

Photo 7/19/74

Finding a Car For Brezhnev

By Maxine Cheshire

The Protocol Office at the State Department was given very short notice to locate that silver-and-white Chevrolet Monte Carlo Landau which President Nixon took to Soviet Party boss Leonid Brezhnev.

Brezhnev picked out the model he wanted from a Chevrolet dealer's brochure and circled his choice. The pamphlet was delivered to the State Department last Monday.

Brezhnev specified that he preferred a burgundy red interior.

A computer at the Chevrolet plant in Detroit was able to locate only a half-dozen of the automobiles anywhere in the country.

Protocol officer Nick Ruwe flew to Atlantic City on a government plane and verified the model Brezhnev wanted was in Tom Coggin's Chevrolet showroom.

General Motors donated the auto and will deduct the gift as a business expense.

The car was driven to Pomona Air Force Base, 12 miles away, put aboard an Air Force C141 cargo plane and flown to Moscow.

This was the third car which President Nixon has given to Brezhnev. At previous meetings, Mr. Nixon presented Brezhnev a Cadillac and a Lincoln Continental, both also donated by the U.S. manufacturers.

"Do you realize," protocol officer Ruwe cracked last week, "that he (Brezhnev) is well on his way to being a

used car dealer?"

Okay from the Plumber

When Rep. and Mrs. J. William Stanton (R-Ohio) gave their recent "Speakeasy Party" in honor of retiring presidential assistant Peter M. Flanigan and his wife, the Stantons' six-year-old daughter greeted guests at the door wearing a Nixon false-face.

Prohibition-style, no one was admitted without the password: "Gordon sent me."

"In that case," responded Kelly Stanton to each guest (including Vice President and Mrs. Gerald Ford), "I'll 'Liddy' you in."

Closet Soft-Hat?

Carroll O'Connor, who today ends a week-long engagement at Shady Grove, where he is starring in a comedy revue with Ethel Merman, planned to take a White House tour like any tourist.

But White House aides extended VIP treatment to television's "Archie Bunker," the personification of President Nixon's hard-hat constituency. His guides seemed unaware, O'Connor said afterward, that he had voted for George McGovern.

Back to Home Cooking

Former presidential assistant John Ehrlichman's wife, Jean, came back to Washington to be with him during his current trial. They are staying at the Mayflower, where his lawyers have a suite with a kitchen.

Before Mrs. Ehrlichman arrived, the men were dining out. One night at the Rive Gauche recently, their tab came to nearly \$200. When Mrs. Ehrlichman got here, she went to the nearest Safeway and now they are eating in.

© 1974, The Washington Post/Chicago Tribune/New York News Syndicate, Inc.