

# Car Firm's Records Show Many Cash Transactions

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An official of the California Corporation Commission said Tuesday the financial records of the 20th Century Motor Car Co. showed an unusually large number of cash transactions.

The commission seized the books Monday under a court order in an investigation of the company that extends from Texas to California.

Five officers of the company, which had been promoting plans for a 70-mile-per-gallon automobile, surrendered here on grand theft charges filed in Dallas. G. Elizabeth Carmichael, the president, was still at large.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office said it was assessing information provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. A spokesman declined to say what the information was, but said if

prosecution is warranted, it will be turned over to the major frauds unit.

The corporation commission official said the company's books were "an unusual set." He said there were numerous checks for "petty cash" for \$5,000 and "many things that are usually paid for by check were paid in cash."

He said the action in Texas was based "largely on what was dug up here. But we have a stronger due process law here. They moved when an engineer blew his whistle on them."

An engineer testified in a Dallas court hearing last week that a handmade model of the car is a composite of parts from other cars and an engine of the type used for portable generators.

Mrs. Carmichael, 42, a six-foot-tall tough-talking widow, remained something of a mys-

tery woman. She had never disclosed her maiden name and investigators were able to find little of her background.

The company's offices in suburban Encino were closed, but an answering service said the office would be open Friday. An operator for the answering service said she had received a number of calls from people who had invested in the company.

Investigators have not yet determined how much money passed through the company, but the corporation commission official said, "I'm afraid a lot of people are going to lose a hell of a lot of money."

In addition to selling stocks — for which the company had no permit — the company also took in money for the sale of dealerships, options on advance sales of the cars and foreign distribution rights.