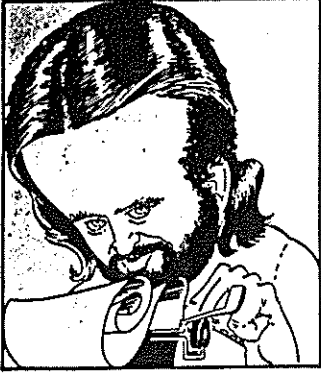


BULLSHIT Rooth!!! The only one taking legal action is that RAMBO BUREAUCRAT, EDSTIEN.



The Gripes of Rooth

He is doing it against everyone's wishes.

Gobble, gobble . . .

Try checking your facts.

taking legal action against each other even as you read this?

Unbelievable! Outrageous! Look guys, get your acts together. As motorcyclists, we've got enough problems as it is without you blokes spending your time trying to shoot each other down. What bloody hope

In the running up to our last federal election, Hawke and Peacock spent most of their air-play time running each other down. That's politics I guess, a dirty game where the truth gets buried too quickly. It takes a certain type of person just to get involved. In motorcycling

Brian. Splitters? It's a wonder anyone bothers to show up to your meetings at all.

Get it straight. Australian motorcycling isn't looking for one hero, one person who can 'save the day'. We don't need one all-powerful organisation either. We just need to be able to communicate — with each other and with those in power. Sure, none of that's easy, but there's no point making it any harder than it already is.

I'll get off my high horse now. In fact, I'm going to swap it for an afternoon spent punting the Kl through some of the lovely roads south of the city. I'd like to suggest you blokes do the same thing — go for a ride. Because guys, that's what this motorcycling thing is all about — riding bikes. Do enough riding and you'll soon realise that that's what's important. That we'll always be able to say 'I'm going for a ride'.

No doubt I'll have offended some people here so I'd better offer something in return. Gentlemen, you have the right of reply. But don't waste our space by having more digs at each other: have a go at me instead if you must and then tell us all what we can do for the best interests of motorcycling as we know it. There's a lot at stake right now but let's put the fire under the politicians — we motorcyclists have been grilled for too long as it is.

John Rooth



"In motorcycling politics we've got some real straight players but by crikey we've got some dingbats."

have we got when our so called leaders — and often it's a case of no-one else wants the job from what I've seen — can't even sit down and nut out their own internal hassles? And you're the guys who are representing motorcycling's case to the governments? They must love you — you make them look good!

politics we've got some real straight players — Greg Hirst and Hal Caston to name but two — but by crikey we've got some dingbats. Blokes who are so involved in pushing their own barrows that an outsider would have to conclude we haven't got a chance in the long run.

I know. It's easy to criticise and not do anything else about it and over the years our motorcycle lobbyists have done a lot of good for the sport. But now, when we really need to be showing a united front, you blokes are carrying on like the People's Front of Judea (or was that the Judean People's Front?) from Monty Python's *Life Of*

FIRST of all, a big hello to all those people who came up for a chat at the Melbourne Motorcycle Show. Shows like this are one of the few chances we get to talk to our readers and they're much appreciated. Bench racing, chewing the cud on motorcycling in general, is always good value when you're surrounded by enthusiasts.

All in all, a great effort from all concerned. Motorcycling is not only alive and well down south, it's thriving, despite the fact that Premier Cain's government seems to be doing its utmost to get bikes off the road. We'll have a story on their efforts pretty soon and believe me, it makes for distressing reading.

So in the face of mounting pressure from all governments, ludicrous legislation like compulsory lights-on, rider training — the most constructive thing to happen for years — looking like being bungled by too much red tape and a complete and utter absence of motorcycle understanding from those in power, what are our own 'representatives' doing about it?

Bitching about each other. Clawing into their opponents like crayfish trying to get out of the pot. Can you believe that two of our foremost motorcycle political activists are actually

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