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Director,  
Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Annual Automotive Census - World Figures.

It appears that Mr. Quisenberry, Editor of the "American Automobile" writes annually to all Consulates abroad and to some or all of the Bureau's foreign offices in an effort to secure advance figures of automotive census on which to "beat" the Bureau and all publications with this information on the number of automobiles in the world.

Consulates in China appear to lend every assistance to Mr. Quisenberry's efforts in this direction. For example the Consulate General in Tientsin mailed him an estimate of motor cars in its Consular district early in December, but has not yet supplied to our Shanghai office registration figures or estimates of the situation as of January 1, 1930, in response to a letter I wrote the Consulate some weeks ago (November 20, 1929) requesting this information.

It would appear to me that the Automotive Division if it is interested in getting its figures before the automotive industry ahead of Mr. Quisenberry's publication, should induce the Bureau to take steps to prevent such people using government services to "Scoop" a government Bureau's publication.

It would seem an easy matter to insist that all Consular material to be published in the United States should first pass through the Department of Commerce instead of going direct to publications through the Department of State. The Bureau could then release the information through all publicity channels as its own\* work at one and the same time. As it is now the Bureau's figures while possibly more accurate, are put out some time after Mr. Quisenberry's publication is put out.

I trust the suggestion may be of value.

Very truly yours,

*A. Bland Calder*

A. Bland Calder,  
Acting Commercial Attache.

*ABC*

ABC/HCC.

c.c. to Shanghai office.

\* i.e. government work.