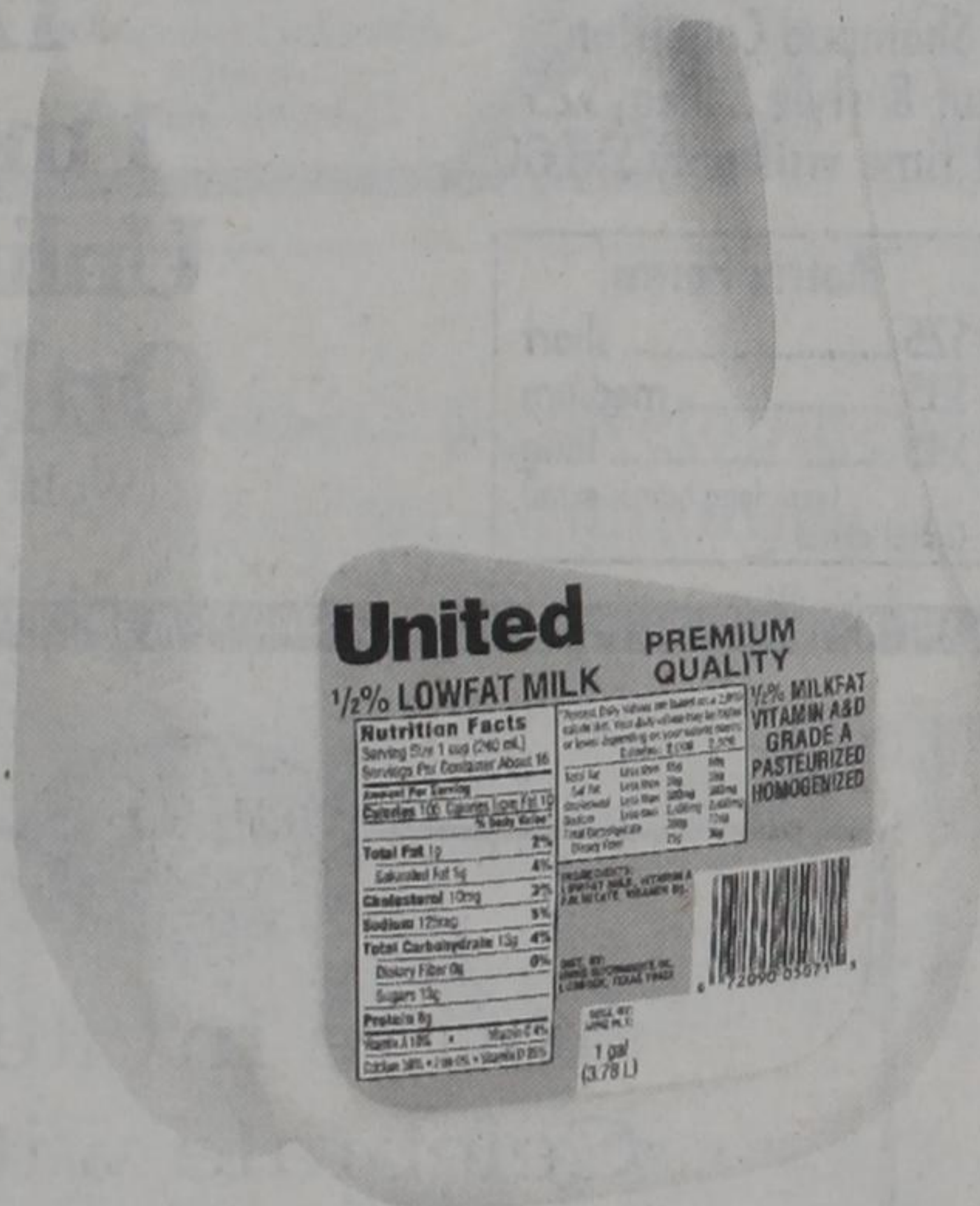


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