

POINT BLANK

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

HYPOCRISY ON THE HUSTINGS



**August
2004**

Volume XXIX No. 8

IN THIS ISSUE

Hypocrisy on the Hustings	1
CCRKBA Rips Jesse Jackson	2
Liberals and Reelection	3
AntiGun Medical Journals	4
Law & Legislation	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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Talk about talking out of both sides of your mouth!

John Kerry takes the cake!

John Kerry is the junior U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, the very same John Kerry nominated for President of the United States last month as the Democratic Party held its national convention in Boston.

For the last several months, John Kerry has been going around the country, on the presidential campaign hustings, proclaiming himself an outspoken supporter of the Second Amendment, in an obvious attempt to get the tens of millions of law-abiding gun-owning citizens to vote for him.

Early last month, for instance, he came to the Gunslick Trap Club in Holmen, Wisconsin to, according to The New York Times, "break a stereotype that is politically dangerous in rural America: that a northeastern Democrat running for president must be antigun."

Kerry stopped at the club to do some shooting with a 12-gauge shotgun, and even had himself photographed holding the shotgun. He used the event, according to the Times, to try to show "that he respected the rights of hunters, enjoyed the sport himself, and supported reasonable restrictions for safety and law enforcement purposes." He stated that, "I am a gun owner and I am a hunter and I respect the Second Amendment," BUT, "I've never contemplated shooting a deer with an AK-47."

John Kerry, this isn't going to wash with America's gun owners because the Second Amendment, as a popular bumper strip proudly, simply and forthrightly proclaims, "ISN'T about duck hunting."

It IS about the right to self-defense, and the right to the means necessary, that is, guns, for self-defense.

When you look at the public record, you see that John Kerry, just like his political big brother from Massachusetts, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, has been a reliable vote for the anti-gun special interests. Just this spring, he came back from the campaign hustings to vote for a measure sponsored by anti-gun Senators Dianne Feinstein of California and Charles Schumer of New York to extend the ban on the manufacture and importation of certain semiautomatic firearms beyond next month's scheduled sunset date. He voted for a measure that would have outlawed the private sale of firearms at gun shows unless the buyer agrees to a background check.

John Kerry, you're not fooling us. Your 100 percent ratings from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (formerly Handgun Control, Inc.), the anti-gun American Bar Association's Special Committee on Gun Violence, and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (known at one time as the National Coalition to Ban Handguns) just adds up to a big goose egg from the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

CCRKBA RIPS JESSE JACKSON

CCRKBA early last month challenged both (Rev.) Jesse Jackson and the New Haven, Connecticut Police Chief regarding a new Wal-Mart position there on gun sales.

Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, chided Wal-Mart for giving into pressure from city officials in New Haven and agreeing to stop the sale of firearms, bow hunting equipment and paintball guns at its store.

"Can this be the same store that Jesse Jackson indignantly smeared the other day as a symbol of the right wing Confederate movement," mused Waldron. "During that same speech, Jackson attacked conservative Americans for supporting gun rights, accusing gun owners of having 'a blind obsession with the Second Amendment.'"

"It's widely known," Waldron said, "that gun rights are sacred in the South, where Wal-Mart is headquartered, so the store managers in New Haven are as wrong about their decision as Jackson is about Wal-Mart, and about the Second Amendment. Jackson needs to be reminded that the right to keep and bear arms is as

much an individual civil right as voting or attending the church of your choice."

Waldron also was critical of New Haven Police Chief Francisco Ortiz, Jr. for his anti-gun remarks in the Wal-Mart controversy. Chief Ortiz was quoted by Newsday admitting that, "As a police chief in an urban center, I'm very concerned about the lawful as well as unlawful possession of firearms in the community."

In response, Waldron questioned, "Just what is it about the lawful possession of firearms that concerns Chief Ortiz? Is he equating law-abiding citizens in his city with criminals? Does he think of them all the same? Did he just reveal a personal prejudice through a Freudian slip of the tongue? What kind of myopic bigotry is that, especially on the part of a top law enforcement officer?"

Waldron said that, "Chief Ortiz needs to read the Connecticut Constitution, specifically Article I, Section 15, where it states clearly that every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state. Tens of thousands of honest gun owners living in and around New Haven deserve an explanation from the chief, and at the same time they deserve an apology from the city officials who beat Wal-Mart management into making this incredibly offensive policy decision."

For the convenience of Point Blank readers who would like to make their views known on this matter to relevant personnel, we're listing here their names and addresses.

Lee Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Arkansas 72716-8611, phone (479) 273-8446.

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Founder

& President, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, 930 East 50th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60615-2702, phone (773) 373-3366, Fax (773) 373-3571.

Francisco Ortiz, Jr., Chief of Police, New Haven Department of Police Service, One Union Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06519, phone (203) 946-6316.

John DeStefano, Jr., Mayor of the City of New Haven, 165 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510, phone (203) 946-8200, Fax (203) 946-5750.



POINT BLANK

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

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POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005.

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Correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to **POINT BLANK**, CCRKBA, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005
Address Change: Write new address, city, state, and zip code on a plain piece of paper. Attach mailing label from an issue of **POINT BLANK** and send to CCRKBA, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005. Please allow four to six weeks for change to become effective.

RIP

Glen I. Voorhees, Jr.

June 22, 2004

A trustee of the Second Amendment Foundation at the time of his death, he had served several terms as a National Rifle Association director.

LIBERALS AND REELECTION

By Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, and Dave Workman, CCRKBA Communications Director

An intriguing phenomenon has been at work during the spring and early summer in Canada and the United States, where political liberals have been demonstrating a remarkable willingness to turn their backs on what once seemed an unshakable principle, simply in the interest of winning reelection and assuring their political survival. The same intriguing phenomenon continues right now in the United States.

It appears these politicians suddenly have realized what a pity it would be for them to have to find real jobs, so in Canada and here in the states, they've decided that it is the smart thing to be against gun control.

North of the border, Canadian Liberals, according to Reuters, were scrambling to avoid defeat in the June 28 election so Prime Minister Paul Martin was promising to modify the nation's gun registration law. His Liberal colleagues had discovered, the news agency said, that gun registration is a vote loser. Martin told a Canadian newspaper he was willing to consider abolishing criminal penalties for citizens who refuse to register their firearms. How long that promise would hold water was anyone's guess.

After all, if a Liberal is willing to turn his back on a principle, just how hard is it for a Liberal to break a promise?

In the United States, Democrats who otherwise might have voted for the so-called assault weapons ban renewal are singing a different song nowadays, because many are facing tough reelection battles. They know from experience dating back to the 1994 congressional elections that supporting extremist gun laws earns

them early retirement. After the last Democrat-controlled Congress rammed through the ban, on certain semiautomatic firearms and greater than 10-round magazines, more than 50 Democrats lost their seats as gun owners trooped to the polls and angrily voted Republican, perhaps for the first time in their lives.

Not one pro-gun Democrat lost his or her seat in that 1994 sea change election. In 2000, Al Gore's stance on gun control cost him the states of Tennessee, West Virginia and Arkansas. Democrats haven't forgotten, so they have been working overtime to convince voters in districts with tight races that they really are pro-gun.

Democratic hopeful Sen. John Kerry took great pains to have himself photographed last fall on an Iowa pheasant hunt, though most in the gun rights movement laughed that off, accusing the liberal Massachusetts politician of being the only man in America who uses orange as camouflage.

While Kerry tries to talk the talk, insisting that he supports the Second Amendment, there's always a qualified "but" at the end of his remark.

Kerry, like all liberals, has it wrong. One doesn't support a constitutional right, he both believes in it and lives it, or he doesn't. And one does not teeter back and forth on that issue. You cannot, for example, think the First Amendment is great, but next week suggest that Rush Limbaugh's microphone be yanked.

Canadian Liberals rammed through the gun registration scheme in the last decade, insisting that it would cost a mere two million dollars to register all guns in that coun-

try and, therefore, help reduce crime. Here we are years later, the price tag has climbed to an estimated one billion dollars and is still rising, not a single crime has been prevented or solved, residents in western provinces are balking, native populations are resisting, and the program is awash in scandal. The only reason Liberals softened their position is because the mounting Conservative tide threatened to take control of Parliament.

In this country, with the semi-auto ban ready to sunset next month, many Democrats are telling voters they won't support renewal.

But the question remains: If these Democrats are so willing to turn their back on what has been a central plank in their party's national platform for a generation, and if they are willing to ignore their own leaders strictly for the sake of getting reelected, are these people all that trustworthy? Can they be counted upon to retain this newfound devotion to gun rights, or will they wake up November 3 and, finding themselves reelected, decide to drop the pretense and support new gun control ban measures?

Gun owners seem to grasp better than any other interest group that once a politician betrays his own principles, it's easy to betray his constituents.



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BEWARE ANTI-GUN MEDICAL JOURNALS

"The gun control movement's stock has dropped," declares Tim Wheeler, M.D., a California oncologist who holds a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award, but that hasn't stopped some anti-gun medical publications from continuing to publish a number of anti-gun articles.

Wheeler, the Director of Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership, a project of the Claremont Institute, states on National Review Online that, "gun control foot soldiers in organized medicine churn out articles for relatively obscure scientific journals. Their message is increasingly devoid of any useful findings; it is mostly an attempt to paint gun owners as sociopaths or Neanderthals."

Dr. Wheeler points out that in "The Life Cycle of Crime Guns: A Description Based on Guns Recovered From Young People in California," in the June 2004 issue of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, "the authors grasp for relevance by comparing crime guns to bioterrorist weapons like anthrax. For years medical researchers have tried to push the notion that guns are germs to be eradicated. This model is cute for propaganda purposes – kill the germs, ban the guns: eliminate health risks. But reputable scientists always dismissed this view as a political tactic with no scientific basis. The message of this article was its title, apparently intended to associate the words 'crime guns' with 'young people' in the minds of readers."

A frequent speaker at the annual CCRKBA-sponsored Gun Rights Policy Conference, Dr. Wheeler notes that, "another slam at kids and guns

appeared in the April 2004 issue of *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*. 'Gun Threats Against and Self-Defense Gun Use by California Adolescents' studied gun use among a group of Californians aged 12 to 17. Only four percent of them reported ever having been threatened with a gun. The earthshaking scientific contribution this article makes is that these four percent were boys who tended to threaten others and whose parents didn't know where they were after school. Did we need a yearlong Harvard study to tell us that? And what about the 96 percent who never had been threatened with a gun? Can we learn anything from good kids who stay out of trouble? The authors apparently think not."

The real purpose of these so-called scientific articles is not to inform, writes Dr. Wheeler, "but to hammer away at a constant theme: Guns and kids don't mix; the only kids who get involved with guns are delinquents; there is no place in the home for guns if you have children. And, apparently, there is no way young people can grow toward responsible adulthood by learning gun safety and competing in shooting sports.

"Most readers of these journal articles – doctors and other health professionals – would never know that countless state and local shooting clubs hold marksmanship competitions for young people ages 10 to 20. Unless they had a son or daughter in a club like New Jersey's Delran Junior Marksman Club, they would think that every time a teen picks up a gun, something bad happens. But there are five junior gun clubs in New Jersey alone, a state not especially friendly to gun

owners."

One young person cloistered readers of the medical literature would never know about, opines Dr. Wheeler, is K. C. Eusebio, from Diamond Bar, California. "Last year, at the tender age of 15," reports Dr. Wheeler, "K. C. beat all the top-ranked men to win the Steel Challenge World Speed Shooting Championship.

"K. C. and all the other good young people you'll never read about in the *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* differ from the medical journals' callow thugs in one crucial respect: They learn about guns under the watchful guidance of adults, usually their fathers. A 1994 research study from the U. S. Department of Justice confirmed that boys whose fathers taught them about guns are vastly different from delinquents who learn about guns on the street. The boys properly schooled in firearms by their fathers even had a lower rate of delinquency than the average for people who do not own guns."

Dr. Wheeler believes that the anti-gun researchers will not soon admit this. In California this spring, he relates, gun control activists shot down a bill in the state legislature calling for teaching gun safety in the public schools. The chief opponent was the American Academy of Pediatrics, whose official position is that the only safe gun is no gun at all. Think about that, he advises, the next time your doctor starts talking to you about "gun safety."

**GRPC Info
Enclosed!**

GUN ISSUE IN LAW AND LEGISLATION

Two recent developments, coming literally within hours of each other, demonstrate that a legal issue involving lawsuits against gun dealers corresponds with an ongoing legislative issue.

In late June, a West Virginia gun dealer agreed to pay one million dollars to settle a lawsuit against him, and then hours later the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee passed an amendment that would prevent anti-gun groups from using certain federal gun records in civil lawsuits against the gun industry.

Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Kansas, a

CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, the amendment's sponsor, said he introduced the legislation after a spring court ruling in New York City. According to that ruling, the city could use federal gun records, information on a gun's sales history and whether it was used in crimes, as part of the city's "public nuisance" lawsuits against dozens of gun makers and distributors.

Under the Tiahrt amendment, only prosecutors could use such "gun trace" information as part of criminal, not civil, investigations.

The Tiahrt amendment passed just

hours after a West Virginia judge approved a settlement requiring a gun dealer to pay one million dollars in damages to two former police officers from Orange, New Jersey.

The officers were shot and seriously injured over three years ago by an armed robber.

The lawsuit charged Will Jewelry & Loan of Charleston, West Virginia of negligence and creating a public nuisance for selling 12 firearms at one time to a "straw purchaser," Tammi Lea Songer, who bought the gun for trafficker James Gray, who could not legally buy the guns himself.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

For the past couple of months the mainstream news media have published editorials and opinion pieces about the need to extend and expand the ban on so-called "assault weapons," due to sunset (expire) on September 13. These articles are long on emotion and decidedly short on facts.

The "ban" was not a ban but merely a freeze on future production. Not a single firearm was taken off the street as a result of the 1994 ban (nor will any firearm "flood the streets" when the ban expires). True, there has been a decline in homicides, but that has far more to do with the end of the crack epidemic and a cyclical decline in the crime-prone 15-25 age group. Claims that the assault weapon ban has produced a reduction in crime have absolutely no basis in fact.

Equally, claims that these "assault weapons" have no legitimate use are false. Tens of thousands of competitive shooters use AR-15s, M-1As and others in registered competition all across the country. Many times that number use them in less formal shooting events and for legitimate protection of their homes, especially in more rural areas of the country.

The gun grabbers and their allies in the mainstream media are getting desperate as the number of legislative days dwindles before expiration of the ban. Congress now is in the middle of its summer recess, due to end on September 3. That will give them less than two weeks to ram a ban extension bill (or amendment) through to the President. There are two things you can do to help ensure that the assault weapon ban dies a natural death on September 13.

First, visit your Representative and Senators while they are home for the summer recess (home district office addresses will be found in the blue "Government" pages of your telephone directory). Explain to them that the ban has accomplished nothing except infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners. We can't afford to waste time, effort and political capital on failed gun control experiments.

Second, submit a brief letter to the editor of your local newspaper, exposing the lies and misinformation being spread about the issue. Keep it short, no more than a couple of paragraphs. Make one or two good points. The shorter the letter, the more likely it will be selected for publication.

ILANA MERCER THE CCRKBA DEFENDER

Ilana Mercer, author of "Broad Sides: One Woman's Clash With A Corrupt Culture," gets the nod for the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for August.

In nominating Ms. Mercer for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated that, "this authoress is ready, willing and able to defend the individual right to keep and bear arms from a most unique perspective. She has lived in the Republic of South Africa, Israel, Canada, and now the United States of America. She describes the right to self-defense, and the right to the means necessary for that self-defense, as a universal right. She obviously knows what she's talking and writing about, and she does that well and in a most forthright manner. She certainly is most deserving of this Award."

Now that Mercer has, as she puts it, "done the conservative thing and raised a family at a young age," she's able to devote a lot of her time to writing about freedom and the right of self-defense and the right to keep and bear arms.

In a recent column she wrote for WorldNetDaily.com, she pinpointed the dangers of creeping gun control, based on her knowledge of what has occurred in one of the countries in which she has lived, South Africa.

She states, for instance, that President Thabo Mbeki "speaks of the Left's vaunted tolerance and respect for minorities, but one South African minority has been excluded: the nearly extinct white farmer. Well over 1,200 Boer Afrikaners have been butchered in more than 6,000 attacks since Mbeki's democratically elected

African National Congress (ANC) took power in 1994. Despite the threat of systematic extermination, farmers are forbidden automatic weapons. So they must battle their ubiquitous assailants with only a shotgun, a handgun and a limited number of rounds at their disposal.

"In 'free' South Africa there is an official blackout (or shall I say whitewash) of national crime statistics. When they are divulged, officials prefer to use difficult-to-understand ratios. In many instances, data have been doctored. Government sources claim there were 12,553 murders in 2002. The Mail & Guardian estimates that between January 2000 and March 2003 there were almost 48,000 murders in South Africa (population 44.6 million). In comparison, the 'high crime' United States (population 288.2 million) suffered 16,110 murders in 2002."

In describing the South African gun control horrors from a personal perspective, Ilana states that she "used to rest easier knowing that if a thug entered the Western Cape home of my relatives (where the murder rate is a staggering 84 per 100,000, compared to 5.6 per 100,000 in the United States), my elderly mother-in-law could easily dispatch him with her six-round .32 Special. It was comforting to know that in the unlikely event she required further firepower, my father-in-law could weigh in with his .38 Special. But that was the old South Africa. The ANC, like all leftist governments, is determined to disarm law-abiding individuals and criminalize their naturally just actions.

"As first reported in the Cape

Times, the grotesquely mistitled Safety and Security Minister Charles Nqakula has unveiled 'an arsenal of stricter gun control laws.' 'Gun-toting cowboys' will no longer be tolerated and thus 'non-threatening' home invaders will no longer face on-the-spot justice. In 'liberated' South Africa, being a robber and being 'non-threatening' are no longer mutually exclusive existential conditions...Safety and security in South Africa now means that self-defense may be defined as assault or murder. If the victim of a break-in shoots to kill, the intruder can kill him and claim justification. As Barry Ronge of the Sunday Times points out, this 'effect(s) a switch that makes the victim of the crime the felon and turns the felon into the victim.'"

Obviously glad now to be a permanent resident of the United States, Ms. Mercer declares that, "a person's right to own a firearm is not contingent on whether he lives in a 'safe' community.

"The right to self-defense, implicit in the right to life, belongs to every non-aggressor, imperiled or not. Natural rights are not subject to the vagaries of crime rates, or, for that matter, to the whims of the state (or Rosie O'Donnell). Natural rights are not for governments to grant but to uphold.

"Despite being safely ensconced in a very low-crime American neighborhood, and after maneuvering through the labyrinthine bureaucracy, I shall soon be sleeping with am silver-plated, five-round .357 Magnum revolver by my side. I am grateful I no longer live in South Africa."



QUICK SHOTS

In Bellevue, Washington, CCRKBA hailed an announcement by the government in Saudi Arabia that foreigners who feel threatened by a wave of militant violence can carry guns for their personal protection. "This sensible move by the Saudi government should send a signal to other nations around the world, where citizens have been essentially disarmed and left to the mercy of a growing criminal element," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "For example, Great Britain, Canada and Australia have all imposed horribly restrictive gun laws on their citizens, and look what's happened. Violent crime has soared, and the public is defenseless."



In Boston, Massachusetts, Governor Mitt Romney signed into law a bill making permanent the state's ban on the sale or importation of certain semiautomatic firearms. Supporters of the measure designed it to guarantee that the state prohibition will remain in effect even if Congress does not reenact a similar federal ban set to expire next month. Prior to enactment of the new Bay State statute, the state ban had been tied to the federal ban and automatically would have expired if Congress did not renew it. The ban covers certain semiautomatic firearms made after September 13, 1994.



In the District of Columbia, which has one of the most, if not the most,

restrictive gun control laws in the United States, anti-gun Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey said seizing more firearms is one of his top priorities, reported The Washington Post. "We're getting more guns off the street, and that is a very good thing," Ramsey said. "It cuts down on the number of guns that are being used for violent acts. The more we can get off the street, the better off we are." So far this year, D.C. police have seized over 1,000 guns. They took in 1,982 last year. In 1966, they seized 2,950 and, in the early 1990s, 3,500 to 4,000 per year. When D.C. police scour city neighborhoods for people committing traffic violations or minor offenses, they use this as an excuse to try to find illegally-held firearms, according to the Post article.



In Cleveland, Ohio, attorney Stephen Miller has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of part of Ohio's new law allowing qualified individuals to carry concealed firearms. His objection is that the law does not allow guns to be concealed on a person when seated in an automobile. The law requires that the gun in the car be holstered in plain sight. Miller believes a holstered gun, even if not covered by clothing or other obstruction, can be hard for a person outside a vehicle to see on someone in the driver's seat. He thinks that, without a clear definition of "in plain sight," an otherwise legally armed motorist who gets pulled over by

police is at the whim of the officer's interpretation, thus leaving the motorist without the equal protection of the law guaranteed for the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



In Washington, D.C., Congress passed H.R. 218/S. 253, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, a proposal initiated by Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California, to allow qualified off-duty and retired law enforcement officers to carry their firearms concealed in all 50 states. President George W. Bush has indicated his strong support for the measure, and observers expect him to sign it into law.



In Jacksonville, Arkansas, a home invasion was thwarted by an armed citizen in late June, reported the Jacksonville Patriot. When a man knocked on the back door of a woman's home, she went to answer the knock and the man forced his way into her residence. He refused to leave and told her to stay put. When he went into another room, she grabbed her keys and fled to her van. She met with the man she had thought was knocking at her door and told him what had happened. He took a gun out of his truck, went to the woman's house, grabbed the intruder by the shirt, and pointed his gun at him, basically taking control of the situation. Police later said the intruder faces a burglary charge stemming from the incident.

4 Publications from the Second Amendment Foundation:



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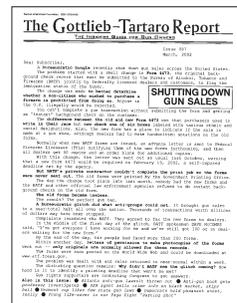
At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to 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.

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