

WXPPost

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?"