

K-cars, Fords, Citation, Omnis to battle imports

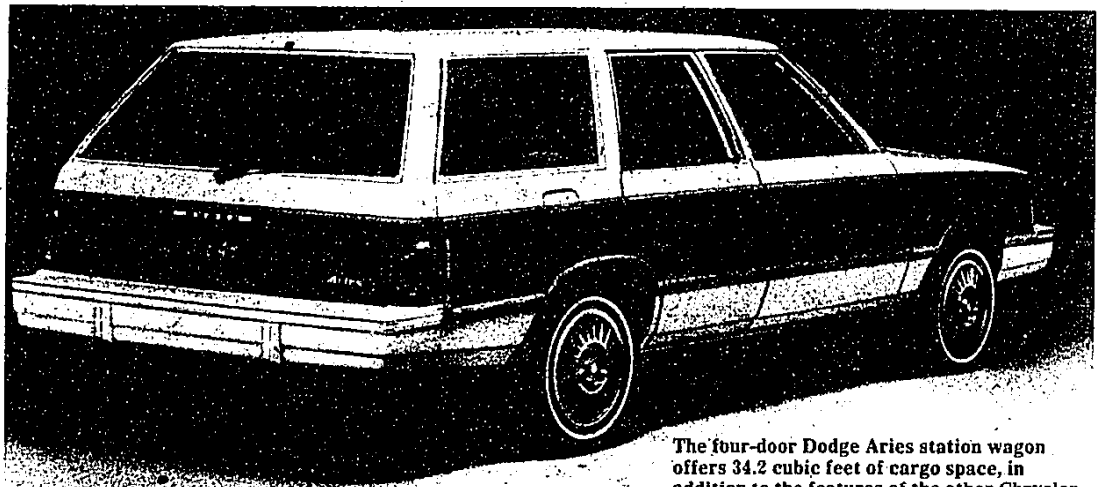
The Dodge Reliant, Plymouth Aries, Ford Escort and Mercury Lynx are now available as Detroit's answer to the imports.

The four, actually one style from Ford and one from Chrysler, came on the market this year. They join the X-cars (Chevrolet Citation, Pontiac Phoenix, etc.) from General Motors and the Dodge Omni/Plymouth Horizon as high-mileage front-wheel-drive, American-made cars.

The success of the cars introduced this year will affect strongly the fortunes of Ford Motor Co. and probably determine Chrysler Corp.'s future.



The Dodge Aries is powered by a transverse-mounted new 2.2-litre four-cylinder engine. It is available in three models: two-door coupe, four-door sedan, and station wagon.



The four-door Dodge Aries station wagon offers 34.2 cubic feet of cargo space, in addition to the features of the other Chrysler K-cars.



The Ford Escort (above) and the Mercury Lynx (right) are rated by the EPA at 30 mpg city for the standard-equipped three-door models with 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine. Their highway rating is 44 mpg.