

Opinion

A leaner Detroit

The U.S. auto industry is still mired in a virtual depression marked by animic sales, burgeoning debt and massive layoffs of salaried and hourly workers. But, here and there, a ray of hope is beginning to shine through the gloom.

Consider, for example, the industry's progress in cutting costs and increasing productivity. General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and American Motors have slashed their overhead by \$9 billion. They have negotiated contract concessions with the United Auto Workers worth \$4 billion in saved labor costs.

As a result of these savings and generally leaner, more efficient operations, the automakers have reduced the numbers of vehicles they must sell to break even by three million units. This is an impressive achievement by any standard.

That these savings have been accomplished in the midst of the industry's most expensive restructuring in history makes it all the more remarkable. By 1966, the American automobile industry will have spent \$70 billion or more to

realign its entire line in accordance with a changing market.

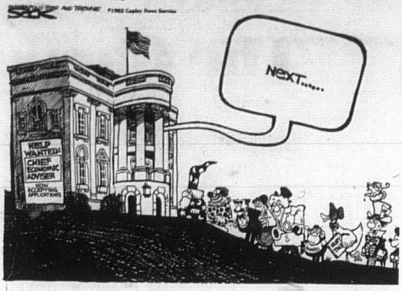
Whether the industry can then stage its long awaited comeback and recapture at least a portion of the 28 percent market share lost to foreign competition remains uncertain.

Continued cooperation from the UAW will be essential, starting with this year's contract talks. Lower interest rates will be needed, both to spur new car sales and to cut the cost of obtaining new capital.

A period of stability in world energy markets and a predictable regulatory climate would also help immensely.

Despite these huge question marks, the industry has at least confounded the doomsayers on one score. American automakers are becoming more efficient than they can, in fact, restrict their industry and host productivity. Doubts about that had some critics predict that Detroit would lumber, like a dying dinosaur, into oblivion.

That may yet happen, but don't bet on it.



Agree or not Almost unnoticed new law may cost state plenty

Frankfort: A little noticed bill that strikes up state government from its head to its toes passed in the waning days of the legislature and its full impact is now beginning to be felt after it became effective June 15.

The bill covers 36 pages in the Legislative Acts printed by Banks Baldwin. It completely reorganizes state government "finishing up the job started by the first administration in 1973," Ralph Ed Graves who spent many months doing the job for the Bureau of Administration, said.

It provided three new cabinets to state government, making a total of 10 to which another was added recently when Revenue was assigned to cabinet status from department.

The bill went through all of those "housekeeping" measures without any mention beyond that of time, all of the stations, all of the manuals, and the signs on state buildings and office doors will have to be changed to conform with the bill.

No one in government wants to make an estimate of the cost, in Graves explains it, "there will be very little added cost of new printing supplies are needed." He said the old manuals are not used and the new cabinet of division name typed over the others on all stationary and new manuals would be printed until the printing supply is exhausted. At least, he said, this is supposed to be what happened.

Two afternoon of calling the state printing department and property and supplies in the Bureau of Transportation got me information whether printing of new stationary and manuals is now being done.

Don Tyson, head of state printing was ill at home and Ed Yates who handles the printing for Transportation said that the state printing department is still doing the printing of the new stationary and manuals in cabinet status.

For example, some of the usually elected state officials are in cabinet and stationary under the cabinet secretary. But everyone knows that a constitutionally elected official is going to run his office as he sees fit, in keeping with law and the constitution. Each cabinet is broken down into six subdivisions, p. 6 v. 1 d. 1 is handled throughout government, Graves says. Departments are headed by commissioners, directors by director, branches by managers; sections by supervisors, units by leaders and then offices.

Costs of changes that leave the Bureau of State government vary from Graves' practically nothing to millions of dollars.

The children GI's leave behind

Whenever American soldiers have gone in Asia, they have left children behind. With round eyes, blond or frizzy hair, light or dark skin, the 30,000-plus American children in Vietnam and nearby countries are outsiders in societies that dislike racial impurity. But the United States is partly responsible for the children's distress, officials ignore their existence. These are the children of American, and this country should welcome them to the land of their fathers.

U.S. law virtually bars any American immigration. The existing immigration bill introduced by Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., and Rep. Romano Mazzoli, D-Ky., and pending on the Senate floor, attempts to deal with the American problem, but it carries so many restrictions that it is unlikely to help. That the bill would allow American immigration for just a few months period, ignoring the fact that American soldiers continue to father children in some parts of Asia. It would allow immigration for only a few months period, ignoring the fact that American soldiers continue to father children in some parts of Asia. It would allow immigration for only a few months period, ignoring the fact that American soldiers continue to father children in some parts of Asia.

Soviet trade sanctions

President Reagan's decision to bar the sale of any U.S.-developed technology for use in the Soviet Union's Siberia-to-the-Birth natural gas pipeline is, predictably, three-headed in protest in Moscow.

The Soviets are furious over a Reagan move that could delay completion of the pipeline for two years or more and cost the Kremlin the equivalent of billions of dollars in natural gas sales.

Just as predictably, Western Europeans are denouncing Mr. Reagan's effort to sabotage a pipeline project that promises lucrative contracts and thousands of jobs for European manufacturers of gas turbines and gas turbine machinery produced under license from U.S. companies.

European Common Market members are already accusing the Reagan administration of violating international law by asserting an extrajurisdictional extension of U.S. jurisdiction. This issue may have to be settled by the World Court.

The French and Germans are particularly upset, partly because their manufacturers are in line to receive most of the pipeline contracts and partly because Paris and Bonn are most eager to export East-West trade.

So why is Mr. Reagan picking on the pipeline?

For starters, the business-as-usual approach symbolized by a \$300-million pipeline built with Western credits and American technology would Soviet respect to the rule of law in Afghanistan, Poland, and the reclusive Soviet military buildup.

Business as usual means the Soviets conquer East-West trade and liberalization in Poland is undisturbed acquisition of the kind that led to global war in 1939. If President Reagan fails to nullify European treaties to minimize the risk of a worse cataclysm in our own time, so be it.

Down Memory Lane Locust Grove Baptist Church has 96th anniversary

Thursday, August 26, 1969

Owens Wade was one of 125 members present celebrating 96th anniversary service plus in recognition of each having a total of at least 29 years of membership at the Lexington Army Depot.

Only the naive would discount the potential for political blackmail since the Soviets gained a pipeline to the West. It is a fair question but it does not negate the need to curtail the flow of credit and technology that, in effect, subsidizes Soviet military and helps to drive up Western defense budgets.

A decade ago, Western leaders argued that extended East-West trade would moderate the Soviet level of technology that, in effect, subsidizes Soviet military and helps to drive up Western defense budgets.

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Op-Ed page Birds of a feather

"Boner things are happening," Mattie Neenan told a Nashville "Boner reporter." "I'm 64 old and I've never seen anything in the city or in the county like this."

"About what are you talking, Mattie?" inquired the investigative reporter.

"Well," said Mattie, "I have been using my yard for a bathroom and a friend told me if I put some mothballs in the grass and around the trees, they'd take their business elsewhere."

"So you bought the mothballs and spread them here and there in your yard. Did the dogs come using your yard for a rest stop?" asked the reporter.

"Yes," said Mattie, "I sense. They're not messing up my yard any more."

"So what's your problem?"

"The dogs have been replaced by flocks of blackbirds. I mean grackle blackbirds - not your ruro-think starlings and all that."

"Are the blackbirds getting in for relief?" was the next question.

"Not in the sense they are messing up the lawn," she said. "What they are doing is picking up the mothballs in their beaks and rubbing them under their wings. Sort of like human beings do deodorant under their arms. They also rub them against other parts of their bodies."

The newspaperman beckoned to a resident ornithologist for an opinion.

"Mothballs," said the learned bird expert. "Some instances have a cooling effect on skin - and in a few cases have been studied - on feathers, too. However, it is my belief the blackbirds are applying the mothballs to their necks and heads."

"Of course, it is a possibility. I would have to examine the blackbirds in this case, before I could make an ethically official diagnosis."

Blackbirds are getting mighty sophisticated and pernickety around Nashville these days. The birds are getting used to the fact that they can't be scared by the sound of a shotgun. They are getting used to the fact that they can't be scared by the sound of a shotgun. They are getting used to the fact that they can't be scared by the sound of a shotgun.

roll on together in Nashville best smeller

complaint about a headache from breathing all those mothball fumes in Hippo's tank.

Expect the post-put spray offers. It probably will reach north as fast as the wind, guaranteed to kill all the mosquitoes in the grass - like a full charge of backhoe.

—RM—

Would you want your city sewage system operated by a fellow who was a basketball star, never bothered to go to classes, and was a product of the television age?

You could be in a heap of trouble when that happens, according to James Michener, one of the great writers of our time, in his new book, "The Winds of War."

"I find a lot of things on TV that are worth watching," he says. "I find a lot of things on TV that are worth watching," he says. "I find a lot of things on TV that are worth watching," he says.

commenting about the appeal television has to many Americans. His writings are devoted to appeal to readers who want more substance than television offers, but at the same time, he does not disparage the medium.

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Random thoughts of a country editor...

Thoughts while driving. Zim in the edge of a tobacco field some woman yearning for beauty in the drab road of Kentucky that brings her better to its sticky, yellow horizon. Now some of the fields are under the wing of many segments of the wild, leafy, fern-like plants that are used for smoking. The plants are used for smoking. The plants are used for smoking.

come out of the meadow hard in a new September 1969. Zim in the edge of a tobacco field some woman yearning for beauty in the drab road of Kentucky that brings her better to its sticky, yellow horizon. Now some of the fields are under the wing of many segments of the wild, leafy, fern-like plants that are used for smoking. The plants are used for smoking. The plants are used for smoking.

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Brown moves to replace 7 of 10 Murray regents

Fighting intensifies despite warnings from Reagan

In this corner... By Jim Butler Wanke Put Gallagher back in jail

It's a real life of affairs when a man, convicted of carjacking a bus a year ago, is put in jail for a second time. It's a real life of affairs when a man, convicted of carjacking a bus a year ago, is put in jail for a second time.

From his room in the psychiatric hospital.

"We're getting too hot in this country. I've got to go back to jail. I've got to go back to jail. I've got to go back to jail."

Wanke says he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan and is a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He is a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He is a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

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