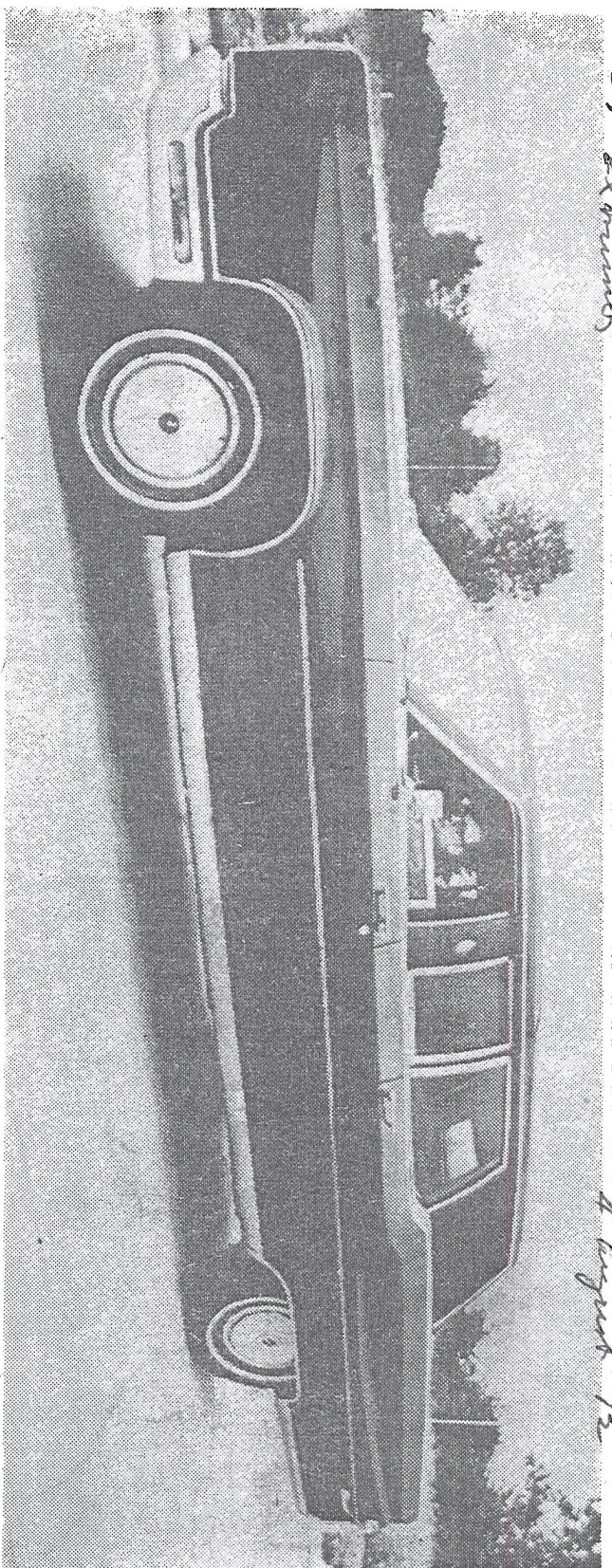


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President Nixon's new \$500,000 limousine, three years in the making and loaded with special equipment
—AP photo

A \$500,000 Armored Car for Nixon

DEARBORN, (Mich.) — (AP) — President Nixon's new \$500,000 armor-plated limousine rolled out of a closed shop today and will be trucked to Washington in a closed van with a Secret Service escort.

"It's as strong as a tank. It is so strong that a bomb would only roll it over," the Detroit Free Press quoted one workman as saying.

The taxpayer is only picking up a fraction of the tab

for the President's five-ton Lincoln — about a \$5000-a-year lease fee. Because of the prestige involved, the manufacturer does not charge the full cost.

The Ford Motor Co. has cloaked the hand-made, option-loaded, black Continental in a veil of secrecy.

But the Free Press in today's editions gave these details:

The 365-horsepower engine displaces 480-cubic inches,

The car weighs 10,000 pounds, compared to 5200 pounds for the usual Continental.

Much of the extra weight comes from the quarter-inch of armor plate on the bottom, roof and doors.

The windows and metal reinforced tires are bullet-proof and so is the plexiglass bubble that can be hydraulically raised when the President wants to stand up and wave.

The limousine was three years in the making but never was near an assembly line. It was hand-crafted by 10 metal model makers, two welders and one stockman who worked from special plans prepared by Ford and the Secret Service.

In 1968 Ford signed an eight-year contract to keep two presidential limousines available at all times and to build a new one every four years. A similar car was

given President Lyndon Johnson in 1968.

The car has hand-bars for Secret Service agents. Running boards fold out from the fenders.

"It has power everything," said one worker, as well as air conditioning, two-way radio, telephone, stereo equipment for the front and rear and genuine black leather upholstery.

There's also a lock on the