

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



**September
2009
Volume XXXIV No. 9**

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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BLOOMBERG WILL USE MONEY AGAINST GUNS

The anti-gun multi-billionaire Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, said on NBC's *Meet the Press* that he would raise money for a national campaign to counter the political influence of pro-gun rights interests.

Bloomberg stated that in order to defeat a pro-gun rights group, "you have to go out and get your message out and it costs money to do that."

Bloomberg already has contributed about 2.9 million dollars to an anti-gun organization he founded in 2006, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, reported *The New York Times*. The group of 450 city chief executives Bloomberg started along with Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston worked recently to defeat a measure by Sen. John R. Thune of South Dakota, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, that would have allowed individuals with state-issued permits to carry concealed handguns to carry the firearms in other states that issue such permits.

Although the Thune amendment garnered 58 votes out of the 100-member Senate, a substantial majority, it fell two votes short of the 60 votes needed to prevent a filibuster and thus was not added as a proposed amendment to pending legislation.

Bloomberg referred to the Thune amendment as "another obstacle in the way of sanity."

In a costly full-page ad his anti-gun group ran in *USA Today* and other newspapers, Bloomberg and the other mayors referred to the reciprocity amendment as "dangerous legislation that would usurp the right of states to set their own minimum standards for distributing permits to those who wish to carry a concealed gun," even though the amendment would have required carriers to comply with the laws of the states in which they carried.

"The Thune Concealed Carry Amendment would require states to recognize permits issued in other states, even if those other states have far weaker laws," declared the ad.

Sen. Thune's spokesman Kyle Downey said of Bloomberg's anti-gun activity: "The fact that a guy who rides the New York subways with armed guards can tell the rest of America that they cannot defend themselves is absurd."

"America must oppose this," Snyder said. "We need all the help CCRKBA Members and indeed all Americans who believe in the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms can give us. We need the support of all who oppose the attempt by the New York City Mayor to use his wealth to subvert our freedom and to dictate national policy regarding our traditional right to acquire and use the means necessary to protect our lives and the lives of our loved ones from violent predatory criminals."

DOMESTIC TERRORIST ACTIVITY DEMANDS CARRY RECIPROCITY

“Recent reports of domestic terrorist activity underscore the necessity for the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms and for the right to carry concealed firearms,” John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated.

“Qualified law-abiding citizens need to be able to carry concealed firearms to protect themselves and their loved ones and the public in general if the need should arise,” he added. “The possibility that the need may arise is a very real one. It’s time for legislation to allow such carry across state borders. These days, many people travel from state to state and even across the country on a regular basis. Citizens’ ability to carry should be commensurate with this reality of modern life. People should be able to protect themselves and their loved ones from violent criminals of all types – including terrorists - wherever they are, and not only in their state of residence.”

When the U.S. Senate this summer voted 58-39 for national concealed carry reciprocity, the vote showed majority support for the concept.

The vote came on an amendment offered by Sens. John Thune and David Vitter of Louisiana, both CCRKBA Gun Rights Defenders of the Month. Senators had agreed ahead of time that the proposal would be added to the National Defense Authorization bill only if 60 Senators voted for it. That was because 60 votes would have been required to eliminate the possibility of a filibuster threatened by anti-gun Sen. Charles Schumer of New York. Since the CCW amendment got 58 votes – the measure did not pass.

Pro-gun Senators and others announced immediately they would continue to push for legislation that would authorize an individual with a state-issued CCW permit to carry in any state which issued such permits, in much the same way as state-issued drivers’ licenses are recognized throughout the country.

Based on reports regarding the activities of terrorists and their potential to murder or injure American citizens, it is important that pro-gun Senators, Representatives and others continue to promote national concealed carry legislation as a self-protection measure.

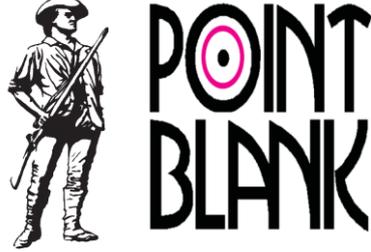
Jim Kouri, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, wrote for the *Law Enforcement Examiner* about terrorists in the U.S.. He’s a former chief at a New York City housing project. Now an official of the National Association of Chiefs of Police (NACOP), Kouri noted that, “seven suspects have been charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and conspiring to murder, maim and injure Americans overseas, according to law enforcement officials in a report to police organizations such as NACOP.”

He reported the indictment in North Carolina alleged that one of the defendants “is a veteran of training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan who, over the past three years, has conspired with others in this country to recruit and help young men travel overseas in order to kill.”

That individual, wrote Kouri, from 1989 through 1992, allegedly “traveled to Pakistan and Afghanistan where he received military-style training in terrorist training camps for the purpose of engaging in violent

Jihad. Following this training, he allegedly fought in Afghanistan.

“This case is unfolding before the eyes of Americans and reminds citizens of one simple fact: most U.S. elected officials appear to be oblivious to the continuing terrorist threat, many of them showing more concern with the safety and security of terrorists than that of the American people.”



“Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms.”

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SOTOMAYOR CONFIRMATION A BLOW AGAINST GUN RIGHTS

When the United States Senate confirmed the appointment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court last month by a vote of 68 to 31, it approved a candidate who stated in confirmation hearings that she does not know whether or not an individual has a right to self-defense.

Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, asked Sotomayor: “Do you have a personal opinion, or can you give me your opinion, of whether or not I personally, as an individual citizen, have a right to self-defense?”

Sotomayor responded: “I --- as I said, I don’t know.”

John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said, “The fact that a person of such ambivalence on so fundamental an issue has been nominated and confirmed to the highest court in the land shows what we’re up against. Hopefully, CCRKBA

Members and Supporters who realize this will give us their full support as we continue to battle for the civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.”

Stephen Dinan wrote in *The Washington Times* that, “After years of losing, gun control advocates say this week’s vote on confirming Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court will be their long-awaited win that shatters conventional wisdom and proves that the Second Amendment is no longer the unstoppable force of Washington politics.”

Snyder said, “The right to self-preservation is basic to our nation. What is the purpose of government if not the preservation of the rights of individuals, especially the most basic of rights, the right of self-preservation? We’ve got a long, hard struggle ahead of us. We need help, and we’re relying on CCRKBA Members and all Americans who believe in the Second

Amendment to support us.”

While the anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence hailed the confirmation vote and crowed that it could signal a new era for control in America, an editorial in *The Washington Times* noted “a new Zogby poll suggests that things are a little more complicated. Zogby found that 52 percent of American voters would be against the reelection of any Senator simply because he supports confirming a Supreme Court nominee ‘who does not believe in the right to keep and bear arms.’ Just 26 percent support that Senator.”

The editorial goes on to state that Brady President Paul Helmke “is right to believe that Judge Sotomayor is against gun ownership, and the Supreme Court is closely divided on the issue. What the poll tells us is that Senators who voted for her should worry when their constituents find out about it.”

HERE’S HOW SENATORS VOTED ON SOTOMAYOR

FOR:	Collins (ME)	Kohl (WI)	Reid (NV)	AGAINST	Hutchison (TX)
Akaka (HI)	Conrad (ND)	Landrieu (LA)	Rockefeller (WV)	Inhofe (OK)	
Alexander (TN)	Dodd (CT)	Lautenberg (NJ)]	Sanders (VT)	Barrasso (WY)	Isakson (GA)
Baucus (MT)	Dorgan (ND)	Leahy (VT)	Schumer (NY)	Bennett (UT)	Johanns (NE)
Bayh (IN)	Durbin (IL)	Levin (MI)	Shaheen (NH)	Brownback (KS)	Kyl (AZ)
Begich (AK)	Feingold (WI)	Lieberman (CT)	Snowe (ME)	Bunning (KY)	McCain (AZ)
Bennet (CO)	Feinstein (CA)	Lincoln (AR)	Specter (PA)	Burr (NC)	McConnell (KY)
Bingaman (NM)	Franken (MN)	Lugar (IN)]	Stabenow (MI)	Chambliss (GA)	Murkowski (AK)
Bond (MO)	Gillibrand (NY)	Martinez (FL)	Tester (MT)	Coburn (OK)	Risch (ID)
Boxer (CA)	Graham (SC)	McCaskill (MO)	Udall (CO)	Cochran (MS)	Roberts (KS)
Brown (OH)	Gregg (NH)	Menendez (NJ)	Udall (NM)	Corker (TN)	Sessions (AL)
Burr (IL)	Hagan (NC)	Merkley (OR)	Voinovich (OH)	Cornyn (TX)	Shelby (AL)
Byrd (WV)	Harkin (IA)	Mikulski (MD)	Warner (VA)	Crapo (ID)	Thune (SD)
Cantwell (WA)	Inouye (HI)	Murray (WA)	Webb (VA)	DeMint (SC)	Vitter (LA)
Cardin (MD)	Johnson (SD)	Nelson (FL)	Whitehouse (RI)	Ensign (NV)	Wicker (MS)
Carper (DE)	Kaufman (DE)	Nelson (NE)	Wyden (OR)	Enzi (WY)	
Casey (PA)	Kerry (MA)	Pryor (AR)		Grassley (IA)	Not Voting
	Klobuchar (MN)	Reed (RI)		Hatch (UT)	Kennedy (MA)

CCRKBA COMMENDS HOUSE PANEL FOR ACTION ON SELF-DEFENSE BILL

"We commend the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for approving unanimously a bill to ensure the traditional right of self-defense of United States mariners against acts of piracy," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said last month in Washington, D.C.

Rep. Frank LoBiondo of New Jersey, the Ranking Member of the Committee's Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, introduced the measure, H.R. 3376, the proposed United States Mariner and Vessel Protection Act of 2009.

Cosponsors include Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the Coast Guard Subcommittee Chairman, as well as Reps. Howard Coble of North Carolina, John L. Mica of Florida and Don Young of Alaska.

"Over the past year," said Congressman LoBiondo, "there has been a significant increase in the rate of piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. The U.S.-flagged vessels Maersk Alabama and Liberty Sun were attacked, but due to the heroics of their crews and the U.S. Navy, no American lives were lost."

"In order to prevent future attacks," reports *MarineLog*, "vessels are operating at a higher security posture and many operators are examining the use of armed security teams on board. In hearings before the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, representatives from all segments of the maritime community shared concerns that, while the provision of armed personnel was necessary to safeguard a vessel's crew and cargo, the arming of a vessel may potentially expose vessel operators

and crew to increased liability for actions taken in defense of the ship.

"Under the bill, mariners who use force and individuals who authorize the use of force to defend a vessel against pirate attack would be shielded from liability for damages or injuries that result from their defensive actions."

Congressman LoBiondo said, "This common-sense legislation is a necessary step in empowering U.S.-flagged vessels to fully protect their crews and cargo." Specifically, H.R. 3376 would provide that, "An owner, operator, time charterer, master or mariner who uses force, or authorizes the use of force, to defend a vessel of the United States against an act of piracy shall not be liable for any injury or death caused by such force to any person participating in the act of piracy."

H.R. 3376 also would direct the United States government to work through the International Maritime Organization to establish agreements to promote coordinated action among flag and port states to deter, protect against and rapidly respond to acts of piracy against the vessels of, and in the waters under the jurisdiction of, those nations, and to ensure limitations on liability similar to those established by the United States Code, as amended by H.R. 3376.

"The House of Representatives committee action on H.R. 3376 comes in response to reports of piratical attacks on the high seas of American sailors," Snyder observed. "Our nation was thrilled on Easter Sunday in April when United States Navy Seal sharpshooters rescued Captain Richard Phillips of the Maersk Alabama from pirates off the coast of the African country of Somalia. The action demonstrated that guns in

the hands of good people can be and are used to save lives and to thwart the intentions of wicked people using firearms for nefarious purposes. On that occasion, the sharpshooters took out three pirates with three shots. Three shots, three hits, and Captain Phillips was freed."

As Jared Shelly reported in *Human Resource Executive Online* on the piratical incident involving Captain Phillips and the Maersk Alabama, "the crew members had no firearms," and thus were unable to protect themselves from the Somali pirates' aggression.

"The pirates were armed with machine guns," wrote Shelly, "while the crew had only knives from the kitchen and some makeshift weapons..."

"With piracy running rampant in the waters outside of Somalia, Phillips says big changes should come to maritime safety. The big question – and one he got asked repeatedly during congressional hearings soon after the incident – concerns carrying firearms on the ships. At the awards ceremony in New York, he said that crews should be armed with weapons."

Philip J. Shapiro, President and CEO of Liberty Maritime Group, the ship manager for the Liberty Sun, the U.S.-flag dry bulk ship attacked by Somali pirates days after the dramatic release of Captain Phillips, urged the U.S. government to adopt more active measures to protect U.S.-flag ships from pirates. "Responding after the fact is not," he told the House committee, "the most effective means of protecting the very few U.S.-flag vessels transiting the pirate danger zone."

CONCEALED GUN CARRY ON THE UPSWING IN USA

"Gun owners are packing heat in record numbers, fearful of stricter gun control under the Obama administration and higher crime in a sour economy," reports *USA Today*.

Although this does not come as news to CCRKBA Members, the national mainstream media recognize this truth as people generally realize that gun ownership and use by law-abiding citizens is popular and prevalent in the United States.

"Some states and counties report a surge in applications for concealed weapons permits since the November elections," notes the newspaper. "All states but Illinois and Wisconsin allow concealed weapons, but requirements differ..."

"Interest groups on both sides

agree that demand for permits is up because of economic uncertainty and concerns about a new president and a Democrat-controlled Congress."

In a Zogby-O'Leary survey reported last month and conducted in late July among 4,470 voters, an overwhelming majority of voters, 83 percent, indicated they supported laws that allow residents to carry firearms to protect themselves, while only 11 percent oppose them.

A majority of independent voters, 86 percent, Democrats, 80 percent, young voters 18-29, 83 percent, Hispanic voters, 80 percent, and those who voted for Obama, 80 percent, supported the right to carry a firearm.

Firearm and ammunition sales have continued to increase through-

out the country during this period of great economic uncertainty, reports the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

NSSF indicates that according to the most recent Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection report, released in late July by the U.S. Treasury Department, firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid more than \$109.8 million in the first calendar quarter of 2009, up 43 percent over the same time period reported in 2008.

This dramatic increase follows a 31.3 percent increase in excise taxes from the previous quarter and eight straight months of increased FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System checks.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The landmark Second Amendment Supreme Court case, *District of Columbia v Dick Anthony Heller*, has been followed up at the Circuit Court level in at least three separate cases. The 2nd and 7th Circuits have ruled that *Heller* does not apply to the states. The 9th Circuit subsequently ruled the Second Amendment DOES apply to the states, but that ruling is being held pending an en banc hearing by the 9th Circuit Court, with oral arguments scheduled for September 21st.

The day the *Heller* decision was announced, a challenge to Chicago's handgun ban was filed as *McDonald v City of Chicago*. Sponsors of the McDonald case are the Second Amendment Foundation and the Illinois State Rifle & Pistol Association. The following day the NRA filed a similar case in the same court. The cases have since been combined. The 7th Circuit Court ruled against McDonald.

Thirty-three states' Attorneys General have filed an *amicus* brief with the Supreme Court asking them to address the issue of incorporation of the Second Amendment to the states, specifically citing the *McDonald* case. In a separate brief, California Attorney General Jerry Brown also asked the Supreme Court to incorporate the Second Amendment to the states.

The Supreme Court is currently on summer recess. It will formally convene its next session in October. During the recess, and early in the session, the Court will decide which cases it will hear in the coming year. This is the time to submit a brief, polite letter to the Court asking them to grant *certiorari* (i.e. agree to hear) the case *Otis McDonald et al v City of Chicago*.

Letters should be sent to the Public Information Officer, Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, DC 20543.

NATIONAL MEDIA PERSONALITY NAMED CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

CCRKBA is naming national radio and television personality Glenn Beck the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for September.

In nominating the talkshow host for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said the noted TV host "is incisive and articulate in defending the individual Second Amendment right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. He is rapier-like in demolishing the gun control arguments of his opponents. Besides that, he uses satire effectively in exposing the ridiculous arguments of anti-gun spokesmen.

"During this time of media contentiousness regarding our gun rights, it is most helpful that there is a media spokesperson of Glenn Beck's caliber to stick up so effectively in defense of our right to keep and bear arms. He certainly deserves this Award."

On a recent segment of The Glenn Beck Program, a nationally-syndicated talk-radio show that airs throughout the United States on Premiere Radio Networks, Glenn attempted to show the idiocy of anti-gunners who oppose the carrying of concealed firearms by citizens with state-issued ccw permits. "I went to the movie this weekend with a gun," he said, "and surprise, surprise, I didn't kill anybody."

Beck said, "I think the media may be slightly out of touch and perhaps no more out of touch in any other area besides guns. They help protect you, your family, you know, those things. They're

something to treat with respect. You use them responsibly, they provide peace of mind. But the media lives in Manhattan or Washington, D.C. or the little green bubble in Los Angeles. You know, these are the places where acquiring a gun is more difficult than looking like me and acquiring a date with Carrie Underwood. You know what I'm saying? It ain't happening. To me guns do not kill people. To the media guns, not people, are responsible for killing people. They are responsible for all criminal activity in America. It's the evil gun. People who have guns are threats. They are not responsible citizens. But I've learned something else."

Glenn then related an interview he had with Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, also a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month, who is sponsoring federal legislation to allow citizens with state-issued ccw permits to carry in states which also issue such permits.

It was then that Beck revealed he carried a gun when he went to the movie.

That revelation, said Glenn, "set the liberal media on fire. Ahhhh! Ahhhh! Ahhhh! That made people go crazy. The Huffington Post headlined their story, 'Glenn Beck's Startling Post.' Ahhhh! It was startling, wasn't it? I'm not sure exactly what was so startling about it but they can't imagine someone would be so unsafe as to endanger American citizens by bringing a gun into their presence! This goes back to the leftist idea of what guns are. They're just a dangerous mistake by the Founding Fathers. They are in the Constitution for no other rea-

son than for them to get powerful enough in the courts to remove them! That's all they're for."

Beck said that the anti-gun media people have "a fundamental misunderstanding of what guns are. For a lot of people in America with concealed carry permits, they're not something that you lock in your gun safe and pull out only when the alarm goes off and you hear glass breaking at 3:00 a.m. You conceal the weapon and carry it. Here's the shocking thing. Depending on where you live, you have probably been in a movie theater with guns every time you are in the movie theater. Ahhhh! Somehow or another you survived every single movie theater you had where everyone had a concealed weapon... You carry your gun... You bring it with you every time. Sure, movies don't seem dangerous but neither did English class at Virginia Tech... When I leave my house in the morning, I take all of my rights with me."

Glenn also related the situation on his self-titled television show on the Fox News Channel.

Born February 10, 1964 in Mount Vernon, Washington, Glenn Lee Beck graduated from Sehome High School in Bellingham, Washington. In addition to being a television and radio host, he also is a political commentator, author and entrepreneur.

In addition to broadcasting, he has written three New York Times bestselling books, and is the publisher of Fusion Magazine. He also stars in a one-man stage show that tours the United States twice a year.

He is married to Tania Beck, has four children and resides in New Canaan, Connecticut.



QUICK SHOTS

Doug Ritter, Chairman/CEO of Knife Rights, Inc., has thanked CCRKBA and other groups for efforts to cause Customs and Border Protection (CHP) for officially backing off "their proposed revocations and rulemaking in recognition of the amendment that was passed by the Senate which would add a new exception to the Switchblade Act covering assisted and one-hand opening knives, at least until the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill is acted upon in conference committee."

Ritter stated "the amendment would effectively obviate the need for CHP's proposed revocations and render the current issue moot. This is about as close to a victory as we can come at this time. It may not be over until the fat lady sings, and we actually get the amendment through conference committee, but for all practical purposes, we shouldn't have to worry about Customs reaching into your pockets for your pocketknives anytime soon."

"If you consider that there has been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the past 22 months, and a total of 2,112 deaths, that gives a firearms death rate of 60 per 100,000 soldiers," observes a Point Blank reader. "The firearm death rate in Washington, D.C. is 80.6 civilians for the same period," the reader continues. "That means you are about 25 percent more likely to be shot and killed in the U.S. Capital,

which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the United States, than you are in Iraq. Conclusion: The United States should pull out of Washington, D.C."

Even the anti-gun press seems to be waking up to the fact that Americans are pro-gun. "More people are bearing arms as the economy plummets," reports The Washington Post Magazine. "Firearm background checks – indicative of gun sales because they're required for purchases – increased 28 percent the first four months of 2009, compared with the same time period in 2008. Ted Novin, spokesman for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, attributes the rise in gun sales to 'gun owner concerns regarding the current political climate ... (and) a worsening economy and the corresponding fear of crime.'"

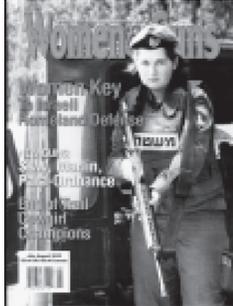
Early one day last month, Derek Harper, 47, a DeKalb County, Georgia schoolteacher, returned to his home early in the morning when two unidentified thugs surprised him from behind, forcing the Evansdale Elementary teacher out of his van and onto the ground, demanding money. "After they figured out I didn't have any cash on me they got into my van," he told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "One of them was having trouble getting into the passenger's side,

so while he was doing that I took off." As Harper ran, one of the thugs started firing, striking Harper once in the arm before speeding off in his van, heading directly toward a dead end. Knowing the hoods would have to turn around, Harper ran inside and grabbed his caliber .380 handgun. "I was waiting for them," he said. He fired two or three rounds, which may have contributed to the vehicle's crashing less than a block away. A small amount of blood was found inside the van. An arrest was made the next day but DeKalb Police spokeswoman Mekka Parish said the name is being withheld due to the ongoing investigation.

When the Denver Post attacked Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado for voting for a measure that would have allowed qualified residents with state-issued CCW permits to carry concealed firearms across state lines, Udall wrote that, while the paper did not acknowledge it, "the legislation also required that a person holding an out-of-state permit also comply with state laws governing the specific places and manner in which firearms may be carried. It was not a writ of immunity for anyone committing a crime with a gun. Gun issues are controversial. They spark heated debate and inflame public opinion. When these issues come up, one can choose to fan the emotional flames, or one can objectively consider the facts."

4

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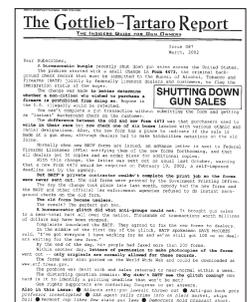
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