

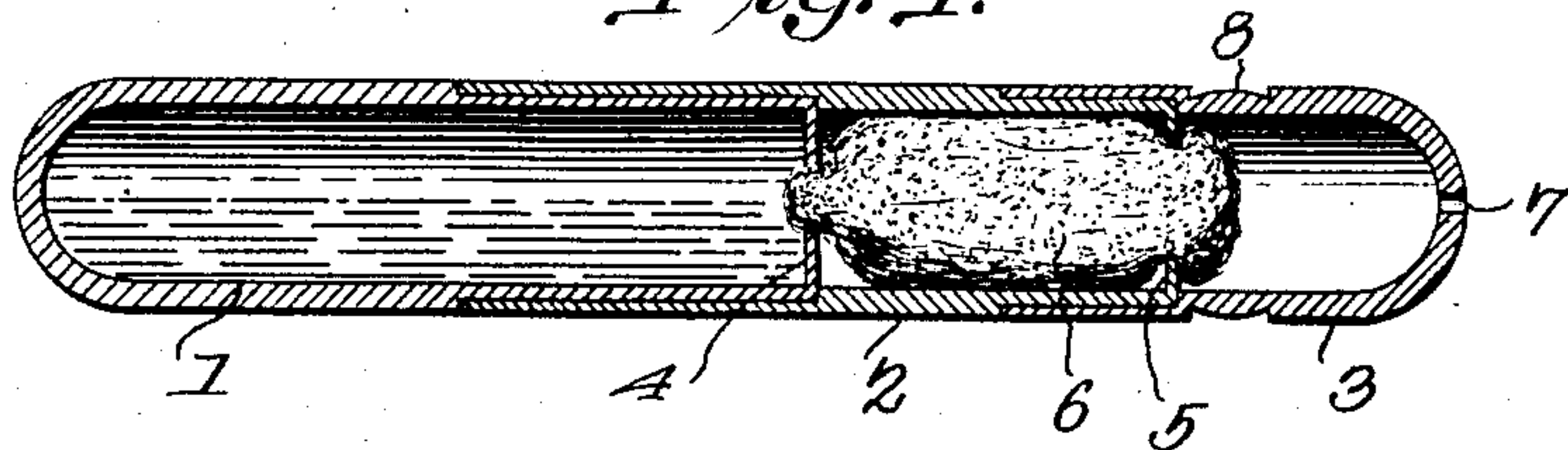
No. 771,735.

PATENTED OCT. 4, 1904.

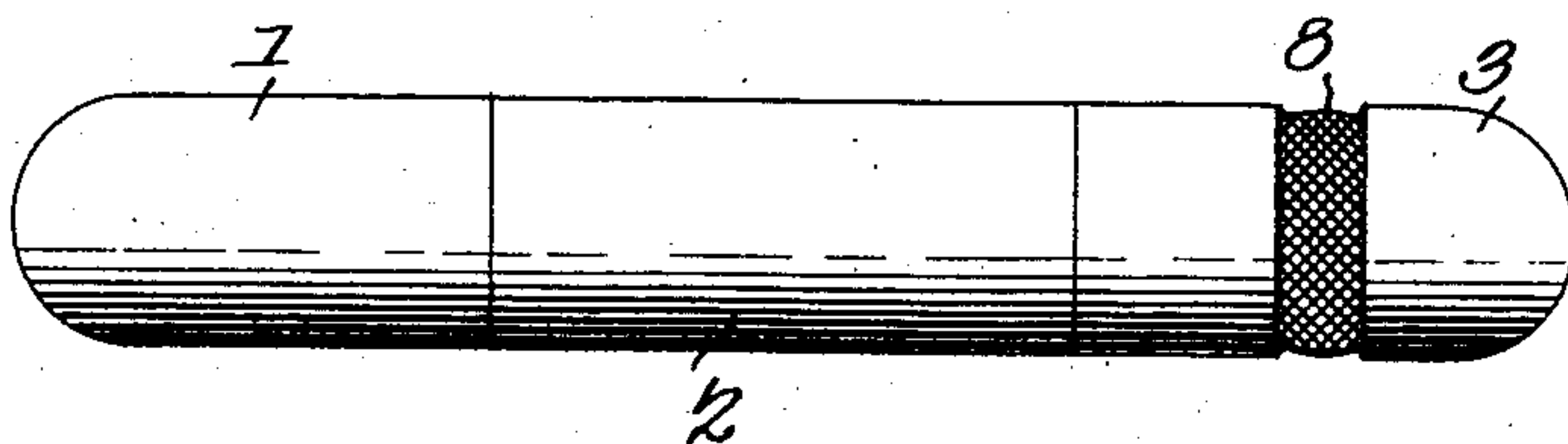
C. W. & I. P. KIMBALL.  
POSTAGE STAMP OR ENVELOP MOISTENER.  
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 29, 1904.

NO MODEL.

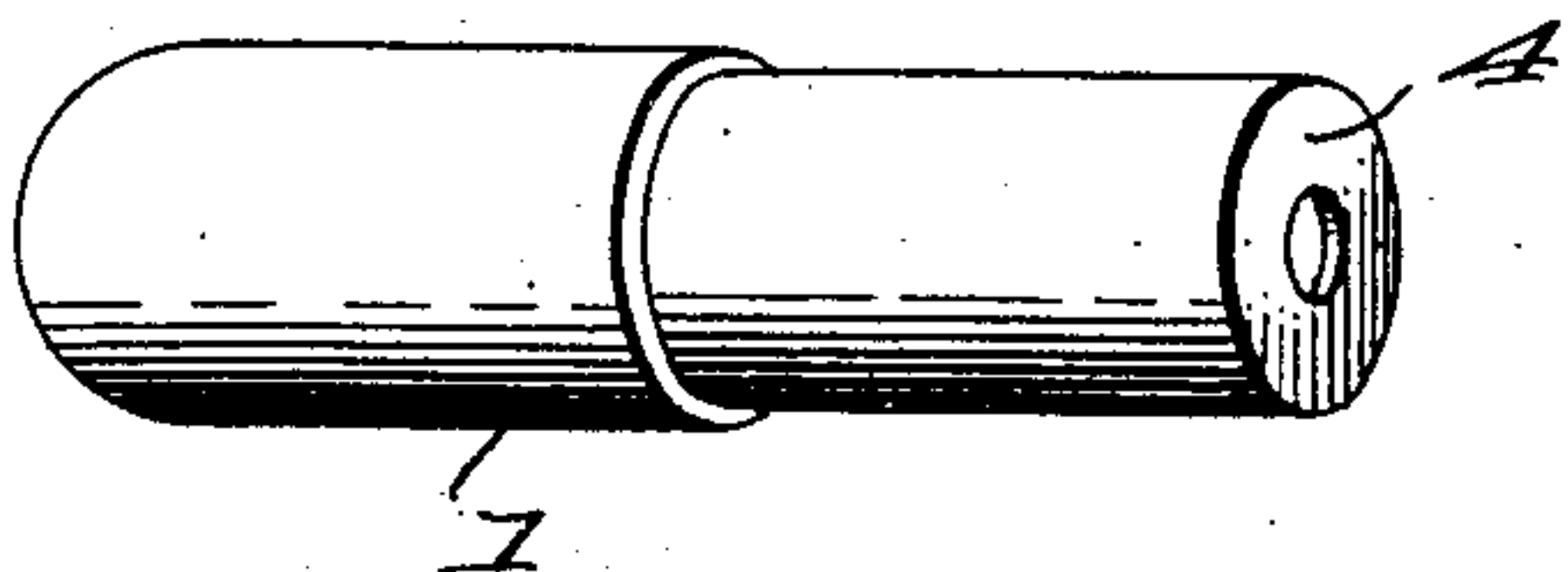
*Fig. 1.*



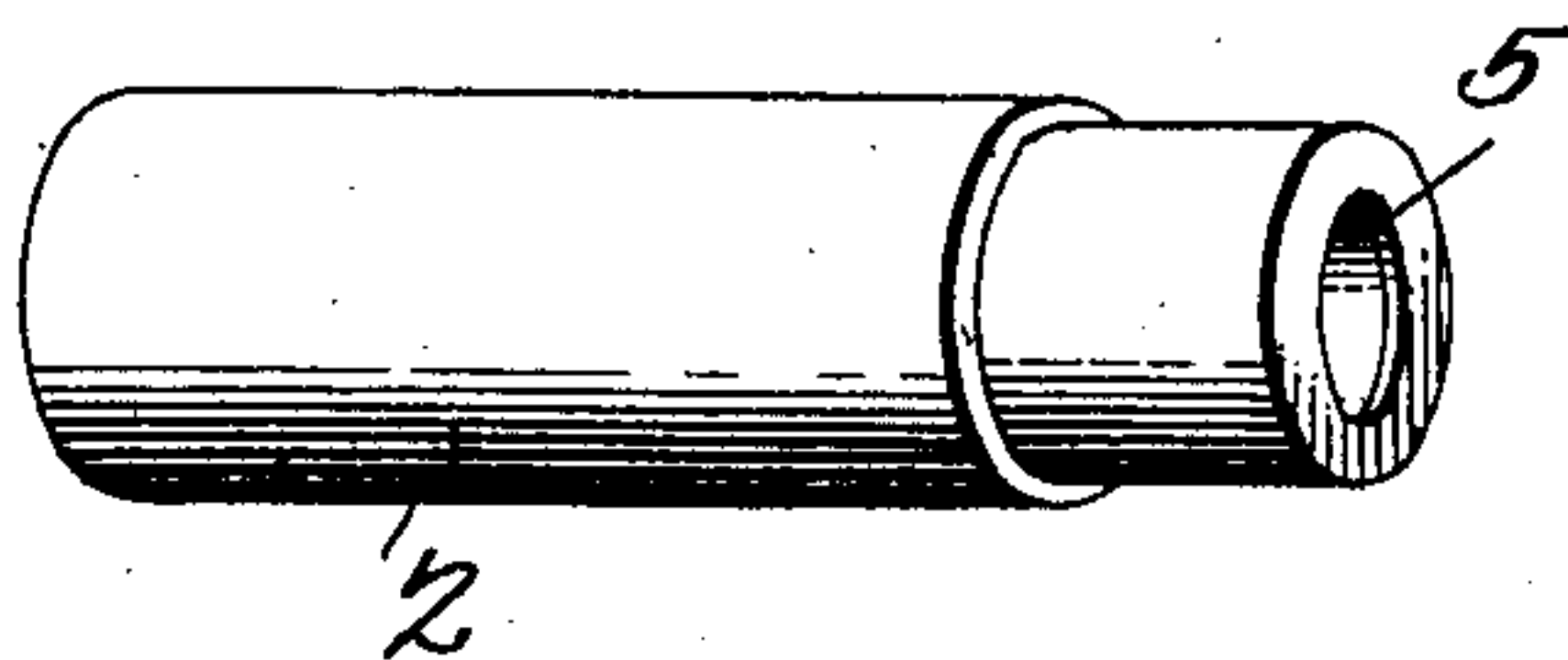
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES WARREN KIMBALL, OF PENN YAN, AND IRWIN PAINE KIMBALL,  
OF AUBURN, NEW YORK.

## POSTAGE-STAMP OR ENVELOP MOISTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 771,735, dated October 4, 1904.

Application filed February 29, 1904. Serial No. 195,925. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, CHARLES WARREN KIMBALL, residing at Penn Yan, in the county of Yates, and IRWIN PAINE KIMBALL, residing at Auburn, in the county of Cayuga, State of New York, citizens of the United States, have invented a new and useful Postage-Stamp or Envelop Moistener, of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to improvements in devices for moistening the gummed surfaces of stamps, envelopes, and the like.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a device of simple, neat, and economical construction which may be carried in the pocket or used as a desk equipment for the moistening of envelopes and stamps with a view of lessening infection from contact of the tongue with the more or less contaminated gum.

20 With this and other objects in view, as will more fully hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claim, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportions, size, and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

30 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a detail sectional elevation of a moistener constructed in accordance with the invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail perspective views of portions of the moistener more particularly referred to hereinafter.

40 Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

The moistener is divided into three main sections, including a reservoir 1, a sponge-containing chamber 2, and a cap 3, all of which may be readily detached from each other, but the joints being air and liquid proof in order to prevent the escape of water.

The water-reservoir 1 is partly closed at one

end by an inwardly-extending annular flange 4, forming a comparatively restricted orifice for the passage of water to the sponge-containing chamber, and from the flange toward the opposite end of the reservoir the diameter of such reservoir is reduced for a portion of its length in order to receive the sponge-containing chamber 2, the latter being tubular in form and of an external diameter equal to the largest diameter of the water-reservoir.

At one end of the sponge-containing chamber is an inwardly-extending annular flange 5, which grips the sponge and serves to retain the same in proper position, so that the protruding end of the sponge 6 may be wiped over the gummed surface to be moistened without danger of forcing the sponge back into the casing. The absorbent material 6, while preferably sponge, may be of any suitable textile or other material capable of absorbing moisture, and such absorbent material extends, preferably, for the full length of the compartment or chamber 2, and its end slightly protrudes into the reservoir, so that the moisture will be drawn therefrom by capillary attraction.

A portion of the sponge-containing chamber is reduced in diameter to receive the close-fitting cap 3, which is also of external diameter uniform with that of the reservoir and sponge-casing. For convenience the end of the cap is provided with small air-hole 7, through which the air may escape while the cap is being placed in position, and thus by avoiding compression of air render it easier to place the cap in position or to remove it.

50 The joints which connect the several parts are all closely-fitting, so as to prevent the escape of any fluid, and the moistener therefore may be conveniently carried in the pocket without danger of the leakage of the water. For convenience the cap may be provided with a milled or knurled ring, as indicated at 8, in order to permit the ready removal of the cap.

With a device of this character envelopes, stamps, and other gum-coated surfaces may be quickly and thoroughly moistened, and thus avoid danger of infection from disease-germs



from the accumulation of bacteria and other micro-organisms on the gummed surfaces of stamps, envelops, and the like.

Having thus described the invention, what  
5 is claimed is—

The combination in a moistening device, of a three-part casing, of which all of the parts are of uniform diameter and comprising a reservoir, an absorbent-carrier, and a cap, the  
10 reservoir being tubular in form and having a reduced end portion provided with an inturned flange forming a contracted filling-opening, the tubular absorbent-carrier fitting telescopically over the reservoir member and provided  
15 at one end with an inturned flange, the two flanges serving as supports for an absorbent

through which the fluid of the reservoir is conducted to the flanged end of the carrier, and said cap-piece fitting telescopically over the flanged end of the carrier, substantially as  
20 specified.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES WARREN KIMBALL.

IRWIN PAINE KIMBALL.

Witnesses as to Charles Warren Kimball:

M. F. HOBART,

PENY W. DANES,

Witnesses as to Irwin Paine Kimball:

W. C. BEATTY,

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