

Demand Growing For 1948 Autos

Industry Leaders See Further Wage Adjustments Coming; Material Price Up

By DAVID J. WILKIE
Associated Press Automotive Editor
DETROIT, Dec. 3 (AP)—Higher production costs, increased retail prices, heavier output and even greater demand for passenger automobiles lie ahead in 1948, according to thinking in most motor industry quarters.

Many industry leaders expect some sort of demand for wage adjustments—even in the case of two-year contracts signed last spring—under the provisions that permit reopening of negotiations on economic or cost-of-living issues; they set no decline in materials costs anywhere along the line.

If there is any possibility of holding manufacturing costs to current

levels it must come from the increased productivity of the newer type of machine tools that will go into the factories for 1949 model output. It has been said in some quarters that the newer tools are about one-third more productive and efficient than the wartime and prewar types.

Offsetting this to some extent is the fact that tools now cost two and three times as much now as they did before the war.

The retail price advances which now appear inevitable may bring about some tightening up of demand but, say the industry experts, this will be more than balanced by the stimulus that always results from new model introductions.

That reaction, they add, will develop with the presentation of the new models even though the changes to be made will be largely in styling.

If the industry were abreast of the demand for new automobiles it probably would have considerable difficulty implementing higher prices. However, instead of being even with consumer needs it is far behind in deliveries and several million vehicles currently in use are long overdue at the scrap heap.

Authoritative sources have estimated that American motorists this year will pay nearly \$7,000,000,000 (seven billion) for parts, services and labor in keeping prewar model automobiles on the road.

High Level to Stay

That is abnormal, of course, but the annual cost of maintaining older cars will continue at a high level for several years—at least until the industry catches up with its bank of unfilled orders. When this time will arrive is anybody's guess, but it cannot come next year even if, as is now indicated, the factories turn out half a million more passenger cars in 1948 than are scheduled for production this year.

Up until today the factories have turned out approximately 3,225,000 passenger cars and 1,145,000 commercial vehicles. Barring unexpected interruptions they will wind up the year with a total output of slightly more than 4,500,000 cars and about 1,250,000 trucks.

Of that total about 260,000 cars and a like number of trucks will have been earmarked for export.

Figures issued by the automotive manufacturers' association covering operations up until the end of October show that in the first 10 months of this year 3,933,519 cars and commercial units were sold at the factories. In the same period last year the total was 2,342,632 vehicles.

This year's 10 months total included 2,888,091 passenger cars, of which 217,000 went to foreign markets. Exports took 218,801 of the 1,031,454 commercial vehicles sold at the factories in the same period.

Truman Waits For Newsmen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (AP)—President Truman delayed his take-off for Florida today to do a favor for a news photographer.

His traveling companions already were aboard the "Sacred Cow." The photographers had snapped their shots, and Mr. Truman turned to go up the ramp to the plane.

Then came an agonized yell: "Hey, wait!"

And out of the mist charged a sleepy-eyed photographer.

Laughing, Mr. Truman turned, and obligingly posed once more. The photographer lifted his camera and sighted.

"You don't have your flash bulb in yet," Mr. Truman told the still rattled cameraman.

The bulb was put in, the picture was taken—and the plane took off 12 minutes behind the original schedule.

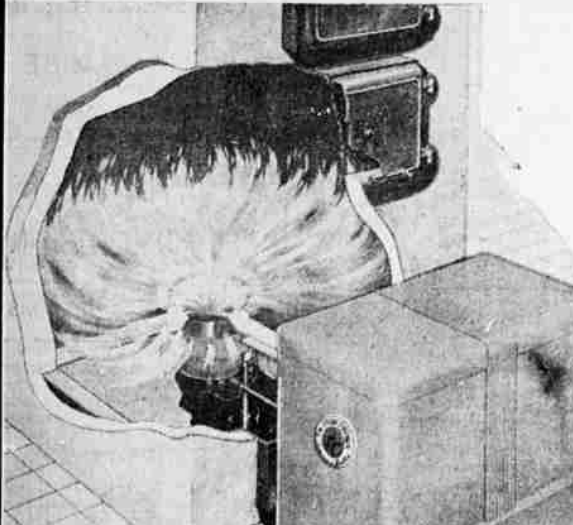
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Pacific Coast Turkey Show Opens

McMINNVILLE, Dec. 3 (AP)—The Pacific coast turkey show opened today for its sixth exhibit, the first since before the war.

Judges were at work today, with the first public showing set for this evening.

W. J. Jones, show manager, said cash and merchandise awards totaled more than \$1500.

Teachers To Hold Confab

SPOKANE, Dec. 3 (AP)—Representatives of 641 western educational institutions will gather here December 11-13 for the 30th annual convention of the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools.

E. R. Jinnett, assistant superintendent of Spokane schools, disclosed today.

The association includes the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Montana, and the territories of Alaska and Hawaii.

D. A. Emerson, Salem, Ore., is chairman of the commission on secondary schools, and Dr. F. F. Powers, University of Washington, heads the higher school commission.

Speakers will include Dr. Earl M. Pallett of the University of Oregon.

Rain Falls Over Nation

By The Associated Press

Rain fell over a wide section of the country today and although temperatures generally were above normal, sub-zero marks were reported in North Dakota.

Light freezing rain and sleet were reported in parts of Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, while the only snow across the country fell in scattered sections of Wisconsin and Michigan.

One rain belt extended from Eastern New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle through Western Oklahoma, Kansas, Northern Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. There also were light falls in Western New York and in sections of the New England states and across the country in the Pacific Northwest.

The mercury dropped to 7 below at Pembina, N. D., as a fresh mass of cool air moved in from Central Canada.

Grand Forks, and Jamestown, N. D., reported 6 below and in nearby Minnesota the lowest reading was 2 above at Alexandria.

Temperatures were 8 to 12 degrees higher in the southeast today compared to yesterday when they dipped to as low as 14 above in Virginia.

national group which considers itself an "independent" organization. Oregon's Pro America has been regarded as a republican adjunct.

Mrs. William M. Burns, chief clerk of the Oregon state senate since 1939, was elected president, succeeding Mrs. J. Robert Ridehaig.

Named trustees were Mrs. R. T. Fishman, Albany, and Mrs. L. T. Grotte, Salem.

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Republican Group Eyes Secession

PORTLAND, Dec. 3 (AP)—The Oregon chapter of Pro America, Republican Women, Inc., plans to withdraw from the national organization if it must drop the word republican from the title.

The 13th annual session of 62 delegates approved the withdrawal proposal yesterday. The issue had been debated by letter with the na-

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