

2 Jan. 1994

Dear Brian,

I thought you would like this article from the Rifleman - January 1994 on the lies told by President Clinton and gun control activists!

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
#102 Mill Creek, Wa
98012

P.S.: What's the ulterior motivation behind gun control. Congress never does anything for the good of the U.S.A. or its citizens. Muschen said he would buy us from within, but, he won't because our government is doing it for him!

The reason for youth gangs is because of a lack of manpower in the police depts. Gun control is law made against honest citizens, while even Janet Reno stated on TV she couldn't get decent sentences on hardened criminals while A. H. of Florida; that cases that could be brought to Federal Court were. Is this a political move to draw the attention of the public from the lack of a will to govern?

TRUTH LACKING IN CLINTON'S ANTI-GUN MESSAGES

BY PAUL H. BLACKMAN, Ph.D.

IRA OFFICIAL JOURNAL

LATELY, President Bill Clinton has been making a lot of imaginative statements regarding firearms and violence, slipping them into speeches on any number of unrelated topics. Some of his assertions are misleading, others are palpably false, as Clinton tries to divert attention from the real solutions to violence in America by attacking NRA and the nation's 65 million gun owners.

Speaking to a group of mayors, the President denounced teenagers having access to semi-automatic firearms and then strangely called for passage of the Brady bill. How the bill's waiting period on handgun sales would affect teenagers who already are prohibited from purchasing handguns by federal law, Clinton did not explain. He went on to note that in many cities, "the average person committing a murder is under the age of 16 and has access to semi-automatic weapons." He missed the truth by about 10 years.

In 1992, according to FBI reports, the average age of persons arrested for murder was about 27—down about two years from a decade before because of the dramatic rise in teen killings. At that, the median age was 23, well above Clinton's 15 or below.

In calling for health-care reform, the President blamed part of the high cost of medical care on violence, which he said stems "in large measure from the fact that this is the only country in the world where teenagers can walk the streets at random with semi-automatic weapons and be better armed than the police."

Overall, of course, treating gunshot wounds—whether inflicted by teenagers, other criminals, police, civilians, would-be suicides and the like—account for approximately one-quarter of 1% of American medical costs.

Clinton ignores teenage gun use in countries involved in civil strife, and the lie about any criminals—much less teenagers—being better armed than the police, or being able to outgun the police, should have no credence for sane adults. Possibly President Clinton has become confused by Handgun Control, Inc., which can't make up its mind if teenagers are armed with cheap "Saturday Night Specials," costing about \$100, or using TEC 9s, retailing at about \$300, or even more expensive "assault rifles." Police sidearms retail in the \$300 to \$800 range, and police, of course, have access to real assault rifles; they are hardly outgunned by teenage criminals.

The other major presidential prevarication was that teenagers can roam the streets at random armed with semi-autos. As Professor James D. Wright and his colleagues at Tulane University have noted following a massive study—funded by the very Justice Dept. on which Clinton must rely for any real plan to affect violent crime—"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."

Clinton's Justice Dept. made similar proposals in the fact sheet on Juveniles and Violence released by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in July. It observed the dramatic increase in arrests and victimization, particularly among black teenagers, and first noted the causes:

"Evidence continues to mount that a small proportion of offenders commit most of the serious and violent juvenile crimes. Decades of research on delinquent careers and prevention have identified the following risk factors as contributing to serious, violent and chronic juvenile crime:

- "Weak family attachments
- "Lack of consistent discipline
- "Physical abuse and neglect
- "Poor school performance
- "Delinquent peer groups
- "High-crime neighborhoods."

And the OJJDP went on to list "[k]ey principles for preventing and reducing at-risk behavior and juvenile delinquency . . . :

- "Strengthen families in their role of providing guidance, discipline and strong values as their children's first teachers.
- "Support core social institutions, including schools, churches and other local community-based organizations, to alleviate the risk factors and help children develop to their full potential.
- "Promote prevention strategies that reduce the impact of negative risk factors and enhance protective factors.
- "Intervene immediately when delinquent behavior first occurs.
- "Establish a broad range of graduated sanctions that provides both accountability and a continuum of services to respond appropriately to the needs of each delinquent offender.
- "Identify and control the small percentage of juvenile offenders who are serious, violent and chronic offenders."

There is nothing new or startling in this, only the President's apparent ignorance of and indifference to it. Winnowing the problems down to a single overwhelming cause of the recent problem, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) forgot for a moment his plan to reduce crime by banning and taxing ammunition and told the viewers of *Meet the Press* that the "breakup of family inevitably, predictably, and for reasons we kind of think we understand, will lead to the growth of large numbers of predatory males. We saw it coming. It's come."

Whether purposely or not, President Clinton recently misled an audience at a teen rehabilitation center in St. Petersburg, Florida. "When I was born in 1946," he said, "homicide wasn't even in the top 10 leading causes of death in America . . . now homicide is the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 15 to 25."

Clinton's rhetorical shift from top 10 overall to a single age group sought to make a rise in ranking seem substantial when such was not the case. Homicide has long been among the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults; they generally die from unnatural causes—homicides, suicides and accidents. In fact, homicide has been in second place for them since 1967. (For the rest of society, homicide is no longer in the top 10, due to recent increases in AIDS, and decreases in the homicide rate.)

President Clinton's anti-gun rhetoric merely leaves the violence among inner-city teenagers high and rising. He should heed the findings of his Justice Dept. and attempt the hard and expensive task of addressing the causes of increased juvenile violence. He should take a long, hard look at the nation's juvenile justice system, which *The Wall Street Journal* recently branded, "essentially a license to kill."

"No matter how awful the crime," the *Journal* editorialized, "violent youngsters rarely get more than a suspension or year or two in jail. Also, juvenile records are sealed, so a violence-prone youth can keep appearing in court with little record of his past criminal behavior. Instead of deterring crime, the message is: Crime pays. By the time the kid reaches adulthood, violence is often simply a way of life."

Indeed, President Clinton would do well to heed a modified presidential campaign slogan: "It's not the guns, stupid, it's the family and family values." ■

NRA WOMAN'S VOICE

IMAGINE: You are a 92-year-old woman confined to a wheelchair, living alone in Chicago. On a Monday like any other Monday, a teenager—who you later discover has a criminal record and is in a “troubled teen” program after being expelled from school—forces his way into your home. He grabs your wheelchair and pushes you around your own home, demanding you identify valuables for him to steal.

Sound farfetched? This is exactly what happened Monday, Nov. 8, 1993, to Bessie Jones. That, and more: While the young criminal conferred with an accomplice, Bessie got the handgun she keeps under a blanket on the sofa. And when the criminal returned, failed to leave after repeated requests and threatened the 92-year-old wheelchair-bound woman, Bessie shot to save her life. (*USA Today*, 11/10/93)

Imagine: You arrive home after work, and a short time later find yourself face-down on the floor being stabbed by a man you can't see who's yelling for you to shut up or he'll “kill you right now.” You are blindfolded, raped and dragged into the next room. Fighting back, you are able to reach your purse, in which you have a handgun. You get the gun, train it on your attacker and dial 911. Later, your attacker confesses to raping eight women and attacking two others. Sound impossible? It's not. It's what happened to Madeline Morehouse on May 13, 1993. (*Seattle Times*, 5/13/93; *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 7/22/93)

Imagine: Your ex-boyfriend faces charges of assaulting you twice, the second time so badly you were hospitalized. Over the past few months, you've filed three harassment charges against him. Finally, you get a restraining order. But nothing the police or courts have done has protected you. So you buy a handgun at a gun store, and early Sunday morning when he breaks into your home, you use it. Sound preposterous? It's true. It's what happened to 24-year-old Tina Waltzer. (*Austin American Statesman*, 7/12/93)

Imagine: Your roommate Gina has just been stabbed to death in the Florida home you share, and the attacker is now coming for you. You're running to your bedroom—being stabbed 27 times en route—where you get your gun and use it to save your life. Only in a movie of the week? Ask Alachua County Sheriff Steve Oelrich, who said this of Jena Hull's actions: “When he stopped stabbing her was when she got to her night table and pulled out a small gun, and that gun probably saved her life.” (*Gainesville Sun*, 9/23/93)

Contrary to allegations from the anti-gun crowd, women using guns in self-defense is not some imaginary phenomenon NRA devised to increase membership, to sway votes in Congress or, as *U.S. News & World Report* alleged last March, to

change the NRA's “image.”

NRA talks about women owning guns for self-defense because guns can save women's lives. According to criminologist Gary Kleck, law-abiding citizens use guns in self-defense over 2.1 million times a year. But you don't need statistics to know women use guns in self-defense. You can ask Bessie Jones. Madeline

Morehouse. Tina Waltzer. Jena Hull. What happened to them was real, not an imaginary phenomenon.

And theirs are not isolated cases: “Woman Feeding Baby At Home Shoots Intruder,” (*San Antonio (Texas) Express News*, Aug. 10, 1993); “Woman, 95, Uses Gun To Keep Intruder At Bay,” (*Youngstown (Ohio) Vindicator*, 8/9/93); “Widow of Police Chief Shoots Intruder,” (*Sacramento Bee*, 4/22/93); “Ex-Boyfriend Shot In Self-Defense,” (*The Gainesville (Florida) Sun*, 9/2/93); “Only a Gun Saved Me, Rape Victim, 87, Says,” (*Hampton (Virginia) Daily Press*, 8/4/93)

The fact is, NRA cares about the safety of American women—gun or no gun. That's why NRA offers firearms self-defense courses for women who choose to own guns. That's also why NRA now offers “Refuse To Be A Victim” seminars for all women, whether or not they choose to own guns. These three-hour seminars help women develop our own personal safety strategies, covering techniques and tools—short of guns—that can reduce our chances of becoming victims of violent crime.

But there's no escaping it; guns are highly effective self-defense tools. If they weren't, police wouldn't use them. But gun ownership isn't right for everyone, or for all women. As we have said over and over again, gun ownership is a deeply personal choice that only the individual can make, and no group—neither NRA nor anti-gun groups—nor any other person, should be allowed to make that choice for you.

NRA's commitment to helping women isn't new. While it may be politically correct now to bash the NRA, hurling accusations that we're “tapping into a new market” by responding in a positive way with programs for women who are justifiably terrified of criminals, check your January 1968 *American Rifleman*. You'll find the article, “More Firearms Courses For Women,” discussing the increase in NRA courses for women “in response to women's concern for self-protection.”

Imagine that. ■

For information about “Refuse To Be A Victim” seminars in your area, call (800) 861-1166. For information about handgun self-defense courses in your area, call (703) 267-1390.



BY ELIZABETH J. SWASEY

THE ARMED CITIZEN



Studies indicate that firearms are used over 1 million times a year for personal protection, and that presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life or limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings to: "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

San Francisco bus driver Hal Womack professes to be a peaceful man, but he started carrying a pistol after a 1982 attack left him with permanent eye injuries. Womack had to use the gun when he was again attacked after trying to put two profane men off the bus. Womack stepped off the bus after his attacker fled, but the man returned and threatened him again, prompting Womack to pull his gun and fire twice, wounding the man in the leg. (*The Orange County Register*, Santa Ana, CA, 10/30/93)

Christopher Clouse is a Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, insurance agent who obviously believes that a pistol also constitutes a good policy. After talking with Clouse, a "customer" in the agency pulled a pistol and demanded money. Clouse got cash from the office, but also got his gun. After a brief struggle, Clouse shot the robber, putting him to flight. He was arrested later at a hospital where he had gone for treatment. (*The Herald*, Miami, FL, 10/30/93)

Robert Gehl was asleep in his Curtis Park, California, home, when two armed men forced their way inside. Awakened and alerted by the panic in his wife's voice, Gehl got a .357 Mag. revolver. When one intruder, with Gehl's wife in tow, burst through the bedroom door, Gehl ordered his wife to duck and fired twice, killing the man. The accomplice fled. (*The Union*, Sacramento, CA, 9/24/93)

Lamar Williams was working in the office of the Cleveland restaurant he co-owns when two armed teenagers broke in. When Williams walked out of the office, one of the thugs shot him in the arm, but Williams was able to pull his own gun and return fire. The two criminals fled, but police picked up two wounded suspects at a local hospital. (*The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland, OH, 9/18/93)

Abdel Ahmad moved to the United States to escape warfare in the Middle East, only to find himself at the front in the crime war in Phoenix. Held up

at gunpoint, Ahmad "went a little crazy" and decided the robber wasn't going to escape. He grabbed his own gun, gave chase and after a shoot-out in which neither was hurt, held the crook at gunpoint for police, who affirmed Ahmad's actions. (*The Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, AZ, 10/22/93)

Awakened early one morning by his security system, Charles Tanner of Phoenix expected a cat to be the culprit, but took his .45 Colt just in case. Tanner opened his front door and found a man in his driveway. The man charged the homeowner and slammed through the screen door, prompting Tanner to fire four times, killing the intruder. "We had lots of firearms training. It all came back to me," said the former reserve county sheriff's deputy. (*The Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, AZ, 11/6/93)

Baltimore, Maryland, stockbroker John Slaughter was ready when a man broke into his home early one morning. Alerted by the sound of shattering glass downstairs, Slaughter got his shotgun and waited upstairs. Slaughter fired a fatal blast when the man came up the stairs and charged. Police, saying Slaughter acted in self-defense, expected no charges. He had lost more than \$5,000 in property during a burglary of his home earlier this year. (*The Sun*, Baltimore, MD, 9/21/93)

Joe Carter was driving down a Hillsborough County street near St. Petersburg, Florida, one evening when a man jumped out and blocked his way. The man and two accomplices began pounding on and rocking Carter's truck, prompting Carter to draw his pistol and warn the trio away. When they didn't take the hint, Carter rolled the window down and fired a shot, wounding one man. Carter alerted police, who arrested a wounded suspect. (*The Times*, St. Petersburg, FL, 10/5/93)

Crime doesn't pay, even when you're married to your partner, a Washington, North Carolina, couple found out. Robert Griffin woke up

early one morning to a commotion in his yard. When he looked outside, he saw the couple loading his lounge chairs into their van. Griffin armed himself and held the married perpetrators at gunpoint until police arrived. (*The Daily News*, Washington, NC, 10/22/93)

Aaron Smith was waiting outside the Crystal Springs, Mississippi, convenience store where his wife works when he heard her scream. He started inside, where a man was rifling the till and holding a gun to his wife's chest, but retreated when the gunman pointed the pistol at him. Smith grabbed a 12-ga. shotgun from his car, and when the crook exited the store, ordered him to stop. Instead of complying, the man raised his gun, and Smith killed him. (*The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, MS, 10/18/93)

Sue Atkins of Durham, North Carolina, appeared in this column in February 1993 after shooting a man who tried to rob her Western Union office/fish store. Atkins didn't need to shoot the man who attempted to rob the store this time—her fifth encounter with criminals—but she did chase him out. The man entered, asking about fish, but then threatened to kill Atkins. She pulled her handgun and chased the man, but lost him. Police promptly arrested a suspect. "I will fight back, and I will continue to fight back," said Atkins. (*The Morning Star*, Wilmington, NC, 10/6/93)

A female clerk at a Stamford, Connecticut, area store noticed a man stuffing two videos into his pants before coming to the counter to pay for a magazine. When confronted, the man denied having the videos, so the clerk reached over the counter and grabbed them. When the "customer" threatened her, saying "you're sorry, you're dead," the clerk pulled a pistol and ordered him from the store. Police caught up with the would-be shoplifter a few blocks away, and noted that the clerk had a permit for the gun. (*The Advocate*, Stamford, CT, 10/25/93)