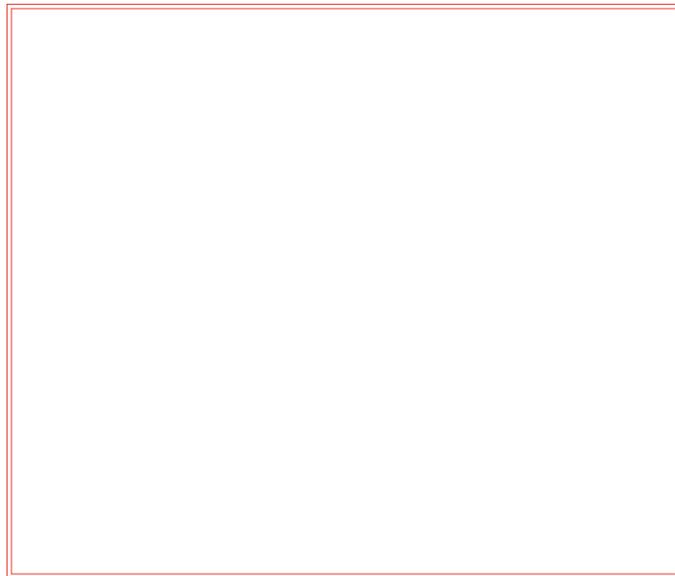




CCRKBA ADVISOR SOLOMON MOVES ON IMPEACHMENT



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

February 1998
Volume XXVIII, No. 2

**CITIZENS
COMMITTEE
FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

(a non-profit corporation)

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Rep. Jerry Solomon of New York, the Chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee who also is a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor and CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, recently assumed a prominent role in developments toward impeachment of President Clinton, the most anti-gun President in American history.

Congressman Solomon took a formal step toward impeachment of Clinton when he sent the President a letter via telefax officially notifying him that the Rules Committee will be reviewing proposed legislation designed to initiate a congressional impeachment inquiry.

"This is to inform you," stated Rep. Solomon on December 1, 1997, "that Resolution, H. Res. 304, directing the Committee on the Judiciary to undertake an inquiry into whether grounds exist to impeach you has been referred to the Committee on Rules. This Inquiry of Impeachment allows the Rules Committee to evaluate whether the Judiciary Committee should be directed to conduct this investigation.

"Consequently, Mr. President, I trust that in order to fulfill both of our constitutional responsibilities surrounding this most serious issue, you will direct all members of the Executive Branch to be forthcoming in furnishing evidence and testimony requested. It is essential that a fair and open process be presented to the American people."

(Continued on page 2)

MOVEMENT ON IMPEACHMENT

(Continued from page 1)

H. Res. 304 was introduced by Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, Chairman of the House Firearms Legislation Task Force and 1997 CCRKBA Legislator of the Year. If approved by the Rules Committee, it would go to the House floor, where a simple majority vote would instruct the Judiciary Committee to begin an Inquiry of Impeachment. (POINT BLANK, December, 1997, p. 3, and January, 1998, p. 3.)

"This resolution prejudices nothing," said Rep. Barr. "The time is now, not to take the ultimate step, but to take a very measured step to reassert the rule of law in this country and to correct abuse of office and abuse of power and make the President accountable."

Among those joining Barr in cosponsoring H. Res. 304 are Reps. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, Helen Chenoweth of Idaho, Barbara Cubin of Wyoming, John Doolittle of California, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Duncan Hunter of California, Sam Johnson of Texas, Jack Kingston of Georgia, Jack Metcalf of Washington, John Mica of Florida, Ron Paul of Texas, Dana Rohrabacher of California, Pete Sessions of Texas, Chris Smith of New Jersey, Linda Smith of Washington, Mark Souder of Indiana, Bob Stump of Arizona and Todd Tiahrt of Kansas.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said of Barr and his measure that "I'm not going to cosponsor it, but he's raising serious questions. I think he's a serious man."

POINT BLANK readers who would like to see their own U. S. Representative become a cosponsor of H. Res. 304 could write their Congressman at the U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515. They also could telephone (202) 224-3121 and ask for a specific Representative's office.

In late December, THE NEW YORK TIMES noted that the call for impeachment found expression in a Christmas card from John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

The card depicted Santa Claus leaving coal on the White House lawn. It characterized the Clinton White House as "civil rights infringement headquarters" and designated Clinton himself the "gun grabber in chief." It wished

recipients freedom "from government infringement on the right to legitimate self-defense."

"Why are coals on the White House lawn," queried the card in a previously unpublished poem by David Telum.

"Tis because all morals are gone," came the reply,

"From a President who is so quick,
"With cunning smiles and quips so slick...

"Sacred beliefs that we hold dear
"In the Bill of Rights which we revere,
"May be perverted, making us fear
"Freedom erode, as rights disappear.

"And so all across this great land,
"Patriots should join hand in hand,
"To explore the option to impeach,
"Because our trust was badly breached."

Snyder said he commissioned the card because he thinks Clinton is "the most anti-gun, anti-right to self-defense politician ever to sit in the Oval Office. His presidency is a continual disgrace to the United States."

He said he sent the Coals of Impeachment card to President Clinton and the First Lady as well as to members of the White House staff, other Administration personnel, U. S. Representatives and Senators, opinion leaders and media representatives.

Earlier, in a private telephone conference with Snyder and a number of other interested persons, days before he even introduced his Inquiry of Impeachment resolution, Congressman Barr said it is imperative that people from around the country write or telephone their own U. S. Representative and ask him or her to cosponsor H. Res. 304.

Among those involved in that telephone conference were Brad Alexander, Congressman Barr's District Communications Director; Gary Aldrich, a retired FBI Special Agent formerly assigned to the Clinton White House who is the Founder and President of The Patrick Henry Center for Individual Liberty; David Barton, President of Wallbuilders; Jeff Breedlove, a Senior Advisor to Congressman Barr; Floyd Brown of Citizens United; Bill Dannemeyer, a retired U. S.

Representative; Don Hodel, President of the Christian Coalition; Larry Klayman, President of Judicial Watch; Jim Martin, Chairman of the 60-Plus Association; Pat Matrisciana of Jeremiah Films; Jim McClellan, Director of Publications of the Liberty Fund; Alex Mooney, Vice President of CNP Action, Inc.; Richard Norman, President of the Richard Norman Company; Howard Phillips, Chairman of The Conservative Caucus; Mike Riley of the Free Congress Foundation staff; Phyllis Schlafly, President of the Eagle Forum; Herb Titus, President of the Forecast Foundation; Richard



POINT BLANK

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

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JOE WALDRON NEW CCRKBA EXEC DIR

Joe Waldron is the new CCRKBA Executive Director, Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, announced last month.

Joe's immediate predecessor, Ken Jacobson, who continues his ties with CCRKBA, also is setting up a private entity concerned generally with sportsmen's rights issues.

Waldron, born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1946, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps while in high school in 1963. After assignments in infantry, security and intelligence billets, he was commissioned in 1969. He spent most of the remainder of his 28-year Marine career in the intelligence field.

Joe was Chief of Intelligence (Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2) of four major Marine organizations: 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, 7th and 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigades, and the 1st Marine Division.

Among the first group of designated Joint Specialty Officers, his assignments also included tours as Marine Corps Representative, Harry Diamond Laboratories; Chief of the Terrorist Threat Branch, U. S. European Command; and Chief of the Targeting Branch, Marine Liaison, Allied/U.S. Central Air Forces during operation Desert Storm.

Joe retired from the Marine Corps in 1992 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Since leaving the Marine Corps, Joe has spent most of his time and energy in the fight to preserve our individual constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

No longer subject to Hatch Act restrictions on federal government employee involvement in political activity, Joe since 1994 has served as a lobbyist for the Gun Owners Action League of Washington, a political action committee supported by several gun owners' organizations in Washington State.

He also is Legislative Chairman of both the Washington Arms Collectors, the second largest gun collecting organization in the United States, and the Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association, Washington State's NRA affiliate. He organized the Firearms Owners Civil Rights Rally held in Olympia, Washington in January of 1995 and received the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for that endeavor.

Last year, Joe Waldron devoted his attention to chairing Washington Citizens Against Regulatory Excess (WeCARE), the coalition formed to oppose Initiative 676 in Washington State.

Billed as a model "handgun safety initiative," this extreme handgun control measure was sponsored by Washington Ceasefire, the State's Handgun Control, Inc. affiliate, and supported by Microsoft founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen, as well as by several other Seattle-area elitists. With major involvement by CCRKBA and NRA and a record groundswell of grassroots support, I-676 was defeated at the polls by a 71 percent to 29 percent margin.

"Thirty-five years ago," Joe told POINT BLANK, "I swore an oath to support and

defend the Constitution of the United States. I took that oath very seriously throughout my Marine Corps career, and I take it equally seriously today.

"We are in the midst of a great cultural war, a war that will end with Americans becoming subjects of the 'nanny state,' or retaining the liberties established by our Founding Fathers and enshrined in the Constitution.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that enemies of the Constitution and of our right to keep and bear arms are in this for the long haul. Despite their overwhelming defeat in the Initiative 676 battle in Washington State, and similar recent defeats in Wisconsin and Michigan, these gun control extremists will be back - on Capitol Hill and in the States - to chip away at the freedoms we earned at such a great price.

"Each of us must renew our commitment to preserving our way of life for our children and grandchildren. I look forward to working with you to achieve that goal."

Joe Waldron is a Director of the Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association; a Director of Washington Arms Collectors; Chairman of Washington Citizens Against Regulatory Excess; and Past Commandant of the Puget Sound Detachment of the Marine Corps League. He is a member of the Marine Corps Association; the Marine Corps Mustang Association; the Marine Corps Intelligence Association; Veterans of Foreign Wars (Bellevue Post # 2995); NRA (En-

CCRKBA HITS ATTACK ON STRICT SENTENCING LAW

CCRKBA last month ripped into an attack on a new California law mandating tough sentencing for wielding a firearm while committing a crime.

The attack on the law came from Elizabeth Schroeder, Associate Director of the Southern California Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union.

She said that "these types of laws lead to an enormous waste of government resources without solving anything. The government instead should look more closely at regulating the possession of guns in a much stricter fashion so that the use of guns is no longer a possibility."

Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, said that the woman's comments "are not in touch with reality. Criminal laws should be directed against criminal acts, against the criminal use of firearms, and most certainly not against the general public ownership of guns. The Southern California Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union has always been associated with left-wing politics."

The California law took effect January 1.

In late December, through a massive advertising campaign, state officials warned would-be criminals that the law requires that 10 years be added to the sentence of anyone over 14 years of age who simply carries a gun, loaded or unloaded, in the commission of a serious crime. It requires that 20 years be amended to a term for firing the gun, even if the bullet does not hit anyone, and that 25 years to life be mandated for injuring seriously a victim.

The measure was signed into law by Gov. Pete Wilson last September 25. Under it, all sentences will be added to whatever punishment is imposed for the crime that was committed with the gun. According to Attorney General Dan Lungren, that makes it "quite simply the toughest gun-abuse control measure in the Nation."

The additional sentences cannot be suspended, probation cannot be recommended and persons convicted will be required to serve at least 85 percent of the additional prison terms after credit for good behavior is deducted.

The sentencing add-ons will apply to gun possession during the commission of 17 crimes, including robbery, kidnapping, rape and assault with intent to commit a felony.

California officials have been trying to get out the word on the new law. They say that no one is being left out. They planned to hand a brochure to each of the more than 156,000 inmates in the State's 33 prisons during the first weeks of 1998 warning of the law's provisions.

Criminals outside the prison system should be getting the message about the new law through advertisements broadcast over 300 television and radio stations statewide, featuring actor Alan Autry, who plays tough cop Bubba Skinner on the "Heat of the Night" television series.

"Do you know a tough guy with a gun? Let him know the law just came to town," Autry says before outlining the new sentence enhancements. "Now, if you're 14 years or older, this law applies to you. Use a gun and you're done...10, 20, life, the law is here."

Critics of the new law, like the ACLU's Schroeder, say it is a well-intentioned but misguided measure that will simply fuel an explosion in new prison construction without addressing either the proliferation of guns or the root causes of crime, reports THE WASHINGTON POST.

The ACLU, stated the newspaper, "opposed the measure when it was enacted almost unanimously by the state legislature, calling it 'excessive and gratuitous' because existing law already allows for sentence enhancements of up to 10 years when a person uses a firearm in the commission of a felony.

"What's different, however, is that the new law mandates the additional sentences."

Sean Walsh, Gov. Wilson's press secretary, said "we'd rather fill up the prisons than fill the cemeteries. But we also believe that when the word gets out there will be fewer crimes committed with guns. We believe it will be a deterrent."

Prison officials have said the short-term impact on the inmate population will be negligible because criminals would be serving time for the basic crime they committed anyway, reports the POST.

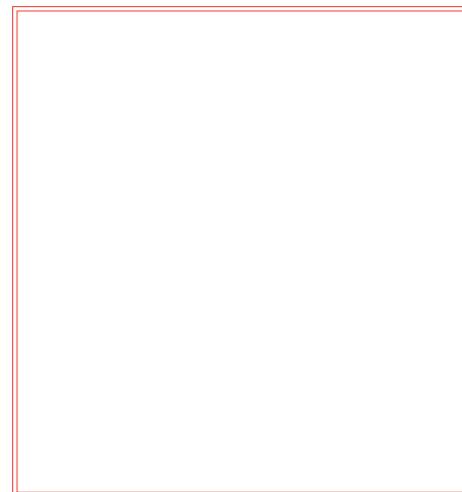
They said the longer-term impact of the enhanced sentences will be determined by how effective a deterrent the 10-20-life law becomes.

State officials estimated four years ago that the prison population would soar to 230,000 by the turn of the century because of the "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law mandating life terms for third time felons. They said prisons would run out of beds by 1998. Those predictions, reports the POST, proved to be off the mark. Department of Corrections officials now say they will be housing only 181,000 inmates by the year 2000.

Among the reasons given for the lower-than-expected increase were that judges have not imposed three-strike sentences as often as was originally expected, and that felons facing non-three strikes sentences leveled off along with the general decline in the crime rate. Supporters of the 10-20-life law say they expect the same type of flattening out of the crime rate to help reduce the pressure on prisons.

To be successful, though, the new law will have to be recognized as a certainty by criminals, said one of the measure's chief proponents, Mike Reynolds, a Fresno anti-crime activist who co-wrote the three-strikes ballot initiative after his 18-year-old daughter, Kimber, was shot to death during a purse-snatching outside a movie theater in 1992.

"It's tough stuff," Reynolds told the POST. "It's a real deterrent, but you can't



CCRKBA NOTES CQ GUN CONTROL STUDY

CCRKBA took notice of a recently published analysis of the current state of the national debate over gun control and the right to keep and bear arms.

In Washington, D. C., John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that the analysis, published by Congressional Quarterly, Inc., "is more balanced than most such analyses, and could serve as a good guide for an objective understanding of some of the issues involved in the national debate as we begin the year 1998. It is well-documented and thoroughly annotated."

The analysis, by Staff Writer Kenneth Jost, entitled "Gun Control Standoff," appears in THE CQ RESEARCHER for December 19, 1997, Volume 7, Number 47, pages 1105-1128.

In one section of the analysis, subtitled "Is a Citizen's Best Defense a Gun?," Jost relates that "for years, it has been an article of faith among gun control supporters that using a gun to ward off a criminal is both rare and dangerous. But that view was severely tested when Gary Kleck produced evidence that guns are used about 2.5 million times per year in the United States and that these defensive gun uses - or DGUs - help thwart many attempted crimes and only rarely result in injury to the gun user.

"Gun control opponents quickly seized on the finding by Florida State University criminologists Kleck and Mark Gertz ('Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun,' JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY, Vol. 86, No. 1, Fall, 1995, pp. 150-187), touting the statistical conclusion in fact sheets and legislative testimony. Conversely, gun control groups harshly criticized the research as unsupported and unbelievable, pointing instead to an earlier study for the Justice Department suggesting fewer than 100,000 DGUs per year."

Jost reports that last year "the statistical debate took another unusual turn when two pro-gun control researchers produced a report for the gun control-minded Police Foundation suggesting a figure somewhat comparable to Kleck's and then - within the same report - debunked their own finding.

"Criminologist Philip J. Cook of Duke

University and political scientist Jens Ludwig of Georgetown University said their estimate 'is subject to a large positive bias and should not be taken seriously.' 'The rather frustrating conclusion,' they add, 'is that the available survey data leave considerable uncertainty about the true number of DGUs.' ('Guns in America: Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use,' Police Foundation, May, 1997.)

"The statistical debate over the results of two telephone surveys conducted about a year apart has now turned into one of academic honesty as well. Cook and Ludwig, while acknowledging Kleck's methodology as 'respectable,' nonetheless criticize his 2.5 million estimate as 'a mythical number.' ('The Gun Debate's New Mythical Number: How Many Defensive Uses Per Year?' JOURNAL OF POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT, Vol. 16, No. 3, 1997, p. 464.) For his part, Kleck, who initially designed the survey for the Police Foundation and was then removed from the project without explanation, says he believes Cook and Ludwig were chosen to replace him 'to put the proper spin on the finding.' (For a more detailed critique, see Gary Kleck, TARGETING GUNS: FIREARMS AND THEIR CONTROL, 1997, pp. 158-159.)

"Kleck described his research, conducted in early 1993, as the first survey ever exclusively on the question of armed self-defense. Out of nearly 5,000 people surveyed randomly by telephone, some 222 reported civilian defensive use of a gun against a human within the previous year - for a projected annual figure of about 2.5 million instances per year.

"In most of the reported instances, the 'defender' merely brandished the weapon; One-fourth said they fired the gun, and eight percent said they wounded or killed the attacker. But only 5.5 percent of the defenders said they were attacked and injured after a defensive gun use, and only 11 percent said they suffered a property loss.

"While conceding the number of affirmative responses was fairly small, Kleck nonetheless concluded that defensive

gun uses by the 'non-criminal majority' had 'saved lives, prevented injuries, thwarted rape attempts, driven off burglars and helped victims save property.'

Jost writes that "in the Police Foundation study, Cook and Ludwig report that their telephone survey of about 2,500 people found 45 instances of defensive gun use within the past year - projected to about 1.5 million instances. They call that result 'comparable' to Kleck's.

"Unlike Kleck, however, Cook and Ludwig argue that respondents probably exaggerated the number of defensive gun uses. Some respondents, they said, may have just been trying to 'look good.' Others may have been confused about their experiences. And still others, the researchers suggested, may have been 'gun advocates' who 'know that the number of DGUs is relevant and may be tempted to enhance that estimate through their own response to the survey.'

"Cook acknowledges that it was 'unusual' for researchers to question the findings of their own survey. For his part, Kleck says Cook and Ludwig engaged in 'very one-sided speculation about what might lead to errors in such a survey, and only about errors that might lead to over-reporting rather than underreporting.'

"Whatever the number, Cook and Ludwig end by questioning the value of using a gun to ward off a criminal. Access to firearms, they say, 'may encourage some people to be less prudent about avoiding confrontations' or to be 'less vigilant in avoiding unsafe situations.' And they warn that readiness to use guns can lead to fatal accidents - though they cite no statistics on this point.

"Kleck insists, however, that the evidence clearly shows that defensive gun use is common and strongly suggests that it is effective. 'To disarm non-criminals in the hope that this might indirectly help reduce access to guns among criminals is a very high-stakes gamble,' Kleck concludes, 'and the risks will not be reduced by pretending that crime victims rarely use guns for self-defense.'"

POINT BLANK readers interested in obtaining copies of the analysis could write to Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 1414 - 22nd Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20037, or call Congressional Quarterly

JOYCE LEE MALCOLM THE CCRKBA AWARDEE

Joyce Lee Malcolm is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for February.

A Professor of History at Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, she is the author of *TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, THE ORIGINS OF AN ANGLO-AMERICAN RIGHT*, published in 1994 by the Harvard University Press in both Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England.

In nominating Ms. Malcolm for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted that "much of the controversy today in the United States over the individual right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms revolves around the meaning of the Second Amendment.

"The gun grabbers claim generally that the Second Amendment mention of the right to keep and bear arms refers only and exclusively to some kind of a collective right, such as the right of the National Guard to be armed.

"Traditionalists like us, on the other hand, maintain that the Second Amendment recognizes constitutionally an individual right to keep and bear arms.

"A lot hinges on the interpretation. If the gun grabbers were correct, it would be difficult to argue from a constitutional perspective against legislative attempts to undermine or simply eliminate the ability of citizens to acquire, own and use firearms.

"What Joyce Lee Malcolm has done with years of painstaking research, meticulous analysis and lucid writing is cut the ground out from under the collectivist argument of the gun grabbers. She has demonstrated that we traditionalists are on solid intellectual ground, that we have a strong footing on which to base our defense, and a firm bulwark from which to launch our attacks on the opposition.

"She has described the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms as 'the safety valve of the Constitution.'

"She truly is most deserving of this Award."

An historian specializing in seventeenth century English constitutional history, Ms. Malcolm holds a bachelor's

degree from Barnard College and a doctoral degree from Brandeis University. She is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Professor Malcolm's first book, *CAESAR'S DUE: LOYALTY AND KING CHARLES*, was published by the Royal Historical Society and Humanities Press.

Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Bar Foundation, Harvard Law School, Robinson College of Cambridge University and the Huntington Library.

"The Second Amendment was meant to accomplish two distinct goals," writes Malcolm, "each perceived as crucial to the maintenance of liberty. First, it was meant to guarantee the individual's right to have arms for self-defence and self-preservation. Such an individual right was a legacy of the English Bill of Rights. This is also plain from American colonial practice, the debates over the Constitution, and state proposals for what was to become the Second Amendment.

"In keeping with colonial precedent, the American article broadened the English protection. English restrictions had limited the right to have arms to Protestants and made the type and quantity of such weapons dependent upon what was deemed 'suitable' to a person's 'condition.' The English also included the proviso that the right to have arms was to be 'as allowed by law,' Americans swept aside these limitations and forbade any 'infringement' upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

"These privately owned arms were meant to serve a larger purpose as well, albeit the American framers of the Second Amendment, like their English predecessors, rejected language linking their right to 'the common defence.' When, as Blackstone phrased it, 'the sanctions of society and laws are found insufficient to restrain the violence of oppression,' these private weapons would afford the people the means to vindicate their liberties.

"The second and related objective concerned the militia, and it is the coupling of these two objectives that has caused the most confusion. The customary

American militia necessitated an armed public, and Madison's original version of the amendment, as well as those suggested by the states, described the militia as either 'composed of' or 'including' the body of the people. A select militia was regarded as little better than a standing army. The argument that today's National Guardsmen, members of a select militia, would constitute the only people entitled to keep and bear arms has no historical foundation. Indeed, it would seem redundant to specify that members of a militia had the right to be armed. A militia could scarcely function otherwise. But the argument that this constitutional right to have weapons was exclusively for members of a militia falters on another ground. The House committee eliminated the stipulation that the militia be 'well-armed,' and the Senate, in what became the final version of the amendment, eliminated the description of the militia as composed of the 'body of the people.' These changes left open the possibility of a poorly armed and narrowly based militia that many Americans feared might be the result of federal control. Yet the amendment guaranteed that the right of 'the people' to have arms not be infringed. Whatever the future composition of the militia, therefore, however well or ill armed, was not crucial because the people's right to have weapons was to be sacrosanct. As was the case in the English tradition, the arms in the hands of the people, not the militia, are relied upon 'to restrain the violence of oppression...'

"The clause concerning the militia was not intended to limit ownership of arms to militia members, or return control of the militia to the states, but rather to express the preference for a militia over a standing army. The army had been written into the Constitution. Despite checks within the Constitution to make it responsive to civil authority, the army was considered a threat to liberty. State constitutions that had a bill of rights had copied the English model and prohibited a standing army in time of peace without the consent of their state legislatures...A strong statement of preference for a militia must have seemed more tactful than an expression of distrust of the army.



QUICK SHOTS

“Sarah ‘Crybaby’ Brady” is how Tom Marr of radio station WCBM in Baltimore, Maryland referred to the Chairwoman of Handgun Control, Inc. Marr refused to back down from the characterization during a radio talk show confab.

“What happened to her husband is a great tragedy,” said Marr, referring to the wounding of former presidential press secretary James Brady during an assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981, “but she’s a big crybaby and gets far more media exposure than people who believe in the right to bear arms.”



Some leaders of the firearms manufacturing industry are opting “to follow the ‘alcohol industry model’ rather than the ‘tobacco industry model’ by responding to safety concerns rather than just automatically resisting” attacks on them and their products, reports Leslie Wayne in THE NEW YORK TIMES for December 18, 1997.

“Just as liquor executives thwarted critics by campaigning against drunken drivers,” writes Wayne, “gun makers say they want to convince the public that they are dedicated to making safer weapons and saving lives.

“‘On every possible front, there is an attack’ from gun control advocates, said Robert Ricker, a lobbyist for the American Shooting Sports Council, the industry trade association. ‘They are trying to demonize our products and make it politically incorrect to be a gun owner, just like it is to be a smoker. So we, as an industry, have to become pro-active and look at these problems differently than the tobacco industry did.’”

Wayne reported further that “the two billion dollar firearms industry, battered by slumping profits and a poor public image, has already made it clear it does not want to suffer the same fate as the tobacco industry.

“‘Everyone can vividly remember seeing those tobacco executives parade up to Capitol Hill and deny that tobacco was habit forming,’ said Mr. Ricker, the lobbyist. ‘Everyone knew it was ridiculous. We are not going to

go before Congress and say that guns are not dangerous and that kids are not killed with them.’”



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT indicates “both sides in the Nation’s long-simmering debate over gun control are about to clash on a new battleground: preventing theft from gun stores and manufacturers.”

The weekly news magazine states that “officials at Handgun Control, Inc. say they will lobby heavily...for legislation that would strengthen the physical security requirements at firearms manufacturing facilities and federally licensed firearms stores, which have been plagued by a rise in smash-and-grab burglaries.”

“Some localities have their own regulations,” reports the publication. “New York City requires gun dealers to have an alarm system. The dealers must also remove handguns from display cases and lock them in a secure place at the end of the day. Industry groups say most dealers already have stringent security. They oppose legislation but have met with federal officials to explore the idea of tax or insurance breaks for enhanced security.”



Betty Montgomery, the Attorney General of Ohio, and the U. S. Department of Justice, worked out a deal December 18 to settle a dispute over checking the criminal histories of handgun buyers, reported The Associated Press.

“The Franklin County Sheriff’s Department in Columbus (Ohio) will be paid to perform Brady Act checks throughout the State,” stated AP.

Ms. Montgomery had made the background checks voluntary last year after the United States Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not require states to conduct the reviews. “With the agreement,” reported AP, “Arkansas is the only state refusing to check the background of handgun buyers,

although some 100 local jurisdictions, mostly with populations of 10,000 or less, have refused to voluntarily conduct the checks.”

The Brady Act mandates a five-day waiting period during which local police may check the backgrounds of prospective handgun purchasers. The Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional a provision requiring local police to actually conduct the checks.

Under the new arrangement in Ohio, the State will check for criminal histories of handgun buyers who sign a form permitting it, and Franklin County will check on people statewide who refuse to sign the waiver. As an “incentive,” those who sign the waiver and clear the background check may pick up their guns in 48 hours, rather than having to wait five days. The county will be paid five dollars per background check.

“Our two day check will continue to cover the majority of handgun purchasers who agree to a background check, while this federal-state-local cooperative agreement will check the backgrounds of the remaining five to 10 percent,” Ms. Montgomery said.

The five day handgun purchase waiting period in the Brady Act is slated to sunset later this year when the instant, point-of-purchase criminals records checking system is supposed to be in place. Watch for gun grabbers to attempt to extend the life of the waiting period.



In New York State, Congressman Charles Schumer, the most anti-gun member of the Unites States House of Representatives, reportedly has salted away over eight million dollars in a campaign war chest for his attempt to succeed Republican Sen. Al D’Amato, who is running for reelection. Schumer, however, has to defeat at least two other Democrats in that party’s primary to get a crack at D’Amato. The two other Democrats are former Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, who was her national party’s vice presidential nominee in 1984, and Mark Green, New York City’s Public Advocate.

NEW AD FOR 4 PUBLICATIONS

