

[REDACTED]  
El Paso, TX 79935-2910  
October 8, 1993

P E R S O N A L

Ms. Susan Dentzer , Sr. Editor  
U. S. News & World Report  
2400 N. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-1196

Dear Ms. Dentzer :

Your appearance with Lew Ketchan on C-SPAN, September 23rd, discussing the health care reform plan was very interesting. You certainly impressed me as having looked into the subject thoroughly and your answers to questions were clear and understandable.

Sadly, when a caller suggested a tax on firearms, you and Lew dropped the ball -- see attached copy of my September 8th letter to Susan Swain and clipping for more details.

It continues to amaze me that most in the media know in great (and added) detail all of the criminal uses of firearms but profess ignorance on the many productive uses by law-abiding citizens. Do you look only at one aspect of a subject, just the aspect that supports your personal agenda or studiously avoid learning something contrary to the latter?

As additional information, am enclosing a copy of "Ten Myths About Gun Control," a current topic involving the lies of some members of Congress, (and others) and copies of NRA Firearms Fact Card 1992 and 1993.

Lastly, may I suggest, in the strongest possible terms, that a motor vehicle, firearm, scalpel, knife, blunt instrument or a writing instrument is no better or no worse than the hand that guides it. I submit that authority (power) and responsibility is inseparable and if there is truth in "The pen is mightier than the sword," it is incontrovertible that, having greater power and influence, those in the news media (visual, print, the works) have a greater responsibility for dealing in truth and facts than others. If you disagree, tell me how the responsibility is equal for one who throws a firecracker on the city street and one who bombs the World Trade Center?

Yours for a more factually and fully educated public.

[REDACTED]

P E R S O N A L

cc-Mr. Lew Ketchan -- Since no one at C-SPAN seems to know about  
the long-standing tax on firearms and ammo,  
I am attaching several copies so that you can  
pass them around.

Mr. Brian Lamb ✓ ) -- You guys dropped the same ball on  
(C-SPAN)  
Mr. Eric Breindel -) Sept. 24th; hope the attached will  
(New York Post)  
Mr. Dan Goodgame ) broaden your information base.  
(Time, Inc.)

[REDACTED]  
El Paso, TX 79935-2910  
September 8, 1993

PERSONAL

C O P Y

Ms. Susan Swain  
c/o C-SPAN  
400 N. Capital St. #650  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Swain:

We enjoy C-SPAN and think you do a very good job as hostess, but you surely dropped the ball the other day.

A man called in, referred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and said that inasmuch as alcohol was being taxed (A), tobacco was being taxed (T) that firearms (F) and ammunition should also be taxed and, if memory serves, you replied that it might be a good idea.

Sadly, indicated by the question and reply, both of you suffer a real lack of information on the subject.

In the early 1900's sportsmen, working with their elected representatives, were the guiding force for federal legislation to tax firearms and ammunition for use in wildlife preservation\ conservation and related activities.

"HUNTING AND CONSERVATION FACTS;  
"The Sportsmen's Contribution

"Through excise taxes on hunting equipment and over 21 million hunting licenses, permits, tags and duck stamps, America's hunters annually contribute over \$700 million for wildlife and habitat conservation, hunter education programs and funding of state fish and wildlife agencies.

"To date, American hunters have contributed nearly \$9 billion directly to wildlife conservation projects. Over 4 million acres of wildlife habitat have been acquired since 1937 through the Pitman-Robertson excise taxes on guns and ammo alone. Without the hunter and his guns, today's wildlife management successes would not have been possible." (Source: NRA-Institute for Legislative Action)

Moreover, the lands acquired by sportsmen's funds are used by hikers, bird watchers, picnickers, campers and all others. Who do you know of that has asked to be taxed to provide so many benefits for so many? Would you like to participate -- go to the post office and buy a Duck Stamp, go to a sporting goods store and buy a fishing or hunting license -- you don't have to use them but can you think of money better spent?

Further, many sportsmen banded together to form an organization "Ducks Unlimited," and, through their activities, likewise have acquired lands and otherwise supported the propagation, protection and conservation of fish, fowl and wildlife.

Additionally, what positive contribution have the tree-huggers made? They obstruct and harass legal hunters and sportsmen and generally rant and rail about everything under the sun, all the while enjoying the lands acquired by the very ones they harass and malign at little or no cost to themselves.

Finally, could you spare a moment of two of air time to correct the erroneous impression on this point left with millions of your viewers?

Am enclosing copies of NRA FIREARMS FACT CARD 1992, 1993 and a reprint of policy Review, (The Flagship publication of The Heritage Foundation) Winter 1993, Number 63, "The Violence of Gun Control," by David B. Kopel. I hope that you will find the information useful. By letter dated July 16, 1993, I send some related information to Mary Tillotson; perhaps you can share with each other, other associates, and add to your knowledge of timely, reoccurring topics.

Yours for a more factually and fully educated public,



# Outdoors



**Dan Williams**

## Salute nation's hunters, anglers this weekend

Saturday is National Hunting and Fishing Day, a good time to reflect on some of the reasons Congress voted to salute the nation's hunters and anglers every year since 1971.

- Today, there are more deer and elk in our woods, more fish in our lakes and streams than ever before, mostly due to management and conservation made possible through hunting and fishing license sales and taxes.

- Those same fees, along with other stamps, tags and membership dues also pay for programs to restore and protect thousands of endangered species and other non-game fish and animals.

- The nation's 16 million hunting license holders spent more than \$481 million on licenses and other permits last year and another \$124 million in a self-imposed 11 percent federal excise tax on ammunition and equipment. That money pays for state wildlife agency operations and federal conservation programs.

- More than 30 million fishing license holders raised more than \$398 million for conservation programs and an additional \$195 million through excise taxes in 1991.

- Hunting and fishing participants contributed more than \$36 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 600,000 jobs in 1991, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. In Texas, state records indicate deer hunting alone is a \$1 billion industry. When hunting, fishing and other wildlife-related recreation totals are combined, the total is \$4.2 billion.

### Take the pledge

Hunters who are serious about improving the sport's image and protecting it for future generations can begin by making a pledge announced this summer by the Izaak Walton League of America, one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations.

It's a pledge to show respect for wildlife and landowners, and to safely carry on an honorable tradition with pride. It also serves notice to "slob hunters" to clean up their act.

And what better day to make that pledge than Saturday, National Hunting and Fishing Day?

Here is the text of the hunter's pledge, announced this summer and endorsed by some of the nation's largest hunting and conservation groups, including the Izaak Walton League, the National Rifle Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation:

"Responsible hunting provides unique challenges and rewards. However, the future of the sport depends on each hunter's behavior and ethics.

Therefore, as a hunter, I pledge to:

- Respect the environment and wildlife.
- Respect property and landowners.
- Show consideration for non-hunters.
- Hunt safely.
- Know and obey the law.
- Support wildlife and habitat conservation.
- Pass on an ethical hunting tradition.
- Strive to improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife.
- Hunt only with ethical hunters.

By following these principles of conduct each time I go afield, I will give my best to the sport, the public, the environment and myself. The responsibility to hunt ethically is mine; the future of hunting depends on me."

Dan Williams is outdoors editor of the El Paso Times. Call him at [redacted] (outside El Paso) or fax him at [redacted].

\* and firearms

## U.S. COMPARED WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

- All criminologists studying the firearms issue reject simple comparisons of violent crime among foreign countries. (James D. Wright, et al., *Under the Gun*, 1983). "Gun control does not deserve credit for the low crime rates in Britain, Japan, or other nations ... Foreign style gun control is doomed to failure in America; not only does it depend on search and seizure too intrusive for American standards, it postulates an authoritarian philosophy of government fundamentally at odds with the individual, egalitarian ... American ethos." (David Kopel, "Foreign Gun Control in American Eyes," 1987)
- Gun laws and firearms availability have no relationship with murder or suicide rates. Most states bordering Canada have homicide rates similar to their northern neighbors, despite much higher rates of firearms availability. While the American homicide rate is 4-8 times that of most European nations, and firearms are frequently involved in American murders, America's violent crime rates are even higher for crimes where guns are infrequently (robbery) or rarely (rape) involved. The difference is violence, not firearms; and America's system of revolving door justice.
- England has twice as many homicides with firearms as before adopting its repressive laws; yet counters rising crime by increasing strictures on rifles and now on most shotguns. During the past dozen years, handgun-related robbery rose over 200% in Britain while dropping in the U.S.
- Japan's low homicide rate is accompanied by a suicide rate twice that of the United States, despite Japan's virtual gun ban. And Japan's low crime rate is attributable to police-state type law enforcement which would be anathema to Americans.
- Comparisons of Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, homicide ignore the fact that non-Hispanic whites have a lower homicide rate in Seattle than in Vancouver, and that Vancouver's homicide rate, and handgun use in homicide, did not go down following Canada's adopting a "tough" gun law.

## CAREER CRIMINALS, JUSTICE SYSTEM FAILURES AND ARMED VICTIM SUCCESSES.

(Based on Department of Justice (DOJ) victimization surveys, felon surveys. NACP law enforcement survey, PROMIS studies, research by the Rand Corp., James D. Wright et al., and Gary Kleck.)

- 75-80% of U.S. violent crimes are committed by career criminals, many on some form of conditional or early release (30-35% of career criminals are rearrested with previous criminal charges still pending). Most career criminals' crime is drug-related.
- Career convicted felons out of prison commit an average of 187 crimes per year, costing society \$430,000 versus \$25,000 per year cost of imprisonment.
- More than 90% of police chiefs and sheriffs agree that criminals are not affected by a ban on any type of firearm, while more than 70% oppose "waiting periods" for the same reason.
- Only half of violent crimes are reported to the police, and less than half of those (46%) are cleared by arrest of criminals. Unsuccessful investigations and lenient prosecutions and judgements free most criminals from legislated sentences.
- A prisoner survey by Wright et al., finds that criminals are more afraid of being shot by victims than by police; of career "handgun predators" 53% did not commit a specific crime for fear victim was armed, 57% were scared off or shot by armed victims; 88% think criminals will always be able to get handguns; absent handguns, 75% would use sawed-off shotguns. Unarmed felons listed tougher penalties for using a gun as an important reason for not arming.
- Kleck estimated that a burglar runs twice the chance of being shot by a victim as by the police. He also found that using a gun for protection from violent crime—rape, robbery, assault—reduces the likelihood crime will be completed and reduces the likelihood intended victims will be injured.

## SEMI-AUTOMATICS AND SO-CALLED "ASSAULT WEAPONS"

- Fully-automatic firearms have been sharply restricted by federal law since 1934. There is no evidence that a registered "machine gun" has ever been used in crime. Semi-autos which externally resemble fully-automatic firearms are very difficult to convert to full auto, and such conversion is a federal felony.
- There is no evidence that semi-autos are disproportionately used in crime. Semi-autos and all other rifles are involved in 4% of homicides. Data from big cities suggest military look-alikes constitute 1½% of guns seized by police, while accounting for about 2% of the guns owned by Americans. Semi-autos targeted by anti-gun legislation could affect 10-15% of the guns owned by Americans.
- Since only 1% of guns used in violent crimes are traced, BATF traces tell nothing about the types of guns used by criminals.
- Semi-autos, patterned after state-of-the-art firearms technology used by the military, and popular with millions of sportsmen, offer increased reliability and durability — with ammunition slightly less powerful than the .30-'06 and other more traditional big-game rounds. No functional difference exists between a semi-auto based on military guns of the 1940s and those of today.
- The anti-gunners have spoken: Having said handguns are not protected by the Second Amendment because they have no "militia" purpose, they now want to ban all rifles and shotguns and handguns which do. Clearly their ultimate goal is total gun prohibition.
- Ben Franklin warned, "We must all hang together, or we shall surely hang separately." British gun owners split amongst themselves, letting law after law prohibit various firearms, one after another. The misuse of a semi-auto imitation of an AK-47 in England led to a ban on most semi-auto rifles, handguns, and shotguns, and to a ban on pump-action shotguns. Don't let it happen in America.

NRA-Institute for Legislative Action  
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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# NRA FIREARMS FACT CARD 1991

## SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

This guarantee is clearly a fundamental individual right—not the 20th century invention of a "collective right"—because the Framers understood the concept of a "right" to apply only to individuals and used the word "states" when collective meanings were intended.

- In a 1990 ruling, the Supreme Court confirmed that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right held by "people"—a "term... employed in... select parts of the Constitution," specifically the Preamble, First, Second, Fourth, Ninth and Tenth Amendments (U.S. v. Verdugo-Urquidez, Feb. 1990). To argue that the phrase "the right of the people" applies collectively for the Second Amendment would also mean that the rights of "the people" to assemble and to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures are not individual liberties.
- Historically, English Common Law recognized this right as making possible both common and personal defense.
- The amendments in the Bill of Rights were framed to protect individual rights against governmental infringements.

- \* No Supreme Court decision has ever held this right to be collective. All four relevant Supreme Court decisions have recognized that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms.

#### FIREARMS FACTS: GENERAL

|                                    |                                                          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| NUMBER OF GUNS IN U.S.             | Approx. 200 million firearms                             |
| GUN OWNERS IN U.S.                 | 60-65 million handguns                                   |
| FIREARMS USED FOR PROTECTION       | 60-65 million, 35 million own handguns                   |
| CRIMINAL MISUSE OF FIREARMS YEARLY | 11% of firearms owners<br>13% of handgun owners          |
|                                    | Less than 0.2% of firearms<br>Less than 0.4% of handguns |

Over 99.8% of U.S. firearms and 99.6% of U.S. handguns will not be involved in criminal activity in any given year. Survey research suggests that about 645,000 Americans every year use handguns for protection from burglars, robbers, rapists, assailants, would-be murderers, etc.

#### WHY AMERICANS OWN FIREARMS

Based on 1978 Decision Making Information surveys, with handgun data confirmed by 1978 Caddell survey; abuse data from U.S. Public Health Service and F.B.I. data.

Primary Reasons Own/Use Firearms: % of Owners, Projected Number of Americans  
(Approx. 65 million owners of 200,000,000 guns)

|                          |      |                      |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------|
| HUNTING:                 | 51%; | 33,000,000 Americans |
| PROTECTION:              | 32%; | 21,000,000 *         |
| Used Gun For Protection: | 11%; | 7,200,000 *          |
| TARGET:                  |      |                      |
| SHOOTING:                | 13%; | 8,500,000 *          |
| COLLECTING:              | 4%;  | 2,600,000 *          |

#### WHY AMERICANS OWN FIREARMS (cont.)

Primary Reasons Own/Use Handguns: % of Owners, Projected Number of Americans  
(30-35 million owners of 65,000,000 handguns)

|                          |      |                     |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------|
| HUNTING:                 | 10%; | 3,500,000 Americans |
| PROTECTION:              | 58%; | 21,000,000 *        |
| Used Gun For Protection: | 13%; | 4,600,000 *         |
| TARGET:                  |      |                     |
| SHOOTING:                | 18%; | 6,300,000 *         |
| COLLECTING:              | 14%; | 5,000,000 *         |

#### HUNTING AND CONSERVATION FACTS: The Sportsmen's Contribution

Through hunting licenses, excise taxes and duck stamps, America's 18 million hunters annually contribute more than \$560 million for wildlife and habitat conservation, hunter education programs and funding of state fish and wildlife agencies.

To date, American hunters have contributed over \$8 billion directly to wildlife conservation projects. Over 4 million acres of wildlife habitat have been acquired since 1937 through the Pittman-Robertson excise taxes on guns and ammo alone. Without the hunter and his guns, today's wildlife management successes would not have been possible.

#### CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM (DCM)

- Trains American youth in marksmanship, with membership of almost 140,000; supports 1,796 civilian rifle clubs; trains over 65,600 juniors annually;
- Holds 144 regulation state, local, and national matches yearly.

"[E]arly socialization into the gun culture predisposes individuals to enlist in the armed forces later in life, which suggests that the gun culture is positively functional for the success of the volunteer army." (James D. Wright, et al., *Under The Gun*, 1983)

#### COMPARISON OF ROBBERY AND HOMICIDE RATES BETWEEN SELECTED U.S. CITIES WITH RESTRICTIVE AND NONRESTRICTIVE FIREARMS LAWS/ENFORCEMENT

Based on 1989 F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports and City Police

No gun law, in any city, state, or nation, has ever reduced violent crime, or slowed its rate of growth, compared to similar jurisdictions without such laws. Indeed, most such laws are defended with citations of the number of persons denied lawful access to handguns, while crime trends are ignored. With a virtual handgun ban, enforced with federal aid, from 1976 to 1990 the murder rate in Washington, D.C., has risen almost 200% with 1989 and 1990 seeing the city record the highest murder rates in the history of American big cities. Handgun use in homicide rose from about 55% to nearly 80%. Since it became a felony to go outside New York to evade the City's virtual handgun ban, handgun use in homicide has risen from 27% to over 65%, and the homicide rate has risen three times as fast as the rest of the country's. With 3% of the population, New York City accounts for one-eighth of handgun-related murders. The two crimes most feared by Americans are murder in the course of another crime (50%) and robbery (43%) (1978 DMI poll); robbery and robber-murder rates are consistently higher in cities with restrictive firearms laws and/or hostile enforcement of such laws.

#### CITIES: RESTRICTIVE GUN LAWS/ENFORCEMENT Rates per 100,000

|                  | Homicide | Robbery |
|------------------|----------|---------|
| Newark           | 34.1     | 1692.2  |
| New York City    | 25.9     | 1267.2  |
| Detroit          | 60.0     | 1144.9  |
| Washington, D.C. | 71.9     | 1082.9  |
| Chicago          | 24.8     | 1057.1  |
| Baltimore        | 34.3     | 1043.9  |
| Boston           | 17.1     | 1011.2  |

#### CITIES: LENIENT GUN LAWS/ENFORCEMENT

|         |     |       |
|---------|-----|-------|
| Tulsa   | 8.7 | 386.6 |
| Wichita | 9.8 | 313.0 |
| El Paso | 8.0 | 220.9 |

|                  |     |       |
|------------------|-----|-------|
| Austin           | 6.6 | 217.3 |
| Corpus Christi   | 7.2 | 216.5 |
| Omaha            | 6.5 | 179.9 |
| Colorado Springs | 3.2 | 122.5 |

#### 14 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN U.S.

Based on National Center for Health Statistics (1989, latest official estimates)

| ALL CAUSES                                                 | Total     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Heart Diseases                                             | 2,155,000 |
| Cancers                                                    | 734,000   |
| Strokes (cerebrovascular diseases)                         | 496,000   |
| ACCIDENTS (and adverse effects)                            | 146,000   |
| Motor Vehicle*                                             | 95,000    |
| Falls*                                                     | 48,290    |
| Poisoning (solid, liquid, gas)*                            | 11,733    |
| Fire and Flames*                                           | 5,315     |
| Suffocation (mechanical, ingestion)*                       | 4,710     |
| Drowning*                                                  | 4,697     |
| Other Transportation*                                      | 4,360     |
| Surgical/Medical misadventures*                            | 3,098     |
| Natural/environmental factors*                             | 2,881**   |
| Firearms*                                                  | 1,527     |
| (Includes estimated 500 handgun and 280 hunting accidents) | 1,440     |
| Chronic pulmonary diseases                                 | 84,000    |
| Pneumonia and Influenza                                    | 75,000    |
| Infectious and parasitic diseases***                       | 53,000    |
| Diabetes                                                   | 47,000    |
| Diseases of the arteries                                   | 43,000    |
| Suicide****                                                | 30,000    |
| Cirrhosis and other liver diseases                         | 26,000    |
| Nephritis and other kidney diseases                        | 23,000    |
| Homicide and legal intervention****                        | 22,000    |

\* (1987, latest official figures)

\*\* A Harvard University study would put the figure for death by medical negligence at 88,000.

\*\*\* Esp. septicemia and AIDS; as of 1989 more American males died of AIDS than of homicide.

\*\*\*\* Approx. 60% involve firearms.

## NRA FIREARMS FACT CARD 1993

### SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

This guarantee is clearly a fundamental individual right—not the 20th century invention of a "collective right" because the Framers understood the concept of a "right" to apply only to individuals and used the word "states" when collective meanings were intended.

y In a 1990 ruling, the Supreme Court confirmed that the right to keep and bear arms is an individual right held by "people" a "term employed in select parts of the Constitution:" specifically the Preamble, First, Second, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Amendments (U.S. v. Verdugo-Urquidez).

y The 20th-century National Guard—wholly controlled by the federal government—could not have been the type of body envisioned by the framers, even if the goal were to protect only an organized state militia. Under federal law, the "unorganized militia" consists of all able-bodied males of an age to serve, and some females and older men. (10 U.S.C. § 311(b)).

Historically, English Common Law recognized this right as making possible both common and personal defense.

y All four relevant Supreme Court decisions have recognized that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual right to keep and bear arms. No Supreme Court decision has ever held this right to be collective.

### FIREARMS FACTS: GENERAL

NUMBER OF GUNS IN U.S. : Approx. 200 million firearms.  
65-70 million handguns

GUN OWNERS IN U.S. : 60-65 million,  
30-35 million own handguns

FIREARMS USED FOR PROTECTION : 11% of firearms owners  
13% of handgun owners

CRIMINAL MISUSE OF FIREARMS YEARLY : Less than 0.2% of firearms  
Less than 0.4% of handguns

Over 98.8% of U.S. firearms and 98.6% of U.S. handguns will not be involved in criminal activity in any given year.

### WHY AMERICANS OWN FIREARMS

Based on 1978 Decision Making information surveys, with handgun data confirmed by 1978 Caddell survey; abuse data from US. Public Health Service and F.B.I. data.

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Primary Reasons Own/Use Firearms % of Owners,  
Projected Number of Americans  
(Approx. 65 million owners of 200,000,000 guns)

|                          |      |                      |
|--------------------------|------|----------------------|
| HUNTING:                 | 51%; | 33,000,000 Americans |
| PROTECTION:              | 32%; | 21,000,000           |
| Used Gun for Protection: | 11%  | 7,000,000            |
| TARGET SHOOTING:         | 13%; | 8,500,000            |
| COLLECTING:              | 4%;  | 2,600,000            |

Primary Reasons Own/Use Handguns: % of Owners,  
Projected Number of Americans  
(30-35 million owners of 65,000,000 handguns)

|                          |      |                     |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------|
| HUNTING:                 | 10%; | 3,500,000 Americans |
| PROTECTION:              | 58%; | 21,000,000          |
| Used Gun For Protection: | 13%; | 4,600,666           |
| TARGET SHOOTING:         | 18%; | 6,300,000           |
| COLLECTING:              | 14%; | 5,000,000           |

#### FIREARMS AND SELF-DEFENSE

Survey research indicates that about 645,000 Americans use handguns each year for protection against criminals. An additional 300,000 protective uses occur with rifles and shotguns, with still more hundreds of thousands of protective uses from animals. A Department of Justice-sponsored survey of felons found that 80% of "handgun predators" had encountered armed citizens, 53% did not commit at least one specific crime for fear the victim was armed, and 57% admitted being scared off or shot at by armed victims.

U.S. Department of Justice victimization surveys show that the protective use of firearms lessens the chance that rape, robbery, and assault attempts will be successfully completed, while also reducing the likelihood of injury to the intended victim.

#### CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM (DCM)

y Trains American youth in marksmanship with membership of about 132,000; supports 1751 civilian rifle clubs; trains over 440,000 juniors annually.

y Holds 138 regulation state, local, and national matches yearly.

" [Early socialization into the gun culture predisposes individuals to enlist in the armed forces later in life, which suggests that the gun culture is positively functional for the success of the volunteer army." (James D. Wright, et al., Under The Gun, 1983)

COMPARISON OF ROBBERY AND HOMICIDE RATES BETWEEN SELECTED U.S. CITIES WITH RESTRICTIVE AND NONRESTRICTIVE FIREARMS LAWS/ENFORCEMENT Based on 1991 F.B.I. Uniform Crime Reports and City Police

No gun law, in any city, state, or nation, has ever reduced violent crime, or slowed its rate of growth, compared to similar jurisdictions without such laws. Indeed, most such laws are defended with citations of the number of persons denied lawful access to handguns, while crime trends are ignored. With a virtual handgun ban, enforced with federal aid, from 1976 to 1991, the murder rate in Washington, D.C., has risen 200%, with a 300% rise in handgun-related homicide, as handgun use went from less than 60% of killings to 80%. Since it became a felony to go outside New York to evade New York City's virtual handgun ban, the city's homicide rate has risen three times faster than the rest of the country's. With less than 3% of the nation's population, NYC reports nearly one-seventh of the nation's handgun-related homicides. The two crimes most feared by Americans are murder in the course of another crime (50%) and robbery (43%) (1978 DMI poll); robbery and robber-murder rates are consistently higher in cities with restrictive firearms laws and/or hostile enforcement of such laws. Examples among cities over 250,000 population. Overall, big cities: Homicide: 26.7 per 100,000; Robbery: 905.2

CITIES: RESTRICTIVE GUN LAWS/ENFORCEMENT  
Rates per 100,000

|                  | Homicide | Robbery |
|------------------|----------|---------|
| Washington, D.C. | 80.6     | 1215.0  |
| Detroit          | 59.3     | 1309.4  |
| Baltimore        | 40.6     | 1439.6  |
| Cleveland        | 34.3     | 1006.5  |
| Chicago          | 32.9     | 1557.3  |
| Newark           | 31.8     | 1880.9  |
| New York City    | 29.3     | 1340.3  |
| Los Angeles      | 28.9     | 1117.9  |

CITIES: LENIENT GUN LAWS/ENFORCEMENT

|                  | Homicide | Robbery |
|------------------|----------|---------|
| Phoenix          | 12.9     | 346.2   |
| Oklahoma City    | 10.3     | 187.0   |
| Austin           | 10.3     | 327.0   |
| El Paso          | 9.3      | 281.9   |
| Colorado Springs | 8.7      | 134.3   |
| Wichita          | 7.8      | 458.3   |
| Tucson           | 5.8      | 214.3   |

12 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN U.S.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (1991, latest official estimates)

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| ALL CAUSES.....                      | 2,165,000 |
| Heart Disease.....                   | 718,090   |
| Cancers.....                         | 514,310   |
| Strokes.....                         | 144,070   |
| ACCIDENTS.....                       | 91,700    |
| Motor Vehicle*.....                  | 47,575    |
| Falls*.....                          | 12,151    |
| Poisoning (solid, liquid, gas)*..... | 6,524     |

|                                                            |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Fires and Flames*                                          | 4,716  |
| Drowning (incl. water transport drownings)*                | 4,716  |
| Suffocation (mechanical, ingestion)*                       | 4,491  |
| Surgical/Medical misadventures**                           | 2,850  |
| Other Transportation (excl. drownings)*                    | 2,160  |
| Natural/Environmental factors*                             | 1,816  |
| Firearms                                                   | 1,489  |
| (includes estimated 500 handgun and 200 hunting accidents) |        |
| Chronic pulmonary diseases                                 | 89,130 |
| Pneumonia and influenza                                    | 74,980 |
| Diabetes                                                   | 49,980 |
| Diseases of the arteries                                   | 41,970 |
| Suicide***                                                 | 30,200 |
| HIV Infections (AIDS)                                      | 28,850 |
| Homicide and legal intervention ****                       | 27,440 |
| Cirrhosis and other liver diseases                         | 24,740 |

\*1989, latest official figures

\*\*A Harvard University study suggests 93,000 deaths related to medical negligence excluding tens of thousands more deaths from non-hospital medical office/lab mistakes and thousands of hospital caused infections.

\*\*\*Approximately 60% involve firearms.

Approximately 60% involve firearms. Criminologist Gary estimates 1500-2,000 self-defense and justifiable homicides by civilians and 300-600 by police annually.

#### U.S. COMPARED WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

y All criminologists studying the firearms issue reject simple comparisons of violent crime among foreign countries. (James D. Wright, et. al., Under the Gun, 1983) "Gun control does not deserve credit for the low crime rates in Britain, Japan, or other nations.... Foreign style gun control is doomed to failure in America; not only does it depend on search and seizure too intrusive for American standards, it postulates an authoritarian philosophy of government fundamentally at odds with the individual, egalitarian . . . American ethos." (David Kopel, "Foreign Gun Control in American Eyes," 1987)

y Gun laws and firearms availability have no relationship with murder or suicide rates. Most states bordering Canada have homicide rates similar to their northern neighbors, despite much higher rates of firearms availability. While the American homicide rate is 4-8 times that of most European nations, and firearms are frequently involved in American murders, America's violent crime rates are even higher for crimes where guns are infrequently (robbery) or rarely (rape) involved. The difference is violence, not firearms; and America's system of revolving door justice.

y England has twice as many homicides with firearms as before adopting its repressive laws; yet counters rising crime by increasing strictures on rifles and now on most shotguns. During the past dozen years, handgun-related robbery rose 200% in Britain, five times as fast as the rise in the U.S.

y Japan's low homicide rate is accompanied by a suicide rate twice that of the United States, despite Japan's virtual gun ban. And Japan's low crime rate is attributable to police-state type law enforcement which would be anathema to Americans.

y Comparisons of Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, homicide ignore the fact that non-Hispanic whites have a lower homicide rate in Seattle than in Vancouver, and that Vancouver's homicide rate, and handgun use in homicide, did not go down following Canada's adopting a "tough" gun law.

#### CAREER CRIMINALS AND JUSTICE SYSTEM FAILURES

(Based on Department of Justice (DOJ) victimization surveys, felon surveys, NACP law enforcement survey, PROMIS studies, research by the Rand Corp., James D. Wright et al., and Gary Kleck.)

y 75-80% of U.S. violent crimes are committed by career criminals, many on some form of conditional or early release (30-35% of career criminals are rearrested with previous criminal charges still pending. Most career criminals' crime is drug-related.

y Laws requiring mandatory, tough sentencing of violent criminals have reduced violent crime especially murder and robbery when enforced, yet two-thirds of the states, and D.C., are under federal court orders to release prisoners due to prison overcrowding.

y Out of prison, an active career felon commits between 187-287 crimes per year, costing society about \$430,000 vs. less than \$25,000 per year cost of imprisonment and less than \$75,000 for cost of a new prison bed.

y Youthful violent criminals explain most recent crime increases. Yet criminologists note, "it matters less, perhaps, where these juveniles get their guns than where they get the idea that it is acceptable to kill" and "nearly everything that leads to gun-related violence among youths is already against the law. What is needed are not new and more stringent gun laws but rather a concerted effort to rebuild the social structure of inner cities."

y More than 90% of police chiefs and sheriffs agree that criminals are not affected by a ban on any type of firearm, while more than 70% oppose "waiting periods" for the same reason.

y Only half of violent crimes are reported to the police, and less than half of those (46%) are cleared by arrest of criminals. Unsuccessful investigations and lenient prosecutions and judgements free most criminals from legislated sentences.

#### SEMI-AUTOMATICS AND SO-CALLED "ASSAULT WEAPONS"

y In a deliberate effort to have public policy made by deception, anti-gunners invented the "assault weapon" issue by noting the public could not readily distinguish full-auto from semi-auto

firearms. Fully-automatic firearms have been sharply restricted by federal law since 1934. There is no evidence that a registered "machine gun" has ever been used in crime. Semi-autos which externally resemble fully-automatic firearms are very difficult to convert to full auto, and such conversion is a federal felony.

y There is no evidence that semi-autos are disproportionately used in crime. Semi-autos and all other rifles are involved in 4% of homicide, and the number is declining. Data from big cities and states suggest military lookalikes constitute 0-3% of guns used in crime while accounting for 2% of the guns owned by Americans. Overall, semi-autos targeted by anti-gun legislation account for 10-15% of the guns owned. Data from big cities suggest military look-alikes constitute 11/2% of guns seized by police, while accounting for about 2% of the guns owned by Americans. Semi-autos targeted by anti-gun legislation could affect 10-15% of the guns owned by Americans.

y Since only 1% of guns used in violent crimes are traced, BATF traces tell nothing about the types of guns used by criminals, making the Cox "study" worthless.

y The anti-gunners have spoken: Having said handguns are not protected by the Second Amendment because they have no "militia" purpose, they now want to ban all rifles and shotguns and handguns which do. Clearly their ultimate goal is total gun prohibition.

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