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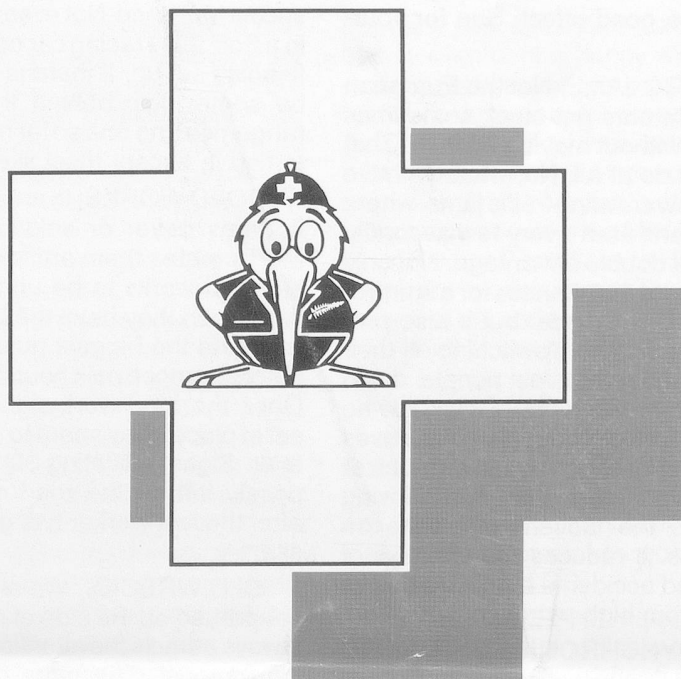
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ALTERNETIA

EDITORIAL

According to the NZ Ministry of Transport (we will keep calling it MOT since everyone is more familiar with this name rather than with the new one) all cars that move represent a potential danger. It therefore stands to reason that the only way for cars to be safe is in the stationary position. If no vehicle moved, there would be no more traffic accidents and so our dear old MOT would be delighted if they were allowed to impose a total ban on all traffic movement. It would make their lives so much easier as it would solve all their problems. There are however two good reasons why this must not or will not be allowed to happen. Apart from the slight inconvenience which a total ban of all vehicle movements would represent to all of us (a state which would plunge NZ back into the prehistorical age before

the invention of the wheel) the major problem would be that the MOT would grow into an unmanageable monster organisation. Experience shows that a few staff can do a lot of work but it needs thousands of staff to do nothing. You have all heard of "Parkinson's Law" which says that "work expands according to the time put at its disposal". As a typical example, Parkinson mentioned the English Ministry in charge of the old British Empire. When the British Empire was at its peak, this particular ministry employed just on 200 people. As the British Empire crumbled after the second world war, the ministry needed more and more staff. By the time the British Empire virtually ceased to exist, the ministry in charge of it had a staff of over 2000. There is no reason in the world to believe that the NZMOT would not follow the same trend. It does not happen often, but in this issue the

NZ Government for once would be on our side because the Ministers too do not want a total ban on traffic. They realise, very astutely, that people would soon lose interest in buying new cars as they would not even be allowed to drive them from the dealer to their own homes. That, plus the disappearance of the petrol consumption would rob our Ministers of billions of dollars in revenues. Imagine the colossal losses in taxes on motor vehicles and petrol, not to mention the GST that goes on top of the taxes giving the Government a double income. But wait a minute. A total ban on all traffic would mean the Government would no longer need to spend billions on road work, bridge construction and road maintenance. The flaw in this reasoning is of course that the Government never used these billions collected from us hapless motorists to build or maintain roads. The money