# INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

To:

Ms. Angel M. DeFilippo, Esq. Grieco Oates & DeFilippo, LLC

414 Eagle Rock Avenue West Orange, NJ 07052

973-243-2099

Date:

7 June 2012

VIA FEDEX GROUND (1283181-00003629) AND EMAIL

From:

Mr. Paul V. Sheridan **DDM** Consultants 22357 Columbia Street Dearborn, MI 48124-3431

313-277-5095 pvs6@Cornell.edu

Subject:

Defense / Discovery Counsel Challenges to Document Origin and Availability

**Reference 1:** David Dillon Deposition of 7 June 2012: Kline v Lomans Auto Group, et al.

Reference 2: The "tell NHTSA to pound sand" memo authored/endorsed by Chrysler Executives

## **Courtesy Copy List**

The Honorable David L. Strickland

Administrator

NHTSA Headquarters/West Building

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

888-327-4236

Mr. Clarence Ditlow, Director

Center for Auto Safety

Suite 330

1825 Connecticut Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20009-5708

(202) 328-7700

Mr. Russell J. Sacco, Jr.

Suite E

6 Claremont Road

Bernardsville, NJ 07924

908-953-0300

Mr. Sergio Marchionne

Chairman

Chrysler Group LLC 1000 Chrysler Drive

Auburn Hills MI 48321-8004

248-576-5741

Mr. Lawrence Hershman

NHTSA Headquarters

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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

888-327-4236

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3200 Greenfield Road Dearborn, MI 48120

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7 June 2012

By FEDEX GROUND (1283181-00003629) AND EMAIL

Ms. Angel M. DeFilippo, Esq. Grieco Oates & DeFilippo, LLC 414 Eagle Rock Avenue West Orange, NJ 07052 973-243-2099

Subject: Defense / Discovery Counsel Challenges to Document Origin and Availability

Reference 1: David Dillon Deposition of 7 June 2012: V Lomans Auto Group, et al.

Reference 2: The "tell NHTSA to pound sand" memo authored/endorsed by Chrysler Executives

Dear Ms. DeFilippo:

You have indicated that defense and discovery counsel, who were present at Reference 1, challenged the origins and availability of an exhibit entered into the Kline case record during plaintiff's examination of Mr. Their challenge relates to the "NHTSA pound sand" letter written by Chrysler Vice Chairman Thomas Denomme to Chairman Robert Eaton and President Robert Lutz.

I am confused by this challenge since it is well-known to Chrysler counsel that this deposition exhibit was part of a series of documents (of similar content and tone) that were presented to the jury in the death case litigation of v. Chrysler Corporation. It is well-known to Chrysler counsel that I testified over a period of three days in October 1997 as plaintiff's expert in and contributed to a record jury verdict of \$262,500,000.00. This verdict was featured in a front-page article of the Wall Street Journal on November 30 1997.

<u>In other words</u>, the subject documents, which depict what many consider criminal activity on the part of Chrysler executive management and their defense counsel, have been notoriously public for over 14 years.

By way of background, and exemplifying the true status of the exhibit, NHTSA had reported to Chrysler executives the following on November 17, 1994:

## "The latch failure is a safety defect that involves children."

It is well-known that the exhibit that Chrysler counsel is now feigning as "confidential" were featured on a prime-time *CBS Evening News* program. I am enclosing a DVD copy of that broadcast of January 7, 1998. In that nationally televised program, *CBS News* anchor Anthony Mason quoted paragraph 9 of that exhibit; documenting the secret Chrysler plan regarding the NHTSA "safety defect" report quoted above:

"If we (Chrysler) want to use political pressure to try to squash a (NHTSA) recall letter, we need to go now."

A superficial and/or trivial analysis of this historical information might render it off-point. But, as the real world has once-again demonstrated, this managerial historical behavior with-respect-to safety is directly relevant to the Kline litigation, the defective fuel system of the 1993 through 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokees, and the current NHTSA PE-100-31 investigation into the latter (Please see 'Conclusion' below).

You have indicated that defense and discovery counsel, who were present at Reference 1, also challenged the "sharing" of this Dillon deposition exhibit. That is absurd.

Attachment F - Tab 16 is attached. This is unchanged from my original expert report of 6 December 2009. Due to case record changes, case rulings, defense expert report inclusions, mid-stream replacement of defense counsel by defendant Loman, etc., I have reacted in-kind and on-point with updates to my report. However, at no time has Attachment F - Tab 18 been deleted or revised in any way.

During plaintiff's examination of Mr. Clarence Ditlow on 31 May 2012, defense counsel openly boasted that he had Attachment F - Tab 16. Touting his iPad, Mr. Chris Fusco declared, "I have the entire case right here!" In other words, the very same defense counsel, that is challenging the origins and availability of an exhibit, had, one week earlier, openly confirmed his knowledge of the origins and availability of that exhibit . . . as well as its "sharing."

## Conclusion: Relevance of Deposition Exhibit to



Given prior criminal behavior during NHTSA safety defect investigations, it is predictable that Chrysler would object to inclusion of the "NHTSA pound sand" exhibit into the record. Again, this historical behavior is also relevant to the litigation, as well as to the NHTSA fuel system defect investigation of the Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Pictured at right is 4-year-old

The details of his fire-death in a Jeep Grand Cherokee on 6 March 2012 are too horrific to document here. But death can be directly connected to the historical behavior documented in the "NHTSA pound sand" exhibit.

Specifically, paraphrasing the 1994 NHTSA quote above, the Jeep Grand Cherokee fuel system failure is a safety defect that involves children . . .

It should be noted that the executive vice president that has been deposed in and was responsible for the design and production of the Jeep Grand Cherokee, was also central to the internal Chrysler meetings and discussions as documented in the "NHTSA pound sand" exhibit.

Respectfully,

Paul V. Sheridan

Enclosures: DVD copy of CBS Evening News program of January 7, 1998.

Attachment F - Tab 16 from Paul V. Sheridan expert report of 6 December 2009

# **Attachment 1**

Ms. Angel M. DeFilippo, Esq. 7 June 2010

Subject:	Defense / Discovery Counsel Challenges to Document Origin and Availability
Reference 1:	Deposition of 7 June 2012: v Lomans Auto Group, et al.
Reference 2:	The "tell NHTSA to pound sand" memo authored/endorsed by Chrysler Executives

DVD copy of CBS News Program "Eye on America" of November 7, 1998 (included with hard copy)

Video link here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fp19qR\_juOg

# **Attachment 2**

Ms. Angel M. DeFilippo, Esq. 7 June 2010

Subject:	Defense / Discovery Counsel Challenges to Document Origin and Availability
Reference 1:	Deposition of 7 June 2012: v Lomans Auto Group, et al.
Reference 2:	The "tell NHTSA to pound sand" memo authored/endorsed by Chrysler Executives

Attachment F - Tab 16 unchanged from Paul V. Sheridan original expert report of 6 December 2009, includes the "tell NHTSA to pound sand" memo authored/endorsed by Chrysler Executives.

# **ATTACHMENT F**

## **EXPERT WITNESS REPORT**

v. Loman Auto Group, Victoria Morgan-Alcala, et al.

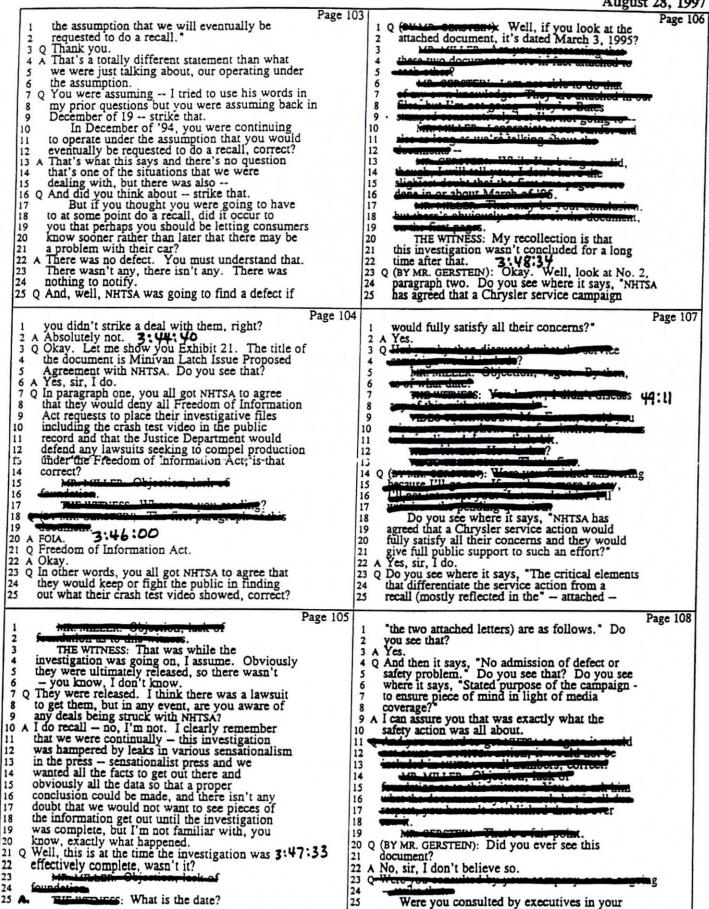
# T A B

et al. vs. Chrysler

Robert J. Eaton

August 28, 1997

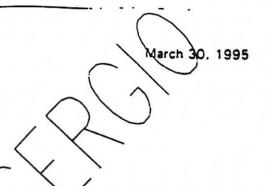
Freelance Court Reporters (810) 779-1800



Robert J Eaton

The Honorable John D. Dingell House Commerce Committee 2125 Rayburn House Office Building U. S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:



I want to thank you for your personal involvement on behalf of Chrysler and other auto manufacturers regarding the NNTSA defect investigation process. I believe your oversight of NHTSA has played a significant role in causing NHTSA to alter its mindset as well as its processes in its handling of complex safety investigations. We at Chrysler intend to continue to speak out on this issue and hope you will continue your probing for an improved investigatory process.

I also want to provide you some insight on our recent decision on the minimal latch issue. As you are no doubt aware, with great reluctance we decided on March 27 to initiate a service campaign for our minimal owners, offering them a replacement rear door latch for model years 1984 through 1994. This decision was based splely on our determination that Chrysler minimal owners had become so misled by outrageous media sensationalism of this issue that further delay in adjudicating this investigation with NHTSA would be harmful to the company. It became necessary to put customer concerns first over our absolute insistence that no safety issue actually exists.

I have neve: doubted that NHTSA's evaluation of the facts in this matter would eventually conclude in their closing the case without an adverse finding. But to reach that conclusion would take many more months during which our exposure to continuing media barrages would not be abated.

It is regrettable that the NHTSA investigative process is wholly deficient in protecting the rights and reputations of manufacturers where there are: (1) large numbers of vehicles involved; (2) complicated technical issues; and (3) post facto and subjective determinations by NHTSA of on-road crashworthiness safety performance. I want to assure you that Chrysler will work diligently for changes to bring fairness to this system. I hope you will continue your invaluable oversight efforts to that end.

Thank you again for your support.

EXHIBIT NO. 25 8-28-97 M. MOORE

Sincerely.



Robert J Eaton
Comman of the Board
on of Executive Citizen

March 30, 1995

The Honorable Michael G. Oxley
Chairman-Subcommittee on Commerce,
Trade and Hazardous Materials
House Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I want to thank you for your personal involvement on behalf of Chrysler and other auto manufacturers regarding the NHTSA defect investigation process. I believe your oversight of NHTSA has played a significant role in causing NHTSA to alter its mindset as well as its processes in its handling of complex safety investigations. We at Chrysler intend to continue to speak out on this issue and hope you will continue your probing for an improved investigatory process.

I also want to provide you some insight on our recent decision on the minivan latch issue. As you are no doubt aware, with great reluctance we decided on March 27 to initiate a service campaign for our minivan owners, offering them a replacement year door latch for model years 1984 through 1994. This decision was based solely on our determination that Chrysler minivan owners had become so misled by outrageous media sensationalism of this issue that further delay in adjudicating this investigation with NHTSA would be harmful to the company. It became necessary to put customer concerns first over our absolute insistence that no safety issue actually exists.

I have never doubted that NHTSA's evaluation of the facts in this matter would eventually conclude in their closing the case without an adverse finding. But to reach that conclusion would take many more months during which our exposure to continuing media barrages would not be abated.

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Thank you again for your support.

10 17

Singerely,

G. DENOMME December 13, 1994 R. R. Boltz . Castaing R. Cunningham S. J. Harris J. Kowaleski A. C. Liebler C. P. Theodore G. C. Valade Attached is the agenda for the Minivan Latch meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. today in the Keller Building Conference Room A. /bw Post-It " brand fax transmittal memo 7671

REDACTED DOCUMENT MINIVAN LATCH ISSUES

AGENDA

DEĆEMBER 13, 1994

Tobic	Discussion Leader	<u>Time</u>
Opening Comments	Denomme	5 minutes
Update Since Last Meeting	Dawkins/Goldfarb	10 minutes
Report on Latch Status for Field Campaign	Theodore	10 minutes
Review of Communications Plans for a NHTSA Confrontation	Liebler	30 minutes
Review of Focus Group Research	Liebler J.	10 minutes
Discussion of Combined Offer to Replace/ Confrontation Strategy	Denomme	10 minutes
Political Strategy	Liberatore	10 minutes
Business Decision	Group	20 minutes
	1 hour	, 50 minutes
12/13/94		
2/		

DENOMME December 9, 1994 Re Point #1 ... we've been talking to The Detroit News today re holding their latch story. Bud has worked out an arrangement whereby they will not run the story this weekend and we will agree to give them a one-day lead if we decide to do a customer-friendly action only (a voluntary recall). If we decide to take on NHTSA, they understand that wa will need to involve all media in that decision. It should be noted, however, that if there are more leaks, or someone else breaks this story, then the News will go with theirs. TGD:bw

Confidential and Privileged

T. G. DENOMME

DOCUMENT

December 9, 1994

R. J. Eston

R. A. Lutz PACS

## MINIVAN LATCH MEETING

A preview of next Tuesday's meeting:

- 1. Bad Naws ... Yesterday we received a call from Bryan Gruley (Detroit News Washington Bureau)
  who told us he and Bill Vissic are working on a story for this weakend on the "raging debate within Chrysler on whether to recall the vans or take on NHTSA". This story, which may go on the Gannett wire (USA Today) will generate customer and dealer concerns, and could force NHTSA to dig in. Don't know the source, but the fact that their Washington Bureau got on it suggests either a NHTSA or a Consumer Advocacy source.
- 2. NHTSA Situation ... There was little discussion on our technical presentation last Monday. The consensus is that the new data we presented has bought us a little time ... there will probably be another technical session to discuss NHTSA's reaction to our data ... but it's unlikely we have changed their minds. Accordingly, we will continue to operate under the assumption that we will eventually be requested to do a recall.
- 3. Latch Fix ... Chris Theodore will update us. Because we have chosen net to contact external suppliers, our cost/timing estimates are very rough. But Chris will likely report that we could have some quantity of latches available for '91 to '94 models by early spring, and the new latch for the pre-'91 models in about nine months. I do not know where we stand on costs.
- 4. Take On NHTSA Strategy ... Tom Kowaleski will take us through a "script" for a media conference laying out our case. Bud Liebler will review the ads developed in conjunction with a decision to fight a recall. We will also review dealer/customer communication materials.
- 5. Research ... We are doing some focus group testing of the take-on-NHTSA approach. No one has seen the results yet, but early indicators are that customers "tune out" statistical arguments about accidents, fatalities, latch pull tests, etc., and focus on "what's Chrysler going to do to address customer concerns". There is no doubt that Chrysler has a special image and relationship with miniman customers when it comes to safety.
- 6. A Third Approach ... In addition to the voluntary recall path and the take-on-NHTSA path, a third path melding elements of a voluntary recall and a take-on-NHTSA approach will be discussed. Essentially, we would seize the high ground by going out with an offer to replace the latch for any of our owners who request a replacement (note this wording ... it is much softer and less urgent than the language NHTSA insists on under their recall procedure) and, at the same time, tell NHTSA to "pound sand". The obvious benefit of this approach is that we address our customer concerns without admitting to a defect (because there is no defect) and simultaneously engage NHTSA in the fight over principle.

DOCUME

I should also point out that we have several other important cases under investigation by NHTSA including minivan brakes, that we need to keep in mind before we engage them in a fight.

7.

- 8. Recommendations ... There continues to be a divided house on what we should do once we know that NHTSA will send us a letter.
  - Sales/Marketing ... Wants us to address customer/dealer concerns and prefers a voluntary fleid campaign to a public fight on principle.
  - Public Relations ... Agrees with Sales.
  - Engineering ... Prefers we take on NHTSA.
  - Regulatory Affairs ... Prefers we take on NHTSA (but is supportive of the third alternative described in point \$5)
  - Washington Office.
     alternative.

but also sees some advantages to the third

9. Final Point ... Rob Liberatore makes the point that, regardless of what course of action we take, we should mount an aggressive effort in Washington to prevent the adverse use of bureaucratic power within NHTSA, specifically their funding from Congress, the process which allows NHTSA to design tests for the public record that play to the media and trial lawyers before ruling on a defect, the lack of objective criteria in determining whether a recall request is to be made, and the very fact that they can request a recall before establishing that a defect exists. I could not agree more.

if we want to use political pressure to try to squash a recall letter, we need to go now. We cannot expect to be successful if we don't activate until we are officially notified that a letter is coming. Of course, the risk of early action is that it may preclude NHTSA from exercising a close-the-case option.

T. G. Denomme

TGD:bw

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REACH A GREAT MARKET TRY OUR CLASSIFIEDS

# akland Tech News

**OUR 13TH YEAR** 

NEWS & ADVERTISING CALL (810) 879-8200

**MARCH 6, 1995** 

VOL. 13, NO. 9

OAKLAND COUNTY'S AUTO INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

# **CUSTOM FII**

The Detroit Transportation Club hosted a U.S. Customs Service fraud, its application to shippers luncheon — he spoke on customs Special Agent at their February and the responsibilities of all parties involved.

See CUSTOMS, page 2 ▶

# **DEALERSHIP LOYALTY**

Career Builders program that honis trying to promote with its new satisfaction, that's what Chevrolet ors salespeople who stay at dealerships for more than three years. See CHEVROLET, page 6 ▶ Along with improved customer

MOTOWN HOEDOWN

annual fund-raising dinner and dance last week to help with renovation of the old Hitsville USA studio on West Grand Boulevard The Motown Museum hosted its See PARTY, page 6 ▶ in Detroit's New Center Area.

# **CLEAN AND CLEAR**

Orbital Engine Co. has long said it would provide automakers with an alternative to the four-stroke ever. U.S. emissions standards engine with its two-stroke, howhave stood in the way of the in-

# EATON ATTACKS FEDERAL REGULATIONS

By Scott Roush Staff Writer

SAE International Congress and Expo with a speech that criticized the federal government for regulations stifling the growth of the Robert Eaton wrapped up the 1995 Corp.'s auto industry Chrysler

From voluntary recalls and workplace streamlining to the average cost of today's vehicle, government's role in regulating business during his "Engineering for Value" questioned the presentation. Eaton

some of the government is doing. The Chrysler boss praised House But Eaton did approve of what Speaker Newt Gingrich and other Republicans' attempts to reduce some of the bureaucracy in Washington through the "Contract with America."

same time period. This, according Eaton discussed how the automotive industry has reduced its workforce since 1950 and how the federal government has failed to reduced its workforce over the

See EATON, page 4 ▶



CHRYSLER CHAIRMAN Robert Eaton's speech at the SAE Congress and Expo banquet at Cobo Center was critical of the number of industry regulations coming from Washington.

OU, Improving Customer Satisfaction
Through Process Control and Quality
Planning, starts March 21 from 6 -9
p.m. Call (810) 370-3120. workshop, Improving Productivity
Through Statistical Quality Control,
starts March 20, from 6 -9 p.m. at
Oakland University. Another workshop at science and technology on March o from noon -1 p.m. Call (810) 370-3574.

QUALITY WORKSHOPS A nine-week workshop, Improving Productivity

"LOVE LETTERS" St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook presents 'Love Letters' by A. R. Gurney Maich 10, 11, 17 and 18. This performance piece delivers letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways but continued to share confidences. The show starts at 8 p.m. in St. Dunstan's Playhouse in Bloomfield Hills. Call (810) 644-0527. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) seeks volunteers 55 years and older to become involved with community agencies who need assis-

tance. Varied opportunities are available service agencies, and cultural institu-tions throughout Oakland County. Contact Linda Kanlewski at (810) 333at schools, hospitals, libraries, human 3716 ext. 115. CHILD SAFETY 'Northwest

bers of the Troy Police Department will include: home security, bike safety, how to use your police department, K-9 of ficers, child safety and personal safety. Admission is free. Call (810) 740-0431. Partnership Teliks Safety\* will be pre-sented March 8, 7-9 p.m. at Hamilton Elementary School on Northfield Parkway in Troy. Presentations by mem-MUSICAL CELEBRATION Inspired by stories from and about the AIDS

ages of laughling, living, leave-taking and love. The show takes the stage March 10 and runs for three consecutive weekends. Cel (810) 370-3013.

CANCER PROGRAM Crittenton Memorial Quilt, "Quilt, A Musical Celebration" fills the theater with im-

Cancer Society are sponsoring a four-week "I Can Cope" program that began Feb. 22 and continues for four con-secutive weeks. "I Can Cope" will be Hospital in Rochester and the American

clube Peter Bewrchy, Richard Falck and Davis Senatore, financial consultants. The seminars will take place at the Columbia Center in Troy across from the Troy Marriott. Call (810) 227-1931. "ROYAL TOMBS OF SIPAN" This heralded exhibit will be on display at the

Sipan, Peru, and flooded the interna-tional art market with gold and silver artifacts. The exhibit features exquisite Detroit institute of Arts from now through April 30. Tomb robbers unearthed treasures from a pyramid near gold and silver jewelry, semi-precious from the richest tombs ever explored in stones and other artifacts excavated

the Americas. Call (313) 833-2323.

BIRDS OF PREY Join an expert or nithologist for a talk featuring live and children 6 and older. Admission is \$3. Call (313) 884-4222. Michigan wildlife March 14, 7 -8 p.m., at Edsel and Eleanor Ford House. Special guests could include a Barn Owl, Red-tailed Hawk and American Eagle, among others. Suitable for adults

sponsoring an educational seminar on magnesium in automotive applications, Apr. 4, 8 a.m. 4 p.m., at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft in Livonia. There is no charge for attending the seminar. Form reservations call (703) 442-8888. RAPID PROTOTYPING Register now international Magnesium Association is AUTOMOTIVE MAGNESIUM

for the Rapid Prototyping & Manufacturing '95 Conference and Exhibition, May 2 -4, at the Hyatt 40 conference presentations. Keynote Regency in Dearborn. The event, sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, will feature 60 exhibitors and speaker is Mary L. Good, undersecre-Department of Commerce. For more information call 1-800-733-4763. any of technology at

ment helps you update your managing skills. The CCPD will be offering a course on "Diversity: Awareness & Understanding" March 20 and 21, 8 a.m. 5 p.m. The cost for this inter-**MANAGING DIVERSITY** The University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Corporate and Professional Develop esting program is \$536 per person. Call

# Eaton Says Governmental Regulations Negatively Impact Industry's Progress

industry has streamlined and the to Eaton, just one way the auto government hasn't.

million civilians. "Today the automotive industry has reduced its workforce to 575,000," he said. "What happened to those 2.8 milllon federal employees in the meantime? They grew by 100,000 almost the size of Chrysler In 1978, the auto industry was ion workers. That same year the federal government employed 2.8 at its peak employment at 1 mil-

companies to even contemplate," Eaton said of the agencies who

ing them are too great for many

"The cost and the risk of del

the past because of better man-978, the industry produced 13 vehicles per employee. This year that figure is 21 vehicles per em-"We can continue this process,"

Regardless, today's auto workers are more productive than in agement according to Eaton. In

regulate the Industry.

a lot more sense than just trying "That's how we cut our workforce "We figured out a few years ago that managing the process makes Eaton also talked about process. to manage the outcome," he said. so much and got so productive.

lated than the auto industry. He Eaton continued by saying that no industry is more heavily reguadded that because the industry is so visible, there is no better target when the government pursues a crusade like voluntary recall.

nounced that the average price of mately \$20,000. Eaton said the

Eaton said of the Improved pro-The federal government ana 1995 vehicle rose to approxi-

duction.

figures, but that number could soon be reached due to govern-

centives when it calculated those

government failed to include in-

of the bad public relations that go Voluntary recall is negative for the industry, Eaton said, because with a product recall.

prime example of where the au-"If you do what the government asks you to do, in the eyes of the public you must have a faulty product," he said. He referred to the dispute General Motors had concerning its pickup trucks as a

to improve the affordability of

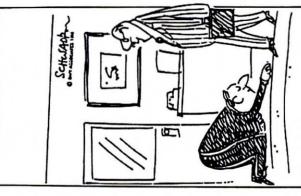
terference it will be difficult

tomaker faces a no-win situation promote "Engineering for Value" according to Eaton. in public opinion.
Chrysler might be in a similar situation with one of its vehicles.

customer," he said. "Costs have to be engineered out, and they have "The future profits have to come from the product instead of the to come out without compromisng product integrity."

> company for flawed rear door latches on its best-selling mini-vans from 1985 -94.

Reports have criticized the car



"I like religious fanatics, Sims-

especially when they worship me."

anti-Washington, and that means the appetite for more rules and

regulations is just about gone," The auto industry itself needs cars, but with governmental in-

Eaton sald.

"The public mood is decidedly

ment regulations.

# **END OF DOCUMENT**

Ms. Angel M. DeFilippo, Esq. 7 June 2010

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