

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 105
September, 2003

Dear Subscriber,

The U.S. Senate will see **three major gun law fights** this fall. They are:

1) the House-passed **industry protection bill, S. 659**, with 54 co-sponsors. It faces a certain filibuster that will take 60 votes to break (see Page 4 for related story);

2) keeping the House-approved **Tiahart Amendment** to the Department of Justice appropriations bill, which modifies BATF and FBI regulations to **protect gun owners' privacy**. Democrats will filibuster if they can't get enough Republican votes to defeat it outright; and,

3) stopping the likely **DIANNE FEINSTEIN amendment** on that same appropriations bill to **reenact the assault weapons ban** and enact a **new ban on over-10-shot magazines**, which Republicans are likely to filibuster.

In the House, anti-gun Rep. **CAROLYN MCCARTHY** (D-NY) has introduced H.R. 2038, a supposed "assault weapon reenactment" that turns out to be the most sweeping gun ban ever seen in Congress. Hidden in the "reenactment" bill is an absolute ban on a large number of previously allowable guns, and with no 10-year sunset provision. This one will stir a huge battle.

In the Senate, we will also see **continuing conflict over judicial nominees**. Just before the summer recess, all but two Senate Democrats started a filibuster against the nomination of Second Amendment supporter and **Alabama Attorney General BILL PRYOR** to the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

PRYOR is **the third appellate judge nominee being filibustered in the Senate**, something insiders can't recall happening before.

Sens. **TED KENNEDY** (D-MA), **CHARLES SCHUMER** (D-NY), **DIANNE FEINSTEIN** (D-CA) and **DICK DURBIN** (D-IL) all criticized A.G. PRYOR's defense of the Second Amendment before a 53-44 vote failed to "invoke cloture" to shut off the filibuster.

Senate Rule XXII now requires **60 votes to end a filibuster**, but the Senate's Republican leadership is holding hearings to decide whether that supermajority requirement is constitutional. The rule is unlikely to change soon.

PRYOR was also drubbed by the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (aka the National Coalition To Ban Handguns) for his "hostility to gun laws." PRYOR **put the State of Alabama on the side of the Second Amendment** in the EMERSON case when it was argued before the Fifth Circuit. He also supported **an Alabama preemption on gun law**, backed efforts to **repeal the state's two-day handgun waiting period**, and supported the state's **prohibition of suits against the gun industry** for third-party crimes.

An odd footnote on the third-party crime issue: *The Miami Herald*, a Knight-Ridder newspaper not known for pro-gun-rights stands, recently carried a piece from Opinion Page Editor **JAMES WERRELL** supporting S. 659 by asking, "Are we to assume that a gun dealer is accountable in some way if, through a legal transaction, a customer buys a gun and uses it to rob a bank or to shoot his wife? What happens to personal responsibility? The seller merely provides the gun (or the ax, the knife, the car, the rope) that the customer then uses in a legal and responsible manner or, perhaps, to do harm to someone else. In either case, it's up to the customer to decide."

Also in this issue: ● *Ted Nugent on gun laws* ● *U.N. has to get rid of Kofi Annan's submachine guns* ● *Courts active on gun cases* ● *More gun victories in the states* ● *Canada's gun registration failing* ● *Some justice in the Bean case in our Page Eight "Parting Shot"*

**AT THE
NATIONAL LEVEL**

ARMED AND FAMOUS NEW YORKERS

About 3,600 New Yorkers are authorized to carry a loaded firearm, according to the latest data from NYPD. That's down from 4,500 at the end of 2001, as police have been re-examining records to make sure gun owners have up-to-date licenses and clean criminal records.

Who are these privileged few? Movie actors **ROBERT DE NIRO** and **HARVEY KEITEL**, shock-jocks **HOWARD STERN** and **DON IMUS**, developer **DONALD TRUMP**, record mogul **TOMMY MOTTOLA**, and TV anchor **JOHN ROLAND**.

Outside of media-land, there's ex-Seagrams CEO **EDGAR M. BRONFMAN**, defense lawyer **BARRY SLOTNICK**, *New York Daily News* publisher **FRED DRASNER**, and Arkansas Lt. Gov. **WINTHROP P. ROCKEFELLER**, whose famous family is based in New York City.

Plenty of judges have gun permits, including Manhattan Supreme Court Justice **RICHARD LOWE** and Brooklyn Judges **YVONNE LEWIS** and **LILA GOLD**.

Some stars were rejected when they applied to have their gun licenses renewed, including **JOAN RIVERS** and action-movie star **STEVEN SEAGAL**. RIVERS "had an incident" on her record, said police. She reportedly got into a fight with a car-rental clerk last year but was not criminally charged.

CELEBRITIES AND GUNS

WHY BILL BUCKLEY LOST HIS GUN PERMIT

Among the famous faces that recently lost their New York City gun permit renewals were tough-guy actors **CHAZZ PEMINTERI** and **PAUL SORVINO** - and conservative commentator **WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY**.

It's easy to imagine why the movie guys might not get their permits renewed, but **BILL BUCKLEY**? He plays the harpsichord and founded the *National Review*. He was a long-time interviewer for the Public Broadcasting System. Not the bar-room brawl type. *What kind of reason could the cops have for turning him down?*

Well, it turns out that **Citizen BUCKLEY's gun permit expired in 1991** and he didn't renew it. In other words, **police kept his gun permit active for 12 years before yanking it.**

All the more remarkable since **he lost the gun** many years ago and has no idea where it is.

TED NUGENT WANTED A CHAT WITH THE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

Rock star and gun rights advocate TED NUGENT recently played the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and invited Governor ROD BLAGOJEVICH to visit him backstage.

NUGENT, known for the song "Cat Scratch Fever," didn't want to discuss music. He was itching to tell The Gov how much he dislikes Illinois' gun laws.

"I challenge him to come backstage," Nugent told a reporter from the *Springfield State Journal-Register*. "And let's talk 'We the people,' let's talk good over evil, let's talk laws forcing good people to be unarmed and helpless."

NUGENT, also an avid hunter and author of the cookbook "Kill It & Grill It," said his main complaint is BLAGOJEVICH's "refusal to stand up for the Second Amendment."

BLAGOJEVICH was too low-key in a recent legislative failure to allow retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms. NUGENT felt he should have been more outspoken and pushed the bill harder.

The Gov didn't show up for the chat with NUGENT, but **LAIMUTIS NARGELENAS**, manager of government relations for the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, told a reporter, **iTell Ted Nugent thanks.î**

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report ® (ISSN 1079-6169) is published monthly by the Second Amendment Foundation, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005. Phone (425)454-7012. FAX (425)451-3959. Please call or write if you have a question regarding your subscription.

Publishers: Alan M. Gottlieb and Joseph P. Tartaro

Subscriptions: Eva Hart

Design: Northwoods Studio

Editor: Ron Arnold

Published by:

Second Amendment Foundation

Subscriptions \$60 per year USA, \$70 elsewhere. Single issues \$5.00. Copyright © 2003 by Alan M. Gottlieb and Joseph P. Tartaro. Photocopying, reproduction or quotation strictly prohibited without written permission of the publishers. Bulk rates on request. Postage paid at Bellevue, WA.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to **The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report**, 12500 N.E. 10th Place, Bellevue, WA 98005.

Printed in the USA.

IAH-NOLDI FUZZY ON GUN RIGHTS STANCE

While Sen. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) takes potshots at his gun-toting film roles, California Republican **ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER is giving few details on his Second Amendment policy.**

Since the Austrian-American movie actor became a candidate in a special recall election **that could replace Governor GRAY DAVIS** on October 7, he has said he supports "sensible" gun control, but details are scarce.

**CALIFORNIA
POLITICS**

Under fire from Sen. FEINSTEIN, the action star said **he supports the assault weapons ban, the Brady bill and trigger locks** the state now requires for each handgun sold.

SCHWARZENEGGER's remarks came in response to Sen. FEINSTEIN's assertion that his films glorify gun violence, and her call for him to "renounce those weapons."

But at the same time she **undercut the Democratic Party** position by saying she will vote against the recall, but **will not vote on the second part of the ballot to choose a replacement**, which could cut into the vote for Lt. Gov. CRUZ BUSTAMANTE, the only viable Democrat running. BUSTAMANTE wants people to vote "no" on the recall portion, but **vote for him on the replacement portion.**

SCHWARZENEGGER also said he supports closing the "gun show loophole," which may have been a stumble, since California law - but not federal law - already "closes" that so-called "loophole."

A SCHWARZENEGGER spokesman would not go into further detail on gun rights questions, and said, "We are not going to talk about it on a time-line other than his own."

MANNY MELENDEZ, president of the 60,000-strong **California Rifle and Pistol Association**, said, **So far I don't think I have heard enough on his views to establish whether or not he supports our position.**

SCHWARZENEGGER is trying to get conservative support, and **has picked up solid pro-gunners including Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER**, who emphasizes that no Republican can win the recall election unless they get behind one candidate.

That could be an issue because proven pro-gun State Senator TOM McCLINTOCK is the only remaining gun rights candidate since WILLIAM SIMON pulled out of the race. McCLINTOCK says he will not quit, even though he has no chance of winning and can only split the vote for SCHWARZENEGGER.

What does SCHWARZENEGGER really think about gun rights? In a 1988 Playboy interview he was quoted as saying, **"Outlawing guns is not the right method of eliminating the problem.** If you outlaw guns, people will still have them illegally. In Europe, they're outlawed everywhere. They have very strict gun control in Italy. Yet the Pope was shot. They have very strict gun control in Germany. Yet you see pimps shooting one another. Politicians have been shot in Sweden and Holland, where guns are outlawed."

On the other hand, he has given speeches to youth groups denouncing "gun violence," using the rhetoric of gun control groups. Also, **the family of his wife Maria Shriver has strong anti-gun views.** Her uncles, President JOHN KENNEDY and Sen. ROBERT KENNEDY, were assassinated by gunshot wounds, and were survived by strongly anti-gun Sen. EDWARD KENNEDY.

U.S TO U.N.: LOSE KOFI'S NEW YORK CITY SUBMACHINE GUN ARSENAL

The United Nations, under pressure from the BUSH administration, **is moving its stash of submachine guns** out of the organization's New York City headquarters.

The MP5s, made by Heckler and Koch of Germany, will be sent to peacekeeping units overseas. They were purchased for the **personal protection of Secretary-General KOFI ANNAN** for his travels around the New York metropolitan area.

The U.N. does not have the law enforcement status required to own such weaponry. The U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) bears responsibility for protecting Mr. ANNAN while in the United States.

DSS didn't want non-U.S. citizens getting hold of them.

MICHIGAN COURT THROWS OUT TWO ANTI-INDUSTRY LAWSUITS

Michigan's a three-judge Court of Appeals panel has unanimously ruled that a **state law enacted in 2000 blocks the City of Detroit and Wayne County's lawsuits against gun makers** and ordered those cases dismissed.

Lawrence G. Keane, vice president and general counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, said, "We are pleased the court upheld Michigan's legislation and dismissed these junk lawsuits that tried to blame law-abiding manufacturers for the actions of criminals."

**IN THE
COURTS**

More than 30 states have passed similar legislation that blocks municipalities from suing gun makers and dealers from the harm caused by the criminal misuse of their lawfully sold, non-defective firearms.

Keane called upon Congress to immediately pass the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (S. 659) currently pending in the Senate where 54 Senators are co-sponsors, including many Democrats. The legislation has already passed the House of Representatives by a wide bi-partisan margin.

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT SENDS MIXED MESSAGE

The state Supreme Court has **upheld Wisconsin's prohibition against carrying concealed weapons** despite a 1998 constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes.

But in another decision, the court reversed the conviction of Munir Hamdan, a Milwaukee grocery store owner who had a handgun concealed in his pocket when police stopped in his store in 1999. Very mixed signal.

The interaction of the amendment and the no-carry law must be decided on a **case-by-case basis**, the court said. In Hamdan's case, although prosecutors proved all the elements of the concealed carry law - that he had a gun, that he knew it was in his pocket, and that it was concealed - **it was reasonable for him to have the gun since he had been a crime victim and ran a business in a high crime area.**

Justice David Prosser wrote for the court, "Under the circumstances, Hamdan's interests in maintaining a concealed weapon in his store and carrying it personally during an unexpected encounter with visitors substantially outweighed the state's interest in enforcing the concealed weapon statute."

Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson was the lone dissenter in the case, voting to uphold Hamdan's conviction. She said the right to bear arms is not denied by requiring people to carry weapons openly.

OHIO SUPREME COURT TAKES NOTE OF WISCONSIN DECISION

Almost four months after the Ohio Supreme Court heard oral arguments over a challenge to a law that prohibits carrying concealed weapons, justices took the unusual, but not unprecedented, step of allowing the record to be supplemented with the Wisconsin decision in the story above.

FIVE GUN DEALERS SETTLE CALIFORNIA LAWSUIT

Five gun dealers and distributors have agreed to make changes in their sales practices in California as part of a **settlement in a lawsuit brought by a dozen cities and counties** in the state to prevent sales to ineligible buyers.

The defendants in the settlement were: Trader Sports and Andrews Sporting Goods, based in California; Southern Ohio Gun Distributors and MKS Supply, based in Ohio; and Georgia-based distributor Ellett Brothers.

Trader Sports agreed to no longer sell firearms at gun shows. It will also train employees on how to track inventory, adopt new measures to verify a buyer's identity and recognize and block sales to "straw purchasers."

Southern Ohio agreed that in California and neighboring states it would sell only to storefront gun dealers, take extra steps to verify dealer licenses and pay \$50,000 to compensate the plaintiffs' legal expenses.

Three other defendants agreed to make similar changes.

The plaintiffs were represented by attorneys from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

GUN RIGHTS GAIN MOMENTUM IN STATE GOVERNMENTS

If the anti-gun crowd is upset, you know gun owners are doing something right. Now they're complaining about **the series of state-level victories that promote gun rights.**

IN THE STATES

The Wisconsin Supreme Court reversed a 130-year-old ban on carrying concealed weapons, ruling that **if the constitutional right to keep and bear arms is to mean anything, it must, as a general matter, permit a person to sometimes conceal arms** to protect himself.

A new Colorado law allows "any competent person over 21" who "can show proper training in handgun use" to receive a concealed carry permit.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) signed a bill making his the 35th state to permit concealed firearms. Before 1987, only 10 states allowed concealed carry.

Here's an update on other progress:

ILLINOIS HAS SURPRISING NEW HANDGUN LAW

If you can't imagine a good gun law coming from Illinois, enjoy the shock of this: Gov. Rod Blagojevich recently signed House Bill 1096 into law, **allowing the use of certain handguns to hunt deer during open season.** It will greatly enhance the outdoor experience for thousands of Illinois citizens.

The Illinois State Rifle Association led the push for the new law, and said it will act to dispel half-truths about handgun use and work to legitimize handgun use for lawful purposes.

MISSOURI POISED TO OVERRIDE VETO OF CONCEALED CARRY BILL

Members of the Missouri Senate and House believe they have the two-thirds majority in each chamber to **override Democrat Gov. Bob Holden's veto of a popular concealed carry bill.**

Success is nearly assured in the 163-member House, where 109 votes are needed. The 34-member Senate is not so secure, where the 23 votes to override may be harder to muster, even though that is the number of senators who voted for the bill earlier this year.

Supporters and opponents of the concealed carry bill are lobbying fiercely in the days leading up to the vote in Jefferson City.

VIRGINIA SENATOR ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION ON SCHOOL GUN BAN

Sen. Kevin Miller (R-Harrisonburg) has asked Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore to issue a formal legal opinion on **whether a local ban on firearms on school property conflicts with a new state law.**

Rockingham County schools have a no-tolerance policy against firearms on school property, with punishments that may violate a law passed this session allowing firearms in a locked car trunk.

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA PREPARING FOR RECIPROCITY

North Carolina's Right to Carry reciprocity law went into effect last month, giving valid carry permit holders from states that have similar permit-issuing requirements the ability to carry their firearms for personal protection in North Carolina.

Immediately afterward, South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster (R) issued an opinion that **his state should recognize North Carolina's new reciprocity law.** The opinion is expected to encourage the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division to take the necessary steps to ensure North and South Carolina recognize each other's valid RTC permits.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS TWO NEW GUN LAWS

Gov. Craig Benson has signed two bills into law to bolster gun rights. One makes gun manufacturers, distributors and retailers **immune from liability** when their legal products are used by criminals; the other **voids local ordinances** restricting gun possession on municipal property.

CANADA: DOCTORS WON'T VET GUN LICENSE APPLICANTS

The federal government's gun registration program hit another snag recently when thousands of doctors refused to fill out medical fitness forms for people trying to get gun licenses.

The Ontario Medical Association has urged its members to boycott the work for fear of retribution from unstable patients denied firearms.

The association says doctors are being told to pass judgement on whether some of their patients should be allowed to have firearms, putting them in harms way. Some objected to the requirement on grounds of government intrusion.

AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: PROVINCES WON'T ENFORCE GUN REGISTRATION

Adding to a string of uncharacteristically defiant moves, another province has told Ottawa it won't prosecute charges under the new federal gun registration law.

New Brunswick Premier Bernard Lord and Attorney General Brad Green said the federal gun registration program has been an abject failure and the province will have no part of prosecutions under its questionable law.

Also refusing to enforce the law are British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta.

UNITED KINGDOM: BURGLAR 'DISABLED' BY VICTIM FILMED CYCLING

Tony Martin, the farmer who shot two burglars, killing one and disabling another, served three years of a five year sentence that drew huge protests from average people outraged that a burglary victim should be further victimized by a legal system gone mad.

Now, government money is being spent in a lawsuit against Martin brought by burglar Brendon Fearon, who wants £15,000 for injuries he suffered to his legs and back when Martin shot him during a break-in and left him unable to work.

However, undercover investigators filmed Fearon walking without his trademark limp or walking stick, then riding his bicycle and climbing steps with no apparent trouble.

The Legal Services Commission, which pays for Fearon's lawsuit, may ask for its money back, depending upon how the video is received by the court.

AUSTRALIA: FIRST IT'S GUNS, NOW IT'S SWORD AND BOW CONTROL

Down Under, after enacting more and more gun bans, appears to be sinking into a morass of randomly disarming its citizens: the state of Victoria has announced that samurai swords will be banned. A former Trinity Grammar student was jailed last year after slicing the arm of a teenager with a samurai sword at a party in 2000.

Another state, New South Wales, has called for a national ban on crossbows after an attack near Newcastle left two teenage girls injured. The Northern Territory is resisting the national ban because crossbows are used for controlling feral animals.

GERMANY: AMERICANS MUST REGISTER THEIR GUNS

Stars and Stripes, the U.S. Armed Services newspaper, recently warned Americans in Germany that they have until June 30, 2005 to get their privately owned firearms registered with German authorities.

Until that deadline, firearms owners must either comply with German registration requirements, ship their firearms stateside or legally dispose of them.

Once firearms are officially registered with German authorities, they must continue to be stored in a local arms room. Owners are allowed to take firearms out only to ship them to the United States or after the arms have been registered on a valid German weapons possession card.

U.S. personnel may qualify for the card by successfully completing the U.S. forces hunting course or sport shooting program.

Firearms not registered by the deadline will be seized and disposed of.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

●**Washington, D.C.:** Three major pilots' groups have staged demonstrations against government delay of the Armed Pilots Program. The pilots have been particularly critical of the Transportation Security Administration, which they believe is using whatever means necessary to slow down the program and prevent pilots from being armed as mandated by law. They called on President Bush to end the delays.

●**Boston:** Democrat Wesley Clark is not as well-known as movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger, and he doesn't want to be governor of California. He wants to be President of the United States. He's the former NATO supreme commander who headed operations in Kosovo. The draft-Clark people think he has a chance. His stand on gun rights? He grew up hunting, in a family that had more than a dozen hunting rifles. But he's anti-gun. Big time gun control. He's been quoted as saying, "If you want to fire an assault weapon, join the army."

●**Jefferson, Maryland:** Four volunteer fire companies have joined together for the largest raffle of its kind in the state: a gun-a-day giveaway for the year 2004. The increasingly common practice of gun prizes in rural raffles is a big fund-raiser, far surpassing the fish fries, bake sales and pancake breakfasts that are standard fare. The Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department, which exists mostly on donations, expects to net \$35,000 on the upcoming raffle. That'll put out a lot of fires.

●**Des Moines, Iowa:** John Johnson is executive director of Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence (IPGV) and runs a 16-state campaign to stop newspaper from accepting gun ads from private citizens. The campaign has convinced 12 newspaper to restrict or eliminate gun advertisements from their classified-ad sections, including the Dallas Morning News, Philadelphia Inquirer and Miami Herald, which were not known for their pro-gun-rights policy anyway.

●**Columbus, Georgia:** German gun manufacturer Heckler & Koch has located a factory near Fort Benning as it tries to land a \$1 billion contract for the U.S. infantry's next-generation rifle. The company began research and development last year on the XMB Lightweight Assault Rifle, which could replace the U.S. Army's M4A1 carbine and M16A2 rifle. The M16 has been manufactured by Colt since 1964. Heckler & Koch's new \$20 million plant is being built on 25 acres in Muscogee Technology Park.

●**Norfolk, Virginia:** Concealed weapons are allowed inside parts of Norfolk International Airport -- and all others in the state -- because of Virginia's new pre-emption law. Since July 1, people with the proper permit may carry concealed weapons in state airports' ticket lines, parking lots, baggage claim areas and lounges -- all the areas outside of the metal detectors -- as long as they don't brandish them or otherwise violate the terms of their permit.

●**South Bend, Indiana:** One in six Indiana lawmakers has a permit to carry a firearm, and some carry their guns on the floor of the Indiana House and Senate. Twenty-five House and Senate members have valid permits to carry firearms, according to the Indiana State Police. That's about 17 percent of the General Assembly, compared with about 7 percent of the eligible state population. Even legislators have gun rights.

●**Sonora, California:** By a 3-2 vote, a decision to ban firearms from Sonora High School District campuses for any reason was overturned after a recent debate. A zero-tolerance policy was passed in March, but many citizens asked board members to reconsider. After five months of intensive study, the majority voted to return to the original policy of allowing guns on campus with the principal's permission and strict supervision.

●**Chicago, Illinois:** Two county boards have passed resolutions recognizing the individual right to keep and bear arms. The measures, recently passed by the Shelby and Livingston county boards, affirm that law-abiding citizens have the right to possess and use firearms for lawful purposes.

Parting Shot

FINALLY, SOME JUSTICE IN THE THOMAS BEAN CASE

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has taken the first step toward righting a deplorable wrong. He has pardoned Thomas Lamar Bean, the former Vidor, Texas gun dealer who was victimized by gun laws in Mexico and the United States.

Bean's nightmare began March 14, 1998 when he attended a gun show in Laredo and went with two employees for dinner across the border in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. One of the employees inadvertently left a box of ammunition in Bean's vehicle, and it was found by Mexican border police.

Bean was prosecuted for illegally importing ammunition - a felony at the time - and imprisoned in Mexico until that September, when he was returned to the United States under a prisoner exchange program.

Bean's case caused such an uproar that Mexico has amended its federal gun law to reduce what Bean did - bring ammunition into the country - to a misdemeanor first offense.

However, Bean has not regained his firearm rights.

Gov. Perry's pardon was the right thing to do, but it is really only the first step toward restoring Thomas Bean's rights.

By all accounts, Bean is a good and honest man, and had no intention of violating the gun laws of any country.

As things are, his conviction will stand in Mexico, but it is erased from the books in Texas. That's the right beginning.

The next step is to ask Treasury Secretary John Snow to reconsider our government's position on fully restoring Bean's rights. The courts have already spoken: A federal district court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals both issued opinions that Bean should have his full rights restored.

The Supreme Court ruled, however, that Bean must seek relief through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, but that agency has been prevented by Congress from working on such cases since 1992, and the courts know it.

Bad enough that Bean was imprisoned for doing something in Mexico that isn't even a crime in the U.S., but the bureaucracy's effort to continue punishing him is outrageous. It must stop.

We congratulate Gov. Perry for issuing the pardon for Thomas Bean. We hope his action will prompt the federal government to give us full justice at last.

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Vedor

Yes, I want to stay informed! Send me the next twelve issues of The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report at half price!

Renewal New Subscription (Make out checks to: Second Amendment Foundation.)

Here's my \$30 (half price) for twelve information-packed issues of The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report!

VISA MasterCard Check Money Order

Card Number _____ Expires _____

Send my Gottlieb-Tartaro Report to:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____



You can telephone or FAX your order for the Gottlieb-Tartaro Report.
Telephone orders: 425-454-7012
FAX 425-451-3959