

In New Brunswick - Let Those Who Ride Decide!

Dear Editor:

Since 1967, in the Province of New Brunswick, motorcycle operators and passengers have been forced to wear the so-called safety headgear (helmets) because someone (who knows nothing about motorcycles) thought they were a good idea so we wouldn't suffer from excessive head injuries. No one every told this someone that we could live with a fractured skull, but a broken neck would be fatal. And helmets are breaking more necks than they are saving skulls!

Two years ago, I met with Mr. Harry Cochrane, Deputy Provincial Secretary, in Fredericton and during our discussion, I asked him about statistics available in order to draw conclusive results as to whether or not helmets are safe. None were forthcoming, and to date I have received absolutely no information from the provincial government on this matter. If such information and statistics are available, then they should be made public. In the U.S.A., state by state statistics prove that in the years without helmet laws, the percentage of motorcycle registrations increased more than did fatalities, but in helmet law years, just the opposite happened. Think about it. I believe that a government study of fatal motorcycle accidents in New Brunswick for the past 15 or 20 years would produce the same results.

We, the motorcyclists of New Brunswick, are asking you, the legislators, to take the mandatory helmet law off the books. Repeal this unfair law that has been the death of cyclists. Let's see more government interest in this matter and a study conducted. I urge you to put more thought into this matter and think about why, in 1976 alone, helmet laws were repealed in 10 States with bills being filed in the others for 1977.

For information, the States which repealed the helmet law in 1976 were Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Dakota. California, with more motorcycle registrations than any other State, never had a helmet law. In Illinois, the helmet law was declared unconstitutional. In Nebraska, the helmet law is not being enforced due to a court injunction. New Jersey has no helmet law. In Montana, Utah, and Wyoming the helmet law is no longer being enforced. I could go on, but I hope this will give you a small idea of what is taking place elsewhere.

If any M.L.A. or a group of M.L.A.'s would be concerned enough to sponsor a bill to repeal the helmet law or would be interested enough to discuss this further, I would appreciate it if he (or she) would contact me at your convenience.

A "New Brunswick Run For Freedom" is planned for July 9, 1977, when motorcyclists from all

over the province will arrive at the Provincial Buildings in Fredericton to let you know they are concerned. This is to be quiet and peaceful demonstration and no problems are anticipated.

Another interesting note on this matter is that in a recent poll of the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club chapters (made up of law-enforcement personnel) shows that the organization favors repeal of mandatory helmet laws. This poll was taken of the 57 chapters in 35 States and 5 Canadian provinces. All chapters, whose membership totals in excess of 3000 police officials, voted to support the legal repeal of the mandatory helmet laws currently in effect in each state and province.

Phil White, Press Secretary of the international organization stated: "It has been proven by a

Congressional Investigation Committee that motorcycle helmets have caused more deaths and injuries than if they were not worn. Tests have shown that side vision is reduced by 50% and hearing is impaired and distorted by wearing a safety helmet while operating a motorcycle. No one is more concerned for his own safety than the average motorcyclist. He

knows that he is operating a vehicle that is hard to see and very difficult to hear." Very well stated!

Let Those Who Ride Decide!

"Jungle George" Calvin
Odin's Wrath Motorcycle Club, Inc.
1 Pokiak Road
Saint John, N.B.

Orientation 77 Wants You - And that's who we got. Wednesday Night's Organizational meeting for Orientation 77 went over successfully, thanks to all those that attended.

Being diligent students ourselves, we realize that due to previous engagements such as mid-terms and essays some of you Frosh Squad Hopelists just couldn't make it. So, as a "Last Chance" Peter Anderson, Chairperson of Orientation 77 would like to stress that anyone who would still like to join the squad can pick up their application forms from the SRC office.

This may be your last chance to be on the Frosh Squad so come along and sign your names!

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