WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Following last month’s congressional elections, there were a number of interpretations as to just what the results mean for America’s tens of millions of law-abiding gun owners.

Some said that the change of the majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives from Republican to Democrat amounted to a disaster for America’s gun owners.

The reason given for this interpretation is that, come January, 2007, the leadership in both houses of Congress will be in the hands of politicians with extensive records of anti-gun legislative activity.

In the House of Representatives, anti-gun Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California probably will become Speaker of the House, and anti-gun Rep. John Conyers of Michigan probably will become Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, the committee of original jurisdiction for most firearms and firearms-related legislation proposed in that body.

In the Senate, Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, with a long and outspoken advocacy of restrictive gun legislation, will be a major power. During the recent election cycle, he was Chairman of the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee and, as such, is thought to be largely responsible for the success his party had in achieving majority status in the Senate.

Other anti-gun Senators expected to move into leadership positions next month include Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Hillary Clinton of New York, and Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer of California.

On the other hand, some Capitol Hill observers note that gun and gun related issues did not play a significant role in November’s electoral debates, and that the war in Iraq, general competence, and political corruption were the determining factors. They point out that a number of the newly-elected Democrats campaigned on pro-gun platforms and that, since the elections were so close, the leadership will have a hard time pushing a hard anti-gun line if they expect their leadership to continue beyond the next national election, in 2008.

“The Second Amendment has emerged from the biggest Democratic victory since 1974 with relatively little damage,” writes David Kopel, Research Director of the Independence Institute and recipient of numerous CCRKBA awards, for instance. “One reason is that in races all over the country, Democrats returned to their Jefferson-Jackson roots by running candidates who trust the people to bear arms.”

Another recipient of CCRKBA awards, Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, writes that, “gun control may have faded as a political issue, but the mentality that Washington knows best – and that certain constitutional rights are anachronisms, is alive and well. Look for gun control advocates to bide their time and look for new ways to resurrect the issue in 2008 and beyond.”

Given the situation and realizing that anti-gunners will be promoting anti-gun legislation, the most prudent thing for us gun owners to do is what we always have done.

We must continue to make our opinions known as cogently as possible and in as great numbers as possible to our Representative and to both of our Senators, regardless of their party affiliation.
“A recent incident in South Mississippi demonstrates quite clearly the need for guns, especially in the hands of the elderly, in protecting life itself,” declared John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, last month.

The incident involved a gun battle in the town of Saucier. It ended with an armed robbery suspect dead and an elderly couple lucky to be alive, according to WLOX ABC 13 television in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Beth Greer, 73, and her husband Tommy Greer, 60, said they returned home from work in mid-October shortly before 11:00 P.M. Within minutes, they were staring down the barrel of a gun.

The blood stains have dried, but the memories are still fresh in Beth’s mind. She says one moment she was unloading her car, the next she was asking a gunman to spare her life.

“Out of nowhere to my right there was this voice that said ‘Hey.’ So I turned around and looked and it was this masked man. He had a mask on and a jacket that all seemed like it blended together and he had a gun in his hand pointed at me,” Beth said.

Greer screamed to her husband who was inside. That’s when she says the gunman walked past her and into the house to confront Tommy Greer.

“He had a gun pointed at me,” said Tommy Greer. “I figured he was going to shoot me anyway so why not try to whip him, take him down. So me and him went 20 feet over there. He shot and hit me through the head and it (the bullet) went up the wall into the ceiling.”

Still outside, Beth had grabbed a gun from her car.

“I heard a shot go off and, of course, I just knew he had killed Tommy. In an instant, he stepped back into the garage. One step in the garage, still with his gun pointed at me, and I just opened fire on him. I just shot, shot, shot,” Beth remembered.

In the Harrison County Sheriff’s Department the next day, the Greers finally got to see the face behind the mask. To their surprise it was Bobby Hardy, a regular customer at their store in Gulfport. The Sheriff said Hardy, whose criminal history included aggravated assault and armed robbery, probably followed the couple home.

Sheriff George Payne said, “Historically, we don’t release the names of victims like this, and they’re victims involved in shootings. But they wanted to do that to tell their story so the rest of the public knows this is America and we’re not going to be intimidated by these thugs that think they can come to their homes and rob us or shoot us, and we’re not just going to be intimidated and roll over for them. Quite frankly, there was a gun battle there and she won the gun battle and this outlaw lost his life.”

Beth said, “a few times we’d had incidents that happened at the shop. I’ve often sat and wondered, ‘what would I do if somebody did come in and pull a gun? What would I do?’ Now I know what I will do because I was able to go through that. I won’t ever, ever hesitate to pull a gun and shoot somebody if they come at me.”

Harrison County Sheriff’s deputies said that after Beth Greer shot Bobby Hardy, Hardy shot back at her and then fled in a car, dying later at the hospital from his wounds.

Tommy Greer received treatment for cuts to his head and arms.
Even though the gun grabbers at United Nations headquarters suffered a major defeat last July during a UN Small Arms Review Conference as firearm rights forces blocked the creation of a global gun ban treaty, they have not given up.

They’re back at it again and CCRKBA remains as determined as ever to resist them. Recently, the United States was the only country casting a vote against the proposed UN Arms Treaty when it came up before the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

“The UN gun grabbers have absolutely no regard for the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms,” said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. “They think that self-defense is not a human right at all, but just a privilege in the hands of government and that it is up to government to grant or not grant the privilege or to rescind or not rescind it. They have the twisted idea that government must mandate severe restrictions on private firearm ownership and use. If a government, including an American government, does not do this, then, in their view, it is that government itself which violates their concept of international human rights. They would like to see their ideas become the basis for an international treaty enforceable against non-compliant national governments.

“These people are real bad news. We call upon CCRKBA Members and Supporters to join with us in resisting them. One way to do this is to let our U.S. Representative and both of our U.S. Senators, whoever they are, know that we believe the United States should cut off funding for the UN unless and until the United Nations gets off this gun grabbing kick.”

Snyder noted that, “during the current, 109th Congress, Sen. David Vitter and Rep. Charles Boustany, both of Louisiana and both CCRKBA Gun Rights Defenders of the Month, proposed the Second Amendment Protection Act. This would provide that the UN get no money from the USA unless it’s clean on respect for our Second Amendment. Although the proposal gained substantial support over the last two years, unfortunately it did not come up for a vote in either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Obviously, we hope that a similar proposal will be made during the 110th Congress, which convenes next month, and that it will come up for a vote. If enacted into law, it would go a long ways towards cutting the legs out from under the UN gun grabbers.”

The UN gun grabbers want to control small arms and light weapons through an international treaty they propose. In UN-talk, these small arms include the rifles, shotguns and handguns owned and used by scores of millions of law-abiding American citizens for self-defense, hunting, recreational shooting, and collecting.

Their resolution said the lack of international standards in the arms trade “is a contributory factor to conflict, displacement of people and terrorism.” It asked UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to authorize the establishment of a group of experts to look into “establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms.”

Recently, the UN’s Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, of the UN’s so-called Human Rights Council, which includes such human rights “stalwarts” as Cuba and Saudi Arabia, submitted a report by University of Minnesota Law Professor Barbara Frey, the UN Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons. Frey is a member of the notorious gun-grabbing International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

In the report, Frey states that, “self-defense is sometimes designated as a ‘right.’ There is inadequate legal support for such a designation.”

Frey states that, “there is no independent or supervising right in international human rights law of self-defense that would require states to provide civilians with access to small arms.”

Frey states that, “Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations applies to states acting in self-defense in response to armed attacks against their state sovereignty. It does not apply to situations of self-defense for individual persons.”

Frey states that, “it is reasonable for human rights bodies to require states to enforce a minimum licensing requirement designed to keep small arms and light weapons out of the hands of persons who are likely to misuse them.”

Included in the minimum requirements would be “proof of a legitimate purpose for obtaining a weapon” and “mental fitness.”

So much for any UN concept of freedom.
CCRKBA BATTLING ANTI-GUN MAYORS

A number of anti-gun mayors on the eve of the November congressional elections reiterated their commitment to promote more restrictive gun laws at various levels of government.

In response, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated that, “regardless of what tactics these city gun grabbers use to promote their agenda, and regardless of the political situation as it unfolds in the next few months, we are as determined as ever to resist these assaults on our freedom.”

About two weeks before the national elections last month, the leader and organizer of the anti-gun mayors, Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York, along with Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago and Mayor Thomas Barrett of Milwaukee, attacked the administration of President George W. Bush for what they apparently believe is the President’s support for the interests of America’s scores of millions of law-abiding gun owners.

“When Washington makes bad decisions to protect criminals rather than the public, we suffer the consequences,” Bloomberg said at a late October Midwestern summit of Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, a group he founded with anti-gun Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston.

Bloomberg said he had hoped to have 50 of the nation’s mayors on board by the end of this month, but that by mid-October 109 mayors from 44 states already had joined.

“These cities represent more than 44 million Americans,” Bloomberg said.

CCRKBA’s Snyder noted that, “while Bloomberg and the others like to keep repeating they want to go after ‘illegal guns,’ this is quite deceptive. What they really want to do is use data gathered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) specifically for use in criminal investigations and prosecutions in third-party civil lawsuits against firearm manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

“The BATFE data under federal law is developed in order to investigate and prosecute individuals who actually violate federal firearm law. What the Bloomberg gang wants to do is gain access to this BATFE data. They want to use the information on perfectly legal activity of the firearms industry to claim that members of the industry somehow aid the criminals who use the guns even though such firearm industrialists have not committed any crimes or engaged in illegal activity and even though they obviously would have no knowledge of the use to which their products ultimately would be put. They then seek to use this information in civil lawsuits against the gun industry.”

Snyder said that this would be like blaming the automobile industry for bank robberies committed with the use of automobiles which are legally made and sold.

Mayors Bloomberg, Daley and Barrett, accompanied by counterparts from a number of smaller cities, reported to the Associated Press, complained in Chicago that inaction by the federal executive branch and the influence of the “gun lobby” on Congress have left local officials to combat the problem of “illegal weapons.”

Snyder said that “this is just a clever attempt to adopt a ‘tough on crime’ posture in order to promote an agenda which would seriously undermine if not eliminate the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms. If gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers are tied down defending themselves against harassing third party civil lawsuits, they very well could go bankrupt and not have the capacity to provide firearms and ammunition for the American public. The net effect would be no more guns for American citizens. The Bloomberg-gun control lobby attack on ‘illegal guns’ in reality is an underhanded end run around the right to self-defense of millions of American citizens.”

Following the autumn meeting in Chicago, the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition planned two more regional meetings, in Boston and Atlanta. They claim they want to “share strategies in the fight against illegal guns.”

Next month, the Coalition plans to welcome 2007 with a national summit of anti-gun mayors. They say they plan to launch “the first-ever coordinated, national effort to convince Congress to take ideology out of law enforcement.”

Snyder said that “what these officials really want to do, is convince Congress to abandon its constitutional responsibility to respect the rights and freedoms of American citizens and substitute for this their own gun control ideology and agenda.

“Well, we’re wise to these characters. We invite CCRKBA Members and Supporters to contact their own U.S. Representative and both of their U.S. Senators and urge them to resist the agenda of Bloomberg and the gun control lobby.”
CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

We don’t need to go over the results of the 2006 mid-term election again here. Suffice it to say there’s a new team running things on Capitol Hill, and while many of the newly-elected Democrats may be pro-gun – or at least said they were pro-gun – House and Senate leadership is the same tired, old liberal anti-gun crowd. Probable Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), probable House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) and probable Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) all have a strong history of voting against the rights of gun owners. We know what to expect from Capitol Hill over the next two years, and it isn’t good for gun owners.

There is a silver lining to this cloud, however. President Bush remains in office for the next two years, a period that will be critical for gun owners. We need to let President Bush know that we are counting on him to prevent the gun control calamity we can expect from Pelosi & Co.

We have to communicate this to President Bush. We have to ask him – politely demand of him – that he veto any gun control legislation that reaches his desk. Gun control is an excuse to avoid the hard solutions to the crime problem: focus on the criminals, not the law-abiding gun owner. Gun control was not a major issue in the 2006 elections. It wasn’t even a minor issue. Whatever the “lesson” of the 2006 election, it was NOT gun control. Study after study has demonstrated the ineffectiveness of gun control laws. Gun control is a failed philosophy that deserves to be rejected out-of-hand.

CCRKBA AND POLICE HONOREES CONFER

John M. Snyder, center, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, gathered with a group of police officials honored by the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum (AHPF) during a banquet ceremony held recently at La Cita Country Club in Titusville, Florida.

Pictured here with Snyder are, left to right, Broward County FL Deputy Dennis Wise (ret), President of the American Federation of Police and Concerned Citizens (AFP&CC), a banquet cosponsor, Brevard County FL Corrections Deputy Glenn Stout, recipient of a Michael the Archangel Award, Northumberland County VA Deputy Sheriff A. C. Fisher, Jr., AHPF 2006 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and Titusville FL K-9 Officer Kevin Hickey, also a Michael the Archangel Award recipient.

“I and AFP&CC support the Second Amendment,” states Deputy Wise.

Deputy Fisher risked his own life to free his partner from his burning patrol vehicle that was the result of a head on collision.

Deputy Stout, unarmed, disarmed a suicidal woman to prevent harm to himself, to the suspect, and to the community.

Officer Hickey and his K-9 partner, Bach, found and seized 29 separate boxes containing 739 pounds of marijuana, the largest known such seizure in Brevard County.

APHF photo by Peter Connolly.
A scholar-columnist who writes that more guns can correlate with safer schools is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

In nominating Ninos Malek for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, “among the several facets of gun grabber attacks on the right to keep and bear arms these days is the argument that public policy should so restrict or even prohibit firearms in the hands of teachers and administrators in schools that they are not able to defend themselves or others from perpetrators of criminal violence. The gun grabbers offer the erroneous opinion that fewer or no guns in schools will result in a reduction in acts of violence in schools. Ninos Malek, however, has demonstrated the falsity of this approach, and even offers the opposite opinion as a postulate. He is right in the thick of this argument regarding Second Amendment rights. He articulately presents cogent argument in support of these rights and is, therefore, most deserving of this Award.”

“Should teachers and administrators legally be allowed to carry guns in school,” he asks. “This must be seriously discussed in the United States. It seems like the tragedy that struck Columbine High School in 1999 has become more common since then.”

Noting the recent White House summit on school safety called by President George W. Bush, Malek observed that “the reason these events make the news is because they are in actuality not that common once you consider how many shootings have taken place relative to the number of schools there are in this country.

“For example, in 2006 there have been only four incidents with guns at school. Basically, schools are safe places for children; they are more likely to die violent deaths at other locations. So, while I agree that we don’t want to have a knee-jerk reaction to certain events, the real issue that must be addressed is why schools are not allowed to protect themselves from psychotic or evil people.”

In an article published by The Ludwig von Mises Institute, Malek points out that “Israel and Thailand have been cited as examples of how guns in schools can save lives. In fact, State Rep. Frank Lasee of Wisconsin plans to introduce legislation to allow teachers and administrators to carry guns...

“If providing education is supposedly a government duty and teachers at public schools are agents of the government, why can’t they be trained to carry a gun to protect the children the state has placed under them? The question here is whether or not properly trained teachers and administrators should have the freedom to bring a weapon to campus—to act as extensions of law enforcement on school campuses.”

In reality, Malek notes, “the law currently prevents this from happening. The Gun Free School Zones Act of 1990 made it unlawful for any individual to knowingly possess a firearm in a school zone, even a police officer when not on official duty or a teacher who might also be a police reserve officer!

“The term ‘school zone’ means in, or on the grounds of, a public, parochial or private school; or within a distance of 1,000 feet from a school. However, the United States Supreme Court overturned this in 1995 (United States v. Lopez) because it violated the limits of the Commerce Clause in the Constitution. Legislation still makes it illegal to have a gun within 1,000 feet of a school.”

Malek has a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Applied Economics from San Jose State University, and currently is pursuing a doctorate in Economics at George Mason University. He believes that, “if we had a free market in education and the Second Amendment was respected, those parents who did not trust teachers with guns would send their children to gun free schools and those who felt that a school with armed teachers provided a safer environment would reward schools who provided that service with their dollars. The training and evaluation of teachers could be done by private sector institutions...

“Unfortunately, because the government has monopolized the educational system and the Second Amendment has lost its true meaning, schools will probably not be able to protect themselves more effectively against those who are mad at the world or have unresolved issues.” We hear about the stories of children and teens being killed with guns – maybe it should be time to hear about how children and teens were saved because of guns.”
CCRKBA just before the elections last month called on the Federal Election Commission to investigate whether the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence violated FEC regulations and Federal Election Campaign laws by advocating the election of federal candidates in communications to the general public. “For at least the past two weeks,” noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb in early November, “the Brady Campaign has been sending out endorsements over the U.S. Newswire for public consumption. Each one of the Brady Campaign’s news releases had to be paid for, and this amounts to the organization promoting the election of candidates to federal office through paid advertising...We haven’t forgotten that in 2003 the Brady Campaign was fined $23,000 by the FEC for failing to report $200,000 in expenditures on mailings during 2000 that opposed the reelection of two Republican House candidates.”

Lake County, Indiana Superior Court Judge Robert Pete ruled in late October that the city of Gary may proceed with its lawsuit against 16 gun manufacturers and six Indiana gun dealers, according to a Cybercast News Service (CNSNews.com) report. The case, which dates back to 1999, stems from a police sting of six Indiana gun dealers accused of selling firearms to undercover officers posing as straw purchasers. The city of Gary also sued major gun manufacturers that sold handguns through the dealerships, accusing them of profiting from the diversion of guns to criminals. Some claimed the decision contravened the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, enacted to protect the gun industry from harassing lawsuits stemming from the criminal misuse of their products. Pete let the case proceed to trial because he felt it fell within an exception to the law. Lawrence G. Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, said NSSF will appeal Pete’s decision.

“Self-defense isn’t a privilege,” declared CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, “it’s a right!” Gottlieb was responding to a suggestion by anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg that citizens in his city don’t “need” gun permits. “There goes Mikey again,” said Gottlieb. “He still thinks there’s a ‘Bill of Needs’ instead of a Bill of Rights. Where did he get the arrogant notion that people need to ask him to exercise their rights, especially the right of self-defense...Gun owners across the country should remember that this is what Mikey has in mind for the entire nation. He would have every law-abiding armed citizen give up their firearms for no other reason than the fact that he doesn’t think people need guns for personal protection. I thought the Mayor lives in New York City, but I was wrong. He lives in La-La Land.”

An armed Tennessee business owner who decided to stay at his establishment overnight one evening in late October had an unwelcome visitor early in the morning, reported the Tri-Cities Times News. According to the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Department, Kenneth Harville, owner of Kenny’s Bait and Tackle on Highway 75, was awakened by the sound of breaking glass at about 3 A.M. He reached the front of his store as a white male was climbing through a broken window near the cash register. The burglar then started yelling to someone outside the business that someone was in the store. As the suspect crawled out the window, Harville fired one round towards him. According to police, the unknown white male got into a light colored vehicle that someone else was driving and fled towards Blountville.

Hollywood couple Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore keeps guns in their Idaho home to protect themselves and the actress’ three daughters, according to a World Entertainment News Network report. Kutcher owns a Springfield handgun while Moore has been trained in the use of a semiautomatic Glock handgun. The guns are locked away at the couple’s home in Hailey, Idaho, but are kept within easy reach in case intruders should appear on the scene.
Women & Guns:
Finally, a magazine just for America’s 15 million gun-owning women! WOMEN & GUNS is the only magazine of its kind in the world. Written and edited by women, for women, WOMEN & GUNS emphasizes self-defense and personal protection – including real life tips on surviving attacks – as well as recreational and sport shooting. Each issue features top women gunowner profiles, personal protection tips, product reviews, and a useful, eye-opening legal column. WOMEN & GUNS is a must-have for every gun owning woman.

1 year (6 issues) $18 – 25% OFF COVER PRICE!

Gun Week:
Frustrated with gun news in the anti-gun mainstream media? You need GUN WEEK! For over 30 years, GUN WEEK has been America’s most up-to-date and comprehensive news source on firearms and gun rights. Every issue is packed with new product reviews, political watchdog reports, national gun show listings, regional hunting reports, industry news . . . and much more! GUN WEEK is published three times a month, with scoops and information weeks ahead of the competition. If you want to know what’s happening in the world of firearms, you need GUN WEEK!

Half Year (18 issues) $20 – 45% OFF COVER PRICE!

The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:
At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America’s Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:
Here’s a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription $60 per year.

1 year (12 issues) $30 – 50% DISCOUNT!

Yes! Please send me the following S.A.F. publications:
- Women & Guns, $18
- Gun Week, $20
- Gottlieb-Tartaro Report, $30
- Journal of Firearms and Public Policy, $10

Send to: SAF Periodicals
P.O. Box 35
Buffalo, NY 14209
or call:
(716) 885-6408

- Check or Money Order
- Visa, Discover, AmEx or Mastercard

Card # __________________________
Expiration ______ Signature _________

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ ST _______ Zip _______
Email __________________________
Tel ___________________________

SAF Periodicals
P.O. Box 35
Buffalo, NY 14209