GOVERNOR GRASSO TO USE ELECTRIC CAR

Governor Ella Grasso will "go electric" for eight days, beginning August 14.

"The General Electric Company has approved my request for permission to use its Centennial Electric this month in connection with my official duties," Governor Grasso said. "This trial period will give me the opportunity to test the effectiveness of the electric car as a means of saving gasoline in conjunction with our state's overall program of energy conservation.

"I was most impressed with the Centennial Electric when officials of General Electric brought it to the State Capitol early in June for a demonstration. I look forward to using it for commuting to and from the office and to carry out my daily appointments," the Governor said.

The Centennial Electric is described by the General Electric Company as a "laboratory on four wheels" to establish the viability of such a vehicle for commercial production. It is a sub-compact sized, four-passenger vehicle powered by 18 six-volt batteries and has been designed to demonstrate what can be done "here and now" with readily available parts. The batteries can be recharged by plugging them into a 220-volt outlet.

The car is designed to cruise at 55 miles per hour and has a passing speed of 60 miles per hour. It has a range of up to 75 miles at constant, highway speeds and 45 miles in stop-and-go urban driving.

It has been estimated that approximately 11 million of the 111 million vehicles on the nation's roads are second cars and delivery trucks used for short distance driving that would be adaptable to electric power.

The Centennial Electric, named in recognition of General Electric's 100th anniversary, is not available for public sale, but company officials say it is designed to sell for about $6,500 if 100,000 were manufactured annually in a single plant.

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