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Dedicated To Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

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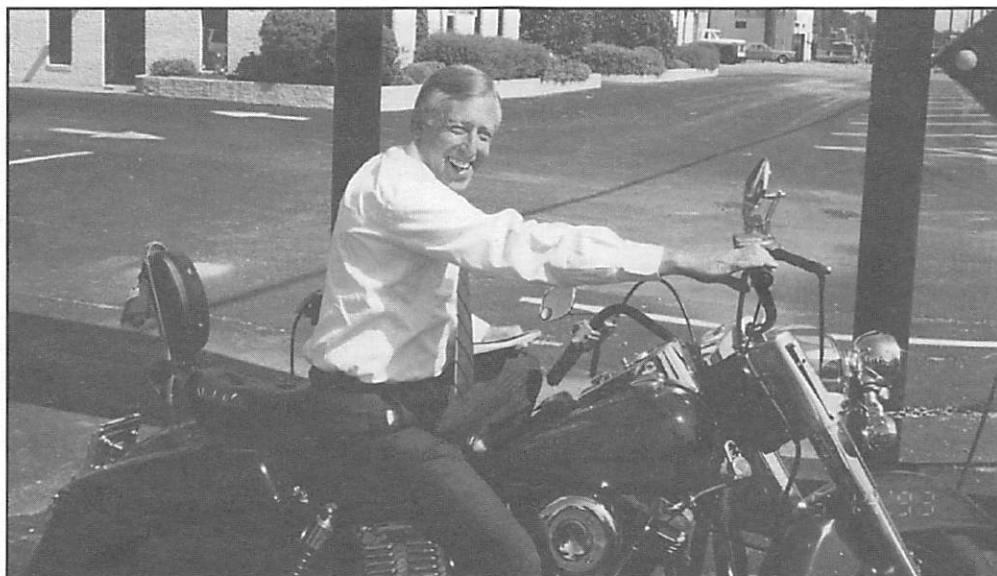
ABATE OF MARYLAND NEWSLETTER

November/December 1995

The Federal Helmet Law Is Dead!

You talked and Congress listened!

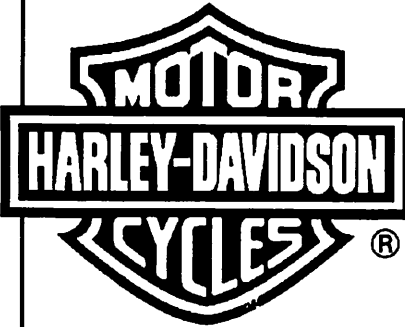
**Thanks to Congressmen Roscoe Bartlett, Robert Ehrlich,
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**Thanks again Steny—an original co-sponsor
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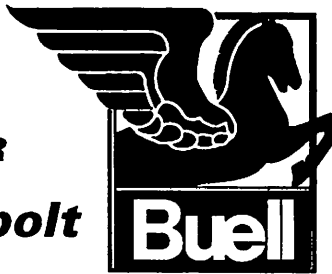
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From The Director's Desk

Well, fall is here, winter is just around the corner, and with that comes a new legislative session in Annapolis. You might say, "yes, but the session doesn't start until January," and you'd be right. But to the hundreds of motorcyclists that showed up for the Helmet Protest/Freedom Rally and heard the speakers, we know ours is a full-time job.

The federal government has recently voted to get rid of the blackmail portion of their highway legislation, so now is a good opportunity to make huge strides on the state level; but it's going to take **all** of us and it's going to take all of us **now**.

Contact your Senators and Delegates. Tell them the time has come for adults in Maryland to regain the freedom to choose whether to wear a plastic hat or not. If you've never called or written,

so much the better; the more new voices that are heard, the more our message will be listened to.

We have gained information that tells us the helmet law has not done what our opponents promised it would do. We also have a reputation in Annapolis that we don't lie to our legislators. We've been saying all along that education, not legislation, is the key to motorcycle safety on the roads. That message must be stressed and we must **require** our legislators to listen. So get busy now and don't think the other guy or gal will do it for you. If you are that guy's other guy or gal, then nothing will get done.

Try remembering this past summer—hot and sweaty—with your lid on. Try to remember spring and fall—beautiful riding weather—with a lid on. Bring these memories with you;

maybe it will be enough to get busy and help in this effort.

As I said at the Helmet Protest/Freedom Rally, ABATE officers and members are fighting for all motorcyclists' rights in the state of Maryland, so we need all ABATE of Maryland members that have friends who are not members to have these people join ABATE of Maryland, and if not, at least start taking part in having all of our rights regained.

Now is the time! If not now, when?

Get busy. If you need help, call the ABATE office at 1-800-843-0252 or contact your local director. Together we can make a difference and a change for **all of us**.

Ride safe,
Pappy

The next state staff meeting will be held on November 12, 1995, at 12 noon. Every chapter should have a representative

December 1, 1995, is the cutoff date for the January/February 1996 newsletter. All information (articles, classified ads, letters to the editor, whatever) must be received by this date. Send all information to the ABATE office.

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From The Assistant Director

Hello Freedom Fighters,

Just in case anyone has forgotten, that's what we are doing in ABATE of Maryland. Fighting for our freedom is a complicated task. Our organization has to raise money, which is what I have addressed in the last couple of newsletters. We have to lobby the federal government and the state government. The last several years' work is about to pay off on the federal level. As you may know, the federal "helmet law" is all but repealed! It's waiting for the President's signature. We now have to double our efforts on the state level so that we do indeed get our FREEDOM back. Well, the last statewide event has just passed with our **FREEDOM RUN/PROTEST RALLY**. I am sure that the politicians were somewhat impressed. But I would like to tell everyone that rides a motorcycle, I was a little disappointed. We had five to seven hundred riders, depending on which count you use, and I say that is disappointing. We have a lot more ABATE members than that and there are thousands more motorcycle riders out there that are not ABATE members. We are now facing the upcoming legislative season. This is our opportunity to **ACT**. We must find the time to write and/or come down to Annapolis to make ourselves seen and heard. This Freedom Run/Protest Rally was an opportunity missed. We must make ourselves felt by the politicians. If you have never been down to the ABATE office for our Monday Night Lobbying, *just do it*. There are always people at the office that can and **DO** take people around the Legislative offices. If you do no more than just walk around in your motorcycle duds that's all right. That's what I did for the first year or so and I've now been at it for many years. It is not unusual for a Legislator to stop and greet me by name. Every one of us has to be on a first name basis with our State senators and Delegate. We have a lot of friends down in Annapolis and we are very close to getting several of our bills passed. Be a part of our Victory in April of 1996.

That's all for now, the FUNd raising is quieted down and it's now time to *act*.

Tom Bruce
Assistant Director



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Meeting of the Minds

Meeting of the Minds held September 29 through October 1 in Little Rock Arkansas - 42 States represented, over 400 people attended; for over half-this was their first time attending the Meeting of the Minds.

Theme: Celebration on the federal level and keying in on the people who have worked on the federal to focus on the state level, while keeping our presence in Washington.

The following represents an interview with Chris Semler, legislative rep from Washington County and past director of Washington County.

Q: What were your goals?

A: To learn more about lobbying, more about politics and legislation in general.

Q: Which seminar was most useful and why?

A: Lobbying 201: Beyond the Grassroots. How the SMROs have grown beyond being small, to large, special interest groups.

Q: Did the MOTM fulfill your goals?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the one message that would be good to pass on to our membership?

A: Everyone needs to know how the legislative process and protocol works.

Q: What are the next big issues for the MRF now that the Federal Helmet law is on its way to being repealed?

A: Insurance - Medicaid - block grants - health care reform - EPA - Noise control - pollution control - after market product protection.

Synopsis of a couple of Workshops:

Lobbying 201: Beyond the Grassroots

Working groups: scenarios of what to do to counteract negative bills. Handout included information on how to make effective position papers, how to lobby.

Campaign Involvement

Encouraged membership and involvement in local political clubs, central committees - start at the county level. They mentioned it's fairly easy to get elected to the local central party committees and then gain influence into the party platform. Went over the job associated with a campaign and their responsibilities. For volunteers good tasks are manning phones, door to door, registering voters, being a poll watcher, and driving people to the polls. Basically helping in an election for a candidate is the best way to gain influence with that politician.

I Do Not Choose To Be A Common Man

It is my right to be uncommon...if I can.

I seek opportunity...not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to feel and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence: the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat.

It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself; enjoy the benefits of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done. All this is what it means to be

AN AMERICAN.



The American's Creed

In 1917, William Tyler Page of Maryland won a nationwide contest for "the best summary of American political faith." The U.S. House of Representatives accepted the statement as the American's Creed on April 3, 1918. Its two paragraphs remind us that responsibilities are the source of

rights. It deserves to be read and recited. Today very few people have even heard of it.

I believe in the United States of American as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon

those principals of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

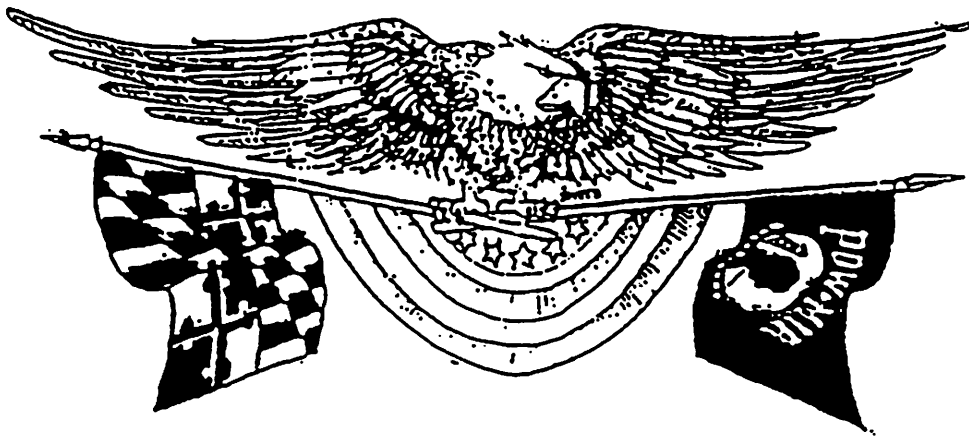
I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

VETERANS APPRECIATION RIDE

NOVEMBER 5, 1995

RALLY POINTS:	DANIELS TAVERN	11:00 a.m.
	NE PLAZA, RT 40 & 272	11:00 a.m.
	Essex American Legion	
	20 S. Marlyn Ave.	11:00 a.m.

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AMA Government Relations News

Sturm, Ruger Discriminates Against Motorcyclists

The American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) and a growing number of individual motorcyclists have mounted a grassroots program to combat discriminatory health-care policies of Sturm, Ruger and Company, a major firearms manufacturer based in the Northeast.

The AMA-backed program, entitled "Riding Ruger," is intended to pressure Sturm, Ruger into changing a corporate policy, implemented last year, which denies health-care coverage to employees who are injured while riding motorcycles without a helmet.

A series of motorcyclist initiatives and letter writing campaigns were mounted in an effort to point out the discriminatory nature of the Sturm, Ruger policy. Motorcyclists have pointed out, among other things, that the two states where Ruger maintains offices do not require adult motorcyclists to wear helmets; that the company's requirement for it's motorcycling employees to wear helmets interferes in their right to engage in legal activities while away from the workplace; and that the company has no similar policy regarding seatbelt use for motorists.

All efforts to date have failed to convince the company to reconsider it's policy, however, and the company president William Ruger, Jr., has made it clear that he does not answer to the countless motorcyclists who have written him about the policy. Ruger is technically correct that he does not answer to all motorcyclists. But Sturm, Ruger is a publicly held company, and it's officers do answer to shareholders. That is the inspiration behind the "Riding Ruger" campaign conceived by a group of motorcycling activists.

The cornerstone of "Riding Ruger" is a call for all interested motorcyclists to purchase shares of Sturm, Ruger stock, then attend the upcoming annual stockholders meeting to challenge the company's discriminatory policy.

A number of motorcyclists have purchased shares, and several made plans to attend the shareholders meeting in Phoenix. Then, for no apparent reason, Ruger announced that the meeting's date and location would be changed. Ruger has now announced that the meeting will be held in Westport, Connecticut, on April 25, but company officials say that the new date and location remain tentative.

"Sturm, Ruger likely believes that by moving up the date many new shareholders will not be able to change travel plans or purchase shares of stock by the required 45-day period before the shareholders meeting," stated Robert Rasor, Vice President of AMA Government Relations. But Bill Ruger should be aware that plans are already being made to attend the meeting in Westport. And those motorcyclists who cannot make it can call the AMA's Government Relations Department to assign their voting rights to another motorcyclist who will be in attendance.

"If Mr. Ruger believes that he can reduce the turnout at the meeting by moving up the date that stock must be purchased," Rasor added, "He sadly underestimates the commitment motorcyclists have to reversing this form of discrimination. We are in this for the long haul. If the issue isn't resolved at the upcoming shareholders meeting, those who were unable to purchase stock in time for this year's meeting will be eagerly awaiting their invitations to next year's."

Shares in Sturm, Ruger are currently trading for approximately \$30 on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RGR.

Politics 101

The United States is not a democracy but a representative republic. I realize it is usually referred to as a democracy and is becoming more like one every day, much to my regret.

It is most important that you understand the difference between these two systems if you are to understand why things work the way they do in your local, state and federal legislatures.

There are several differences between these types of government. The main differences in these two forms of governmental policy-making are as follows.

In a republic (this is how it's supposed to work, not necessarily how it actually happens), we the voters elect those whom we believe represent our views and beliefs to make the laws and rules for our society by representing us on city and county commissions, and state and federal legislatures. This method sometimes gives us the belief that we have to endure a tyranny by a minority when we are forced to put up with the actions and habits of those the majority disapprove of.

In a democracy, anyone may introduce what they feel will be a good law and all the voting population (not all the population, of course, since democracies frequently disenfranchise annoying minorities) gets to vote on the law, and if the majority vote for it, it becomes law. This does frequently result in tyranny by the majority. If you are in doubt of this just look at the states that have citizen referendums and the laws that get passed by them. Most, and I mean most, but not all of them are laws that tell some minority group that they can't do something that the majority disapproves of, or are laws to force them to do something that the majority supports.

(Continued on Page 12)

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The Pledge of Allegiance

(Reprinted from ABATE of Iowa
Freeway Flyer, September 1994.)

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher; a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Laswell...was his name. He said, "I've been listening to you boys and girls

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Classified ads are free to you with your active ABATE of Maryland membership. If you have something you want to buy, sell, trade, find, etc., this is for you. To get your classified in the next newsletter, send a written request with the information you want on the ad, along with your name, address, and membership expiration date (we will check) to the office in Annapolis. This column is for personal classified ads only. Any commercial ads must be paid for.

recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, I would like to recite it and explain to you the meaning of each word.

I...me, an individual, a committee of one.

PLEDGE...dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self pity.

ALLEGIANCE...my love and devotion.

TO THE FLAG...our standard, Old Glory, symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her dignity that shouts "freedom is everybody's job."

OF THE UNITED...that means that we all have come together.

STATES...individual communities that have united into 48 states—48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united in a common purpose, and that's love for country.

OF AMERICA, FOR WHICH IT STANDS, ONE NATION...meaning so blessed by God.

INDIVISIBLE...incapable of being divided.

WITH LIBERTY...which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

AND JUSTICE...the principle of quality of dealing fairly with others.

FOR ALL...which means "it's as much your country as mine."

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: "Under God."

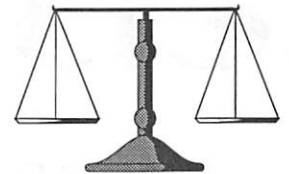
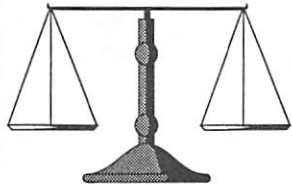
Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and it would be eliminated from schools, too?

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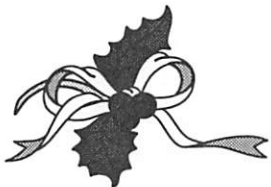
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Paralyzed Since Birth, He Gets The Ride Of His Life

Bikers Give PG Man a Birthday Jaunt

By Gretchen Lachante, *The Washington Times*

When Michael Knox heard the roar of more than a dozen Harley-Davidson motorcycles pulling into his quiet Prince George's County neighborhood yesterday, it was music to his ears.

Mr. Knox, a motorcycle enthusiast and avid collector of Harley-Davidson memorabilia, has spinal bifida and has been paralyzed since birth. While he usually motors around in a wheelchair, yesterday he rode in style—on a 1994 Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Classic.

On the day before his 21st birthday, more than two dozen bikers, most clad from head to toe in black leather, greeted him with "Happy Birthday" in the driveway of his family's home.

"There must be one out here with a red bow somewhere," he said, peering around the bikers and glancing at the rainbow of motorcycles parked in and around his Locust Street home in the Glenn Dale neighborhood.

"You've got to be angels, all of you," said his mother, Barbara Knox, as she looked at the assembled bikers.

More than a week ago, Mrs. Knox called a number on a flier her son got in the mail for a swap meet of motorcycle memorabilia. She was put in touch with Bill Isenock, director of the Prince George's County chapter of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., a motorcycle rights group.

"I thought, it's a dream come true. I just called and asked if anyone would be willing to take him for a ride and he said, 'No problem,'" said Mrs. Knox.

"It's his all-time passion," she said. "He collects everything he can get his hands on—scarfs, shirts, signs—anything with Harley-Davidson on it."

Mr. Knox was wearing a black Harley-Davidson T-shirt when the motorcyclists came to his door yesterday. The rain stopped, and despite temperatures hovering in the mid 50's, the bikers prepared to take him for the ride of his life.

"Are you up for this?" asked one of the bikers.

(Continued on Page 13)

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Politics 101

(Continued from Page 7)

Regretfully, the terms democracy and republic have become interchangeable in people's minds these days. For the purpose of clarity, when I use quotes that say democracy I must remind you they are not referring to a democracy but to a representative republic.

One quote that you will hear is:

"Democracy is the worst form of government possible except for all the other forms of governments that have been the larger the number of people involved in a decision, the poorer the decision is likely to be. To find the IQ of a group, take the average IQ of the people involved and divide by the number of people in the group. Anyone who has ever marched troops can verify that a hundred men have the collective intelligence of a centipede. Worse. A centipede doesn't step on its own feet.

"No, democracy is a good system because it is an extremely stable system.

"In many parts of South America and Africa, when an individual becomes truly disgruntled, he gets together with six hundred friends, three hundred rifles, and maybe a hundred bullets and starts a revolution. This practice is socially disruptive and results in lost work time, destroyed property and dead bodies.

"In America, such an individual does not go off to the hills with a gun. He becomes a political candidate. Of course, he knows that to be effective, he must start at the bottom—say, sewer commissioner.

"So he runs against six other social misfits for that office.

"If he loses, at least he feels that he has done his best to straighten things out, that if the people don't appreciate him, they don't deserve him. Anyway, an election is so exhausting, physically, financially, and emotionally, that he is likely to be over his initial anger.

"If he wins, well, he can't do much harm. There are engineers to make sure that shit flows downhill. And who knows? Maybe he will turn out to be a good sewer commissioner.

"In any case, society is the winner. Seven potential troublemakers have been defused, only one of them has to be paid, and they just might get some useful work out of that one.

"Democracy doesn't work well unless the population's level of education is high and the proper institutions both exist."

Above from the High-Tech Knight by Leo Frankowski.

This may seem like a lot of writing without actually saying anything about the nuts and bolts of how laws happen, but if you don't understand the why, it makes the how seem pretty damn unreasonable at times. And this is Politics 101.

Now we'll start getting down to the actual process. Just remember 90% of all laws are introduced for the purpose of keeping someone from doing something that someone doesn't like or to make you do something that you don't want to do.

Since this is a Motorcycle Rights Organization, we will follow the process of attempting to pass a helmet law, then we will go into how these people making the decisions got where they are.

HOW A BILL STARTS AND BECOMES A LAW

Step One. Some health Nazi sees an article in a newspaper about a motorcyclist getting killed on their motorcycle and was not wearing a helmet. Common sense tells them that person would still be alive and productive if they had been wearing a helmet. Never mind they died of a crushed chest (yes, this is a biased article). They go to a legislator that agrees with them and a rough draft of the wanted bill is sent to the Reviser of Statutes (a state employee) who writes it up with the proper references to the correct K.S.A.'s (Kansas Statutes Annotated) that have to be changed or added to make this law meet the legal requirements.

Step One B. If the legislator introducing the bill happens to be on the committee that will deal with the bill, it could be introduced as a committee bill instead of a bill by an individual.

Step Two. The legislator (it's the same for Senators and House members) then tries to find other legislators who agree with this bill and tries to get them to add their names to the bill as co-sponsors. The more co-sponsors you get the better chance the bill has. If you can get Party officials (President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Majority or Minority Whip) to co-sponsor your bill, you then have political leverage on those members who don't actively oppose the bill.

When the legislator has all the co-sponsors they can get, the Revisor of Statutes has the official bill printed with the number, which is arrived at by the order in which it was filed.

(Continued on Page 15)

Ride Of His Life

(Continued from Page 11)

"Is the Pope Catholic?" he said without a moment's hesitation. "The only thrill I've gotten so far is sitting on one."

He quickly pulled a blue parka over his T-shirt and borrowed a black leather jacket with the trademark Harley eagle and a pair of black leather chaps.

The bikers—from the Prince George's and Montgomery County chapters of ABATE—met at Remington's restaurant in Beltsville before riding to the Knox home shortly after 1 p.m.

About 1:45 p.m., helmets were adjusted, bikes were revved and smiles were plentiful as the motorcycles weaved their way out of the quiet neighborhood and onto the road.

During the hour-long ride, the younger Mr. Knox was perched behind Dennis Wolfrey on an aqua-colored Electra Glide Classic, waving and giving thumbs-up signs to other bikers and his parents, who videotaped the ride from their van.

When the group arrived at its destination 25 miles later—the Layhill Cafe—Mr. Knox hadn't lost an ounce of enthusiasm.

"I love this. I could do this all day," he said after the motorcycle stopped. "I'm addicted."

Later he admitted "I was hanging on for dear life," but he said he quickly

became accustomed to the turns and motions of the motorcycle.

"It's like riding in a car, but it's a lot more thrilling," he said.

As the skies opened up, the group swapped stories and talked about motorcycles over lunch. But there was yet another surprise awaiting for Mr. Knox—a birthday cake with candles glowing.

"Make a wish, make a wish," several onlookers said.

"I made my wish about two hours ago," he said. "I got my wish."

(Reprinted from *The Washington Times*, September 25, 1995)

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10 Reasons Why Women Prefer a Motorcycle

1. You expect a loud exhaust system on a bike.
2. Your bike doesn't care what the house looks like.
3. Your bike never asks if you're sick just because you go one day without makeup.
4. You know when your bike has had enough to drink and you don't get any arguments.
5. Your bike can easily handle the 10 pounds you put on over the holidays without complaints.
6. When you get tired of listening to your bike, you can shut it off.
7. When your bike starts whining, you can get it fixed.
8. If you decide to miss a day of riding, your bike doesn't automatically assume it's because you're riding elsewhere.
9. You don't have to fake how much you enjoy the ride on your bike.
10. Your bike is always ready to go at the same time you are, never prematurely.

10 Reasons to Spend Money on Your Motorcycle Instead!!!

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2. Motorcycles don't get headaches or have to do their hair.
3. Your motorcycle will never show up when you're driving your car and embarrass you.
4. Motorcycles don't get cellulite or varicose veins.
5. Your motorcycle can be ridden every day of the month.

6. Motorcycles are always ready for a ride, however short and quick.
7. Motorcycles don't come with motorcycle-in-laws.
8. Motorcycles never insist that you go someplace you don't want to go.

9. Your motorcycle never mentions your previous motorcycle.
10. Your motorcycle will NEVER look up at you and say, "you want me to do WHAT?"

Reprinted from "Freedom of Road Riders, Inc. of Missouri."

Politics 101

(Continued from Page 12)

All House bills start at 2001 and all Senate bills start at 01.

Bills may be prefiled before the beginning of the session, so that S.01 may be introduced in November.

Step three. The bill is listed on the daily calendar under Introductions of Bills and Resolutions. The bill is then assigned to the proper committee for action.

Step Four. The Chair of the Committee meets with the members and decides which bills have active support or are a priority with the voters. If there is either a pressing legal or political need for this type of legislation, the bill is scheduled for hearing.

When hearings are scheduled, those people or groups that are concerned with this legislation are notified of times and places. (Yes, they do actually try to let those concerned know in advance, even opponents.)

Most committee hearings only last an hour. If it is a hot button issue, they sometimes schedule the proponents for one day and opponents the next day.

Most issues other than gun laws, abortion laws, and occasionally helmet laws, can be done in one-hour hearings.

The committee makes a real effort to give equal time to both sides.

During a one-hour hearing, each side is given approximately 30 minutes to

present their side of the argument. Proponents always testify first and opponents last. This is an advantage for opponents as they have a chance to rebut the testimony of the proponents. The committee takes the numbers of each side and divides the number of speakers listed for each side by the time available to decide how long each person gets to speak. On occasion, those on the same side have people withdraw as speakers to give the more informed person more time.

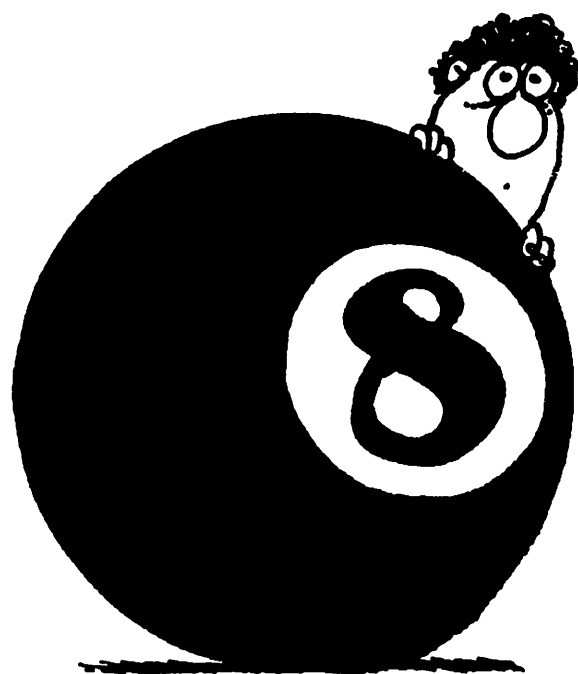
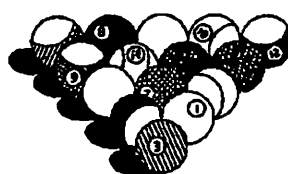
The committees usually take testimony on a number of bills and set aside one day a week to vote on the bills they have heard during the last week.

During the days that are set aside for action on bills, the committee makes amendments and changes to bills and then decides to pass, kill or table the bill. Bills that are passed are sent to the floor. Bills that are killed can be reintroduced or amended onto a different bill on the floor. Bills that are tabled may have future hearings after more information is received or a real need for the legislation is shown. However, most bills that are tabled just disappear in the Twilight Zone.

Well, we have to stop at this point for the month. This will probably take about 3 months to finish depending on space and time available.

(Reprinted from the ABATE of Kansas newsletter.)

ABATE of Maryland
St. Mary's Co. Chapter
PRESENTS:
MIXED DOUBLES
POOL TOURNAMENT



Sign up 12:30

Starts 1:00pm

Everyone

Welcome

Sunday Jan. 21, 1996

"Sharkey's Pool Hall & Bar"

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Info: Tom 373-3838 or Wendy 373-8266

Not Wearing Protective Headgear

Round One is over. The District Court found us (Peg and I) guilty of riding without protective headgear. The judge would not hear any argument about the law and promptly sent us on our way with the requisite fine of \$50 each. Score one for the Man. But not so fast. Round Two begins with our appeal which was filed three days later. We are going to take the case to the Circuit Court where we will be able to argue the law and present the case that the District Court would not hear. Regardless of the outcome in the District Court, the law is vague and we intend to continue our fight. The police, the judge and the state's attorney want you to comply with the law, but they do not want to be put on the spot and have to tell you how you can comply or what specifically meets the criteria for compliance. You are free at present to do as you please as long as it meets their criteria. The kicker is that they, the law, have little or no intention of letting you in on what that criteria specifically requires. As long as the law is satisfied with your lid, you pass. But if the law, subject to each officer's personal interpretation, does not like what you wear, you get a ticket. Never mind that there is not a list of approved helmets available from the State MVA. Never mind that the U.S. Department of Transportation does not have a list of approved helmets. Forget about equal protection under the law. Forget the Fourteenth Amendment. Forget that the law treats you like irresponsible second-class citizens. The judge seems to be all too ready to let the police enforce what he has admitted cannot be defined. Well, it is his court and he can certainly do what he wants in his sandbox. But if he thinks this is the last he has heard of this issue, he is wrong. It is my intent to challenge this law every chance I get. I am certain that I

will be back with another "illegal" headgear ticket in the near future. We know that we can beat an "illegal" headgear ticket in District Court, but we must take the ticket for not wearing protective headgear to the Circuit Court. Well, there is an awful lot of area we have not yet explored. Will the court rule on a ball cap or bandanna? What about a leather skull cap? We do not know yet but we need to find out. Our options for this year in the legislature have passed and we have only two choices: 1) submit like sheep to wearing the lid until next year when we can attempt to overturn the law in the General Assembly once again, or 2) put forth an effort to challenge the law in the courts. If any of you are tired of this law and the heavy-handed tactics being used to keep you in submission, I urge you to consider going to court. Let me temper that statement with some caution. Do your homework first. Understand what you are getting into and what kind of commitment it will take to see it through. I firmly believe that we have the best opportunity to turn this law around in the courts. I have made my decision and I am willing to devote my time and energy to put up a fight. Between fines and appeal fees, I've already got about \$280 invested. I would rather spend the dough on fighting than on a lid that some damned bureaucrat wants me to buy and wear. It has not been easy so far and I am under no delusion that it will get easier as we proceed. I am, however, committed to seeing this thing through. I said in October 1992 that I was taking this thing personally and I have not changed my feelings. Civil disobedience is a strong term that implies a conscious act to challenge the law by noncompliance. If that is the only course left then that is the course that will be taken. I wonder what it costs the court in time and money for each of these tickets? I will continue to keep you informed of our progress. The game is far from over, so Let The Games Begin. Mike.

Strike A Blow For Freedom

On September 12, 1995, Mike and Peggy Lewis appeared in Circuit Court for St. Mary's County before Judge Kaminetz on the appeal of tickets for not wearing "protective headgear" cited in TR 21-1306. They were represented by fellow ABATE member and attorney Terry Nolan (410-766-6466). Terry made a motion for dismissal and presented arguments that the tickets were issued under a law that is "vague" and that the State had failed to provide, as stated in TR 21-1306, a list of approved helmets. Terry argued that the State was requiring citizens to comply with a law that was virtually impossible for a "person of average intelligence" to understand. He further argued that a copy of the "standard" set by the MVA Administrator was not even available within St. Mary's County. He was only able to obtain a copy from the Legal Officer at the Patuxent River Naval Complex and the average citizen does not normally have that access. When called to the witness stand and asked if he had previously seen a copy of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218, the Trooper who had issued the tickets stated that he had not seen the standard before. In ruling on the motion, the Judge stated that the "law" needed two criteria: 1) it must give fair notice, and 2) it must provide legally fixed standards. The Judge cited *Bowers vs. State* and one other case as references and ruled that Notice Had Not Been Sufficiently Published to the General Public. Based upon that, the Judge dismissed the case.

So what does all this mean? First, it means that within the jurisdiction of St. Mary's County only, helmet tickets are able to be fought based on Judge Kaminetz's ruling. Will the cops stop writing tickets? Not likely. Even the

(Continued on Page 18)

Strike A Blow

(Continued from Page 17)

Judge stated that the trooper acted "wisely" based upon his training and judgment at the time. What the ruling means is that riders now have a valid legal argument to fight a ticket. Although I do not recommend any of you start riding helmetless, it appears that if you choose to do so, you will have some valid legal basis for a defense. A word of caution: Everything else had better be straight if you choose to pursue that course of action because the cops will definitely look you over. Second, based upon the ruling handed down by Judge Kaminetz, Terry Nolan is preparing documents to present in the Circuit Court asking for a Declaratory Judgment on the law. A Declaratory Judgment is a ruling on the validity of the law itself. By the time you read this, the papers should be filed. This process, if successful, could lead to overturning the law in the courts. All this will take time, but we are moving forward. Third, I am going to re-request a copy of the "State Approved" list of helmets from the MVA and the Maryland State Police. I still do not think they have such a list, but the Trooper testified that there was some sort of list and he was waiting for a copy. The requests are to cover our bases for future court appearances. Yes, you heard correctly. It is my intention to continue to press this issue. If that means that I have to get a ticket for riding with a bandanna or a ball cap on, then so be it. Last but not least, DO YOUR HOMEWORK before you get a ticket. Know exactly what you are getting into, how to defend yourself, and what the consequences of your actions are, both good and bad. Freedom does not come easy or cheap. The fight goes on and Peggy and I cannot thank Terry Nolan or Patty Sue enough for all their help. I'm sure they will be spending more time riding in St. Mary's and we both look forward to riding free with them. Ride safe. Mike (From ABATE of Maryland, St. Mary's County chapter newsletters.)

County Corners

Anne Arundel

Contact: Ed Petherbridge
(800) 843-0252

Meetings are the third Sunday of each month at 11:00 am at Rudy's Tavern, Route 178, Crownsville (by the fairgrounds).

Baltimore City/County

Coordinator: George Koltko
(800) 843-0252

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Big Falls Inn, 11818 Philadelphia Road, White Marsh.

Concerning our meeting place on the west side of town: At this point in time, I have temporarily postponed these meetings until there is a renewed interest to reschedule them. This was a tough decision to make due to the few individuals who attended these meetings. I would like to encourage them to attend our meetings on the east side at the Big Falls Inn.

I would like to thank all the individuals who came out for the Baltimore-Carroll County Chapter Poker Run.

Calvert County

Coordinator: Gene Gullickson
(301) 855-7999

Meetings are held at The Paris Station restaurant and bar, formerly known as Lazy J's Bar, located on Route 260 (about 2 miles east of MD Route 2) in Owings, MD, on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Carroll County

Coordinator: Sharon Ganz
(410) 239-8727

Our county meeting is at Frisco Pub, located across from Shoney's on Route 140 in Westminster. All meetings will be on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Come early and join us for dinner.

Cecil County

Call the ABATE office for details.

Frederick County

Coordinator: Pat Mullens
(301) 898-3626

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Mel's Airport Inn, Route 15, north of Frederick.

Harford County

Coordinator: Merrill Paden
(410) 838-6219

Meetings are held upstairs at the Esquire's M/C & Van Clubhouse located on Route 40W by the Route 22 overpass on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to bring a friend. Looking forward to seeing you. Please note for our members' sake, our meetings will be smoke free due to the confinement of the trailer. Thank you.

Howard County

Coordinator: Don Fellner
(410) 465-7829

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Friendly Inn on Route 144, between the intersection of Folley Quarter Road and Marriottsville Road.

Well, we've enjoyed our summer. Now, if you haven't been all along, it's time to get down to the main purpose of our organization. That is lobbying our elected officials to let them know what we think about big brother telling us what is good for US. We need EVERYONE to help get our word out. One or two people in each chapter are not going to get the lid off our heads! We need all of our members to get ACTIVE and stay active, not just when the weather cools off. We MUST stay on top of our game. Remember: practice makes perfect!!!

(Continued on Page 21)

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County Corners

(Continued from Page 18)

Well, again our meeting attendance has fallen off lately. I understand a lot of things go on in the summer months, but we still need to stay united in our efforts and attending these meetings is one way of doing that. Our meetings are once a month. Maybe I'm wrong, but I don't think that it is too much to ask members to come out to a meeting one night a month, if for no other reason than to enjoy the fellowship of our brothers and sisters and find out what's going on with ABATE!! Don't get me wrong. I know that not everyone can attend every meeting, but I'm sure we can do better than 4 or 5 members out of 40 per meeting. Come on, folks. Let's get serious about this and hang these buckets for good!!

If you haven't heard, we have won a MAJOR battle on the federal level, so we have a VERY GOOD chance of winning our freedom back this coming year. So let's get out and do what we've got to do.

We have plenty of events coming up. Hope to see ya there. Till next time, RIDE SAFE!!!!!!!!!!

Donny

P.S. If you cannot attend a meeting, feel free to call me at home or the office to find out what's going on. WE'VE GOT TO STAY IN TOUCH.

Mid-Shores Chapter

Coordinators: Kenny Eaton (410) 820-9323 (Caroline)

Wayne McCarty (410) 943-8575 (Dorchester)

Bill Kuykendall (410) 758-2234 (Kent and Queen Anne's)

Marty Shultz (410) 745-5136 (Talbot)

Meetings are at the American Legion Post 70 on Dover Street in Easton on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Montgomery County

Coordinator: Dave Sherman
(301) 460-7141

Montgomery County meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Red-Hot & Blue, Crabbs Branch Way and Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg, and on the third Tuesday at The Layhill Cafe, Bel Pre and Layhill Road in Silver Spring. Meeting times are at 8:00 pm.

Prince George's County

Coordinator: Bill Isenock
(301) 595-0734

Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:00 pm at Remingtons of Beltsville (11500 Baltimore Blvd.).

Southern Maryland

Call the ABATE office for information.

St. Mary's County

Coordinator: Wendy Anderson
(301) 373-8266

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at the VFW Post #2632 in California, Maryland. We wish to extend a special invitation to any ABATE member in Charles or Southern P.G. County to join us for our monthly meeting.

As always, St. Mary's County has been very busy. Summer has officially come to an end, and what a summer it has been! We have our overnight poker run that took us from Maryland to Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and back to Maryland. Hats off to Tom Hardie, our events coordinator, for a job well done. I will say the route Tom chose for us was quite the country scenery, complete with horse crap on the road. But it was beautiful and the weather was very cooperative. The overnight stay in Gettysburg was a thrill. If you ever get the urge to go for a nice putt, I

would recommend you take one up to Gettysburg and enjoy the sights, especially since fall is approaching. Also, to end our summer, we had an evening poker run that was a great time. We started at the north end of the county and ended at a restaurant/bar in Sandgates. The only little hitch in this poker run was the rain that hit us around one in the morning. We finished the run and were not complaining too much.

Another event that was held in September was the Southern Maryland Motorcyclists Toy Run. I'm sorry I missed that event, but heard it was a good turnout but that Mother Nature had her own plans and put a little damper on the event. I am sure whatever they collected was well appreciated and thanks to all you made it a success. I know I could not name all, but I do want to thank Steve Connor and Cyndi Wallace for putting the event together, the Roadhouse Saloon for the use of the ball field, all the bands, vendors, and of course, we cannot forget you, the supporters, the ones who came out. Thanks you again.

By the time you read this, the Protest Run in Annapolis, the Blessing of the Fleet Parade, our last of the year Poker Run, and our Halloween Party will be over. I'll try to write about them the next time. On November 11 we will be leading the Veteran's Day Parade in Leonardtown, and on November 19 we will be having our annual Chili Cook-off at Country Secrets. In December, our Christmas Party and Trash Pick-up will round out the end of the year. Coming up in 1996, on January 21 is our Pool Tournament at Sharky's in Leonardtown. So, as you can see, we still have a lot of things coming up to do.

(Continued on Page 22)

County Corners

(Continued from Page 21)

I did want to touch on the fact that we held elections of officers in August. Nominations were opened in July and August, and I want to congratulate all the winners. Let me introduce to you:
Coordinator - Wendy Anderson
Assistant Coordinator - Karen Thompson
Legislative Representatives - Susan Lindsey and Janice Lowdermilk
Treasurer - Jerry den Hartog
Events Coordinator - Tom Hardie
Newsletter Editor - Cyndi Wallace
Newsletter Helper - Steve Connor
Membership Secretary - Greg Casoni
Products - Carole Pilkerton
Secretary - Oleta Caldwell

As 1995 winds down, we lost a few brothers this year and we still have the lids on our heads. But 1995 is coming up and it's a brand new year with brand new beginnings and we can only do this with your support. Attend the ABATE meetings and let's join together to regain the "FREE" in our "FREE STATE." As always, St. Mary's County has an open door policy. Please join us. Till next time...

Oleta Caldwell
Secretary
St. Mary's County Chapter

Lower Eastern Shore

Coordinators: Linda Wainer
(410) 749-2674 (Wicomico)
K.T. (410) 651-9233 (Worcester)

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 10:00 am at English's Restaurant, Route 13 South, Salisbury.

Washington County

Coordinator: Fritz Sine
(800) 843-0252

Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 pm at the Dogpatch Tavern, Route 40, east of Hagerstown, across from Greenbrier State Park.

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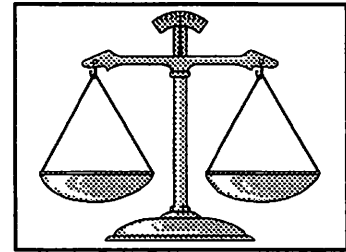
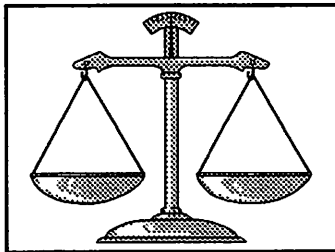
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ALCOHOL AND MOTORCYCLES DON'T MIX.

House Committee Votes To Repeal Federal Helmet Law

Young Amendment Approved by a Vote of 38 Ayes to 17 Nays

Washington, D.C. On Friday, September 8, 1995, the House of Representatives' Transportation and Infrastructure committee voted, 38 to 17, to include the Young Amendment in the National Highway System Designation Act, H.R.2274.

Congressman Don Young (R-AK) offered the text of his bill H.R.899 as an amendment during the committee mark-up of H.R.2274. With 204 sponsors, H.R.899 is the 5th most sponsored bill in the 104th Congress. During his introduction of the amendment, Rep. Young urged his colleagues to vote for states' rights and said, "These states are neither too lazy to pass helmet laws, nor bad citizens. Their legislatures are democratically elected—they're representing the wishes of their residents who do not want helmet laws."

During the debate on the Young Amendment, Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) tried to offer an amendment that would have denied Medicaid benefits to motorcyclists injured when not wearing a helmet.

Congress Tom Petri (R-WI), chairman of the surface transportation subcommittee, made a point of order that the Oberstar Amendment was not in order. His point of order was that the

Wanted: MRF Maryland rep needs assistants! To help promote the MRF, to learn the federal government process, and to help get the message out to all freedom fighters call (301) 854-2130.

amendment was not germane to the bill and dealt with issues outside the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Committee chairman Bud Shuster (R-PA) upheld Rep. Petri's point is order, killing the Oberstar Amendment.

After the Oberstar Amendment was disposed of, a roll call vote was requested on the Young Amendment and it was approved by a vote of 38 ayes to 17 nays, creating Section 349 of H.R.2274. The Young Amendment had strong bi-partisan support, with 25 Republicans and 31 Democrats voting aye. After considerable debate on other issues, including votes to approve some motor carried deregulation (36-14) and two defeats of efforts to strike (19-38) and weaken (22-29) the speed limit repeal approved in subcommittee (Brewster Amendment), the committee, on a voice vote, passed H.R.2274 out of committee.

The fight against the type of amendment that Rep. Oberstar offered is far from over. Because several members of the committee expressed an interest in Mr. Oberstar's amendment, we expect something similar to be offered as an amendment when H.R.2274 goes to the floor for debate. Please ask your Member of Congress to oppose any amendment that would deny motorcyclists federal benefits if injured.

In addition to Reps. Young, Petri, and Lipinski, Congressman Tom Latham (R-IA) spoke in favor of the Young Amendment. Mr. Latham summed up the feeling of many members that day when he said, "We need to put faith back in individuals for them to be responsible for themselves and give the States back their rights."

Reflecting on this great victory for grass-roots motorcyclists, MRF vice president for government relations, Wayne Curtin said, "Three things

happened at this committee vote that exemplify our grass-roots efforts. First, 12 members of the committee who voted against repeal in subcommittee or committee last year voted in favor of the Young Amendment. One of those dozen is Rep. Bill Lipinski (D-IL), who in the past had said, 'there is nothing you can say or do that will change my mind.' Rep. Lipinski voted in favor of the Young Amendment because he came to realize that, because of the work of ABATE in Illinois, Illinois was not going to pass a helmet law and he felt he must support this amendment because Illinois needs the \$12.5 million a year in penalized funds. Lastly, early on the morning of the vote, four members of ABATE of Maryland walked into Rep. Wayne Gilchrest's office. None of his staff was in, but Rep. Gilchrest, who voted against repeal last year, was and come out to talk to the Marylanders. Even though the vote was that morning, Rep. Gilchrest said he had not given the issue much thought. Later that morning, Rep. Gilchrest voted in favor of the Young Amendment." Curtin finished by saying, "these actions are wonderful examples of how citizen activism brings positive results and shows that individuals and grass-roots organizations can make a difference in our legislative process."

Twenty-one grass-roots motorcyclist activists from the District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin showed up at the mark-up. These dedicated motorcyclists were in line at 7:00 am in order to ensure they were able to get in the committee hearing room for the 10:00 am markup. They spent three hours visiting with members of the committee from their state. The presence of these citizen lobbyists ensured attendance by members and provided a needed presence in the committee room when the debate and vote on the Young Amendment came up.

House Votes To Repeal Federal Helmet Law

Ward Amendment To Strike Repeal Defeated On Voice Vote

Washington, D.C. On Wednesday, September 20, 1995, the U.S. House of Representatives debated and passed, by a vote of 419 ayes to 7 nays, the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995. H.R.2274 included, in Section 349, repeal of the Section 513 penalties on States without helmet laws.

During the debate on H.R.2274, Congressman Mike Ward (D-KY) offered an amendment to strike Section 349, the Young Amendment, added at committee mark-up. The debate on the Ward Amendment lasted less than five minutes. Rep. Tom Petri (R-WI), chairman of the surface transportation subcommittee, spoke against the Ward

Amendment and asked for a voice vote. When the speaker asked for the ayes, there was virtual silence in the chamber. The request for nays brought a resounding "NO" from the members in the chamber, killing the Ward Amendment.

This action by the House of Representatives means that both the House and Senate National Highway Systems bills, H.R.2274 and S.440, have the repeal of Section 153 penalties on States without helmet laws included.

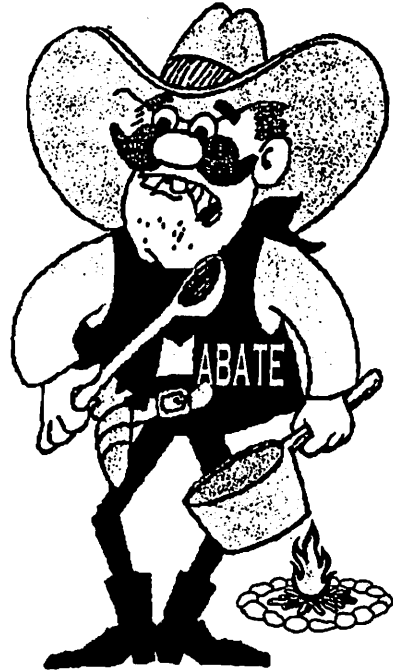
A conference committee, which will work out the differences between S.440 and H.R.2274, must report out a bill in time for President Clinton to sign it into law by September 30, 1995. The House has called for a conference and

appointed eight members: Republicans Shuster, Petri, Clinger, Emerson, and LaHood and Democrats Mineta, Oberstar, and Rahall. Senate and House staff are expected to be working over the weekend to start developing compromises.

On another states' rights issue, Rep. Nick Joe Rahall (D-WV), the ranking minority member of the surface transportation subcommittee, offered two amendments to strike and weaken the repeal of the speed limit mandate. Rep. Rahall's amendment to strike the speed limit repeal failed on a vote of 112 ayes to 313 nays. The second Rahall amendment, setting a maximum national speed limit of 65 mph, was also soundly defeated by a vote of 133 ayes to 291 nays.

ABATE OF MD ST. MARY'S COUNTY CHAPTER PRESENTS:

**Sunday, November 19
1:00 pm
"FREE TO ALL"
OUR
9TH ANNUAL
CHILI COOK-OFF**



Please bring your "hottest," "meanest," "best," "worst," "most original" chili over to "Country Secrets" on Route 244, Medely Neck Road near Leonardtown, MD at 1:00 pm for a chili-eatin' good time!

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Are you a member of a state motorcyclists' rights organization? Y / N Name _____
What talents do you have that might benefit motorcyclists' rights and the MRF? _____

Will you volunteer these talents if the MRF needs your help? Y / N

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Upcoming Events

- November 5** Veteran's Appreciation Ride (See flyer on page 6.)
- November 12** ABATE Staff Meeting
- November 19** St. Mary's Chili Cook-Off
- December 9** Frederick County Christmas Dance (Ruritan Hall, Mt. Pleasant)
- January 21** St. Mary's County Mixed Doubled Pool Tournament (See ad on page 16.)

Several Chapters are having holiday parties.

Call your Director for details.

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