

## Vehicle Choice War Must Be Won At Local Level

The scrapping of older vehicles is a concern, but not an immediate concern.

The 1990 Clean Air Act gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the onus to develop minimum standards for pollutants. The automotive pollutants are only part of that act.

In the "proposed rulemaking" dated July 13, 1992, the EPA merely suggested a buy-and-scrap program might be used to offset other requirements by the entities required to reduce air pollution (cities, metro areas, individual companies, etc.). The politicians and the news media put a different spin on this "suggestion." Test programs and further clarification of the rules have shown that the program probably is not cost-effective. In any event, the government is not going to confiscate old cars and crush them — yet.

Also from the EPA proposed rules: the emissions testing programs that are required



**JIM WATSON**  
Vice President

in certain areas specifically exclude pre-1968 automobiles. Those autos — 1968 model year and beyond — require testing but only to the extent that the technology in the model year prevented air pollution. (For instance, 1968 Mustangs will not have to measure up to 1992 standards).

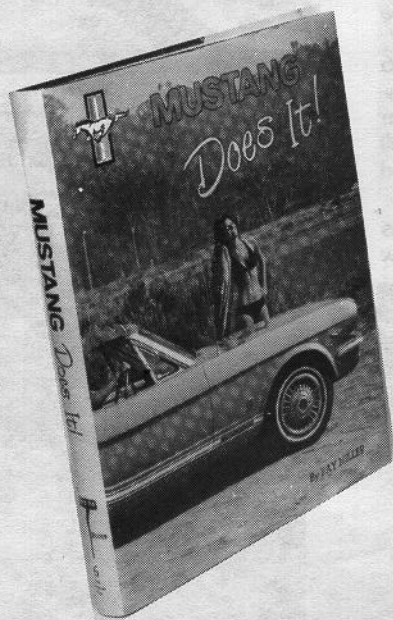
These are EPA proposed minimum stan-

dards. They require state implementation plans to meet these standards. State laws that emanate from these plans could be more strict than the EPA rules. It would be extremely difficult to effect change on the federal level with any of our concerns. It remains for us to make state legislators aware of our concerns and be sure that collector cars, antique cars, hobby cars, etc. be exempted or at least be written into the law to be given special consideration when items such as emissions, fuel consumption and buy-and-scrap programs are addressed.

The effort needs to be at a more local level because EPA offers guidelines and lets the states make the rules. The state and local levels thrive on the power this gives them.

It is with these state and local officials that MCA members must be concerned, for it is with these public servants that the battle must be joined.

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