

# The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 150  
June, 2007

Dear Subscriber,

**Democrat control of Congress is hurting gun owners.** It shows in a recent **one-sided hearing** in the House Oversight & Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy where **Chairman DENNIS KUCINICH (D-OH) refused to allow a single pro-gun witness** to testify against a stacked panel of gun control advocates.

Rigged like a kangaroo court, **the hearing was titled "Lethal Loopholes,"** and featured wall-to-wall restrictions on gun owners and rules on who should be allowed to own guns.

A "loophole" to Chairman KUCINICH, **a long-shot presidential candidate,** is any restriction on guns that doesn't already exist.

His witness list featured **Brady Campaign president PAUL HELMKE, who hit the private sale of guns,** claiming that 40 percent of gun transactions are "off the books" and that an unlicensed owner **"can sell a gun to a criminal or an escaped mental patient, no questions asked."** He didn't seem to know the law, which provides **ten years in prison for a private seller who knows of a buyer's criminal status.**

JOHN FEINBLATT, "Criminal Justice Coordinator" for **New York City Mayor MICHAEL BLOOMBERG,** blasted the Tiahrt Amendment - **a vitally important protection of law enforcement officers and the integrity of criminal investigations** by preventing inappropriate release of federal firearms trace data.

However, pro-gun Rep. DAN BURTON blasted FEINBLATT back for downplaying law enforcement support for the Tiahrt Amendment. **Both the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and America's largest police union, the Fraternal Order of Police, have written in support of the law.**

In another demonstration of Democrat anti-gun action, Sen. FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ) has introduced legislation **to prevent the sale of firearms to suspects** - people not arrested or convicted of any crime -- whose names appear on the so-called Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File, one of **at least a dozen federal criminal and terrorism watch lists with more than 3 million names,** according to the FBI. The bill defies constitutional protections of a fair trial.

LAUTENBERG was prompted to sponsor the bill by a January 2005 Government Accountability Office report showing 35 people whose names were on the terrorism watch list were able to buy guns because they didn't meet any of the current nine disqualifying criteria.

Rep. CAROLYN McCARTHY (D-NY) has reintroduced her 2002 bill **to force states to provide more complete mental health records, including those of non-hospitalized patients,** for use in the NICS background check system for gun purchases.

The recent tragedy at Virginia Tech that left 32 students dead **has focused attention on mental health.** The shooter, deranged 23-year-old senior **Seung-Hui Cho,** had been found a danger to himself and others but not hospitalized, so there was no record of mental health problems to enter into the NICS database.

Sen. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) has introduced a bill **to regulate the transfer and possession of .50 BMG caliber rifles,** now regulated as long guns by federal law. Her news release called the firearms **".50 BMG Caliber Combat-Style Sniper Rifles,"** although their primary civilian use is in marksmanship competition.

**Also in this issue:** ● *District of Columbia ruling stands* ● *Virginia passes anti-Bloomberg law* ● *Tennessee gets "Castle Doctrine" law* ● *Philippine politico shoots down rival* ● *Angelina Jolie bans guns on new movie set when her kids are there* ● *Robbing granny's booze store, in our Page Eight "Parting Shot"*

**AT THE  
FEDERAL  
LEVEL**

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GUN BAN: TO THE SUPREME COURT?**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has denied the District's petition for a re-hearing of *Parker v. District of Columbia*, which struck down D.C.'s handgun ban as unconstitutional.

That leaves Democrat Mayor Adrian Fenty with only two choices: appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, where a loss would undermine many gun control laws in America, or change the District's gun laws to allow residents to purchase and own handguns, which would be very unpopular with his noisy gun control constituency.

**IN THE  
COURTS**

*Parker* is the most significant gun rights case in the nation's history, because for the first time a gun control law was struck down on the grounds that it violated the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

This denial of a re-hearing is a strong signal that the appeals court feels Judge Laurence H. Silberman's original ruling is solid. Judge Silberman ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms that goes beyond service in a militia.

### **WYOMING LOSES GUN RIGHTS LAWSUIT**

U.S. District Judge Alan Johnson has ruled against Wyoming's lawsuit claiming that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arbitrarily rejected its 2004 state law allowing the restoration of gun rights to people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges.

Federal law prohibits those with such misdemeanor convictions from owning guns. BATFE had warned Wyoming that if it persisted in allowing people with such a record to buy guns, the federal government would no longer recognize more than 10,000 of its concealed carry permits as a substitute for a NICS background check.

Wyoming's law allowed misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to be expunged for purposes of restoring firearms rights, but remain on the books for purposes of enhancing punishment for any subsequent conviction.

It was the provision to partially expunge convictions that led Judge Johnson to rule that Wyoming's statute "is insufficient to remove a federal firearms prohibition." Wyoming Attorney General Pat Crank has not decided whether to appeal or ask the legislature for a complete expungement law.

### **CITY APPEALS GUN BAN IN PARKS TO OHIO SUPREME COURT**

The City of Clyde has filed an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court against a decision of the Sixth District Court of Appeals that struck down its ban on carrying concealed firearms in a park.

The Sixth District ruled that Ohio's statewide preemption law made the matter moot, and no local government could enact gun control as the City of Clyde had. The City is arguing it has the right under home rule doctrine.

The high court has not yet agreed to hear the appeal.

### **PHILADELPHIA PASSES ILLEGAL GUN LAWS TO PICK FIGHT WITH STATE LEGISLATURE**

Philadelphia's City Council unanimously passed eight gun control bills, deliberately provoking a fight with lawmakers in Harrisburg who have consistently refused to give the city the right to enact its own gun laws. The laws limit gun purchases to one gun and month and require owners to report lost or stolen guns.

In addition, the Council will soon file a lawsuit in Common Pleas Court against the General Assembly to win legal authority to pass its own firearms legislation.

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### VIRGINIA PASSES ANTI-BLOOMBERG LAW

Virginia's House of Delegates and Senate have passed HB 2653, signed into law by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, that makes it a felony "for any person, except for a law enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties or other person under the direct supervision of the law enforcement officer, to attempt to solicit or otherwise entice a firearms dealer to transfer or otherwise convey a firearm other than to an actual buyer."

That's a direct slap at rogue Mayor Michael "Blooming Idiot" Bloomberg and his New York City staff that last year filed civil lawsuits against 27 firearms dealers in five states, claiming they were flooding New York City with illegal guns.

## **BLOOMBERG IDIOT WATCH**

Bloomberg paid a private investigator firm, the James Mintz Group, \$800,000 to cross state lines and carry out sting operations with "straw purchases" (a gun intended for someone else) to use as evidence in the civil lawsuits alleging the investigators caught the gun dealers breaking the law.

Twelve of the dealers have settled with the City of New York by agreeing to allow a "special master" (court official) full access to their stores for three years.

Last September, the Second Amendment Foundation called on U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to investigate Bloomberg over the rogue sting operations. The BATFE confirmed that the agency was "investigating the matter."

Virginia Attorney General Robert McDonnell clashed with Mayor Bloomberg over New York private investigators entering his jurisdiction without authority.

Bloomberg caved in and agreed to follow Virginia's new law. Jason Post, a spokesman for Bloomberg, said the Mayor would "contact the Virginia State Police" before any future activity in the state.

Virginia A.G. McDonnell said he was pleased that the mayor's office "is now fully committed to contacting the Virginia State Police with public safety concerns in Virginia."

### GEORGIA LAWMAKERS BACK VIRGINIA-STYLE ANTI-BLOOMBERG LAW

Two Georgia lawmakers said they want to follow Virginia's lead in passing a law that would prevent New York City from unilaterally sending private investigators across state lines to investigate gun dealers.

"We want to require they get our cooperation," said Earl Ehrhart, Republican chairman of the Georgia House's Rules Committee. "We have indoor plumbing. We have books that don't have bark on the outside of them. We can handle our own law enforcement. This is anti-Southern bigotry."

Eric Johnson, Republican president pro tempore of the Georgia Senate, said Bloomberg's investigations were "desperate, strong-arm tactics." "Georgians - they like their civil rights," he said. "If they are going to be investigated or accused, they want it to be Georgia or federal law enforcement."

Ehrhart and Johnson are both researching a bill to introduce in Georgia's next legislative session, which begins January 1, 2008.

### BLOOMBERG ATTACKS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

A memo by Fraternal Order of Police President Chuck Canterbury to his executive board said the union "has been on the receiving end of numerous politically-oriented attacks by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his 'law enforcement spokesperson,' John Feinblatt, because of the FOP's support of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on the issue of disclosure of firearms trace data."

Canterbury sent his board a factual defense of the "Tiahrt Amendment" that protects firearms data when sought by municipal governments to use in civil lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. "The FOP supported that measure when first passed and we continue to do so because releasing data to litigants could compromise the safety of law enforcement officers and the integrity of investigations."

**ALABAMA APPROVES GUN SALES TO OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS**

The Alabama Legislature has passed a bill sponsored by Rep. David Grimes (R-Montgomery) that would allow gun and ammunition dealers in Alabama to sell to residents of any state where gun sales are legal. It won in the House on a vote of 90-3.

**IN THE STATES**

The Senate version, SB 62, was introduced by State Senator W. H. Pat Lindsey (D-22). It was only the fourth bill to receive final passage this session because of a dispute over rules that has stalled most action in the Senate. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Bob Riley.

**ARIZONA GOVERNOR VETOES GUN PERMIT PENALTY REDUCTION**

Governor Janet Napolitano has vetoed a bill that would have made carrying a concealed weapon without the required state permit a petty offense, punishable by only a \$300 fine. With the Governor's veto, offenders could still end up in jail for up to six months. Sen. Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) said that's too severe for someone whose only crime is having a firearm that's not visible. Arizona law allows anyone to carry a gun as long as it can be seen, but Sen. Johnson says that's not practical for women who want to protect themselves, but don't want to strap on a holster. Napolitano countered that people who want to carry concealed can go through the necessary training and background check to get a permit. Johnson will try again next session.

**COLORADO PASSES LIMITS ON CONCEALED CARRY**

Gov. Bill Ritter has signed into law a bill barring Colorado residents from using concealed weapons permits from other states than Colorado. Out-of-state visitors will be allowed to use permits issued by their home states, and not a third state. House Majority Leader Alice Madden (D-Boulder) said she sponsored the bill because she wanted to stop people denied permits in Colorado from getting them elsewhere and using them in the state.

**CONNECTICUT SENATE PASSES STOLEN GUN REPORTING BILL**

Connecticut's state Senate has passed a controversial gun control bill that would make it a crime not to report the loss or theft of a gun within 72 hours. By a 24-11 vote, the Senate passed the measure, which has generated controversy at the Capitol for years and was rejected by the House of Representatives last year. The bill now goes to the House, where some representatives who voted against it last year were defeated in the November election.

**ILLINOIS SENATE PASSES BAN ON "HIGH-CAPACITY" MAGAZINES**

The Illinois State Senate has sent SB1007 to the Illinois House on a vote of 21-26, a bill that would ban the sale and possession of gun magazines that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. Richard Pearson, chairman of the Illinois State Rifle Association political action committee said SB1007 was "a perfect waste of the legislature's time" since such magazines can be purchased in every state adjacent to Illinois. Pearson singled out Illinois State Sen. Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge) as the "gun grabber of the year" for his "arrogant disregard for our outdoor traditions and his deep-seated hatred of gun owners." House passage of SB1007 is in doubt.

**MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES CASTLE DOCTRINE BILL**

Senate Bill 62, awaiting the signature of Republican Gov. Matt Blunt, ensures law-abiding Missourians will not be punished when they use force to defend themselves and their families in their own home or vehicle. Gov. Blunt had requested the legislation, and said, "I am pleased members of the General Assembly answered my call for this important legislation to protect our Second Amendment rights, and I look forward to signing the bill," but had not signed it as of June 1.

The measure would also change Missouri law on gun background checks, so that court-ordered mental health treatment would be factored in when a background check is conducted prior to the sale of a gun. Prosecutors dismissed worries that the law could give legal cover to criminals. It has not done so in other states.

### **NEW JERSEY .50-CALIBER BAN SWITCHES COMMITTEES**

A bill to outlaw the .50-caliber rifle was voted favorably out of the state Assembly's Law and Public Safety Committee and sent to the Assembly's Judiciary Committee for further deliberation. Bills normally go from a committee to the floor for a vote, but this bill is so controversial that lawmakers wanted to vet it thoroughly. A similar Senate bill also awaits action.

**IN THE STATES**

### **NEW YORK LAWMAKER WANTS AMMUNITION SALES LIMITED**

State Senator Eric Adams (D-Brooklyn) has introduced a bill that would create the crime of unlawful sale of ammunition. In practice, it would require any purchaser of ammunition to produce a valid firearms license for a weapon that uses the matching type of ammunition. Adams said his proposal would greatly restrict selling ammunition to those with illegal firearms. A companion bill in the Assembly was sponsored by Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. (D-Bronx). It awaits action in the Codes Committee of both houses.

### **OKLAHOMA LAW ALLOWS JUDGES TO BE ARMED IN COURTROOMS**

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry has signed into law a bill that clarifies the common understanding of the law that judges may be armed in the courtroom, and adds the component of requiring a judge who wants to keep a firearm at the courthouse to have appropriate training. The law requires a judge to possess a concealed handgun license to keep a gun on the job.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA CONSIDERS CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUSES**

A bill to allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry guns onto public school campuses, from elementary schools to universities, has passed out of subcommittee to the South Carolina state House Judiciary Committee. The idea is to prevent massacres like the recent Virginia Tech shootings where anyone with a gun could have stopped the killer. The bill is not expected to pass the Legislature before it adjourns later this month.

### **TENNESSEE NOW HAS CASTLE DOCTRINE LAW**

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen has signed into law HB 1907, a "Castle Doctrine" bill allows the use of deadly force by law-abiding Tennesseans to defend themselves and their families from intruders without fear of criminal or civil liability. Like most such legislation, Tennessee's new law puts the burden of proof on prosecutors that an accused was not shooting in self-defense, instead of requiring the victim of a home intruder to prove they were. Representative Randy Ricks (D-71), and Senators Doug Jackson (D-25) and Paul Stanley (R-31) led the passage of the bill.

### **NEW TEXAS LAW PROTECTS CONCEALED CARRY LICENSE HOLDERS' PRIVACY**

Republican Governor Rick Perry has signed into law a bill that seals state records showing who has a concealed weapons license. The new law took effect immediately upon signing late last month. Now only law enforcement agencies have access to concealed carry license information.

The media urged Perry to veto the bill, saying it was an open government issue. Rep. Patrick Rose (D-Dripping Springs) said it was a matter of privacy, not open government.

### **WISCONSIN CASTLE DOCTRINE BILL GOES TO SENATE**

The Wisconsin Assembly has passed a "Castle Doctrine" bill that holds homeowners and renters who shoot intruders presumed innocent. Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh) sponsored the bill, saying it's not wrong for people to protect themselves. Opponents, as usual, claimed that burglars who don't mean to harm anybody will pay with their lives. The bill would make the courts assume self-defense and the intruders would have to prove otherwise. The measure passed the Assembly on a voice vote. It now goes to the Senate.

### **CANADIAN NEWSPAPER DOESN'T LIKE PRO-GUN MEMBERS ON FIREARMS COMMITTEE**

Susan Delacourt of the *Toronto Star* thinks it's just terrible that the Conservative government's firearms advisory committee is made up largely of pro-gun advocates opposed to the firearms registry. With headlines blaring "Panel loaded with gun buffs," and "Make-up of advisory group suggests Tories out of step with urban attitude on weapons," why isn't it on the op-ed page?

Delacourt's totally biased and slanted opinion piece was run by *The Star* as a hard-news investigative report, supposedly designed to expose the members of the group she claimed was "appointed and operating in virtual secrecy."

Odd that she found the names of the secret committee members in an open letter sent by an elected Member of Parliament, Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton Melville), to thousands of his constituents. Big secret.

The anti-gun slant of the *Toronto Star* shows in their identification of Susan Delacourt as "Ottawa Bureau Chief, *Firearms Control*." Propaganda, not news.

**AROUND THE  
WORLD**

### **GLOBAL GUN CONTROL GROUP MEETS IN INDONESIA**

Andres Johnsson, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, convened its 2007 meeting on the resort island of Bali and launched a handbook showing lawmakers around the world how legislation can take guns from civilians. Johnsson moaned that "60 percent of the estimated 640 million small arms worldwide is in the hands of civilians." Johnsson said that no U.S. lawmakers were able to attend the meeting in Bali.

### **PHILIPPINES POLICE IN TOTAL GUN BAN FOR ELECTIONS**

Election violence has prompted the mayor of Davao City, on the Philippine Island of Mindinao, to ban all guns and cancel all exemptions in the province called Davao del Sur. The total gun ban and exemption cancellation came after the killing of a mayoral candidate Isidro Sarmiento and his son in the town of Malita, in Davao del Sur. The two were allegedly shot during a partisan squabble by Congressman Claude Bautista, who was eyeing the gubernatorial seat of the province against fellow Congressman Douglas Cagas. The National Bureau of Investigation in the region has already filed double murder cases against Bautista, who has fled. Anyone found with a gun will be arrested. If a politician's bodyguard shows a gun, the politician will be arrested.

### **UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPERS IN CONGO BECOME GUN TRAFFICKERS**

Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers assigned to disarm Congolese militia instead engaged in weapons trafficking with militia members, according to the British Broadcasting Company. U.N. investigators looking into the allegations of trading in weapons were obstructed and threatened, adding that their report was buried to avoid embarrassing Pakistan, a large contributor to U.N. missions around the world. The BBC quoted Evarista Anjasubu, a businessman in northeastern Congo, as saying he had known of weapons transactions between Pakistani officers and two of the most notorious militia leaders. Tasnim Aslam of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in Islamabad saying authorities there "will look into the matter to ascertain facts."

### **FORMER JAPANESE SYNDICATE HIT MAN SHOTS UP HIS FAMILY**

Hisato Obayashi, a former gangster with the Yamaguchi-gumi mob, went on a shooting rampage at his home in Nagakute, Japan, leaving one policeman dead and three other people--including his son and daughter--injured, police told the Associated Press. Obayashi, 50, holed up in his home with his ex-wife, Michiko Mori, as a hostage, after police laid siege to the house and finally talked him into surrendering. Amid the standoff, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki urged government officials to step up gun control measures. Japan already bans guns to all but law enforcement officers and their trainers. Organized crime chiefs, however, have imported arms and are the sole source of recent gun crime in Japan.

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

●**Hollywood:** Take my gun, please. Movie star Kevin Costner is not known for standup comedy, but he recently sounded like Henny Youngman and his famous "take my wife, please" routine when he urged lawmakers to come up with a series of strict new gun control laws, even if it takes his beloved heirloom shotgun away from him and prevents him from ever hunting again, and he loves to hunt. He told Starpulse News, "Legislators should get tough with firearms owners, who refuse to accept their practices could harm others." Should gun owners urge Congress, "Get tough with Kevin Costner, who refuses to accept his politics could harm others -- please"?

●**Chicago:** Actress Angelina Jolie has banned guns from the sets of her new movie "Wanted" to protect her children from unnecessary violence. It's caused a few chuckles. Most of her successful roles have had her shooting really big weapons at everybody in sight, especially the 2005 spy thriller, "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," where she got one of her kids from co-star Brad Pitt. One cynical actor on the "Wanted" set said, "Angelina is protecting them from seeing her making violence look good." Her new movie casts her as a trainer of assassins.

●**Indianapolis:** Indiana legislators will be able to bring their guns to the Statehouse next session, but constituents who have licenses to carry guns will have to leave their weapons at home. Even some lawmakers aren't sure that's right. The new security restrictions were approved by the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, justified by one member, Sen. Thomas J. Wyss, a Fort Wayne Republican, because "the measures are needed for a changing world."

●**New York City:** Two days after the Virginia Tech massacre, the City University of New York bought two dozen Glock 9mm pistols to beef up security at five of its campuses. CUNY purchased the semiautomatic handguns for \$10,200 from Amchar Wholesale, a Rochester gun dealer, on April 18. The guns will go to Lehman College, Brooklyn College, Hostos Community College, La Guardia Community College and the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan.

●**Le Claire, Iowa:** With Illinois inching toward a ban on the manufacture and sale of .50-caliber rifles, Les Baer Custom decided to move his gun factory and 14 employees from Hillsdale Illinois across the Mississippi River to Le Claire, Iowa. Le Claire city officials welcomed the idea with offers of tax breaks and cheap land to help Baer get started. Baer makes high-end firearms, with most sold to the military and law enforcement and some to civilians who can afford them for competition. Then Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence objected and offered to pay more for the land just to keep Baer out. The City Council sold the land to Baer anyway, and he is preparing to make the shift.

●**Austin, Texas:** Gov. Rick Perry and some Republicans in the Legislature say they are considering repealing a state law that prohibits the possession of firearms on college campuses. They say students and faculty who hold licenses to carry firearms should be allowed to take their weapons onto campus. The idea was sparked by the Virginia Tech shootings, in which an armed student could have stopped the killer.

●**San Francisco:** Mayor Gavin Newsom supports new proposed city gun legislation to outlaw the possession or sale of guns on any city-owned property, expanding the current ban from buildings like City Hall and schools to include outdoor locations like city parks. Newsom also wants to extend the ban to public housing complexes, but federal laws may stop that. A year ago, a judge struck down a law banning handgun possession in the city. This is Newsom's revenge.

●**New York City:** On a recent *20/20*, ABC anchor John Stossel debunked the myth that "gun control reduces crime." On his popular series, "Myths, Lies & Downright Stupidity," Stossel interviewed a number of people who made the point that cities with strict gun control laws actually experience a rise in crime, while cities where citizens can carry guns enjoy a decrease in crime. One viewer wondered how long it would be before ABC canned him for debunking so many of their main talking points.

# Parting Shot

## DON'T STICK UP GRANNY'S BOOZE STORE, Y'HEAR?

Rosemarie stood behind the register at O'Keeffe's Package Store at 6708 W. Gore in the west end of gang-infested Lawton, Oklahoma when she saw something that didn't look right.

Rosemarie O'Keeffe is 75 years old, but her sight is good. Out her window she saw two men wearing hoodies walking up from behind the building to her liquor store.

She couldn't see their faces clearly, then realized it was because they had gauze bandages wrapped around their heads to evade identification.

It made her think of an ancient mummy, but the way they were covered up and the way they were walking right up to her store told her they weren't doing anything good.

"Gee, they're going to rob me!"

As she told a reporter afterward, "What do I do, yeah? I get up. I grab my gun and I point it at the door, waiting for 'em to walk in."

They walked in.

Rosemarie O'Keeffe is 75 years old, but her aim is good.

And they walked right into it.

"They came in and I said, 'Get out or I shoot you.'"

She wasn't joking.

And they could tell.

O'Keeffe told the reporter, "That's two of them, yeah. Well, I pointed the gun at them and they run. They went out the same way again, behind the building."

They ran, all right. The frightened men vaulted a fence and high-tailed it down the alley, westbound toward 68th Street.

"I had them all in my view. I could have shot them. I could have killed them both."

Her sons taught her how to use a gun. When she told them what she had done, they couldn't have been prouder.

Same with her daughter-in-law Pam Dobbs. "She takes no bull," Dobbs told the reporter. "We really need that in today's society. Our society has gotten meaner, so I wasn't a bit surprised because she's very tough."

This was the second time O'Keeffe has stopped a robber. She says a couple of years ago, she chased another man off with a whiskey bottle. She says she was going to beat him with it.

He could run faster than her. The only reason she didn't beat him.

Police haven't arrested the two mummy-men in this latest robbery attempt.

*Alan M. Gottlieb*

*Joseph D. Tartaro*

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GUN BAN: TO THE SUPREME COURT?**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has denied the District's petition for a re-hearing of *Parker v. District of Columbia*, which struck down D.C.'s handgun ban as unconstitutional.

That leaves Democrat Mayor Adrian Fenty with only two choices: appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, where a loss would undermine many gun control laws in America, or change the District's gun laws to allow residents to purchase and own handguns, which would be very unpopular with his noisy gun control constituency.

**IN THE  
COURTS**

*Parker* is the most significant gun rights case in the nation's history, because for the first time a gun control law was struck down on the grounds that it violated the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

This denial of a re-hearing is a strong signal that the appeals court feels Judge Laurence H. Silberman's original ruling is solid. Judge Silberman ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms that goes beyond service in a militia.

### **WYOMING LOSES GUN RIGHTS LAWSUIT**

U.S. District Judge Alan Johnson has ruled against Wyoming's lawsuit claiming that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives arbitrarily rejected its 2004 state law allowing the restoration of gun rights to people convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence charges.

Federal law prohibits those with such misdemeanor convictions from owning guns. BATFE had warned Wyoming that if it persisted in allowing people with such a record to buy guns, the federal government would no longer recognize more than 10,000 of its concealed carry permits as a substitute for a NICS background check.

Wyoming's law allowed misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to be expunged for purposes of restoring firearms rights, but remain on the books for purposes of enhancing punishment for any subsequent conviction.

It was the provision to partially expunge convictions that led Judge Johnson to rule that Wyoming's statute "is insufficient to remove a federal firearms prohibition." Wyoming Attorney General Pat Crank has not decided whether to appeal or ask the legislature for a complete expungement law.

### **CITY APPEALS GUN BAN IN PARKS TO OHIO SUPREME COURT**

The City of Clyde has filed an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court against a decision of the Sixth District Court of Appeals that struck down its ban on carrying concealed firearms in a park.

The Sixth District ruled that Ohio's statewide preemption law made the matter moot, and no local government could enact gun control as the City of Clyde had. The City is arguing it has the right under home rule doctrine.

The high court has not yet agreed to hear the appeal.

### **PHILADELPHIA PASSES ILLEGAL GUN LAWS TO PICK FIGHT WITH STATE LEGISLATURE**

Philadelphia's City Council unanimously passed eight gun control bills, deliberately provoking a fight with lawmakers in Harrisburg who have consistently refused to give the city the right to enact its own gun laws. The laws limit gun purchases to one gun and month and require owners to report lost or stolen guns.

In addition, the Council will soon file a lawsuit in Common Pleas Court against the General Assembly to win legal authority to pass its own firearms legislation.

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### VIRGINIA PASSES ANTI-BLOOMBERG LAW

Virginia's House of Delegates and Senate have passed HB 2653, signed into law by Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, that makes it a felony "for any person, except for a law enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties or other person under the direct supervision of the law enforcement officer, to attempt to solicit or otherwise entice a firearms dealer to transfer or otherwise convey a firearm other than to an actual buyer."

That's a direct slap at rogue Mayor Michael "Blooming Idiot" Bloomberg and his New York City staff that last year filed civil lawsuits against 27 firearms dealers in five states, claiming they were flooding New York City with illegal guns.

## **BLOOMBERG IDIOT WATCH**

Bloomberg paid a private investigator firm, the James Mintz Group, \$800,000 to cross state lines and carry out sting operations with "straw purchases" (a gun intended for someone else) to use as evidence in the civil lawsuits alleging the investigators caught the gun dealers breaking the law.

Twelve of the dealers have settled with the City of New York by agreeing to allow a "special master" (court official) full access to their stores for three years.

Last September, the Second Amendment Foundation called on U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to investigate Bloomberg over the rogue sting operations. The BATFE confirmed that the agency was "investigating the matter."

Virginia Attorney General Robert McDonnell clashed with Mayor Bloomberg over New York private investigators entering his jurisdiction without authority.

Bloomberg caved in and agreed to follow Virginia's new law. Jason Post, a spokesman for Bloomberg, said the Mayor would "contact the Virginia State Police" before any future activity in the state.

Virginia A.G. McDonnell said he was pleased that the mayor's office "is now fully committed to contacting the Virginia State Police with public safety concerns in Virginia."

### GEORGIA LAWMAKERS BACK VIRGINIA-STYLE ANTI-BLOOMBERG LAW

Two Georgia lawmakers said they want to follow Virginia's lead in passing a law that would prevent New York City from unilaterally sending private investigators across state lines to investigate gun dealers.

"We want to require they get our cooperation," said Earl Ehrhart, Republican chairman of the Georgia House's Rules Committee. "We have indoor plumbing. We have books that don't have bark on the outside of them. We can handle our own law enforcement. This is anti-Southern bigotry."

Eric Johnson, Republican president pro tempore of the Georgia Senate, said Bloomberg's investigations were "desperate, strong-arm tactics." "Georgians - they like their civil rights," he said. "If they are going to be investigated or accused, they want it to be Georgia or federal law enforcement."

Ehrhart and Johnson are both researching a bill to introduce in Georgia's next legislative session, which begins January 1, 2008.

### BLOOMBERG ATTACKS FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

A memo by Fraternal Order of Police President Chuck Canterbury to his executive board said the union "has been on the receiving end of numerous politically-oriented attacks by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his 'law enforcement spokesperson,' John Feinblatt, because of the FOP's support of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on the issue of disclosure of firearms trace data."

Canterbury sent his board a factual defense of the "Tiahrt Amendment" that protects firearms data when sought by municipal governments to use in civil lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. "The FOP supported that measure when first passed and we continue to do so because releasing data to litigants could compromise the safety of law enforcement officers and the integrity of investigations."

**ALABAMA APPROVES GUN SALES TO OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS**

The Alabama Legislature has passed a bill sponsored by Rep. David Grimes (R-Montgomery) that would allow gun and ammunition dealers in Alabama to sell to residents of any state where gun sales are legal. It won in the House on a vote of 90-3.

**IN THE STATES**

The Senate version, SB 62, was introduced by State Senator W. H. Pat Lindsey (D-22). It was only the fourth bill to receive final passage this session because of a dispute over rules that has stalled most action in the Senate. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Bob Riley.

**ARIZONA GOVERNOR VETOES GUN PERMIT PENALTY REDUCTION**

Governor Janet Napolitano has vetoed a bill that would have made carrying a concealed weapon without the required state permit a petty offense, punishable by only a \$300 fine. With the Governor's veto, offenders could still end up in jail for up to six months. Sen. Karen Johnson (R-Mesa) said that's too severe for someone whose only crime is having a firearm that's not visible. Arizona law allows anyone to carry a gun as long as it can be seen, but Sen. Johnson says that's not practical for women who want to protect themselves, but don't want to strap on a holster. Napolitano countered that people who want to carry concealed can go through the necessary training and background check to get a permit. Johnson will try again next session.

**COLORADO PASSES LIMITS ON CONCEALED CARRY**

Gov. Bill Ritter has signed into law a bill barring Colorado residents from using concealed weapons permits from other states than Colorado. Out-of-state visitors will be allowed to use permits issued by their home states, and not a third state. House Majority Leader Alice Madden (D-Boulder) said she sponsored the bill because she wanted to stop people denied permits in Colorado from getting them elsewhere and using them in the state.

**CONNECTICUT SENATE PASSES STOLEN GUN REPORTING BILL**

Connecticut's state Senate has passed a controversial gun control bill that would make it a crime not to report the loss or theft of a gun within 72 hours. By a 24-11 vote, the Senate passed the measure, which has generated controversy at the Capitol for years and was rejected by the House of Representatives last year. The bill now goes to the House, where some representatives who voted against it last year were defeated in the November election.

**ILLINOIS SENATE PASSES BAN ON "HIGH-CAPACITY" MAGAZINES**

The Illinois State Senate has sent SB1007 to the Illinois House on a vote of 21-26, a bill that would ban the sale and possession of gun magazines that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. Richard Pearson, chairman of the Illinois State Rifle Association political action committee said SB1007 was "a perfect waste of the legislature's time" since such magazines can be purchased in every state adjacent to Illinois. Pearson singled out Illinois State Sen. Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge) as the "gun grabber of the year" for his "arrogant disregard for our outdoor traditions and his deep-seated hatred of gun owners." House passage of SB1007 is in doubt.

**MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES CASTLE DOCTRINE BILL**

Senate Bill 62, awaiting the signature of Republican Gov. Matt Blunt, ensures law-abiding Missourians will not be punished when they use force to defend themselves and their families in their own home or vehicle. Gov. Blunt had requested the legislation, and said, "I am pleased members of the General Assembly answered my call for this important legislation to protect our Second Amendment rights, and I look forward to signing the bill," but had not signed it as of June 1.

The measure would also change Missouri law on gun background checks, so that court-ordered mental health treatment would be factored in when a background check is conducted prior to the sale of a gun. Prosecutors dismissed worries that the law could give legal cover to criminals. It has not done so in other states.

### **NEW JERSEY .50-CALIBER BAN SWITCHES COMMITTEES**

A bill to outlaw the .50-caliber rifle was voted favorably out of the state Assembly's Law and Public Safety Committee and sent to the Assembly's Judiciary Committee for further deliberation. Bills normally go from a committee to the floor for a vote, but this bill is so controversial that lawmakers wanted to vet it thoroughly. A similar Senate bill also awaits action.

**IN THE STATES**

### **NEW YORK LAWMAKER WANTS AMMUNITION SALES LIMITED**

State Senator Eric Adams (D-Brooklyn) has introduced a bill that would create the crime of unlawful sale of ammunition. In practice, it would require any purchaser of ammunition to produce a valid firearms license for a weapon that uses the matching type of ammunition. Adams said his proposal would greatly restrict selling ammunition to those with illegal firearms. A companion bill in the Assembly was sponsored by Assemblyman Ruben Diaz Jr. (D-Bronx). It awaits action in the Codes Committee of both houses.

### **OKLAHOMA LAW ALLOWS JUDGES TO BE ARMED IN COURTROOMS**

Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry has signed into law a bill that clarifies the common understanding of the law that judges may be armed in the courtroom, and adds the component of requiring a judge who wants to keep a firearm at the courthouse to have appropriate training. The law requires a judge to possess a concealed handgun license to keep a gun on the job.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA CONSIDERS CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUSES**

A bill to allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry guns onto public school campuses, from elementary schools to universities, has passed out of subcommittee to the South Carolina state House Judiciary Committee. The idea is to prevent massacres like the recent Virginia Tech shootings where anyone with a gun could have stopped the killer. The bill is not expected to pass the Legislature before it adjourns later this month.

### **TENNESSEE NOW HAS CASTLE DOCTRINE LAW**

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen has signed into law HB 1907, a "Castle Doctrine" bill allows the use of deadly force by law-abiding Tennesseans to defend themselves and their families from intruders without fear of criminal or civil liability. Like most such legislation, Tennessee's new law puts the burden of proof on prosecutors that an accused was not shooting in self-defense, instead of requiring the victim of a home intruder to prove they were. Representative Randy Ricks (D-71), and Senators Doug Jackson (D-25) and Paul Stanley (R-31) led the passage of the bill.

### **NEW TEXAS LAW PROTECTS CONCEALED CARRY LICENSE HOLDERS' PRIVACY**

Republican Governor Rick Perry has signed into law a bill that seals state records showing who has a concealed weapons license. The new law took effect immediately upon signing late last month. Now only law enforcement agencies have access to concealed carry license information.

The media urged Perry to veto the bill, saying it was an open government issue. Rep. Patrick Rose (D-Dripping Springs) said it was a matter of privacy, not open government.

### **WISCONSIN CASTLE DOCTRINE BILL GOES TO SENATE**

The Wisconsin Assembly has passed a "Castle Doctrine" bill that holds homeowners and renters who shoot intruders presumed innocent. Carol Owens (R-Oshkosh) sponsored the bill, saying it's not wrong for people to protect themselves. Opponents, as usual, claimed that burglars who don't mean to harm anybody will pay with their lives. The bill would make the courts assume self-defense and the intruders would have to prove otherwise. The measure passed the Assembly on a voice vote. It now goes to the Senate.

### **CANADIAN NEWSPAPER DOESN'T LIKE PRO-GUN MEMBERS ON FIREARMS COMMITTEE**

Susan Delacourt of the *Toronto Star* thinks it's just terrible that the Conservative government's firearms advisory committee is made up largely of pro-gun advocates opposed to the firearms registry. With headlines blaring "Panel loaded with gun buffs," and "Make-up of advisory group suggests Tories out of step with urban attitude on weapons," why isn't it on the op-ed page?

Delacourt's totally biased and slanted opinion piece was run by *The Star* as a hard-news investigative report, supposedly designed to expose the members of the group she claimed was "appointed and operating in virtual secrecy."

Odd that she found the names of the secret committee members in an open letter sent by an elected Member of Parliament, Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton Melville), to thousands of his constituents. Big secret.

The anti-gun slant of the *Toronto Star* shows in their identification of Susan Delacourt as "Ottawa Bureau Chief, *Firearms Control*." Propaganda, not news.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

### **GLOBAL GUN CONTROL GROUP MEETS IN INDONESIA**

Andres Johnsson, secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, convened its 2007 meeting on the resort island of Bali and launched a handbook showing lawmakers around the world how legislation can take guns from civilians. Johnsson moaned that "60 percent of the estimated 640 million small arms worldwide is in the hands of civilians." Johnsson said that no U.S. lawmakers were able to attend the meeting in Bali.

### **PHILIPPINES POLICE IN TOTAL GUN BAN FOR ELECTIONS**

Election violence has prompted the mayor of Davao City, on the Philippine Island of Mindinao, to ban all guns and cancel all exemptions in the province called Davao del Sur. The total gun ban and exemption cancellation came after the killing of a mayoral candidate Isidro Sarmiento and his son in the town of Malita, in Davao del Sur. The two were allegedly shot during a partisan squabble by Congressman Claude Bautista, who was eyeing the gubernatorial seat of the province against fellow Congressman Douglas Cagas. The National Bureau of Investigation in the region has already filed double murder cases against Bautista, who has fled. Anyone found with a gun will be arrested. If a politician's bodyguard shows a gun, the politician will be arrested.

### **UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPERS IN CONGO BECOME GUN TRAFFICKERS**

Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers assigned to disarm Congolese militia instead engaged in weapons trafficking with militia members, according to the British Broadcasting Company. U.N. investigators looking into the allegations of trading in weapons were obstructed and threatened, adding that their report was buried to avoid embarrassing Pakistan, a large contributor to U.N. missions around the world. The BBC quoted Evarista Anjasubu, a businessman in northeastern Congo, as saying he had known of weapons transactions between Pakistani officers and two of the most notorious militia leaders. Tasnim Aslam of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in Islamabad saying authorities there "will look into the matter to ascertain facts."

### **FORMER JAPANESE SYNDICATE HIT MAN SHOTS UP HIS FAMILY**

Hisato Obayashi, a former gangster with the Yamaguchi-gumi mob, went on a shooting rampage at his home in Nagakute, Japan, leaving one policeman dead and three other people--including his son and daughter--injured, police told the Associated Press. Obayashi, 50, holed up in his home with his ex-wife, Michiko Mori, as a hostage, after police laid siege to the house and finally talked him into surrendering. Amid the standoff, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki urged government officials to step up gun control measures. Japan already bans guns to all but law enforcement officers and their trainers. Organized crime chiefs, however, have imported arms and are the sole source of recent gun crime in Japan.

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

●**Hollywood:** Take my gun, please. Movie star Kevin Costner is not known for standup comedy, but he recently sounded like Henny Youngman and his famous "take my wife, please" routine when he urged lawmakers to come up with a series of strict new gun control laws, even if it takes his beloved heirloom shotgun away from him and prevents him from ever hunting again, and he loves to hunt. He told Starpulse News, "Legislators should get tough with firearms owners, who refuse to accept their practices could harm others." Should gun owners urge Congress, "Get tough with Kevin Costner, who refuses to accept his politics could harm others -- please"?

●**Chicago:** Actress Angelina Jolie has banned guns from the sets of her new movie "Wanted" to protect her children from unnecessary violence. It's caused a few chuckles. Most of her successful roles have had her shooting really big weapons at everybody in sight, especially the 2005 spy thriller, "Mr. & Mrs. Smith," where she got one of her kids from co-star Brad Pitt. One cynical actor on the "Wanted" set said, "Angelina is protecting them from seeing her making violence look good." Her new movie casts her as a trainer of assassins.

●**Indianapolis:** Indiana legislators will be able to bring their guns to the Statehouse next session, but constituents who have licenses to carry guns will have to leave their weapons at home. Even some lawmakers aren't sure that's right. The new security restrictions were approved by the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, justified by one member, Sen. Thomas J. Wyss, a Fort Wayne Republican, because "the measures are needed for a changing world."

●**New York City:** Two days after the Virginia Tech massacre, the City University of New York bought two dozen Glock 9mm pistols to beef up security at five of its campuses. CUNY purchased the semiautomatic handguns for \$10,200 from Amchar Wholesale, a Rochester gun dealer, on April 18. The guns will go to Lehman College, Brooklyn College, Hostos Community College, La Guardia Community College and the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan.

●**Le Claire, Iowa:** With Illinois inching toward a ban on the manufacture and sale of .50-caliber rifles, Les Baer Custom decided to move his gun factory and 14 employees from Hillsdale Illinois across the Mississippi River to Le Claire, Iowa. Le Claire city officials welcomed the idea with offers of tax breaks and cheap land to help Baer get started. Baer makes high-end firearms, with most sold to the military and law enforcement and some to civilians who can afford them for competition. Then Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence objected and offered to pay more for the land just to keep Baer out. The City Council sold the land to Baer anyway, and he is preparing to make the shift.

●**Austin, Texas:** Gov. Rick Perry and some Republicans in the Legislature say they are considering repealing a state law that prohibits the possession of firearms on college campuses. They say students and faculty who hold licenses to carry firearms should be allowed to take their weapons onto campus. The idea was sparked by the Virginia Tech shootings, in which an armed student could have stopped the killer.

●**San Francisco:** Mayor Gavin Newsom supports new proposed city gun legislation to outlaw the possession or sale of guns on any city-owned property, expanding the current ban from buildings like City Hall and schools to include outdoor locations like city parks. Newsom also wants to extend the ban to public housing complexes, but federal laws may stop that. A year ago, a judge struck down a law banning handgun possession in the city. This is Newsom's revenge.

●**New York City:** On a recent 20/20, ABC anchor John Stossel debunked the myth that "gun control reduces crime." On his popular series, "Myths, Lies & Downright Stupidity," Stossel interviewed a number of people who made the point that cities with strict gun control laws actually experience a rise in crime, while cities where citizens can carry guns enjoy a decrease in crime. One viewer wondered how long it would be before ABC canned him for debunking so many of their main talking points.

# Parting Shot

## DON'T STICK UP GRANNY'S BOOZE STORE, Y'HEAR?

Rosemarie stood behind the register at O'Keefe's Package Store at 6708 W. Gore in the west end of gang-infested Lawton, Oklahoma when she saw something that didn't look right.

Rosemarie O'Keefe is 75 years old, but her sight is good. Out her window she saw two men wearing hoodies walking up from behind the building to her liquor store.

She couldn't see their faces clearly, then realized it was because they had gauze bandages wrapped around their heads to evade identification.

It made her think of an ancient mummy, but the way they were covered up and the way they were walking right up to her store told her they weren't doing anything good.

"Gee, they're going to rob me!"

As she told a reporter afterward, "What do I do, yeah? I get up. I grab my gun and I point it at the door, waiting for 'em to walk in."

They walked in.

Rosemarie O'Keefe is 75 years old, but her aim is good.

And they walked right into it.

"They came in and I said, 'Get out or I shoot you.'"

She wasn't joking.

And they could tell.

O'Keefe told the reporter, "That's two of them, yeah. Well, I pointed the gun at them and they run. They went out the same way again, behind the building."

They ran, all right. The frightened men vaulted a fence and high-tailed it down the alley, westbound toward 68th Street.

"I had them all in my view. I could have shot them. I could have killed them both."

Her sons taught her how to use a gun. When she told them what she had done, they couldn't have been prouder.

Same with her daughter-in-law Pam Dobbs. "She takes no bull," Dobbs told the reporter. "We really need that in today's society. Our society has gotten meaner, so I wasn't a bit surprised because she's very tough."

This was the second time O'Keefe has stopped a robber. She says a couple of years ago, she chased another man off with a whiskey bottle. She says she was going to beat him with it.

He could run faster than her. The only reason she didn't beat him.

Police haven't arrested the two mummy-men in this latest robbery attempt.

*Alan M. Gottlieb*

*Joseph D. Tartaro*

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