

GM head says industry can rebound — if labor and government help out

By Mike Scanlon
Staff writer

A new climate of management-labor cooperation may emerge from the latest crunch in the auto industry, says General Motors President F. James McDonald.

"It hasn't happened yet, but I do see it happening. I see labor — talking about both the union and the employees — being much more interested in the job, in the job environment. That's really beginning to happen," said McDonald Saturday at a University of Detroit seminar on business in the '80s.

McDonald also said GM will continue to seek contract concessions from the UAW even though the labor giant has already ruled out reopening agreements with either GM or the Ford Motor Co.

"I THINK we've got to have very serious talks," said McDonald. "We don't think you can take things away without talking about other avenues."

McDonald declined to comment specifically on what concessions GM would seek from the union, or what trade-offs the automaker would be willing to consider in exchange. In response to questions he added: "We're open to lots of discussion, but I don't think (new car) price negotiations with the UAW are part of it."

McDonald also defended last week's round of GM product price hikes, saying the company needed the money for its massive five-year, \$40 billion retooling plan.

"If we're going to get the \$40 billion, we're going to get it by generating profits," said McDonald. "There's no way anybody could go out and borrow \$40 billion."

McDONALD also urged Japanese car import reductions, calling the current import level "outrageous on its face."

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Failure to reach some kind of voluntary restraint accords could "engender

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a response that would be more severe," McDonald warned, adding that GM believes "there's a good hope there'll be some restrictions" either voluntary or not.

THE AUTO SLUMP resulted from "artificially low energy costs" resulting from government policies, McDonald said, and not from inefficient management or workers.

McDonald said prospects look brighter now with future auto safety, mileage and emissions regulations under review by the Reagan Administration.

McDonald said installation of passive restraint systems in cars would cost \$709 million without more providing more effective protection than is now offered by lap and shoulder belts.

"Hopefully," he said, "they'll just throw the whole thing out."

Emission regulations can be altered "without effecting anybody's health or seriously effecting the quality of air," while market pressures make future CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) regulations obsolete. CAFE requirements for 1985, for example, are 27.5 average mpg, but McDonald said GM plans to exceed 31 mpg.

"The things we see and hear coming out of Washington, the cooperation with our union, we think is really exciting," said McDonald, adding he believes the new trends mark a future when "we can blow the socks off of anybody."

OU course aids condo boards

Condominium dwellers can learn to deal with their problems in a nondegree course to be offered by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education.

The condominium management course, which focuses on proper administration and management, will emphasize legal duties assumed with a condo board office. Explanation of the master deed and condominium bylaws, advantages of various forms of management, developing overall management plans, and conducting general and board

meetings will be covered.

Attorney Robert M. Meisner of Southfield, who helped write the 1978 state condominium law, will conduct the five-week course Wednesday evenings beginning April 29 in Birmingham Seaham High School, Lincoln at Cranbrook roads.

For enrollment, call the Oakland University Continuing Education office, 337-3120, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, or 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.



Educator retiring

Dr. William C. Miller of Birmingham, a 28-year veteran of the Wayne County Intermediate School District and deputy superintendent since 1962, has announced his retirement. Miller, named Michigan Teacher of the Year in 1965, will begin work designing and evaluating procedures for Human Synergistics, a Plymouth-based management consultant firm. Miller is the author of 150 articles and three books on education.

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State Police deny link with telephone solicitors

State Police officials have disclaimed any endorsement of advertising reportedly being solicited for various "police" publications throughout the state.

State Police Director Gerald Hough said reports of advertising solicitation, generally done by telephone, have increased during the past several weeks. Persons solicited may be responding to claims that the State Police endorse the activity.

"In what appears to be a thinly disguised attempt to use the good name of the State Police, ad solicitors are misleading prospective buyers," Hough said. "My department neither sanctions

nor has any connection with this sort of solicitation."
 State Police officials have asked citizens who may be so solicited to call their nearest post reporting such incidents.

Dry money

Save money by learning to reconstitute and use dry milk. For information, send a self-addressed, double-stamped envelope and 10 cents in coin to the International Food Storage Association (M), P.O. Box 249, LaVerkin, Utah 84745.

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Janvin. International style for the man who gets around. When Janvin turned its attention to men's clothing, it was with one particular man in mind: the businessman who has to look immaculately dressed, fashion-aware, but not ostentatious. The suit shown is exemplary: a lightweight pincored in pale blue or tan, with figure-flattering shaping, at \$325. Other Janvin suits, superbly tailored in unusually fine fabrics, are priced from \$265 to \$395.

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