Australia Now Has Its Own Roth 'Clunker' Bill

An Australian version of the infamous "Roth Clunker Bill" which incurred the wrath of American car hobbyists, has now been proposed, with Ford Motor Company Australia joining other car manufacturers and importers in the call for the government to tackle the pollution problem of "older cars."

Car producers and importers want the Australian government to legislative incentives to encourage more drivers with older cars to trade up in a plan to "clean up the environment."

The average age of cars on Australian roads has jumped to 14 years, with millions of vehicles still running on leaded gasoline.

Ford Australia President Jac Nasser cited a plan recently announced in the U.S. by President Bush which would provide a tax credit for buyers trading in older cars for newer ones.

According to Australian press reports, "Another suggestion from car makers is a scheme to progressively increase registration costs for older vehicles to effectively tax them off the roads — a method used in Singapore and Japan — which has won sup-



Jack Yeager Publisher

port from various state departments of environment and planning."

And so, even in the Land Down Under, the battle to preserve our rights to own classic collector cars goes on!

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There's some good news on the home front, however.

The Coalition for Vehicle Choice reports that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the 1992 energy bill with no CAFE or carbon dioxide provisions. The group reports:

"CVC and its members across America,

working in concert with other groups opposing CO2 and CAFE legislation, prevailed this time — but the issues have not and will not go away.

"It doesn't look like any other CAFE or CO2-related bills will come up for the remainger of this session....For the most part, Congressional attention will focus on reelection campaigns and the presidential race for the remainder of the year. However, both issues will be back again in 1993."

So we've won the battle, but not the war.

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Yet another group has been organized to join in the fight to help preserve the rights of classic car owners.

The National Motorists Association, 6678 Pertzborn Road, Dane, WI 53529, (608) 849-6000, has an avowed purpose of "advocating, protecting and reprsenting the interests of American motorists."

Among its objectives: "To protect your right to own and use the kinds of vehicles you prefer and to guarantee the retention of your individual rights when using public streets, roads and highways."

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