

POINT BLANK

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



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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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HOLDER SHOULD NOT BE OFF HOOK FOR FAST & FURIOUS'

While the long-awaited report on Operation Fast and Furious by the Justice Department's Inspector General appears to let Attorney General Eric Holder off the hook by asserting he was not aware of details in the gunwalking scandal, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms says that he still bears responsibility as the head of the agency.

"This happened on Holder's watch," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb after the 512-page report was released. "It is unconscionable that the attorney general gets a pass on this operation. Allowing guns to flood across an international border, fueling murderous violence in a neighboring country, and not knowing this was being done by people under your supervision is not simply a case of mismanagement, it is dereliction of duty."

The report, released by Inspector General Michael Horowitz, spans seven chapters and includes six separate indexes. Gottlieb said the massive document amounts to a searing criticism of an operation that should never have been allowed under any circumstances.

"Contrary to the denials of the Attorney General and his political defenders in Congress," Rep. Issa (R-CA) said, "the investigation found that information in wiretap applications approved by senior Justice Department officials in Washington did contain red flags showing reckless tactics and faults Attorney General Eric Holder's inner circle for their conduct."

"Either Holder did have some knowledge of this fiasco," Gottlieb observed, "or he is guilty of gross incompetence. You cannot have it any other way."

That view apparently is shared by Sen. Charles Grassley, the veteran Capitol Hill watchdog who was first to launch inquiries about gunwalking allegations from whistleblowers, only to be misled by a Justice Department letter that was so riddled with inaccuracies that it was later retracted.

"It's clear that both the ATF and the Justice Department failed to provide meaningful oversight of Operation Fast and Furious," Sen. Grassley stated. "They ignored warnings from employees, and frankly, failed to do their jobs. It took the death of our own Border Patrol Agent (Brian Terry), action by a courageous whistleblower, and intense scrutiny from Congress before they even took note of what was happening under their own eyes. Even then, they wouldn't come clean with how bad it really was until after they had sent a false letter and retracted it eight months later."

CCRKBA issued one of the earliest calls for a full inquiry and recommended that Holder should launch an independent investigation or resign.

"Instead," Gottlieb said, "he turned the matter over to the department's inspector general, and the IG's report leaves many Americans disenchanted with the snail's pace of the investigation, and now they wonder if this is

(Continued on page 4)

WA MEASURE WOULD CRACK DOWN ON ARMED TEEN THUGS

A proposal in Washington State to crack down on juvenile thugs who illegally carry guns is being championed by Republican King County Councilman Reagan Dunn, who is also a candidate for the office of state attorney general.

Dunn, an accomplished hunter and self-admitted gun collector and shooter, is a former federal prosecutor.

Under the proposal, which will be considered by the Washington State Legislature, penalties for illegally carrying guns would be stiffened for juvenile thugs. Dunn told Point Blank in an exclusive interview that he knows crime problems are not the fault of law-abiding citizens. More than 370,000 Washingtonians possess concealed pistol licenses.

But under current law, he lamented, it takes at least five arrests before any of these youthful gangbangers does any serious time behind bars. As it now stands, he said, teen thugs

essentially get a slap on the wrist, and that merely encourages more bad behavior.

"You can't give criminals a hug and send them on the way," Dunn said during a radio interview with conservative Seattle talk host John Carlson at KVI.

The proposed changes to current law would exempt minors who legally possess firearms for hunting, target shooting and other legitimate purposes, Dunn said. Point Blank checked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, where a spokesman said there is currently no minimum age at which a youth must have adult supervision in the field, so it is legal for teens to have firearms afield for hunting and recreational shooting. These are not the youth that this bill would target, he assured.

It is already illegal for people under age 21 in Washington to carry a concealed pistol. At least two high-profile shootings in Seattle over the past

several months involved suspects under 21.

Tougher penalties for juveniles with guns is detailed in the proposed Senate Bill 5313, Dunn said. He lobbied his colleagues on the King County Council to support the measure.

CCRKBA supported the "Hard Time for Armed Crime" measure several years ago and this new initiative follows that philosophy. It cracks down on criminal misuse of firearms without affecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

OH FIREFIGHTERS, EMT'S WANT GUNS ON DUTY

Some firefighters and EMT's in Ohio are reportedly asking for the right to carry guns while on duty. *The Dayton Daily News* reported that Tim Holman, head of the fire department and EMS in the city of German Township, is exploring whether to grant that request.

All of this, says the Daily News, is the result of a number of cases in recent months where EMT's were fired upon while on calls; these cases occurred in such places as Houston, Fort Wayne, IN, and Long Island, NY, and Holman told the paper he has personally been threatened at gunpoint twice.

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is encouraging its members and supporters to pay attention to this controversy, and weigh in where possible on whether emergency medical care professionals should have the right to carry firearms while on the job.

Since this is an issue which could be coming to a community near you, CCRKBA will keep you updated on the latest in this growing debate.



POINT BLANK

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

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U.N. STILL WORKING ON GLOBAL GUN CONTROL, CCRKBA WARNS

Despite the summer's failure of the United Nations (UN) to adopt a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), gun owners should not lower their guard because in late August a new round of talks regarding the "Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons" began.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb told *Point Blank* that global gun control is hardly a dead issue with international gun grabbers. CCRKBA helped with the two pieces of legislation aimed at preventing the U.S. government from financially supporting any international effort to regulate firearms that would infringe upon the Second Amendment.

In the House of Representatives, Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh introduced HR 3594 would withhold funding from the UN and assure that the United States does not adopt any treaty posing a threat to national sovereignty or abridges the firearms rights of American citizens as guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

In the Senate side, S. 2205, the Second Amendment Sovereignty Act, has been introduced by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS). It would prohibit the Obama administration from attempting to influence ATT negotiations that might restrict the Second Amendment rights of U.S. citizens.

These bills would provide a formidable barricade to United Nations threats to American gun rights. However, Gottlieb noted, gun owners must keep in perspective that neither measure has been passed into law.

According to AmmoLand, a UN organization involving 23 countries adopted the first part of a new package called the International Small

Arms Control Standards (ISACS). This group, dubbed the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, reportedly ignored input from the one sub-group that should have had their ear: the Experts Reference Group (ERG).

AmmoLand reports that the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute's Richard Patterson is a member of the ERG, and that group offered some "constructive criticism" of the first draft of the report.

A second draft, according to AmmoLand, showed that "numerous issues identified by the ERG had not been addressed." AmmoLand called this "a fundamental violation of the legitimate standard-setting process."

In a statement quoted by AmmoLand, Patterson referred to the proposed ISACS as "...nothing more than a platform for adoption and pseudo-legitimization of the 'wish lists' of special interest groups."

The Programme of Action talks did reach a consensus that promotes a gun control agenda, and in 2013, it is believed the ATT talks will be revived by the U.N. for further action. While the Programme of Action does not produce a treaty, it is a mechanism to help create what was described by *The Foundry*, a publication of the Heritage Network, as "supposedly binding norms that will ... acquire the status of international law."

The United States has managed to hold firm on the position that nothing the UN adopts can have any impact on the civilian possession of firearms, as affirmed by the Second Amendment. The Obama administration has made no secret of its support for an international arms trade treaty, but it also faces a political reality on Capitol Hill that such a document will not be

ratified by the Senate.

More than half of the Senate has already indicated such a treaty is a non-starter, but that is not stopping global gun control advocates from working at the U.N.

While not entirely derailing that process, the Moran and Walsh measures would erect a legislative barrier to ATT adoption.

CCRKBA members and supporters can encourage their congressional representatives and senators to sign on as co-sponsors of both the Walsh and Moran bills.

Gottlieb reiterated his warning to gun owners following the latest round of U.N. activity.

"The United Nations' effort to adopt a global gun control initiative needs to be reined in," he said. "For too many years, bureaucrats in the United Nations have become far too cozy with international gun prohibition organizations, and the measures introduced by both Sen. Moran and Congressman Walsh offer one of the best means of getting their attention. We've been delighted and honored to be part of both legislative efforts.

"There is so much at stake," Gottlieb added. "By even considering global gun control measures while basking in the comfort of New York City, the U.N. is essentially insulting United States sovereignty.

"It is ironic that," he observed, "the United Nations continues to work on a treaty that threatens our constitution's Second Amendment. They seem to forget that it has been the United States, with its citizen soldiers and our constitutional right to keep and bear arms that has come to the world's rescue not once, but twice in global conflicts."

NYC MAYOR'S REMARKS DRAW CCRKBA REBUTTAL

Anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's recent criticism of a reporter's question about a highly-publicized shooting near the Empire State Building raised the ire of the Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

The confrontation was captured on video from at least two angles, and was front page news because nine people were hit by gunfire. What pushed the story quickly off the media's radar screen was the revelation that all of the bystanders were wounded by police gunfire.

Gunman Jeffrey Johnson died in a hail of bullets only minutes after he brutally shot a former boss, Steve Ercolino, on a Manhattan sidewalk near the Empire State Building. Johnson waved his pistol at two responding beat cops but did not fire the gun. The two officers fired a total of 16 rounds, of which seven hit Johnson.

However, the injured bystanders were all wounded by police bullets or bullet fragments over the course of about eight seconds.

Anti-gunners, including New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneider-

man, tried to quickly capitalize on the event. But then Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly made the embarrassing revelation about police gunfire.

That did not, however, prevent Bloomberg from sneering at a female reporter about the shooting during a news conference. Following the question about opening fire on a crowded street, Bloomberg said to the reporter, "Let me ask you this. If somebody pointed a gun at you, and you had a gun in your pocket, what would you do?"

Bloomberg's sarcastic comment irritated CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

"There's just one big problem with Bloomberg's remark," Gottlieb observed. "In his city, under his Draconian gun regulations, it is nearly impossible for a private citizen to have a gun in his or her pocket for personal protection, and he knows it."

For the average New Yorker applying for a gun permit, the process can take several months.

"In other cities, in states where right-to-carry statutes have been adopted, citizens can respond to a life-threat-

ening situation just as the mayor implies," Gottlieb added. "But in the Big Apple, you're in big trouble if you walk around with a gun in your pocket, unless you happen to be a well-connected elitist who can secure a carry permit."

Gottlieb further noted that armed private citizens can defend themselves and others from criminal attack, and suggested the mayor "back up his words with action."

"In a city where officials complain about all the so-called 'illegal guns' being carried by criminals," he stated, "a reasonable person might wonder why they don't level the playing field by making it easier for law-abiding citizens to arm themselves against gun-toting thugs."

"Mayor Bloomberg, of course, has his own armed security," Gottlieb concluded. "That's a luxury not enjoyed by his constituents, who don't have the option of carrying a gun in their pocket, purse or even a good holster. For him to intimate otherwise, while badgering a reporter in the process, is disingenuous at best."

HOLDER WHITEWASH (Continued from page 1)

not simply a whitewash designed to absolve the attorney general and let his closest allies off with a scolding."

Sen. Grassley's statement suggests that he has the same view.

"We've already noticed," the senator said, "that the report contains a factual error that lets Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer off the hook. The report accepts Breuer's version of events, claiming that he hadn't "proposed edits, commented on the drafts or otherwise indicated

he had read them. In fact, emails show that he received drafts of the February 4 letter and commented on them before it was sent, which he later denied to Congress."

"A slap on the wrist doesn't square with the magnitude of this boondoggle," Gottlieb said. "A government agency that is supposed to investigate and prevent gun law violations instead committed those violations, and they essentially coerced local gun dealers to act as their go-betweens. They

knowingly permitted thousands of firearms to seep into Mexico, which is a violation of federal export law."

"Eric Holder is the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in the United States, and it was on his watch that one of the agencies under his command engaged in an operation that essentially became a criminal enterprise," he said. "If this had happened under any other administration, the press would be screaming for indictments."

GOP PLANK ON GUN RIGHTS STRONGEST EVER

When delegates at last month's Republican National Convention in Tampa, FL, officially nominated former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney to be their party's presidential candidate, they adopted a platform that features the strongest gun rights plank in memory.

"This is the strongest pro-gun rights platform I've ever seen," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

CCRKBA is "encouraged by the strong pro-gun rights platform" that was put forth at the convention, and it raised lots of eyebrows, not only in the gun rights community, but also among reporters who were covering the event.

The Republican gun rights platform includes language supporting citizen's rights of self-defense and national concealed carry reciprocity, and further opposes reinstatement of a ban on so-called "assault weapons" and criticizes the Department of Justice over Operation Fast and Furious, an issue that has been covered extensively in *Point Blank*.

The GOP's gun rights platform also supports the privacy rights of gun owners with wording supporting "the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration."

Here is the complete text:

"We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment. We acknowledge, support, and defend the law-abiding citizens' God-given right of self-defense. We call for the protection of such fundamental individual rights recognized in the Supreme Court's decisions in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago* affirm-

ing that right, and we recognize the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. This also includes the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration. We support the fundamental right to self-defense wherever a law-abiding citizen has a legal right to be, and we support federal legislation that would expand the exercise of that right by allowing those with state-issued carry permits to carry firearms in any state that issues such permits to its own residents. Gun ownership is responsible citizenship, enabling Americans to defend their homes and communities. We condemn frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers and oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners. We oppose legislation that is intended to restrict our Second Amendment rights by limiting the capacity of clips or magazines or otherwise restoring the ill-considered Clinton gun ban. We condemn the reckless actions associated with the operation known as 'Fast and Furious,' conducted by the Department of Justice, which resulted in the murder of a U.S. Border Patrol Agent and others on both sides of the border. We applaud the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in holding the current Administration's Attorney General in contempt of Congress for his refusal to cooperate with their investigation into that debacle. We oppose the improper collection of firearms sales information in the four southern border states, which was imposed without congressional authority."

That statement, CCRKBA noted, it not only affirms party support for the individual right, it also zeroes in on the Fast and Furious scandal

and there is no language calling for additional gun control measures.

"I think it is important to American gun owners that, even in the wake of the tragedy in Colorado, and the soaring homicide rate in Rahm Emanuel's Chicago that the GOP platform framers can intelligently separate the acts of criminals from the civil rights of peaceable citizens," Gottlieb stated. "Others would dredge up cliché-ridden programs that have been demonstrable failures, and that punish law-abiding citizens for the acts of social losers, thugs and lunatics."

As if to underscore what Gottlieb said, the Democratic Party platform contrasts significantly from the Republican position. Democrats adopted their party platform in Charlotte, N.C. and this is what their plank says about firearms:

"Firearms. We recognize that the individual right to bear arms is an important part of the American tradition, and we will preserve Americans' Second Amendment right to own and use firearms. We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation. We understand the terrible consequences of gun violence; it serves as a reminder that life is fragile, and our time here is limited and precious. We believe in an honest, open national conversation about firearms. We can focus on effective enforcement of existing laws, especially strengthening our background check system, and we can work together to enact common-sense improvements—like reinstating the assault weapons ban and closing the gun show loophole—so that guns do not fall into the hands of those irresponsible, law-breaking few."

FL TASK FORCE FINDS FALSEHOODS IN ANTI-GUN FORECAST

A Governor's Task Force empaneled to examine Florida's Stand-Your-Ground (SYG) law has learned that dire predictions from anti-gunners back in 2005 that passage of such a law would hurt the state's tourism industry have proven false.

According to the *Tampa Tribune*, *Bradenton Herald* and *Tampa Bay Times*, a recent gathering of the Task Force in southern Florida also revealed that violent crime in the Sunshine State has actually decreased during a period when applications for concealed firearms licenses have tripled.

The news came just before the 27th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, coincidentally was held in Orlando. That conference was jointly sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb told *Point Blank* that the news came as no surprise to anyone in the firearms community.

It was also reported by Monique Haughton Worrell, a law professor at the University of Florida, that homicides ruled justifiable under the Florida SYG law have more than doubled. Some believe this is because prosecutors are now challenged under the law to actually prove someone guilty beyond a reasonable doubt when they claim to have acted in self-defense.

Florida is one of the top states so far as the number of carry licenses per overall population, and the current statute apparently has support from some surprising sources: law enforcement and the clergy.

One newspaper quoted Okaloosa

County Sheriff Larry Ashley, who said that redefining the statute's provision about "duty to retreat" would be "incomprehensible."

The Rev. R.B. Holmes, who is vice chair of the task force, said self-defense is "a Christian virtue."

The *Tampa Tribune* also quoted Circuit Judge Krista Marx, who pointed to more than two dozen other states with SYG laws, saying that using Florida's statute as a model "speaks volumes."

And Mark Seiden, a criminal defense attorney from Miami, was quoted making this observation: "There could be no more important right than to protect your life and the lives of your family members."

Such remarks deliver serious setbacks to the gun prohibition lobby, which had previously enjoyed lock-step support from police officials, the courts, legal profession and clergy. Now it appears there is at least a significant split in those ranks.

Over the years, anti-gunners have resorted to all sorts of fear mongering in their opposition to the exercise of Second Amendment rights. Warning Floridians that their tourism industry would suffer is another failure of gun control prognostication, same as the "more guns = more crime" argument.

In the Sunshine State, since the SYG law took effect, applications for concealed carry licenses have tripled, according to newspapers in Tampa. This was during the same period that overall violent crime rates have gone down.

Prof. Worrell cautioned the task force against making any kind of correlation between the raw statistics, suggesting instead that more study is needed.

The Task Force was named by Gov. Rick Scott in the wake of the Trayvon Martin slaying earlier this year, in which now-accused shooter George Zimmerman is claiming self-defense. Martin was not armed, but he allegedly had been pounding Zimmerman's head against the pavement, and may have been trying to reach for his legally-concealed pistol.

That shooting set off a wave of anger in the minority community because Zimmerman is white and Martin was black, and the anti-gun lobby quickly capitalized on the furor to push its agenda of repealing the SYG law.

Both Tampa newspapers noted that Florida tourism has not suffered because of the law. This belies gloomy predictions by the anti-gun lobby back in 2005 that adopting SYG would have a detrimental impact on tourism, one of Florida's leading revenue producers.

Gun prohibitionists were not happy that the Task Force appears to support SYG.

Two representatives from the Second Chance on Shoot First campaign were quoted by newspaper accounts of the Task Force meeting.

"If the state wanted to work with a real data analysis, then fund it," Ginny Simmons, director of the Second Chance on Shoot First campaign, insisted. "It became pretty clear that they are going to fail to do that."

And Allie Braswell, who also heads the Central Florida Urban League, was quoted by the Times noting, "I always remain open that the right thing will be done and this law will be repealed, but I really see that as a challenge with this group."



QUICK SHOTS

In an interview with the UK's *Daily Mail* newspaper, actor Brad Pitt suggested that there is no need for additional gun control in the U.S. The actor told the paper, "America is a country founded on guns. It's in our DNA. It's very strange but I feel better having a gun. I really do. I don't feel safe, I don't feel the house is completely safe, if I don't have one hidden somewhere. That's my thinking, right or wrong."



The *Salt Lake Tribune* reports the state of Utah has developed a new website which will, after permit holders supply some personal information and a photo of themselves, allow them to renew their state concealed carry permits online. The paper reports that once the permit application has been submitted, it will take a few weeks for the applications to be processed.



From the "only cops should have guns file" comes a tale out of Pennsylvania about a holster test that went bad and left a county sheriff's deputy injured.

WGAL-TV reported the deputy was hurt after his police-issued gun accidentally went off while testing the holster. The officer was wounded in the leg and was hospitalized, according to the TV station, which added that the Berks County sheriff's department, which the officer was part of, stopped using the holsters in question as a result of the incident.



According to the *New Britain Herald*, the council in New Britain, CT recently voted unanimously to permit gun owners with legal state CCW permits to carry their firearms concealed; previously, the only allowable form of carry was open. *The Herald* reports the passage of the new rules came after intense discussion over the past several months, and several revisions of the legislation by city lawyers.



Some 378,000 residents are now licensed to carry concealed pistols as Washington continues to trend with other states in the steady nationwide increase in the number of private citizens who are obtaining carry permits or licenses.

As an example of the rate of issuance, the Department of Licensing in one 45-minute period changed its figure from 377,818 to 377,840 licenses in circulation, and that number has continued to climb.



The *Waco Tribune* recently reported that 26 realtors in the area have taken the 10-hour course to qualify for a Texas concealed handgun license. As one female real estate agent noted to the newspaper, "Things happen, and you never know when it could happen to you."

Real estate salespersons frequently find themselves alone with strangers, and attacks have

happened over the years in many regions, and not just in Texas.



According to the Associated Press, the Virginia's Supreme Court ruled Sept. 15 that state courts have the sole power to give convicted felons their firearms rights back. The ruling came in a case concerning two convicted felons who had their voting and other civic rights restored by the governor, but did not have their gun rights also restored. The AP reported the pair had appealed to lower courts in two different counties, who both denied those appeals, prompting the appeal to the state's highest court.



Some students at Georgia Tech rallied recently seeking the right to legally carry firearms while on campus. According to WGCL-TV, the rally was coordinated by the Students for Concealed Carry, and was done in recognition of the university's U.S. Constitution Week.



According to the Associated Press, the New Mexico State Parks Division is proposing a rule change that would allow licensed CCW holders in the state to carry their guns concealed - and loaded - within park borders. That, reports the AP, is currently not allowed under existing regulations. The proposed change, is one of among several rule changes being explored for state parks.

The American Family That Lives Here Doesn't Need to Own Firearms

The residents of the White House are one of the few American families that don't really need to own firearms for their own defense. They have the best personal protection a nation can buy...24/7 Secret Service guardians.

Some governors and other high government officials are similarly shielded at taxpayer expense. And a few families are wealthy enough to pay for personal bodyguards.

Everyone else is on their own. Of course there are dedicated law enforcement officers, but they can't be everywhere all the time, and they are vastly outnumbered by the criminals. The courts have ruled repeatedly that police can't be liable for any failure to come to anyone's aid, even when lives are at stake.

The American people know that when threatened by the unexpected, they must provide for their own defense. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to arms for domestic defense, and 48 states provide for legal concealed carry of firearms.

In their homes and businesses, millions of families own firearms for personal defense, and many of those are the same popular semi-automatic rifles, shotguns and pistols which some misguided policy advocates propose to outlaw.

Such efforts would further tip the scales of safety in favor of criminals and terrorists who always ignore laws against murder, rape, robbery, carjacking and burglary just as they always have ignored gun laws. Enforcing gun bans against good citizens would place another, more difficult burden on law enforcement, with little effect on those intent on violence.

If you think you have the right to defend yourself and your family, use the coupon at lower left to remind President Obama of his campaign promise not to take away anyone's guns.

If you believe others should be exposed to this message, or if you wish to get more facts about firearms policy from the Second Amendment Foundation, use the coupon at lower right.

Dear President Obama:

During your 2008 campaign you said you believed in the Second Amendment and would not take away anyone's guns. Please don't let Congress turn law-abiding citizens into criminals with misguided gun laws affecting commonly owned firearms.

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