

**VINYL-COVERED** roof is offered on new Opel Diplomat along with electric lifts for the curved side windows. Squared headlights add a stylish touch but would be illegal in the U.S.

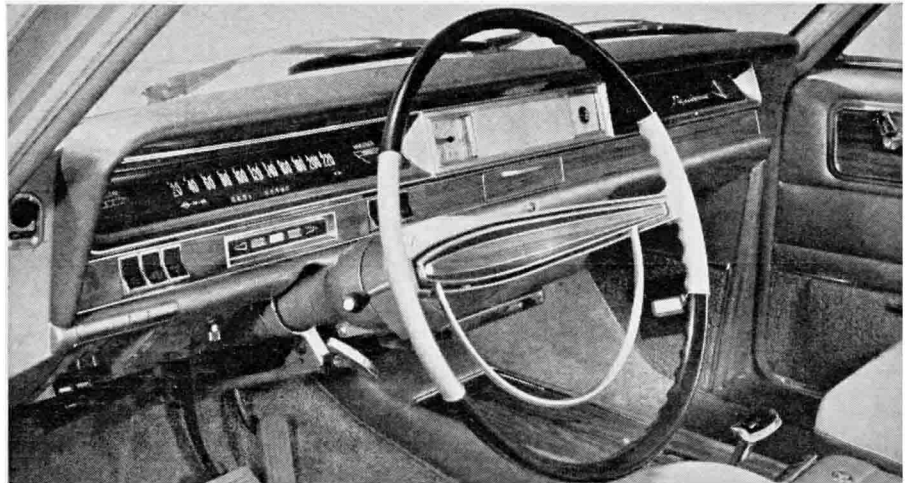
# AUTOS ABROAD

## Family Resemblance For a New Product

**I**NTERCHANGEABILITY OF the new General Motors A-body has apparently extended across the Atlantic, where GM's German division, Adam Opel AG, has introduced its new Kapitän/Admiral/Diplomat series. From the technical details made available, it appears that the Germans have converted this raw material into a very desirable finished product indeed.

The KAD car is built on a 112-in. wheelbase, 3 in. shorter than the Chevelle and its kind, but all overall dimensions are within fractions of inches of being identical. Sheet metal contours testify to a more than casual liaison with Chevelle/Buick Special dies. It's the Teutonic tradition of careful

**A BIT LESS** plush, the Admiral has a 159-cu. in. engine as standard, although Chevelle 283 and Powerglide can be fitted.



**PADDED DASH** panel and wood trim on steering wheel, doors and console are Diplomat hallmarks. Switches have European codes.

craftsmanship that makes the difference.

Another major difference is use of semi-elliptic leaf springs for a Hotchkiss rear suspension, replacing the 4-link coil-sprung version of domestic models and significantly lowering the roll center there. A 2-piece, 3-joint drive shaft brings the power back from the gearbox.

Under the hood, the overhead valve V-8 has a familiar look, with its 283 cu. in. displacement, single 4-barrel carburetor and 220 bhp. This can be hooked to a 2-speed automatic trans-

mission (how do you spell Powerglide in German?) or a 4-speed manual transmission, which might well be stamped "Muncie-am-Rhine." The ball-jointed steering spindles, however, have power-assisted brake discs instead of U.S. style drums.

The Diplomat, the most luxurious version and obviously designed for persons unable to get delivery of a Grosser Mercedes (CL Dec. '63), has a 3.10:1 rear axle ratio and uses 7.00-15 tires (belted) for a factory-announced 124-mph top speed. Only drawback: It won't be imported. ■

**DISC BRAKES** are standard in front, have splash shield for caliper protection.

