



GUN RIGHTS DEALT ELECTION SET- BACK

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

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**CITIZENS
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TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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An analysis of last month's election results shows the interests of law-abiding American gun owners suffered significant setbacks in a number of cases, especially at the federal level, but that the outcome, however, was not entirely bleak.

A number of observers felt that one reason for the disappointing electoral performance was that Republican congressional leaders, during this autumn's consideration of final versions of legislation in omnibus appropriations measures, had frittered away pro-gun legislative gains made during the 105th Congress. Many firearms owners, therefore, were "turned off" by the process and just did not show up at the polls last month.

Following the elections, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Newt Gingrich of Georgia, announced that he would not run again for Speaker and that, indeed, he would resign his congressional seat.

Although a final appropriations bill did include a provision sponsored by Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire prohibiting the FBI from collecting a fee or tax from prospective firearms purchasers to pay for an instant point of purchase criminal records check slated to begin late last month, it omitted Smith's anti-registration provision as well as his proposal for a private cause of action.

The anti-registration provision would have stipulated that the FBI must destroy immediately records of firearms purchase checks of law-abiding gun owners. The law already requires that the records be destroyed but government officials reportedly are planning to keep them for 18 months for "auditing" purposes and then destroy them.

The cause of action provision would allow an individual firearms owner to sue the FBI for violating the "no tax" and "no registration" provisions of the amendment.

"I am deeply disappointed," commented Sen. Smith, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee who voted against the final omnibus appropriations measure, "that those who negotiated this bill with the Clinton Administration have ignored the legislatively expressed will of 69 United States Senators by rendering meaningless – in fact, gutting – the second, and eliminating altogether the third, provisions of the Smith Amendment."

Another CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, and CCRKBA 1997 Legislator of the Year Awardee, Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia, also voted against the

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ELECTION RESULTS MIXED

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entire budget measure, although he said "there are some good points to this bill. For example, it blocks a national identification card, prevents a federal gun tax and registry and makes substantial contributions to our national defense."

In the elections last month, a major setback was the election of the gun grabbing standard bearer from New York State, Rep. Charles Schumer, to the United States Senate.

Schumer upset incumbent Sen. Al D'Amato in a hard fought campaign.

Even though D'Amato was not considered a one-hundred percenter from the point of view of right to keep and bear arms supporters, he certainly voted the right way on the issue much more often than not.

Schumer, on the other hand, who worked hard in the U. S. House of Representatives for passage of the Brady Law, as well as the ban on certain semi-automatic firearms, can be expected to continue to carry the water for Handgun Control, Inc. in the U. S. Senate.

Firearms owners would not be surprised to see Sen.-elect Schumer push for reestablishment of a national handgun purchase waiting period, national elimination of lawful purchases of more than one gun or one handgun a month by law-abiding American citizens, national mandatory so-called "smart gun" selling and purchasing requirements, as well as other infringements on the Second Amendment individual civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

Balancing somewhat the Schumer election was the defeat of gun grabbing U. S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun in Illinois.

Unseating Moseley-Braun was Peter Fitzgerald, a member of the state legislature who supports legislation allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms, although with a 50-hour training requirement. Even so, the incumbent Sen. Moseley-Braun attacked Sen.-elect Fitzgerald during the campaign as a pro-gun advocate.

It's interesting to note here the importance of the non-discretionary concealed carry issue on selected election

outcomes. Obviously, it played a positive part in this election.

In also played an important part in a gubernatorial election four years ago, in Texas.

Prior to the election, the state legislature had passed a non-discretionary concealed carry bill, only to have it vetoed by the Governor, Ann Richards.

During that campaign, Richards' challenger, George W. Bush, a son of the former President, took her to task on the issue and vowed that, if he were elected, and the state legislature passed a similar measure, he would sign it.

Bush won that election. The Texas state legislature did pass another non-discretionary carry measure, and Governor Bush did sign it.

This year, four years later, Bush won reelection in a landslide, and already is being touted as a possible presidential candidate in 2000.

Another generally pro-gun gubernatorial candidate, but one who dropped the ball on the issue, and concealed carry especially, was Ellen Sauerbrey, who challenged anti-gun Gov. Parris Glendening of Maryland for reelection.

Four years ago, Sauerbrey, a former Minority Leader of the Maryland House of Delegates with an outstanding pro-gun legislative record, ran hard for the first time against anti-gun Glendening and came close to defeating him.

As Governor, Glendening pursued a number of anti-gun initiatives, and promoted successfully one-gun-a-month legislation.

This year, in her second run against Glendening, Sauerbrey, against the advice of pro-gun activists, decided to soft pedal her pro-gun position, refusing to consider the concealed carry issue in a public manner, in an attempt to reach out to so-called "moderates."

This time, she suffered an overwhelming defeat, and apparently helped bring down to defeat with her a number of pro-gun members of the state legislature. Glendening and the other anti-gun extremists in Maryland now may be expected to push for enactment of "smart gun" legislation in the state.

Among the other disappointments

was the reelection of gun grabbing Sen. Barbara Boxer in California, who defeated challenger Matt Fong, the State Treasurer.

Long an opponent of the right to keep and bear arms, Sen. Boxer attacked Fong during the campaign for his opposition to legislation mandating firearms safety locks and depicted him as an errand boy for the "gun lobby."

Boxer stated, in all apparent seriousness, that "there is only one product in America today that has no quality or safety standards. If you buy a Teddy Bear or Tickle Me Elmo, there are standards, but not if you buy a gun made in this country."

Boxer has demanded that gun manu-



POINT BLANK

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

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WALDRON SPEAKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

"Gun control is not crime control," declared Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, during a late September rally in Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, Canada.

Joe was a featured speaker during the event, called to protest the passage and impending implementation of Canada's universal firearms registration law, C-68.

Several rallies were held at that time in Canada by firearms groups to protest the new gun control law, which originally was scheduled to take effect on October 1 but then was delayed until the first of this month.

Under C-68, firearms must be registered in a central data bank, to be phased in by 2003. Owners must be licensed by 2001.

Prior to arriving in Victoria to deliver his remarks, Waldron was temporarily detained and situationally harassed at the U.S.-Canadian border by Canadian authorities who obviously objected to people going to the rally, let alone speaking at it.

Waldron told the hundreds of people gathered for the rally that "the gun control crowd" from the United States, from Great Britain, from Australia, and from Canada are all singing from the same sheet of music, and all have a common ultimate goal: the eradication of legitimate private ownership of firearms.

"I use the word 'legitimate' intentionally, because you know as well as I that if every firearm were confiscated overnight from every law-abiding gun owner in Canada and the United States, there would still be a thriving black market in guns that would last long after everyone in this audience is dead and buried."

Waldron said that, although he had not crossed the border to criticize any Canadian government official, he felt that when Canadian Justice Minister Anne McClellan said recently that "the debate is over, Canadians have decided that they believe in gun control," she, "like our own (Attorney General) Janet Reno, has a serious problem understanding reality.

"Gun control is not crime control..."

"I'm not here to criticize your politicians. What I am here to talk about is political strength. Political power. And our strength isn't in passing out big-dollar checks to politicians, nor in

conducting sordid smear campaigns against our enemies. Our strength is in the combined strength of our members, all across the country. That's as true in Canada as it is in the United States, or in most of the truly democratic countries of the world..."

Waldron recounted that, in 1997, a coalition of pro-gun groups in Washington State, including CCRKBA, WeCARE and the National Rifle Association, worked successfully to defeat anti-gun Initiative 676 even though early polls indicated it would pass by a wide margin. He also pointed out that similar developments had occurred earlier in other states.

"How could that be," Waldron asked. "The polls said these initiatives would pass. The polls said the people wanted more gun control. The polls were wrong! And the reason that these 'reasonable' sounding ballot measures were defeated is summed up in one word: grassroots. The silent majority.

"Our strength in the United States, and yours here in Canada, is in the grassroots. To make that grassroots effort become a reality, you've got to organize."

Waldron declared that "grassroots works" and that "the truth" differentiates us from the "other side," from those who would take away our firearms."

He said that "when you demonize firearms ownership, when you pass unreasonable, unworkable, and largely unenforceable gun control laws, you breed disrespect for the law. You breed distrust of government, disrespect and

distrust that harms everyone, except the criminal element..."

"The challenge, of course, is to get the facts out there, and it is by no means an easy one, given the fact that the mass media appear to be in bed with the gun grabbers, but it can be done..."

"We've got to call the gun control crowd what they are: BIGOTS. Close-minded, arrogant, ignorant, elitist bigots..."

"C-68 can be a wake-up call for millions of Canadian gun owners just like you."

On the other side of Canada, in Ottawa, the nation's capital city, an estimated 10,000 protesters from across the country converged on Parliament Hill on September 22 to protest the government's new firearms registry. "Fed Up! Fed Up!" they chanted.

"Gun enthusiasts and opposition politicians repeated complaints that have become familiar during the lengthy debate," reported the Canadian Press. "The registry is an invasion of privacy, it won't curtail violent crime and it is a waste of millions of dollars that would be better spent elsewhere."

Dale Blue of Responsible Firearms Owners of Alberta, reportedly predicted there will be non-compliance with the law, both deliberate and through ignorance.

"We will not live under Bill C-68," vowed David Tomlinson of the National Firearms Association, reported Erin Anderssen in the Globe and Mail.

"The government is not to be trusted,"

SNYDER TELLS LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMAND OFFICERS TO OPPOSE RESTRICTIVE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, last month told the Commission on Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement that high-profile command officers ought to oppose enactment of restrictive gun control laws and support repeal of existing restrictive legislation.

He said also that law enforcement officers would be well-advised to think of themselves in the traditional American law enforcement context, as citizens representing other citizens for the benefit of all, rather than as a separate class of citizens constrained by an "us versus them" mentality.

Snyder testified before the five-member Commission, chaired by Judge William H. Webster, former Director of Central Intelligence and former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in Washington, D. C. on November 12.

The Commission was established with enactment of the Antiterrorism

and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 for a period of two years. It is due to make its report to Congress late next year.

Other Commission members are Chief Robert M. Stewart of the South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division, Professor Donald C. Dahlin of the University of South Dakota Political Science Department, Gilbert G. Gallegos, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, and attorney Robert E. Sanders, formerly an executive of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

In a prepared statement, Snyder, one of the original promoters of the Commission who worked for its establishment and its funding, said "we must remember that it was the general public negative reaction to certain manifest federal law enforcement abuses of American individuals' civil rights associated with the Waco and Ruby Ridge and other incidents which led to forceful and repeated calls and demands for establishment of the Commission..."

UNDERLYING PROBLEM

"The underlying problem involves a social philosophic gulf between commitment to a traditional American system of civil liberties and to the necessity of maintaining a just social order..."

"While I certainly agree with a number of specific recommendations made by various individuals for improving the current state of federal law enforcement, such as the demilitarization of certain federal law enforcement agencies, the improvement in the delineation of lines of authority within certain federal law enforcement agencies, the future elimination of certain ways of acquiring information when such ways involve questionable constitutional procedures, and greater ongoing congressional oversight of certain federal law enforcement agencies, I stress that the most significant underlying problem is not necessarily with federal law enforcement agencies per se, great as difficulties therein may be, but rather with more general and more basic difficulties such as general confusion regarding the concepts of individual responsibility, personal freedom and individual civil rights, and law and order..."

"Laws made on a preposterous basis will lead to general disgust with the law-making and law implementing authority, and that, in turn, will lead in time and with the passage of a plethora of such laws, to an ultimate undermining of such authority.

"This specifically is the case with laws which undermine the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms... These laws attempt implicitly to classify scores of millions of law-abiding firearms owners generally as part of the universe of misusers of firearms even though there is no supportable reason for such classification..."

"Such kinds of legislation also may drive a wedge between elements of our society who naturally support one another. A number of high public profile law enforcement command officers, including officers at the federal level, for instance, support certain kinds of gun control legislation even though the

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law-abiding objects of such legislation are natural supporters of the law and order such officers supposedly work to maintain, and even though most command officers oppose such legislative policies.

SURVEYS

“Surveys of chiefs of police and sheriffs conducted annually by the National Association of Chiefs of Police have demonstrated year after year that the country’s command officers generally disapprove of such legislation as mandatory handgun purchase waiting periods and bans on purchases of certain kinds of firearms, such as semiautomatic firearms...”

“According to the tenth NACOP survey, for instance, conducted last year, 72 percent of the command officers in the United States do not believe that law-abiding citizens in their states should be limited by state law to purchasing no more than one handgun in a single month; over 63 percent do not support proposals that all firearms must be sold with a gun lock; over 95 percent indicate their police agencies do not require their officers who carry or own firearms to purchase a gun lock; 89 percent indicate that, to their knowledge, the five-day handgun purchase waiting period mandated by the Brady Law has not prevented any criminal from obtaining a firearm from illegal sources in their area; over 96 percent believe that any law-abiding citizen who wishes to obtain a firearm of the types lawfully sold for home protection or recreation should be able to do so under current law; over 93 percent believe that, since in past years riots, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters have required citizens to protect themselves and their property until order could be restored, any law-abiding citizen under state laws should continue to be able to purchase any legal weapon for self-defense; and over 89 percent believe that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution recognizes the right of any law-abiding citizen to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense under state and federal law...”

“Although there seems to be a general acceptance in the general media that collective responsibility, that is all gun owners, should be substituted for individual responsibility, that is people who use guns to commit crimes, the media mavens seem unaware of the possible consequences of such acceptance. Undermining the civil rights of a large sector of the public, law-abiding gun owners, could potentially undermine respect for law and order on the part of that same sector...If the same situation is compounded vis-à-vis other legislative issues, it takes little imagination to foresee the social and political crisis which could develop.

“Contrary to some opinion, there is not a disconnect between respect for the civil rights of an armed citizenry and respect for law and order. On the

contrary, there is a connection...

“It seems to me it is in the interest of the law enforcement community in general, including the federal law enforcement community, to oppose legislation the ultimate effect of which is to undermine that general public support for law and order without which the law enforcement community, as it traditionally is understood within the specific American context, cannot subsist.

“Law-abiding citizens, including law-abiding firearms owners, and the law enforcement community, including the federal law enforcement community, are natural allies within the traditional American context.

“It is time for us to call a halt to attempts to undermine these traditional American concepts...If we turn thumbs down on the naysayers amongst us, the negativists who would tear apart the very

philosophic fabric of our national life, and reassert, proudly, our firm commit-

NEW PRO-GUN SENATOR THE CCRKBA AWARDEE

Congressman Jim Bunning of Kentucky, who was elected last month to the United States Senate in a close, hard-fought election, is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for December.

In nominating Bunning for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said "it gives me great pleasure at this time, when so many people are thinking that Second Amendment supporters took it squarely on the chin in the November elections, to recommend a statesman like Jim Bunning for this distinction.

"Bunning is one public official who has a sterling pro-gun record of public service who rode on that record to success last month in the elections and, as a result, will be taking office in the Senate next month. There, he will be joining other pro-gun Senators in combatting the anti-gun onslaught in that body one can expect from the far out extremists like the Schumers and Boxers.

"I'm glad that Jim Bunning has had the courage to stand up for the right to keep and bear arms and glad also that he has had electoral success in doing so. He deserves the support and encouragement of millions of law-abiding American firearms owners, and he certainly deserves presentation of this Award."

Just last month, Senator-elect Bunning wrote POINT BLANK that "I have always strongly supported the Second Amendment. The Founding Fathers wisely knew that the best way to protect democracy against an all-powerful government was to enshrine in the Constitu-

tion a right for citizens to bear arms and to defend themselves. That is a principle that has not changed over the past two hundred years. You can be sure that I will continue to fight and do whatever it takes to protect the rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment."

Bunning has backed up his talk with action. During the 105th Congress, he co-sponsored H. R. 339, by Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida, to provide that a citizen of any state who has a permit to carry a concealed firearm issued by any state may carry that firearm in any state.

He has shown his mettle in previous Congresses as well. On November 10, 1993, for instance, he not only voted against enactment of the Brady Bill, he voted also the pro-gun way on a number of amendments offered to that measure. He voted for a successful amendment requiring the police to notify anyone denied permission to purchase a handgun of the reason for the denial within 20 days. He voted for a successful amendment to sunset the mandatory national handgun purchase waiting period within five years even if the "instant check" second phase provision had not been in place. He voted for an unfortunately unsuccessful amendment which would have pre-empted all state waiting periods when the instant check system goes on line.

On August 11, 1994, Bunning voted for a successful move to block consideration of the Clinton Crime Bill which included the ban on certain semiautomatic firearms. On August 21, 1994, just 10 days later, after the measure had been politi-

cally resurrected, Bunning voted against its passage. Unfortunately, of course, it did pass.

Bunning was first elected to the U. S. Congress from Kentucky on November 4, 1986. Prior to that, he had served four years in the Kentucky State Senate and two years on the Fort Thomas, Kentucky City Council after a very successful career as a professional baseball player.

In fact, Bunning was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1996. He had been a professional baseball player for over 20 years, from 1950 to 1971.

He was an investment banker and agent with McCloy-Watterston-Cowen from 1960 to 1985, and provided representation for professional athletes via the Jim Bunning Agency, Inc. from 1976 through 1988.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, Bunning served at various times on a number of committees, such as the Committee on Ways and Means, including chairmanship of its Subcommittee on Social Security, the Committee on the Budget, the Ethics Committee, the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, and the Executive Committee on Committees.

A resident of Southgate, Kentucky, Sen.-elect Bunning was born in Campbell County, Kentucky, was an honor graduate of St. Xavier High School in 1949, received a B.S. in Economy from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1953, and married the former Mary Catherine Theis in 1952. The couple has nine children, Barbara, Jim and Joan (twins),





QUICK SHOTS

Following the elections last month, anti-gunners in New York State lost no time in continuing their assault on gun rights.

"Elected officials throughout New York State should be warned by the voters' resounding repudiation of Senator Alphonse D'Amato, who remained in the grip of National Rifle Association extremists to the bitter end," wrote Nancy Regaldo of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence in THE NEW YORK TIMES for November 10.

"Mr. D'Amato voted against the Brady Bill, which sought to prevent convicted criminals from buying guns; he voted against the assault-gun ban, against trigger locks and against protecting doctors and patients at health care clinics. Now New Yorkers have voted against him and for Charles E. Schumer, who led the way on all these bills.

"The N.R.A. must not retain its stranglehold over Albany (the State Capital). An overwhelming majority of the state's voters wants sensible laws to reduce gun violence. The voters want legislation requiring gun owners to lock up their weapons. They want Gov. George E. Pataki to sign the bill passed by the Legislature that raises penalties on illegal gun trafficking."

In New Orleans, Louisiana, Mayor Marc H. Morial filed a first-of-its-kind lawsuit October 30 against leading gun companies and trade groups, saying they should be held financially responsible for the cost of handgun violence.

The suit was designed to entangle gun manufacturers in the same sort of litigation that has cost the tobacco industry billions of dollars and forced tobacco companies into battle in courtrooms across the country, reported THE WASHINGTON POST. Although the suit was brought in the city's name, it was backed by anti-gun activists and prepared by some of the same lawyers who attacked the tobacco companies.

Declaring that the gun industry's "day of atonement" has arrived, Morial and others called for other city and state governments across the country to follow

New Orleans' lead in taking to court the manufacturers of handguns.

"Guns must now become the next tobacco," said Dennis Henigan, a lawyer in the case who works for the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

Jack Adkins of the American Shooting Sports Council called the New Orleans case "litigation tyranny promoted by the trial lawyers and advocacy groups using the courts to try to establish public policy." The Council, a defendant in the case, represents more than 350 gunmakers, distributors and retailers.

"The firearms industry is not the tobacco industry," said Adkins, indicating that when firearms are "used responsibly and legally, the benefits far outweigh the cost of their misuse."

Among the defendants are Smith & Wesson Corporation, Sturm Ruger, Beretta USA Corporation, Colt's Manufacturing Company, Glock Inc., Taurus International Marketing Inc., Sigarms Inc., Lorcin Engineering Company, Bryco Arms, B. L. Jennings Firearms Inc., Phoenix Arms, Davis Industries Inc., Navegar Inc., Arms Technology Inc., and several trade groups and New Orleans pawn shops where guns are sold.

"What industry will be next?" asked Steven P. Gilchrist of Bethpage, New York in a NEW YORK TIMES letter responding to the New Orleans anti-gun lawsuit. "Will cities sue the auto industry to recover money they have spent on improving emergency trauma care or salaries for police, emergency medical technicians, 911 operators or ambulance personnel who respond to accidents?"

"Gail H. Hoffman, a former aide to Attorney General Janet Reno and legislative director of Handgun Control, Inc., has a client that fits into her long-standing worries about handguns," reports Bill McAllister in THE WASHINGTON POST. "Hoffman, who runs the Hoffman Group," he continues, "is representing Saf-T-Hammer, a Scottsdale, Arizona company that has devised a removable

hammer that can disable a handgun that has an external hammer.

"Hoffman, who was Reno's director of public liaison and intergovernmental affairs, is out to convince Congress that any proposal for requiring a safety device or lock on handguns should include the Arizona invention, which is not in production yet."

In Massachusetts, Michael Yacino, Executive Director of the Gun Owners' Action League, announced that a coalition of pro-gun individuals, groups and businesses filed a lawsuit to overturn the Bay State's newly enacted anti-gun law.

Yacino said "this law is too vague to understand, too obscure to enforce, and too unintelligible to obey."

The suit charges the new law would "punish with draconian, mandatory prison terms but does not sufficiently define, the innocent possession and transfer of sporting firearms which the Act characterizes as 'large capacity weapons,' 'assault weapons,' and 'large capacity feeding devices.' The provisions are vague, violate the rights to due process and equal protection, violate the rights to free speech and to freedom of association, and are otherwise inconsistent with the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution."

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