

Lundine, Clinger Agree With The ITC Decision

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The area's two congressmen — a Democrat from western New York and a Republican from northwestern Pennsylvania — agree with the International Trade Commission's decision not to recommend quotas or increased tariffs on imported cars.

The views were expressed by Rep. Stanley N. Lundine, D-39th, of Jamestown, and Rep. William F. Clinger Jr., a Republican from Warren, Pa.

Lundine said, however, he feels the decision is unfortunate in one respect — that it may be interpreted as "sending the wrong signal abroad that we are not concerned about the deteriorating condition of our leading industry, the auto industry."

The Democratic congressman said he believes in free competition and

did not agree with Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers decision to bring their petition before the trade commission. Lundine said he realizes that the U.S. auto industry requires time to retool to meet new customer demands but he does not anticipate new cars will be sold below cost, pointing out that the Japanese have increased both their production and their prices.

Lundine said he sees a need by the U.S. government, especially the president, to exert pressure on Japan to limit its exports to this country in the next two to three years while encouraging it to build plants in the U.S.

The congressman still is driving a 1976 Toyota which he plans to trade in soon. He said that at the time he was looking for a compact, economical car he did look at small American-made cars but felt they were inferior to the Japanese product which he purchased.

Clinger, his Republican counterpart, said he is driving a AMC Pacer which is "on its last legs." He agreed with the ITC finding, explaining it had to conclude that the auto industry was "hurting" and that imports were the sole cause of its distress. He said he feels the malaise of the U.S. auto industry is of its own making and is in agreement with the commission's decision.

The Pennsylvania congressman said he believes that quotas or tariffs are bad for the industry in the long run. Clinger said he hopes the American auto industry will recover with its new models and have a good year. He termed himself as very skeptical of any effort to bypass the ITC's decision by congressional action.