

# Auto deal merits disputed

**United Press International**  
DETROIT — General Motors Corp. and Toyota Motor Co., the world's No. 1 and No. 3 automakers, say their \$300 million deal to build subcompact cars is a landmark in industrial cooperation, but autoworkers are cautiously optimistic.

The two automakers announced simultaneously in Detroit and Tokyo Monday an agreement in principle to produce autos at GM's vacant 411-acre Fremont, Calif., plant under joint management.

Chrysler Corp. Chairman Lee Iacocca blasted the arrangement as "fundamentally bad," saying it creates "the world's most powerful automotive combine" and raises questions about the future of the American industry.

Details of the agreement still must be negotiated, but GM Chairman Roger Smith said the two companies would sign a

memorandum of understanding Thursday in Fremont. The announcement capped nearly a year of negotiations.

Each of the automakers will put up \$150 million for the venture. GM's share will amount to \$20 million cash and \$130 million in the form of the Fremont plant.

The deal was greeted with uneasy optimism by workers at the Fremont plant, who have been on layoff since the plant closed last March, the same month GM and Toyota began negotiating.

"When I see that parking lot full of cars, then I'll believe it," said Clinton McCrary, nodding his head toward the towering assembly plant across the street from United Auto Workers Local 1364.

On-again, off-again rumors about the pending deal were "killing us," said Willie Mays, president of Local 1364.

"Our people kept wandering

in and out hoping for some solid word," he said.

Mays said the reopening of the plant would mean a good majority of the members who were laid off last year will be going back to work.

UAW Vice President Owen Bieber, who heads the union's GM department, said the agreement was good news for laid-off UAW members.

The cars produced by GM and Toyota amount to 25 percent of the world's auto production. The deal fills GM's need for an economical subcompact and provides Toyota with a relatively low-cost entry into the United States market.

The two companies will jointly build 200,000 cars a year for up to 12 years to be marketed by Chevrolet dealers, replacing the Chevette. The price of the so-called T-cars would be around \$6,000.

Toyota, in a statement said the agreement will help improve such political problems as Japan-U.S. trade relations as well as the acute unemployment situation in the United States. In such a sense, this venture can be a new example of industrial cooperation between the two nations.

Smith said the venture will produce 3,000 jobs immediately in Fremont, while an estimated 9,000 more could be dedicated later to the operation. A stamping plant will be built, starting immediately, next to the assembly plant.

A fast start team has been assembled to ready the plant for production, which Smith said could begin by October 1984. The cars then would go on sale in 1985. It will take about 12 months to build the stamping plant.

## Governor receives mental bill

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The House Tuesday approved and sent to the governor a bill to correct constitutional flaws in the state's mental commitment law.

Under existing law, people believed to be mentally incompetent can be held for as long as two weeks without a hearing. A state district judge earlier this year declared the 14-day detention unconstitutional.

Gov. Mark White gave emergency status to a bill approved last month by the state that would change the hearing detention period to no more than three days and require written notice of hearing to the patient and his attorney.

The House unanimously approved the measure, which will become law with White's signature.

# Water supply OK'd for cities

**United Press International**  
HUNTSVILLE — Trinity River Authority officials, following a week of testing for possible poison in Lake Livingston, Tuesday declared the lake water safe to drink and restored lake water systems for three cities.

"We're back in operation at Lake Livingston," said John Jadowsich, a spokesman for the Trinity River Authority.

"Based on 180 samples taken during the period through Sunday, we didn't find any indication of water quality problems whatsoever," Jadowsich said.

The TRA received an anonymous threat Feb. 8 to poison the lake. Lake water supplies were immediately shut off and about 31,000 residents of Huntsville, Livingston and Westwood Shores were ordered to drink water from backup well systems.

The residents remained on the water well systems for seven days, while officials tested samples of the lake water for any possible contaminants.

Jadowsich said all of the samples, collected daily from 12 places in the lake, were negative and revealed standard Lake Livingston water.

"We believe firmly the entire situation was a hoax at this time," Jadowsich said.

The extensive testing was ordered after a man called the TRA office in Huntsville and warned he would dump waste material and poison into the lake to draw attention to alleged industrial pollution.

Although officials said they considered the call a hoax — similar to the series of threatening calls warning of cyanide poisoning in Louisiana last month — they agreed to treat the situation with caution.

Jadowsich said the TRA wanted to take ample time and thoroughly test the water before reopening the lake's water supplies. The cities had ample supplies of well water during the week-long shutdown of the systems from Lake Livingston.

# Man confesses theft too early

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — It finally happened in State District Judge Michael McSpadden's court just like Perry Mason led us to believe it would.

McSpadden had just sentenced Emmitt Ashworth, 33, Monday when Ashworth's buddy, Rudy Suarez, 18, stood up in the gallery and admitted he had stolen the car.

What Suarez did not know when he made the admission was that Ashworth had pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Suarez' admission did Ashworth no good, the conviction and 10-year sentence stood, and Suarez' action prompted auto theft charges to be filed against him. He was released on

\$2,000 bond.

According to court records, Suarez was driving a stolen car Nov. 14 when Ashworth jumped in carrying a bag from a mini-grocery store. The pair tried to escape police but wrecked the stolen car.

McSpadden, who usually briefs potential jurors that trials do not happen as they did in the television series Perry Mason, said he would now have to review that set of instructions.

"I've never seen it before. It's just like Perry Mason," he said.

Suarez had been charged earlier with misdemeanor theft and was in court Monday as a defense witness in Ashworth's trial.

"Mr. Suarez just opened his mouth at the wrong time," McSpadden said.

# Frat members called in probe

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Ten members of a University of Texas fraternity have been subpoenaed by a county grand jury investigating the theft of a test from a UT professor's office.

Jacqueline Strashun, assistant Travis County district attorney, said the members of the Acacia fraternity were subpoenaed Monday because they refused to voluntarily provide information on the theft and office burglary.

"Normally, people are far more responsive to requests for information," Strashun said. "We have received a lack of

cooperation from the fraternity community."

She predicted members of other UT fraternities and sororities would be subpoenaed before the grand jury investigation was completed.

Two former Acacia members were arrested in December by UT police who had staked out the professor's office in the university's marketing department. The fraternity members — neither of whom were enrolled as students at UT — were charged with burglary.

The UT Interfraternity Council investigated the burglary and ruled it was not a "fraternity-inspired event."



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