We could see a lot more good in others if we didn't spend so much time looking

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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

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. (This paragraph is quoted directly from Traxler's March 7 statement to the House Subcommittee on Trade, so if you don't understand it, blame him, not me.)

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 I to force the foreign companties 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 Iforeign 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. (Though their figures may be biased, no one else has ;bothered to count.)

Also, foreign made cars on the average get better mile-'age than do American ones, so without the foreign ones on the road, Americans

would be consuming more gasoline than they do now. (I'm talking about averages. There are, of course, lots of American cars that are more economical than many foreign ones.)

I don't like Traxler's bill for various reasons. First, it reduces car buy-

ers' 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

able are foreign made. Thus if one buys a car strictly on the basis of economy, he buys a foreign car -- or a VW.

most economical cars avail-

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, government-imposed mileage standards are also a

The General Motors X-cars were the first on the new generation and this fall, Chrysler and Ford will have new front-wheel drive models in their showrooms.

Unfortunately for econobox buyers -- those seeking the highest possible mileage -- it looks like it is going to be 1985 before Detroit has models competitive with the most economical of presentday imports.

Until then, I don't feel it is proper to deprive Americans of all possible choices. When Detroit finally does offer super economy cars, I don't think the foreign autos will be as big a threat.

In the meantime, our government could strictly enforce the law against dumping, that is, foreign manufacturers selling products for less in this country than they are sold for in their home country.

Our government has always claimed such charges are difficult to prove, thus usually chooses to do nothing. Proving such charges would force foreign manufacturers found guilty to raise their prices, but wouldn't decrease their products' availability.

Farm facts

The 1979 U.S. corn crop, at 7.4 billion bushels, alone outstrips the harvest of all Soviet grains. That happened once before, in 1975.

U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal 1979 reached a record high of \$32 billion, double the amount of im-



Clothes and

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.

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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

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

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

Kenneth G. Robinson, 32, of 6332 First Street, Mayville, was placed on three years' probation for receivproperty over \$100.

credited with two days ued. served, fined \$200 and as- Claudette M. Talcott, 28,

The March 10 meeting of

Altar Society was called to

order by President Florence

Father William O'Shea

inspirational reading. Fif-

introduced. Treasurer, Maxine Kozlowski, gave the

February bake sale and the

cleaning the church. An Easter flower collection will

masses Saturday, March 29,

and Sunday, March 30.

be held before and after October.

organ fund.

Altar Society

plans activities

the St. Michael's Ladies breakfast will be Sunday.

opened the meeting with an the Altar Society was dis-

teen members were present tions will take place at next

financial report and also discussed in more detail at reported on the results of the future meetings, were the

Purchase of a new altar and Marlette High Schools

cloth was approved. (members of St. Michael's Wednesday, March 26, was Parish); father-son break-

designated as the day for fast; bake sale to be held in

and a new member was month's meeting.

Krywko.

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 cyle 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 Spencer, 35, of Otisville, on a ing and concealing stolen charge of driving under the influence of liquor (2nd of-He was also sentenced to fense) was delayed six 60 days in the county jail, months. Bond was contin-

May 11, chaired by Mary

Ann Megge and Marguerite

cussed and further delibera-

Other activities which

were brought up, to be

breakfast for the 1980 graduates of Kingston, Cass City

June, and the Red Cross

Bloodmobile scheduled for

day, April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be Mon-

Revision of the bylaws of

pleaded guilty to a charge of a bench warrant for his 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 eashing of a fraudulent check for \$50 at a 25 and was reported by the December.

His bond was forfeited and sumer Protection.

The action took place Feb. Vassar service station in Michigan Department of Agriculture Bureau of Con-

arrest issued.

DISTRICT COURT

Wallace Kappen of 3192 E.

Cass City Road, Cass City,

pleaded guilty in District

Court to a charge of selling

Judge Richard F. Kern

milk containing antibiotics.

accepted his plea and fined

him \$63, with court costs of

The weather Low High Precip.

Thursday Friday			26		.29		.44
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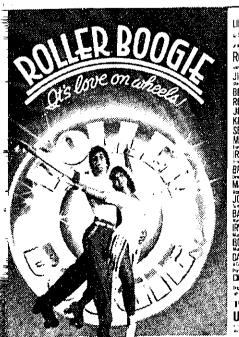
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