

3 DELEGATE STREET
KALEEN A.C.T. 2617

ph. (062) 845259 (b.h.)

14 APRIL 1986

Mr Colin Rosewarne
Chairman
Australian Motorcycle Council
GPO Box 96
CANBERRA A.C.T.2601

Dear Colin,

I refer to our recent discussions about the filling of vacancies within the Council and your letter of 4 April 1986 to the Council in that regard. It would appear you have misconstrued my position somewhat.

Whilst I would like to believe there has been some genuine improvement in Mr Codognotto's attitude, I am not about to believe there has been any reform, let alone reform to the extent that might justify an involvement with the Council, in the absence of convincing evidence to that effect from Mr Codognotto himself. In the absence of evidence of such reform on Mr Codognotto's part, his involvement in the Council's affairs is totally unacceptable to me. As far as I am concerned, your advice that he has had a change of heart amounts to nothing more than hearsay and does not satisfy me in terms that would evidence his true position.

As you are aware, Mr Codognotto has a track record of unbridled denigration of, and malice towards, the Council, its members and personnel (not least of all the ACU and myself) in his efforts to undermine the Council and everything it represents. His well documented position in this area is entirely incompatible with any involvement in the Council's affairs.

Evidence of any genuine reform on Mr Codognotto's part would necessarily include the complete retraction and repudiation of the many false accusations he has made about both me and others involved with the Council and its members - in writing. In this context, I would like to point out that, during the term of my involvement with the Council as a member of its Executive, Mr Codognotto orally expressed a measure of reform a number of times, only to renege at the first opportunity.

In the event that Mr Codognotto demonstrates reform in the foregoing terms, I would gladly reconsider my position. I won't hold my breath waiting for a sign of his reform, however.

I am also greatly disturbed to learn that you intend that Mr Codognotto should now be given the authority to represent the Council in an official capacity with the APRUP, which amounts to an about-face on your assurances to the contrary.

Mr Codognotto's selection also raises serious questions as to his willingness to work within the framework of the Council, given that a prime reason for his forced resignation from the Presidency of MRA Vic. last year was his unwillingness to work within the parameters set by that organisation. I am also concerned at the effect this move might have on the Council's relationship with MRA Vic., with which it appears both you and Mr Codognotto have fallen out.

Another issue I wish to address is that of the filling of casual vacancies. From our discussions and your letter, I understand that Sammi Ross, Tony Scicluna and Anthony Boddy ceased to be involved with the Council quite some time ago, yet no formal advice of this was circulated and neither were nominations called for before filling each vacancy. In addition to what I have said about Mr Codognotto, I have major reservations about the Castons' role in the Council, as conveyed in your letter, given their past performance and conflicting loyalties. In my view, the proposed role for Mr Caston, in particular, amounts to an abrogation of your responsibilities as Chairman and is contrary to the Council's resolutions about the Chairman's role at the last conference.

From discussions I have had with other delegates, it appears they have been even less well informed than I. As I would have anticipated, the replacements you have chosen don't appear to have the support of any AMC members. At best, it seems the most you have obtained from any member is an acquiescence to the selection. Others are, naturally enough, openly hostile.

Although the filling of casual Executive vacancies is the Executive's prerogative, and the selection of Council representatives the Chairman's prerogative, it is established practice within the Council to invite the members to nominate suitable candidates. Given sufficient opportunity, I am sure the Council could find more suitable (and acceptable) replacements than those you have selected so far.

Copies of this letter have been sent to the other Council delegates and members.

Yours sincerely



PAUL EDSTEIN
ACU NSW Delegate

16th July, 1986

Mr. D. Shellshear,
Australian Motorcycle Council,
G.P.O. Box 96,
Canberra City,
A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir,

Rosewarne convinced me that the A.M.C. was short staffed and that it was for the good of Australian Motorcycling that I accept A.M.C. positions - APRUP and Assistant Secretary.

I took on the job of APRUP Representative on two conditions:

1. The role was a low profile, non-political one.
2. The position was to be a short term one until a position was available in the media and/or promotional area.

Protests went up from various people in N.S.W. but they were sorted through Rosewarne and, as you know, I gave you my full support after he resigned.

You still have my support and I wish you well with a difficult task. However, I am resigning the position of APRUP Representative and Assistant Secretary.

I think one of your major problems will be to really convince the rest of the country that the A.M.C. is not just a N.S.W. lobby and that it does have some power to control situations and does care about motorcycling on a National Level. The A.M.C. certainly needs a higher profile and a professional approach to the media if it is to survive.

A secondary problem is the perception that the A.M.C. is just another bureaucracy.

Anyway, I am sure you are well aware of these problems and are working to solve them. You deserve a reason for my resignation.

Well, the two problems above are part of it but the straw that broke the camel's back was Bill McKinnon's Editorial in July '86, Two Wheels. He did not even do Rosewarne or I the courtesy of a phone call to check his facts. I have been around Houses of Parliament long enough to recognise a smear campaign.

I thought about going to the lawyers on this one as I have done before but McKinnon knows what he wrote and I don't believe that, even if a successful case could be run, it would not have any educational value where he is concerned.

I have given ten years to motorcycling. I don't need bigotry in print or an editor using me as a scape goat to justify himself to Sydney for accepting money for a campaign that was a flop and for being wrong about the doctors, 'lights on' and the A.M.C.

On July 7th I attempted a telephone conversation with Mr. McKinnon. Towards the end of it, it became apparent he was also conducting a conversation with other people in his office and not listening to what I had to say. However, he made one thing clear. Quote "The A.M.C. has sold out everyone in motorcycling and is hypocritical in the extreme." I queried him and he repeated it.

I wish you and the A.M.C. well in the future.

D. Codognotto.
Director.
M.R.A. Promotions Pty.Ltd.