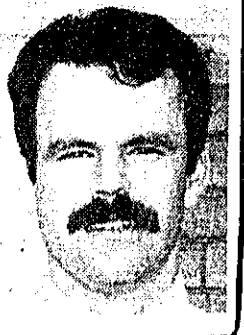


PEDALING AROUND

Drive a . . . , then decide

By Mike Eliasohn



It's Congressman Bob Traxler to the rescue of the American auto industry -- or, what Detroit can't do for itself, Washington will do by fiat ("a command or act of will . . ." not the Italian car by the same name).

The Bay City Democrat has introduced legislation in Congress that would restrict the number of foreign cars that could be sold in this country.

His bill would impose an annual quota of 1.5 million cars that could be imported into the U.S. from now through 1983. After that, there would be a further reduction of 20 percent per year.

A 1.5 million unit quota would mean a reduction of about 35 percent in the number of foreign cars sold here.

Each manufacturer would have a quota of either 200,000 units or a pro-rated share of 1.5 million units, based on the manufacturer's share of the 1979 market, whichever is larger. After 1983, the second quota would be reduced by 20 percent per year, until all manufacturers are governed by the 200,000 unit level.

The 200,000 figure exempts all but Datsun, Toyota and Honda -- all Japanese, and since Honda will soon be building an auto plant in Ohio, it will presumably exempt that firm also.

The aim of Traxler's bill is to force the foreign companies to build cars here, such as Volkswagen has done.

I admit there is cause for concern. Foreign automakers sold more cars in the U.S. in February than Ford and Chrysler combined. About a fourth of all cars sold in this country are foreign made.

Obviously, if fewer foreign cars were sold here, there would be fewer American autoworkers unemployed. Traxler says one-third of the current auto unemployment can be attributed directly to the rise in foreign car sales.

It should be pointed out that foreign cars do provide jobs in this country. Importers and dealers employ 137,644 persons, who receive an annual payroll in excess of \$2 billion, according to the American Imported Automobile Dealers Association.

Also, foreign made cars on the average get better mileage than do American ones, so without the foreign ones on the road, Americans would be consuming more gasoline than they do now.

I don't like Traxler's bill for various reasons. First, it reduces car buyers' freedom of choice.

With the exception of the made-in-Pennsylvania Volkswagen Rabbit, which uses a German-made engine (plus all the company profits go back to Germany), the most economical cars available are foreign made.

Thus if one buys a car strictly on the basis of economy, he buys a foreign car -- or a VW. Secondly, by restraining import of any product, that reduces the incentive for American manufacturers to improve their products.

Because American companies are being forced to compete, they are developing higher mileage, more desirable cars. Admittedly, the government-imposed mileage standards are also a factor.

Clothes and jewelry taken from local home



Jewelry, clothing and some other items, worth more than \$1,200 total, were reported stolen from a Cass City home.

Donald Smith of 6645 M. Street told village police Saturday he and his wife returned home March 3 to discover a 6-inch hole in the bathroom window.

The window was repaired and they thought nothing of it until last Thursday, when Mrs. Smith noticed half the panels in her kitchen curtains were missing.

Further checking found other items missing, a pearl necklace and earrings, \$700; blue coat, \$82; three dresses, \$210; three pant suits, \$200, and two small wood boxes, one containing jewelry, \$20, and the other, \$7 in cash.

The curtains were worth \$70 and the broken window cost \$30 to repair.

"DRACULA, BABY" -- Dr. Seward (Scott Krueger) gives Renfield (John Scollon) a shot in the arm, while Count Dracula (Steve Corcoran) terrorizes Lucy (Jane Hobart) in action from "Dracula, Baby," the all-school play to be presented in the Cass City High School cafeteria Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Jury finds Periso guilty in sexual assault case

A Circuit Court jury last Wednesday found Raymond D. Periso guilty of a charge of criminal sexual conduct (1st degree).

Periso, 17, of 1545 Phillips Road, Cass City, was found guilty in connection with an incident June 28 in Novesta township.

Judge Martin E. Clements presided over the two-day trial. After the jury's verdict, he continued Periso's bond until sentencing April 21.

In cases heard Monday before Circuit Judge Norman A. Baguley:

Kenneth G. Robinson, 32, of 6332 First Street, Mayville, was placed on three years' probation for receiving and concealing stolen property over \$100.

He was also sentenced to 60 days in the county jail, credited with two days served, fined \$200 and assessed \$200 court costs.

Claudette M. Talkott, 28, of 6024 Fox Street, Mayville, pleaded guilty to a charge of insufficient funds - check, in connection with writing of three checks totaling \$62, drawn on the First State Bank of Saginaw.

Her plea was accepted and sentencing scheduled April 28. Bond was continued.

William W. Brown, 19, of 704 W. Huron Avenue, Vassar, failed to appear for arraignment on a charge of uttering and publishing, involving cashing of a fraudulent check for \$50 at a Vassar service station in December.

His bond was forfeited and a bench warrant for his arrest issued.

He pleaded guilty to the charge Feb. 11, in a plea bargain agreement with the prosecution, in exchange for which, a second receiving and concealing charge was dropped.

His guilty plea involved purchase of a stolen motorcycle from William Payea last September in Vassar township.

The cycle was stolen as part of a multi-county theft ring operation. In January, Payea, a Vassar resident, was sentenced in Crawford County Circuit Court to 6-10 years in Jackson state prison on charges of breaking and entering for his role in the operation.

Sentencing of Larry Spencer, 35, of Otisville, on a charge of driving under the influence of liquor (2nd offense) was delayed six months. Bond was continued.

Claudette M. Talkott, 28, of 6024 Fox Street, Mayville, pleaded guilty to a charge of insufficient funds - check, in connection with writing of three checks totaling \$62, drawn on the First State Bank of Saginaw.

Her plea was accepted and sentencing scheduled April 28. Bond was continued.

William W. Brown, 19, of 704 W. Huron Avenue, Vassar, failed to appear for arraignment on a charge of uttering and publishing, involving cashing of a fraudulent check for \$50 at a Vassar service station in December.

His bond was forfeited and a bench warrant for his arrest issued.

The weather

Table with 4 columns: Day, High, Low, Precip. Rows for Wednesday through Tuesday.

STRAND - CARO Phone 673-3033 TWO ADMITTED FOR \$2.50 on MON. and TUES. Come & Save!

Friday thru Thursday Mar. 28 - Apr. 3 Fri. and Sat. Feature @ 7:20 and 9:40 Sunday Feature @ 2:48-5:01-7:14-9:27 Mon. thru Thurs. Feature @ 7:10 & 9:23



Kramer vs. Kramer Starts Friday, April 4. Exclusive First Thumb Showing! Regular Admissions! See It Now!

Altar Society plans activities

The March 10 meeting of the St. Michael's Ladies Altar Society was called to order by President Florence Szostak.

Father William O'Shea opened the meeting with an inspirational reading. Fifteen members were present and a new member was introduced. Treasurer, Maxine Kozlowski, gave the financial report and also reported on the results of the February bake sale and the organ fund.

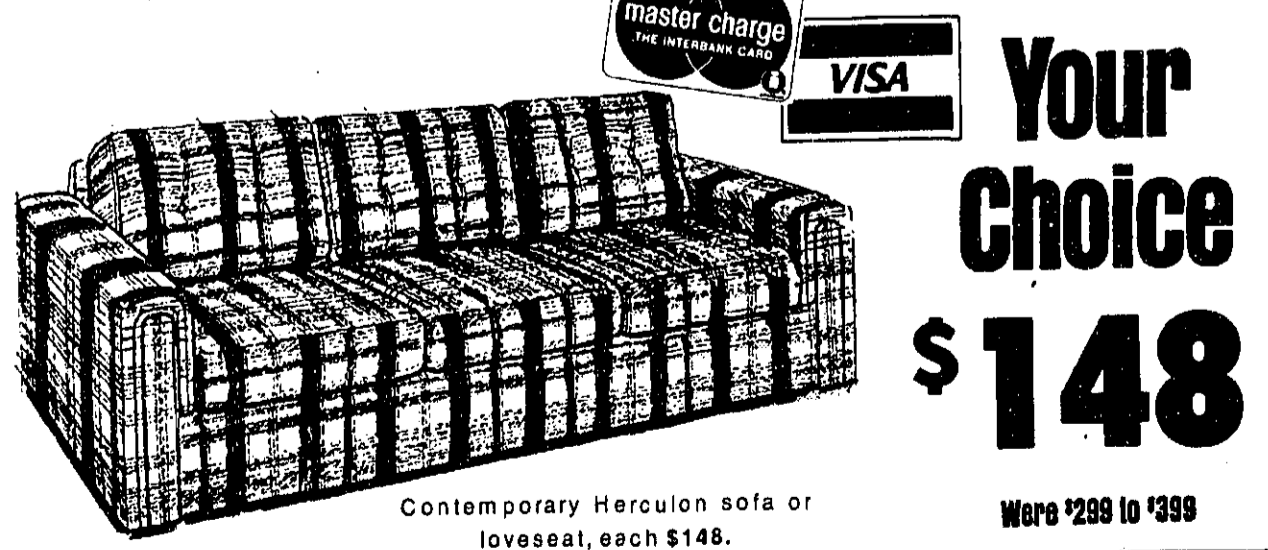
Purchase of a new altar cloth was approved. Wednesday, March 26, was designated as the day for cleaning the church. An Easter flower collection will be held before and after masses Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Cash & Carry

FACTORY-FRESH SOFA - LOVESEAT PRICE BLITZ

1/2 Price!



Contemporary Hercules sofa or loveseat, each \$148. Your Choice \$148. Were \$299 to \$399. Schneberger's TV APPLIANCES FURNITURE. FREE PARKING INSTANT CREDIT. Phone: 872-2696 Cass City

CASS CITY Thursday thru Sunday (4 Days) March 27 - 28 - 29 - 30 THURSDAY "BARGAIN NITE" \$1.50 - 8:00 Fri. - Sat. - Sun. 7:30 & 9:30 (Reg. Prices) LINDA BLAIR (The Exorcist) NOW ALL GROWN UP & HAVING A BALL

ROLLER BOOGIE It's love on wheels! LINDA BLAIR, IRVIN YABLANS, MARK L. LESTER, ROLLER BOOGIE. JIM BRAY, BEVERLY GARLAND, ROGER PERRY, JIMMY VAN PATTEN, KIMBERLY BECK, SEAN MCCLORY, MARK GODDARD, IRVIN YABLANS, BRUCE COHN CURTIS, MARK L. LESTER, JOSEPH WOLF, BARRY SCHNEIDER, IRVIN YABLANS, BOB ESTY, DAVID WINTERS.

COMING NEXT THURSDAY (7 Days) Our Special Easter Hit BETTE MIDLER in BETTE MIDLER ALAN BATES THE ROSE

GALA RE-OPENING!! Phone: Caro 673-2722 CARO DRIVE-IN THEATRE FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Friday-Saturday-Sunday Mar. 28-29-30 Wow! Special Twin-Bill Program!!! Box Office Opens @ 7:00 Kids Free!

ROLLER BOOGIE PLUS 2ND BIG HIT! The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh

"Operations and hospital rooms cost a lot more than you think." Ernest A. Teichman Jr. 6529 Main Street Cass City, Michigan Phone 872-3388. See me for State Farm hospital/surgical insurance. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.