

ENVELOPE MARKED

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

PARA HIGHLIGHTED P.2.

Tuesday, 29th. July. 1986

Dutch Souter
'Glenogil'

Dear Dutch,

further to our phone conversation of last night. I have thought about it a lot. If what you told me about the Registers Conference is correct, and I have no reason to doubt you, then the MRA is in worse shape than I thought and the Registers will deserve the next President they get.

Firstly, I cant believe that the members lost only \$200 of their funds in the Shop robbery. You were misled. The questions I would have asked the State Committee would have been: 1. What is the replacement cost to the members of a video of equal quality? Likewise the TV and portable computer (if they too were stolen)? Exactly how much cash went? I heard \$140. Why was the cash not put in the night safe at the bank next door? This was the very reason that I forced Tony to open a night safe account. 2. Why was the Shop not insured? But whats the point in writing this? The Registers will just pour more money into a Committee that has cost the members the Howqua and the Toy Run site because they were too lax to do the work they were elected to do or to give me the back up I needed to do the work for them.

I know they put some nice excuses in the newsletter but the excuses only work on people who dont want to know whats really going on. This constitution you passed on the weekend, in my opinion ends the MRA's ability to represent riders and fight for their safety and rights. It basically protects the interests of the State Committee. It does nothing for the future, the development of the MRA. If you want proof of that you only have to read the Forward where they admit that the advice of a founding member, Chris Swalwell was not taken but that of outsiders with no experience of running a State Branch was. The Vic Branch has held but one public meeting in '86. less than 50, 1%, of the membership attended and they were mostly city members. They made important decisions for the country members. I dont call that democracy. I notice that the meeting was held in a pub and was poorly advertised. Now you tell me that they only intend to have quarterly meetings. I dont think they want to have to face the members.

You were most definitely misled with the bullshit about getting the insurance back. I built up the insurance as a service to the members starting 4 years ago. I still own the name MRA Motorcycle Insurance and operate the business. It gives the members free advice, insurance cover if they want and supplies the MRA with new members. Tony said publicly that he would get rid of me and that I was not "worth the shit on his shoes". He called me "President Marcos". He conned me into training Ben to write insurance. I had a verbal agreement with ben that he would get 80% of commissions. I would take all the risks and do the paperwork if he would study the company books and income he would be paid as the commissions were paid.

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Ben had only one quick look at my company books. He reneged on the agreement. He asked me to hold the second commission payment to ensure he did not pay tax last financial year, I did not like doing it but since I owed him money for stationary I paid him \$496.40 on May 6th. On June 6th I paid him \$124.86. June 11th. \$9.62. & \$82.55. July 12th \$46.70. July 24th. \$106.74. In the last 10 weeks I have paid him a total of \$366.87. I reckon thats pretty fair considering I cant afford hot water or more than 1 meal a day but you can bet he and Tony can. Ben broke the agreement with me not the other way around. Within 3 weeks of my training him he and Tony stabbed me in the back by conning an agency out of Swann & WU. I built the business up over 4 years. They did not need to destroy my income but I should have known better than to trust a "friend" and I must admit Tony did warn me he was going to get rid of me. In my opinion Tony and Andy are the most destructive team ever to hit this Branch of the MRA.

I needed help when the decisions were being made. I needed someone to stand up when I was not there and say this is wrong. Read the letters. Face the issues. the issues I raised effected every members and indirectly the motorcycle community. But it seems that no one wanted to face the issues. No one did.

No public meetings on a monthly basis, secret committee meetings so they could not be questioned on the rubbish they talked about me, the loss of the Howqua, the loss of the Toy Run site, minimal notice to your Register about the Conference, no insurance on the Shop, the night safe not used, a constitution that is more suited to an English touring club than a \$100,000 per year organisation it goes on and on. But I think the members will let the MRA be run into the ground.

It is no longer the lobby group that I gave 10 years of my life to in order to fight for motorcyclists safety and rights. It has been destroyed and so have I both financially and in terms of my good name. Its too late for help or support now. If you think I am bitter you are damn right.

I will give motorcycling a good Toy Run. I wont let their incompetence and greed ruin a good event. I will do some lobbying but I wont be involved in internal politics or admin. The members in the future will have to decide who was the asset to motorcycling.

This letter is not meant as a lobbying tool. In fact I would prefer it was in confidence, for your eyes only. I just felt that friends should hear both sides of the story and not just what gushed forth at the Conference.

Please apologise to your members for my not coming to Woolrock. Its not that I cant afford it. I cant. Its that I couldnt have a good time with those people enjoying what I put so much time energy and money into building, the MRA. Dont worry, I have always been a bit of a loner and in times of trouble thats where most people wind up. However, I am a wog with more energy than the whole State Committee put together and even though I may lose everything I own I will land on my feet and out perform the bastards if it means working 7 days a week for the next 10 years. The way things are it probably will.

Sincerely,

Damien Codognotto
Director.

*P.S. we dont need a country
MRA. we need to repair the
one we have and if it goes
back to basics it can be
a good group again.*