



# POLITICS, GUNS AND ELECTIONS

By John Michael Snyder  
Editor, POINT BLANK

With Election Day just around the corner, this is a good time to consider just what's at stake for the right to keep and bear arms on November 3.

We already know most of the parameters within which the issue of gun rights versus gun controls is being discussed and fought.

On the one hand are pro-gun rights forces which would like to promote state ccw legislation and implementation, national ccw reciprocity legislation, a relaxation of bans firearms, repeals of a number of onerous state and local firearms laws, the elimination of a number of restrictive federal firearms regulations, as well as a number of other worthy objectives.

Anti-gun forces, on the other hand, oppose all of the above and seek to promote one-handgun-a-month or one-gun-a-month local, state and federal legislation, mandatory "trigger lock" or "child safety lock" federal, state and local legislation, further imposition of handgun purchase waiting periods at various levels of jurisdiction, additional taxes on the acquisition of firearms, disguised sometimes as user fees, bans on certain kinds of firearms or on all firearms, and the proliferation, wherever possible, of burdensome rules and regulations relative to the acquisition, purchase or use of firearms and ammunition.

Lovers of freedom, of course, and believers in individual human responsibility naturally oppose the various programs of the gun grabbers.

The individuals who actually make the decisions on these matters are the ones who occupy the positions to which we, the people, elect them, or who, at least theoretically, respond to our elected officials. So who we elect to these positions is very important.

This year, every seat in the United States House of Representatives is up for election. So are one-third of the seats in the United States Senate. So are a number of governorships and state and local legislative seats.

So it's important that we know the positions on right to keep and bear arms and gun control issues of candidates for public office and that we get out and vote for freedom on November 3.

That could be doubly important this election year. Here's why. Most of the reputable polling organizations and political prognosticators predict that voter turnout this year will be lower than it has been in a number of years. Whatever the reason for this, whether that be general voter apathy or general public disgust with the scandal-ridden Clinton-Gore Administration or whatever, the situation offers those of us who have a genuine stake in this election year the opportunity to exert a greater influence on the elections' outcome than in years of average voter turnout.

This is our hour of opportunity.

This is our chance to take our political destiny in our own hands. This is the time when we can let the elitists in the media, in politics, in come of the churches, in academe, in business organizations and in labor unions know that we the people, still rule in these United States of America.

So let's all get out there and vote and help get like-minded citizens to the polls to vote as well.

**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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# SNYDER REITERATES SUPPORT FOR CLINTON IMPEACHMENT

John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, last month reiterated his whole-hearted support for House Resolution 304, the resolution of impeachment inquiry of President Bill Clinton introduced by Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia, the CCRKBA 1997 Legislator of the Year.

Snyder, named "Dean" of gun lobbyists by THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON TIMES, has supported the resolution since November of last year when Barr, Chairman of the House Task Force on Firearms Legislation, introduced it.

"It appears now," said Snyder, "that political figures, media personnel and the public generally are coming around to conclude what we have known for sometime, that this President is so thoroughly consumed by his own mendacity that he simply cannot be trusted. He should be removed from office."

Snyder noted that the Second Amendment is part of the Constitution of the United States, the document which the President and other public officials swear to uphold when they take the oath of office.

Snyder said that Clinton, throughout his Presidency, has worked to undermine the Second Amendment individual right to law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms. He has done this through his all-out support of such legislation as the mandatory handgun purchase waiting period provision of the Brady Law and the ban on certain semiautomatic firearms, his issuance of anti-gun executive orders, and his support for gun grabbing activities of some United Nations offices.

## CLINTON-BRADY-SCHUMER CONNECTION

"On September 9," said Snyder, "as part of his desperate attempt to hang on to office by appealing to certain elements of his constituency, Clinton restated in a Florida speech his com-

mitment to the Brady Law handgun purchase waiting period. This provision has been debunked as an effective crime fighting tool by the latest scholarship in this field, MORE GUNS, LESS CRIME, by University of Chicago Professor John R. Lott, Jr. In fact, Lott demonstrates that when law-abiding citizens are permitted legally to carry concealed firearms, violent crime declines.

"During an August 6th White House ceremony, Clinton hosted Sarah Brady, Chair of Handgun Control, Inc., as Clinton and Brady supported efforts by Rep. Chuck Schumer of New York to revivify the sunseting Brady Law. Hopefully, America soon can say good bye to all three of these gun-grabbing propagandists!"

Indeed, it would be difficult to over-emphasize the political connections between Bill Clinton, Sarah Brady and Chuck Schumer.

On August 26, 1996, Brady addressed the very first night of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

Brady, the star of the August 26, 1996 anti-gun circus, came out four-square for the reelection of President Clinton, the most anti-gun President in this nation's history.

She praised Clinton for signing the Brady Anti-Handgun Act. Schumer was the Act's chief promoter in the House of Representatives. Sarah Brady also extolled Clinton for promoting a ban on certain semiautomatic firearms.

Clinton, in turn, praised Brady to the skies, and later even awarded her husband the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

On September 8, 1998, during a news conference at City Hall Park in New York City, Sarah Brady "offered an impassioned endorsement" of Schumer's U. S. Senate candidacy, according to Amy Waldman, writing in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"More than anybody," said Brady, "I can speak to this man's tenacity, com-

mitment, his hard work. He is the most amazing machine I've ever seen on Capitol Hill."

After Schumer on September 15 won the New York State Democratic senatorial primary to oppose Sen. Al D'Amato in next month's general elections, Snyder commented that "the Clinton-Schumer-Brady support for gun control is a triangle of deception as wretched in the public arena as is Clinton's trail of deception in the President's personal life. The sooner the country discards the entire triangle the better off America will be."



# POINT BLANK

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

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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS SHOWS NEED FOR GUNS, SAYS CCRKBA

"News reports coming in from around the world show the genuine need law-abiding people have for guns in order to protect themselves from violent criminals," John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said in Washington, D. C.

"Too often," Snyder continued, "people in the news media don't learn the lessons they easily could learn if they paid attention to pertinent information filed by journalists not only in the United States but around the world as well. These reports indicate quite clearly that law-abiding people often need access to guns to protect themselves. Far from being instruments of murder and mayhem, they in reality are instruments of the saving of lives and the prevention of criminality."

"There are numerous news reports each year of people in the United State using guns to prevent crimes and to protect themselves from violent criminals. There also are similar reports from other countries which illustrate the same basic truth."

In one of these international reports, datelined Jakarta, Indonesia, Keith B. Richburg wrote that with the economic, social and political chaos occurring now in that part of the world, "the lawlessness has spread even to the capital, and local media reports say ethnic Chinese and some foreigners living here have been buying firearms on the thriving black market – despite strict gun control laws – to protect themselves."

Another one of these international reports, from Lima, Peru, came in from David Koop of the Associated Press.

Under the headline "Peru's rich take up arms as crime rate skyrockets," Koop wrote that "in a barren valley amid the desert hills outside Lima, foreign executives and Peru's wealthy line up at the Over-the-Hill Gun Club to blast semiautomatic pistols at cardboard silhouettes."

"Once, the targets represented leftist rebels out to kidnap or execute

the rich. Now they are cash-hungry criminals, and the shooting has an urgency not seen since the height of Peru's guerrilla war, members say.

"We're no longer shooting for fun. We're shooting for survival. The criminals are more dangerous than the rebels," says Jose Carlos Laredo, a prominent lawyer.

"A wave of violent crime fed by poverty, corrupt cops and weapons left over from the guerrilla war that wound down in the early 1990s has rattled Peru's elite, who are arming themselves once again."

"Violent crime in Lima has tripled since 1992, with a staggering one-third of the capitol's residents falling victim to a violent crime last year, according to police and government statistics."

"Nervous executives have flooded the Over-the-Hill Club to learn how to shoot, Mr. Laredo says. The row of Mercedes Benzes in the gravel parking lot backs his claim."

"Across Latin America, cities that once prided themselves on low crime rates are facing surges in crime, helping to make Latin America the world's most violent region as measured by murder rates."

"Latin America now averages 30 homicides for every 100,000 people, six times the world average and four times the rate in the United States, according to United Nations figures..."

"Most Over-the-Hill Club members have taken classes on how to drive to escape kidnappers. They take different routes to work each day and live in walled-in suburbs protected by armed guards."

From Mooiooi, South Africa, Suzanne Daley wrote in NEW YORK TIMES that "barely 15 minutes after Jeanne Pereira hit the panic button on her new radio system, she could see her neighbors' banged-up trucks tearing down the road to her avocado farm here. Before the dust had settled, tow bedraggled black men had surrendered. Laborers on the farm had spotted them in the tall grass, survey-

ing the main house from the orchard."

"The response was so quick, it was very nice," said Mrs Pereira, who is white. Within minutes of the capture, she had her maid handing out mugs of coffee to the farmers, who mingled casually in her yard, shotguns and automatic rifles on their shoulders...

"Attacks on the farmers have been mounting. In the last four years, nearly 500 have been killed. Since January there have been 371 attacks on farms resulting in 75 deaths. Some assaults have been particularly brutal. In May, for instance, a 60-year-old farmer recovering from a hip replacement operation was tortured and had his throat slit; he died as he sat in his wheelchair. The intruders then waited an hour for his 52-year-old wife to get home; they raped her and killed her, too."

Late last year, continued Ms. Daley, farmers, claiming they have become the victims of racist criminal attacks, "demanded a meeting with President Nelson Mandela, who responded by creating the Rural Safety Plan. Actually, it is a dusted-off apartheid-era idea: Training and arming civilians as commandos ready to respond to the Communist threat – only these days the threat is crime..."

"Farmers have always been heavily armed but now they are adding weapons as never before. The farmer-commandos receive a few weekends of training as army reservists and each are given an assault rifle. When they respond to an incident, the police do, too. But the police force is stretched thin in farm areas, trying to cover vast areas with few officers or vehicles. The farmers often get there much sooner."

"Women in the area have also been meeting on weekends to practice shooting. Mrs. Pereira carries her gun in her pocket. When her laborers told her about the two men in the orchard, she had gotten her revolver and lay down on the porch where she could position herself to watch their approach. 'They tell you to keep the



# CCRKBA GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER AWAY IN VARIOUS SO-CALLED "TRIGGER

Two CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardees recently have warned the public about some of the dangers they believe are implicit in current so-called "trigger lock" or "child safety" legislative proposals.

While firearms owners are concerned deeply for the safety of children, many see the use of general public concern for the safety of children in the firearms debate as an attempt to manipulate public opinion in a push for more generally restrictive gun controls.

Sen. Larry E. Craig of Idaho, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor as well as a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, warned recently of hidden dangers implicit in the ongoing push for "trigger-lock" legislation.

This past summer, when the United States Senate was considering an appropriations measure, it shot down an amendment proposed by Sen. Barbara Boxer of California which would have required that all handguns sold in the United States include safety locks. Boxer is up for reelection next month.

Although the 105th Congress is about to conclude, the issue will be on the agenda of gun control advocates in the 106th Congress as well as in various state legislatures next year as well. In fact, Boxer's fellow U.S. Senator from California, Dianne Feinstein has written that "I will keep pushing Congress to act..."

In an article on the subject distributed this past summer by the Scripps Howard News Service, Sen. Craig wrote "there's a nonsense rhyme about a mother who gives her daughter permission to go for a swim – so long as she doesn't get near the water.

"Likewise, some members of the Senate believe an estimated 65 million Americans should only have firearms in the home for self-

defense if those firearms can't be used for self-defense because they are unloaded, locked up or locked away.

"Worse, in the name of safety, they want to force firearms owners to follow a one-size-fits-all trigger lock mandate that not only can't guarantee safety, but may even create a hazard in some homes.

"To understand why this is a bad idea, you have to go beyond the rhetoric and get right down to the practical question of how trigger locks work.

"Manufacturers of trigger locks warn manufacturers not to use the devices on a loaded firearm. Even with some triggers locks engaged, a loaded gun can be discharged – for example, if it is knocked to the floor or poked by a curious child.

"That doesn't mean firearm owners should ignore safety concerns. On the contrary, the hidden danger of some trigger locks may be overcome by educating those who might come in contact with the firearm. However, for some, a smarter safety choice might be a gun safe. For others – such as an adult living in a high-crime area – accident prevention may be a lower priority than speedy access to self-defense.

"The bottom line is that trigger locks don't guarantee safety in all settings and may actually frustrate the protection of human life in some. Any choice of safety devices should allow consideration of the devices' limits and the specific circumstances in which they will be used.

"That being the case, who should make the choice: The firearm owner or a federal bureaucrat? The parent or the politician?

"I don't believe most gun owners and parents need a federal law to force them to take safety precautions around children. Indeed, statistics bear this out. Since 1930, while the United States population has doubled and gun ownership quadrupled, fatal accidents with firearms have

dropped 62 percent.

"In the last year alone, they dropped 10 percent without any safety mandates. A full 46 percent of the accidents claiming the lives of children involve motor vehicles, while firearms are involved in fewer than three percent – a number still well below the number of child deaths resulting from drowning, fire or suffocation.

"Instead of an empty, unworkable, and even potentially dangerous mandate to use trigger locks on all guns, I offered the Senate an alternative that will make more safety devices available to consumers and provide grants to encourage safety education, which is proven to reduce firearm accidents and misuse.

"Those who voted for my amendment agree children must be protected from gun violence. However, they believe parents and firearm owners should have the flexibility to choose the most effective and appropriate form of protection. A safety mandate from Washington, D. C. is nonsense."

Another CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, University of Chicago Professor John R. Lott, Jr, author of MORE GUNS, LESS CRIME: UNDERSTANDING CRIME AND GUN CONTROL LAWS, also has weighed in with his ideas on the so-called "trigger lock" controversy.

Shortly after a tragic incident last July in which a crazed gunman shot and killed two Capitol Hill police officers in the United States Capitol Building in Washington D. C., Lott noted that "some members of Congress are trying to revive gun control proposals that were overwhelmingly defeated just three weeks ago.

"Yet how new federal laws requiring gun locks – or Sen. Dick Durbin's bill making parents criminally liable for gun use by youngsters under 18 years of age – would have prevented this tragedy is not explained.

# VARDEES WARN OF HIDDEN DANGERS "GUN LOCK" LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

"No gun lock would have stopped the 41-year-old assailant from firing the gun. Unfortunately, despite the obvious feel-good appeal of these rules, they are more likely to cost lives than to save them.

"To understand why, consider first how many accidental gun deaths occur in America:

"In 1996, there were 1,400 such deaths, and 200 involved children under 15.

"In comparison, 2,900 children died in motor vehicle crashes, 950 children drowned, and more than 1,000 children died from residential fires. Hundreds more children die in bicycle accidents each year than die from all types of firearm accidents. For children under age five, cigarette lighters kill five times as many as die from all accidental gun shots (150 vs, 30). Yet, when was the last time that a child's death from a bicycle or cigarette lighter received national news coverage?

"As the father of four young children, it is difficult for me to imagine losing one of them for any reason. But it is puzzling why accidental gun deaths of young children get so much more coverage than other threats that pose even greater dangers to our children. With around 80 million people owning a total of 200 million to 240 million guns, the vast majority of gun owners must be fairly careful or such gun accidents would be much more frequent.

"It's hardly consoling that accidents involving such common home fixtures as swimming pools and space heaters are more lethal than guns. Yet people understand that there are trade-offs in life and that the very rules that seek to save lives can result in more deaths. Banning swimming pools would help prevent drowning, for example; but if fewer people exercised, lifespans would be shortened. Heaters may start fires, but they also keep people from getting sick or from freezing to

death. So whether we want to allow pools or space heaters depends not only on whether some people may be harmed by them, but also on whether more people are helped than hurt.

"Similar trade-offs exist for gun locks. Mechanical locks that fit either into a gun's barrel or over its trigger require the gun to be unloaded, and may prevent a few children's deaths. But locked, unloaded guns offer far less protection from intruders, and so requiring locks would likely greatly increase deaths resulting from crime. Under the proposed rules, the costs of gun locks would fall far more heavily on law-abiding citizens than on criminals – decreasing the numbers of innocent people who could use guns to protect themselves.

"So the gun-locks debate should focus on how many of the 200 accidental child deaths would be avoided vs. how much such rules will reduce people's ability to defend themselves.

"Unfortunately, despite the best of intentions, safety rules do not always increase safety. President Clinton has argued many times that we protect aspirin bottles in this country better than we protect guns from accidents by children. However, Harvard economist W. Kip Viscusi has shown that child-resistant bottle caps have resulted in 3,500 additional poisonings of children under age five annually from aspirin-related drugs because consumers have been lulled into a less-safety-conscious behavior by the existence of safety caps. If Mr. Clinton were aware of such research, he surely wouldn't refer to aspirin bottles when telling us how to deal with guns.

"Other research shows guns clearly deter criminals. Polls by the LOS ANGELES TIMES, Gallup and Peter Hart Research Associates show there are at least 760,000, and

possibly as many as 3.6 million, defensive uses of guns per year. In 98 percent of the cases, such polls show, people simply brandish the weapon to stop an attack.

"In a recent book examining gun ownership rates across states over time, I found that higher gun ownership rates are associated with dramatically lower crime rates. Further, it is the poorest people in the most crime-prone areas who benefit most from gun ownership. Safety rules that raise the cost of gun purchases would reduce gun ownership and hit these people the hardest.

"So if gun locks or gun safes were successfully employed in four of the five school shootings over the past year. Will manufacturers meet the requirements of proposed laws if their products carry disclaimers saying the gun locks may not work? Without such a disclaimer, imagine the lawsuits manufacturers would face for supplying locks that they know would fail to guarantee protection.

"Research into similar liability involving children's vaccines suggests such liability accounts for an amazing 96 percent of the price of a product.

"Proposals to make parents criminally liable for their children using guns has its own problems, but it raises broader issues of what is motivating the new rules. If holding parents criminally liable is such a good idea, why only apply it to one type of crime committed by children?

"Laws frequently have unintended consequences.

"Fortunately, it's not too late to stop the new gun safety laws before they produce the same headaches – and much worse – that the aspirin bottle rules have caused."

# HOWARD PHILLIPS THE CCRKBA RIGHTS AWARDEE

Howard Phillips of Vienna, Virginia is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for October.

In nominating Phillips for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that "in this day and age, when so many people involved with public affairs obviously lead such unprincipled public lives, it is well to recognize and honor those in the public arena whose lives evidence sincere and firm commitment to principle, and especially those whose principled commitment includes firm dedication to the Second Amendment individual right to keep and bear arms. Such a man is Howard Phillips, whom I have known for over a quarter of a century. Howie is most deserving of this Award."

Howard Phillips was chosen by an overwhelming majority of delegates at the National Convention of the U. S. Taxpayers Party in San Diego, California on August 17, 1996 to serve as its presidential candidate. Included in Howie's and the U.S. Taxpayers Party Platform was the declaration that "the right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self-defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny conferred on the individual and the community by the Creator to safeguard life, liberty and property and that of his family, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

"The right to bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution; it may not properly be abridged or denied. The U. S. Taxpayers Party upholds the right of the citizen

to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit the ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.

"We emphasize that when guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have them. In such circumstances, the peaceful citizen's protection against the criminal would be seriously jeopardized."

Howie and his wife, Peggy, have six children ranging in age from 11 to 32, and 10 grandchildren.

One of the children, Brad, currently is running as an Independent for the U. S. House of Representatives against 16-year incumbent Herb Bateman who he says "has undermined our Second Amendment rights by voting for the Brady Bill and opposing the repeal of the ban on assault weapons."

Howard Phillips left the Republican Party in 1974 after some two decades of service to the GOP as precinct worker, election warden, campaign manager, congressional aide, Boston Republican Chairman, and assistant to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

During the Nixon Administration, Phillips headed two federal agencies, ending his Executive Branch career as Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity in the Executive Office of the President, a position from which he resigned when he says President Nixon reneged on his commitment to veto further funding for "Great Society" programs.

Since 1974, Phillips has been Chairman of The Conservative Caucus, a non-

partisan, nationwide grass-roots public policy advocacy group which has been in the thick of battles, in opposition to the Panama Canal and Carter-Brezhnev SALT II treaties in the 1970, in support of the Strategic Defense Initiative and major tax reductions during the 1980s, and in the vanguard of efforts to terminate federal subsidies to ideological activist groups under the banner of "defunding the Left."

Other Conservative Caucus campaigns have involved opposition to NAFTA and the World Trade Organization, support for a national version of California's Proposition 187 to end mandated subsidies for illegal aliens, and establishment and promotion of The Coalition for a Congressional Impeachment Inquiry of President Bill Clinton the most anti-gun President in American history.

A 1962 graduate of Harvard /college, where he twice was elected President of the Student Council, Phillips is President of Policy Analysis, Inc., a public policy research organization which published the bimonthly ISSUES AND STRATEGY BULLETIN.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Phillips coordinated efforts to build private sector support for anti-Communist freedom fighters in Central America and southern Africa. He played an instrumental role in the leadership of the so-called New Right, as well as in the founding of the so-called religious right in 1977. Phillips has led fact-finding missions to Eastern Europe, and the Far East.

He has published three books: THE NEW RIGHT AT HARVARD (1983),





# QUICK SHOTS

As Capitol Bill buzzed with word of the possibility of impeachment proceedings against Bill Clinton, the most anti-gun President in American history, Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, Chairman of the House Task Force on Firearms and CCRKBA 1997 Legislator of the Year, more Representatives had become cosponsors of H. Res. 304, his measure to provide for a formal congressional impeachment inquiry.

Cosponsors of H. Res. 304 as of this writing include Reps. Cass Ballenger of North Carolina, Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, Tom Campbell of California, Helen Chenoweth of Idaho, Larry Combest of Texas, Barbara Cubin of Wyoming, John Doolittle of California, Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, Duncan Hunter of California, Sam Johnson of Texas, Jack Kingston of Georgia, Ron Lewis of Kentucky, Jack Metcalf of Washington, John Mica of Florida, Ron Paul of Texas, Richard Pombo of California, Frank Riggs of California, Dana Rohrabacher of California, Matt Salmon of Arizona, Bob Schaffer of Colorado, Pete Sessions of Texas, Chris Smith of New Jersey, Linda Smith of Washington, Mark Souder of Indiana, Cliff Stearns of Florida, Bob Stump of Arizona, Todd Tiahart of Kansas and Don Young of Alaska.

"Last November," said Barr, "I introduced legislation to begin an impeachment inquiry, because it is the only constitutional way to resolve serious allegations of abuse of power by our nation's highest elected leader.

"I am pleased to see more and more other Members realizing that until we complete an impeachment inquiry, our nation will continue to suffer from a lack of leadership as the President is left to twist slowly in the wind. If he has abused his office, an inquiry will be the first step in his removal from office.

"An impeachment inquiry is now a virtual certainty. Further delay will only postpone the inevitable and further damage the power and prestige of the office of the Presidency and of the United States."

In Lawrence, Massachusetts, THE EAGLE-TRIBUNE editorialized against the Bay State's new anti-gun law, claiming its supporters are "living in a state of delusion."

The new law, according to the TRIBUNE, "requires gun owners to lock their weapons up or install trigger locks. They face felony charges if they fail to do so.

"The law also bans the sale of certain 'assault weapons,' guns with high-capacity magazines and cheap handguns like the so-called 'Saturday Night Specials.' It makes illegal sawed-off shotguns and guns that cannot be detected by metal detectors. It prohibits those convicted of certain crimes from owning guns and imposes tougher sentences on those committing crimes with guns." It attacks law-abiding gun owners, dramatically increasing the fees on the permits required to own firearms.

"Our legislators believe that if they just pass the right mix of laws, no one will ever die, or be hurt, or be poor or suffer in any way. Too many of us have the same misguided faith.

"There is merit to some aspects of the law – making gun owners responsible for safe storage is one.

"But those who believe the new gun law means there will be no more deaths by gunfire in Massachusetts are living in a state of delusion."

In St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, members of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, bowing to safety concerns, are carrying guns for the first time in its 127-year history, reports THE WASHINGTON POST. The 315-member force halted recently the tradition of responding to calls unarmed. Constables now carry their revolvers in holsters instead of the trunks of their cars, officials said. The force is the last on in North America to begin carrying weapons.

"Nothing excites the derision of progressives more than hunters, particularly those with guns," Alexander Cockburn commented recently in THE NATION. "I must say I've become more benign toward the gun-toters over the years," continues the controversial writer. "A couple of weeks ago 'Gary Trudeau had a cartoon ridiculing Charlton Heston, now President of the NRA, for admitting to possession of 12 guns. I saw this on returning from a chat with an 82-year-old neighbor down the road here in Petrolia, Curly Wright, who hauled down his gun safe to display an arsenal of 19 rifles of one sort or another, with numberless handguns on the upper shelf, two or three shotguns and no doubt enough ammunition to blow us halfway to Japan.

"Aside from the matter of the Second Amendment – I'll give them that, if they give us the other ones – I find the hunters more appealing and often more skeptical of established order than the bikers bounding along the path munching their Power Bars."

From Kansas City, Missouri, Kevin L. Jamison, Attorney at Law for the Western Missouri Shooters Alliance, writes that "a referendum on a concealed carry permit system has been scheduled for a referendum in Missouri. WMSA fought the proposal to put CCW to a referendum.

"Despite our opposition, the decision has been made, we will have a referendum. There is no point in continued argument, and many points to putting aside differences.

"Gun owners cannot afford to lose this referendum. A loss on this referendum will kill chances to pass CCW in Missouri, and probably nationally, in our lifetime. If we lose, our movement will be seen as being weak, the legislature will swing its support to the prohibitionists, and we will begin to lose the rights we still have.

"The WMSA Board of Directors has

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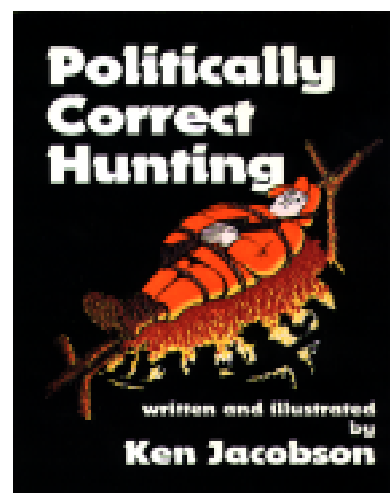
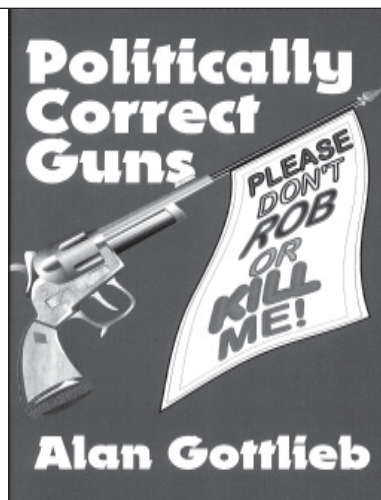
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