

GOOD NEWS!

Washington, D.C. A federal regulation forcing states to require motorcycle riders to wear helmets-or risk loss of federal highway and safety money-is being repealed by Congress.

An amendment removing the helmet requirement from the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1975 passed the Senate by a 52-37 vote. The House has approved a modified version of the bill, which now goes to conference committee.

If agreement is reached, as expected, and President Ford signs the bill into law, it will remove the threat of federal sanctions against Illinois, California and Utah, the only states without a helmet law.

Under the sanctions the federal government could have cut off \$4 million in highway safety money allocated to Illinois, and up to 10 per cent of the annual \$215 million allocated for highway construction.

The federal motorcycle helmet regulation is part of an 18-point government safety program establishing standards for highway safety. The standards cover motorcycle safety education, including training, licensing and equipment required to safeguard riders and passengers.

"The amendment to the act does not repeal existing state helmet laws", said John Fleming, legislative assistant to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) one of the sponsors of the amendment. California was threatened with the loss of \$50 million in federal highway and safety money.

"we're just passing the helmet question back to the states where it belongs." Fleming said.

"To require states to enact mandatory motorcycle helmet laws has little to do with protecting the public against accidents caused by traffic hazards and vehicle defects," said Cranston.

"A helmet may or may not protect its wearer, but there is no evidence that a helmet alone will prevent accidents."

In 1969 the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the state's mandatory motorcycle helmet law was unconstitutional.

TO LEARN JUST WHAT THIS MEANS TO US AND WHERE WE GO FROM HERE-READ ON

Now we need to concentrate on President Ford, so that he will sign the bill into law. We must flood him with political telegrams and letters. It's now proven that our letters are effective-not all of us bothered to write-it seemed like a lot of work when there were dozens of them to write. Now, you have but one (just 1) letter-surely each and every one of is capable of one letter. WRITE IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

President Gerald Ford
White House, Washington, D.C.

WE ARE GOING TO WIN!

Once we beat this thing on the federal level we can go to work on our state law makers. Certainly, they will more readily listen to us once the bogus blackmail for bucks syndrome is removed. We will outline our state-level program in the next newsletter.

Now for some bad news. One of our members, Gerd Kronenberg is in bad shape in Good Samaritan Hospital here in Portland. We don't know all the details about his illness but a serious operation is going to be necessary. With Gerd in the hospital, a wife and child at home and another on the way, it wasn't a very merry Christmas at all in the Kronenberg household. Gerd has been an outstanding member of this organization and has worked hard to achieve the goals we all seek. Now it is time to work for him. I appeal to each of you to do what you can-send a buck or two or at least a card or note to this office-after all-HE IS YOUR BROTHER. Thank you.

Latest word on Gerd: He has had his operation. He has been in a coma for six days but is now beging to show some response. I know we're all pulling for him and hope he regains his health soon.

WELL, we thought this months newsletter was all ready- not a chance. One of our members in Portland has been doing a good job distributing our counter displays in shops, taverns, etc. The following was found written in on one placed in Jerico's Tavern. "The people who support Abate are the same folks who give all motorcycle riders a bad name, They are club riders who bust up taverns like Jerico's and make people who don't ride dislike all bikers. Independent and dirt bikers should unite in a firm stand against ABATE in unity for safe and independent bike riding". Without editorializing, I would like to express one thought--the person who wrote this, thereby destroying our property, is not the type of person to unite and take a firm stand on anything, else why did he not STAND UP this time and approach us personally or by letter-instead of crawling up to our property and writing secret notes in the dark of night! If you would like to express your opinion, write: Jerico's 835 N. Lombard Portland, Ore., 97217 or, send it in care of this office and I'll personally take it over and pin it on the wall.

Dear Reader: Let us run this one by you. We had previously scheduled our swap-meet at the Memorial Coliseum for Feb. 15th, 1976. We now have to change the date to March 7, 1976.

As most of you know, ABATE of Oregon is a non-profit organization composed of motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the state concerned with putting motorcycle legislation in it's proper form with safety education programs, public awareness programs, rider training programs, and other similar proposals designed to prevent fatal and injury accidents. The presentation of our swap-meet is intended to provide funds to work for fair motorcycle legislation and initiate educational programs to assist the young or novice rider and reduce the tragedy involved in fatal and injury accidents.

Jim Rockstad, who has a Motorcycle Show in the Coliseum Feb. 6,7,8 has expressed concern that we are going to take business away from him. We have never entertained any thoughts along this line. His is a motorcycle show; show bikes and dealer displays. Ours is a swap-meet, designed primarily for the individual to display his unused parts and to perhaps find what he needs to make his motorcycling more enjoyable in the coming year.

Mr(?) Rockstads' concern has developed into an expressed desire to run us out of the Coliseum-has in fact forced us to change our previously scheduled date. As if it were not enough- the struggle we face at state and federal levels dealing with unfair m/c legislation and bureaucratic entanglements- now right here in our own back yard we are hit over the head with yet another case of big dollar money-mongers restricting motorcyclists freedoms and stifling educational possibilities.

In several conversations with Rockstad, we have received no satisfaction at all- it has been all take and no give. At one point we were offered money if we would go away and forget the whole thing!--- however, when the question arose as to how to recoup the \$52.85 we had spent on printing and postage for the original date, we drew a complete blank! Thanks a lot jim!

Because of these by now familiar blackmail tactics and in agreement with the Coliseum management, we cannot have dealer displays. In order to present the ABATE-Northwest Motorcycle Swap-Meet, we must emphasize the point of non-dealer display type participation.

We do have spaces available and ANY individual. as such, is welcome to these facilities to display their motorcycles, motorcycle parts, and related items.

Let us not become bitter in the face of adversity but get on with the job ahead. Let's make a success of our swap-meet! MAYBE WE'LL OWN THE PORTLAND MOTORCYCLE SHOW NEXT YEAR!!!!!!

ABATE members may have spaces in the swap-meet at the following reduced prices: 5 x10 - \$7.50, 10 x10 - \$15.00. In effect, a non-member could have a large space and a membership in ABATE of Oregon for the same cost of the space alone if he remained a non-member. Don't forget to include your membership number when applying for space(s).

OK - let's do it! It's your organization - work for it, make it work for you. We stand to make BIG BUCKS to fight bumper bike laws- but it takes ALL of US to make it work. We're looking forward to seeing all of you there.

THE BEST TO ALL OF YOU AND YOURS IN 1976

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to take this time and space to thank the following people for the effort and assistance they have put forth on our behalf in the past year. ABATE members Rick Riley, Gene Wolford, Scooter Faria, Art Davis, Jon Carney, Ron Bohnstedt, Jack Conrad, Don Chambers, Austin Henry, Jim Smith, Carol Tomessella, Nancy Christopher, Barry Cooney, and all of you !

Also, Fuzzy Davy, ABATE of Va., Wanda Hummel, ABATE of Ind., Ted and Donna Oates ABATE of Kansas, Keith Ball, Sugar-Kane Barton, M.M.A., Joella Schroeder T.M.R.A., O.M.R.A., The Bike News, Ed Armstrong, M.O.R.E., Arrow, Charles Simon, Easyriders, STOP, C.O.T.L.M., ABATE of Mich. and Idaho and New York. Biker and all of you - I'm sure we've forgotten some of you but it's not because we don't appreciate what you've done. Thanks for the help.

We could really appreciate members getting out in your local shops and soliciting more ads to help pay for this rag. Cost: \$20.00 per year.

Elections are to be held Jan. 13th, 8p.m., 215 S.E. 9th. We have come a long ways in the four months we have been organized - we are now 180 strong and growing! We would like to see a strong turnout Jan 13 so that we can elect a representative governing body and maintain the solidarity of our organization.

We shall have a complete financial report covering our first 4 months operation available in time for our Feb. Newsletter.

Did you know? Yugoslavia is the only country left with an unlimited speed limit, although all European Nations and Japan have higher limits than we have here in the U.S.

Until we are in a position to produce our own, T-shirts and patches have to be ordered from ABATE of New York. ABATE T-shirts and Helmet Laws ARE FOR BUCKS-NOT PROTECTION T-shirts are \$4.00 - patches are \$1.00. State desired size- s,m,l, or xl.

ABATE of New York Box 5172
Albany, New York 12205

Maybe some one can turn us on to something better(?)
