



# 1998 CRUCIAL YEAR FOR RIGHT TO ARMS

By John Michael Snyder,  
Editor, POINT BLANK

This year of 1998 promises to be a most crucial year in the ongoing struggle to maintain the individual right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms.

Gun grabber-in-chief Bill Clinton, the most anti-gun President in the history of the United States, is completing the first year of his second and last term. He'll be trying to use his office in any way he can to undermine further the right to self-defense of an untold number of average Americans.

Late late year, he used his executive authority to simply stop the importation of a number of firearms, guns which otherwise could have wound up in the hands of law-abiding Americans.

Right after the First Session of the 105th Congress adjourned, Clinton issued an Executive Directive which placed a freeze on the importation of what his Administration now calls "modified assault weapons," which basically are semiautomatic firearms which look like military-style firearms but which lack such features as bayonet lugs, flash suppressors or protruding pistol grips.

During this so-called freeze period, the Clinton gang is bent on revising the "point system" which is used in defining unimportable "non-sporting" handguns. One of the gang, Jose Cerda of the White House, reportedly has stated in a LOS ANGELES TIMES interview that the Clintonistas will be "taking the law and bending it as far as we can to capture a whole new class of guns."

Watch out for him to use his executive authority in any way he can once again to make an end run around Congress and upset further the right of citizens to acquire firearms.

One can expect him to attempt to manipulate the child safety issue again, too. While responsible firearms owners generally believe in following common-sense safety procedures where children and firearms are concerned, Clinton and his lap dogs in the media will try to twist things so it appears that gun ownership, especially handgun ownership, is not compatible with child safety. He and they will try to show that a burdensome plethora of so-called "safety regulations" is necessary to protect children from dangers associated with general firearms possession. For Clinton, of course, the more government there is, the better. The more government regulations there are, the better, from his twisted point of view.

Clinton and his supporters in Congress and the media really are enemies of traditional American concepts of freedom.

But we're on to him and to his supporters and so, too, it appears, are more and more American voters, which brings us to another critical point.

While there is no presidential election this year, there are congressional elections, in November. This month and next, the political parties will begin the process of selecting candidates for every seat in the U. S. House of Representatives and for the approximately one-third of the seats in the U. S. Senate which will be at stake this year. Now would be a good time for freedom-loving, gun-owning American

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

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**CITIZENS  
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TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**

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# CCRKBA NOTES FALLOUT FROM I-676 CAMPAIGN

As CCRKBA officials continued to rejoice in their victorious role in defeating by an overwhelming margin the anti-gun Initiative 676 in Washington State (see POINT BLANK, December, 1997, pp. 1-2), they noted also that the gun grabbers have not given up and that they still are on the march.

Anti-gun columnist E. J. Dionne wrote in THE WASHINGTON POST of Washington, D. C. a week after the November 4 defeat of I-676, that "one of the most important results of last Tuesday's voting involved not a person or a party but an issue. Supporters of handgun control lost a big one in Washington State. They put a perfectly reasonable gun safety initiative on the ballot and got buried by a margin of 70-30."

Dionne went on to defend the initiative as a reasonable safety measure, writing "it proposed two good things: that every handgun transferred in the state be equipped with a trigger lock and that every handgun owner be licensed."

He called police opposition to it "omi-

nous" and said that, in the future, gun control advocates should not "mourn. They should organize."

Gun rights advocates can bet their bottom dollars that the gun grabbers will be doing just that. So the battle goes on.

Meanwhile, Dionne's comments drew a swift response from POST readers.

James Cochrane, for instance, wrote in the POST for November 29 that Dionne "neglects some of the real problems behind I-676, such as the fact that all handgun owners would have to get a license or risk having their guns confiscated, yet no infrastructure was established for issuing such licenses, no curriculum was set, and no funds were budgeted for creating such an infrastructure. Further, there was no requirement that trigger locks actually be used.

"The stated purpose for this initiative was to 'protect the children,' yet on average, one child is killed accidentally in Washington State with firearms each year. We'd all like that number to be zero, but training courses don't prevent

people from making stupid mistakes. If they did, there would be no accidental discharges by law enforcement officers.

"Those statistics are part of why every major organization representing rank-and-file police officers and most of the chief law enforcement officers and prosecutors in Washington State opposed the initiative. Contrary to popular opinion, the NRA and street-level cops get along fine; it's the politically-appointed senior law enforcement officials who stand up with the President, rooting for their next Justice Department grant."

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voters to make their voices heard in political party congressional nominating councils.

We need to take the initiative on the legislative front as well, and there is a three-pronged legislative attack strategy which could be followed, realizing that, as so oftentimes has been noted, "the best defense is a good offense."

As noted elsewhere in this issue of POINT BLANK, scores of Congressmen already are on record as cosponsors of proposed national reciprocity ccw legislation, H. R. 339, by Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida. We need more cosponsors for this proposal. We trust that our readers will contact their U. S. Representatives and advise them to cosponsor the measure.

Also important is H. R. 2734, by Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia, which would allow the importation of any firearm which may be owned or sold in the United States. This would cut the legs out from

attempts by Clinton or others to place bans on the importation of certain firearms.

The crowning point of the legislative attack strategy, of course, is Barr's H. Res. 304 calling for an inquiry of impeachment of President Clinton, also discussed more fully elsewhere in this issue of POINT BLANK.

Freedom-loving, law-abiding American gun owners, numbering way up in the scores of millions, don't have to take Clinton lies and media falsehoods lying down.

Potentially, we have a lot of political muscle. Let us begin to exercise that muscle, toughen it up, and start hitting back, and hitting back hard, at Clinton and at his supporters in Congress and in the media.

This is not a child's game in which we are engaged. This is a struggle to preserve our very freedom, our very tradition, our very way of life, our right to self-defense,



# POINT BLANK

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

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# BARR CONTINUES ASSAULT ON CLINTON'S PRESIDENCY

Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia last month continued his attacks on the Administration of Bill Clinton, the most anti-gun President in the history of the United States.

As reported in the previous issue of POINT BLANK, Rep. Barr in November, 1997 introduced H. Res. 304, directing the House Committee on the Judiciary to undertake an inquiry into whether grounds exist to impeach William Jefferson Clinton, the President of the United States.

By the end of the First Session of the 105th Congress, the resolution had garnered the public support of nearly 20 cosponsors, and Barr told CCRKBA and other organizations that he hoped to see that number increase as the Second Session of the 105th Congress convenes late this month.

In Washington, D. C., John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, endorsed Barr's call for more cosponsors. He asks POINT BLANK readers to contact their own U. S. Representative and ask him or her to become a cosponsor of H. Res. 304.

"Clinton has used his Presidency as a platform from which to launch repeated attacks on the right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms," said Snyder. "His continuing assault on the Second Amendment, whether in the form of promoting and signing into law a federal handgun purchase

waiting period proposal as well as a ban on the manufacture and sale of certain semiautomatic firearms, or in the form of executive action banning the importation of certain firearms, or in the form of public statements denigrating gun rights, has rendered him history's number one presidential enemy of the right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and arms.

"An enemy of the right to keep and bear arms, Clinton is an enemy of the right to self-defense, of the right to protect one's life and the lives of one's loved ones from violent criminal attack, of the very right to life itself.

"Truly, Clinton is bad news.

"In introducing H. Res. 304, Congressman Barr, the Chairman of the House Task Force on Firearms and CCRKBA Legislator of the Year for 1997, has given America a legislative vehicle through which the Nation may begin to rectify some of the evils associated with the anti-gun, anti-civil rights Presidency of Bill Clinton.

"I most sincerely commend Congressman Barr for his action and, from the heart, call upon all Americans who value the right to keep and bear arms and, in fact, all Americans who value truth and freedom, to support him in this effort. The best way to support him in this effort right now is to encourage one's own U. S. Representative to become a cosponsor of H. Res. 304."

Barr said he introduced H. Res. 304 "to vindicate the rule of law. The rule of law is threatened when a high public official stretches, abuses and breaks the law. By all accounts, this official, President Clinton, is a master of evasion, but though he may evade the consequences he cannot evade the truth.

"I believe it is time to establish whether, and if so, what, consequences flow from evidence that the President has engaged in numerous instances of obstruction of justice. It is the privilege of neither the most ordinary of citizens nor the President of the United States, to withhold, destroy, or delay the production of lawfully subpoenaed evidence.

"Special prosecutors, grand juries and congressional investigations into Whitewater, Travelgate, Filegate, INS investigations, and White House Database investigations, have produced so many charges that even experts are confused. The unavoidable heart of the matter, however, is that the President of the United States, while receiving from numerous sources illegal campaign contributions that flowed from agents and surrogates of the People's Republic of China, made decisions in the direction of American foreign, military and trade policy in regard to China; decisions of the gravest character, concerning nuclear weapons technology, the direction of the Fleet, and the extent to which the United States will defend the idea of democracy and press for the universal application

# CCRKBA: PUBLIC SUPPORTS GUNS AGAINST CARJACKERS

A recently completed national opinion survey shows the public supports overwhelmingly the use of firearms by private citizens to prevent carjackings, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated. Snyder based his claim on the results of a national survey conducted in late October by USA WEEKEND magazine.

"Readers put carjackers on notice," headlined an item in the November 28-30, 1997 issue of the weekly publication.

"A controversial Louisiana law that lets people shoot suspected carjackers was the subject of a story in our October 24-26 issue, 'Is it OK to kill for a car,'" reported the magazine. "The law's critics warn of trigger happy-drivers. We asked readers to vote; 37,296 responded by toll-free call, postcard or online at [www.usaweekend.com](http://www.usaweekend.com)."

According to the USA WEEKEND report, 92 percent said "yes," "the law should allow you to kill a carjacker." Only eight percent said "no." In the survey, readers were given from October 24 through October 30 to vote.

In the magazine's October 24-26 article, "Is it OK to kill for a car," Anne S. Lewis, an Austin, Texas lawyer, wrote that "one night last December, Erika Schwarz pulled into her driveway in New Orleans and was about to get out of her car when she heard a rap at the window. She looked up into the barrel of a silver handgun. A man in a bandana gestured for her to unlock her Ford Taurus. On impulse, the then-reigning Miss Louisiana jumped out and ran, throwing her purse at the man and hiding in bushes till she heard him drive away in her car.

"Though she didn't own a gun at the time, she intends to soon. And there's no doubt in the mind of Schwarz, who also is a lawyer: 'If I hadn't been able to escape from the car - and I'd had a gun - I'd have shot to kill.'

"Under a new law in Louisiana, she would have been well within her rights. The growing incidence of carjacking in crime-weary New Orleans prompted the state legislature last summer to pass what critics have dubbed the 'Shoot-the-Carjacker' law.

"In a controversial amendment to the

existing law of self-defense, if you are in a vehicle and 'reasonably believe' the only way to keep a would-be carjacker from getting into the car (or to get him out) is to use deadly force, so be it; the law will not hold you accountable. It is the first law of its kind in the nation. Traditionally, a victim must believe himself in imminent danger of life or limb to employ deadly force."

Supporters of the law, including the group Victims and Citizens Against Crime, reported Lewis, "hope it will not only deter carjacking but also make officials think twice before prosecuting those who have fended off a carjacker. 'We felt the victim of a violent carjacking should not be cast as a criminal when he tried to defend himself,' explains the bill's author, State Rep. Peppi Bruneau, a Republican."

Lawyer Lewis wrote that "the new law extends to the protection of vehicles the same relaxed self-defense standard Louisiana has applied for years to the defense of homes and places of business. (In Louisiana, an adult with a permit can carry a concealed gun; getting a permit involves a detailed background check.) 'Your vehicle is really an extension of your property. Many people spend as much time in their vehicles as in their homes,' Bruneau says, adding that there have been more than 100 carjackings in New Orleans this year (1997), with physical injury to the victim occurring in one-fourth. National data compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics show an average of 35,000 completed and attempted carjackings a year for 1987-92. In four percent of those, the victim was seriously hurt. Louisiana State Rep. Bruneau said "I guarantee you, we may be the first state to enact this law, but we won't be the last."

However, not everyone supports the new Louisiana anti-carjacker law.

"Some worry that trigger-happy citizens," according to Lewis, "empowered to use weapons to protect their property, will go too far. Fresh in the collective memory is the killing of 16-year-old Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student, by a Baton Rouge man five years ago. The man convinced a jury he had felt so threatened by the presence of the teen, who had approached his house by mistake looking for a Halloween party, that he

was left with no reasonable alternative but to shoot the boy in self-defense.

"The carjacking law merely throws guns at the problem,' says Richard Haymaker, the Louisiana State University physics professor whose family hosted Hattori and who now heads a gun control group. 'People tend to identify with the driver of the car and assume they'll be capable of deciding in a split second whether it's OK to shoot to kill. What they're not considering is how they'll feel when some driver misinterprets their own child's motives.'"

That, however, wouldn't dissuade Schwarz. "If I'd killed my carjacker," she said, "it would have been hard to live with. But what would have been harder to live with: being raped, dismembered or traumatized? This law is not a license to kill. It's a license to protect."

USA WEEKEND readers, in responding to the survey, had a number of interesting comments, according to the publication.

Dave Janecek of Mesa, Arizona, while he thanked the magazine for "asking about the use of lethal force while being victimized by a carjacker," stated "I didn't want to participate, however, without knowing the whole story behind Louisiana's law. The phrase 'Shoot-the-Carjacker law' is a prejudiced, simplistic flame and detracts from the seriousness of the law. Please attempt to write about lethal force and self-defense with more composure."

A typical knee-jerk anti-gun response came from Elizabeth Musselman of McMinnville, Oregon, who stated "What scares me is the number of guns this law will put in the hands of drivers, because anyone who is armed is potentially dangerous."

A more rational response came from Robert L. Leppo of New Oxford, Pennsylvania, who asked "Is it OK to kill for a car? Evidently, the criminals think it is. They seem willing to use any means to steal your car. A car today is a necessity, so why can't citizens have the option of defending themselves and their property?"

"Louisiana's carjacker law does not state that victims must shoot carjackers - people can surrender their property and



# CCRKBA SEES BIG PUSH THIS YEAR FOR HR 339

As the Second Session of the 105th Congress gets rolling late this month, CCRKBA officials see a big push for H. R. 339 in the offing.

H. R. 339 is the proposed Right to Safety and Personal Protection Act, a national CCW reciprocity bill introduced by Rep. Cliff Stearns of Florida, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee.

Late last month, in a pre-New Year's Eve statement in Washington, D. C., John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, once again called on CCRKBA Members and Supporters to contact their own U. S. Representative and ask him or her to cosponsor H. R. 339 if he or she has not done so.

He also once again asked CCRKBA Members and Supporters to contact both of their U. S. Senators and ask them to become cosponsors of the Senate version of the bill, S. 816, by Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, also a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee.

By the time the First Session of the 105th Congress adjourned last year, well over three score Representatives had signed on already as cosponsors of H. R. 339. They are Reps. Robert B. Aderholt of Alabama, Spencer Bauchus of Alabama, James Barcia of Michigan, Bob Barr of Georgia, Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, Sonny Bono of California, Ed Bryant of Tennessee, Jim Bunning of Kentucky, Charles Canady of Florida, Jon Christensen of Nebraska, Larry R. Combest of Texas, Robert "Bud" E. Cramer, Jr. of Alabama, Barbara Cubin of Wyoming, John Doolittle of California, Jo Ann H. Emerson of Missouri, Philip S. English of Pennsylvania, John Ensign of Nevada, Terry Everett of Alabama, Jon D. Fox of Pennsylvania, James A. Gibbons of Nevada, Virgil H. Goode, Jr. of Virginia, Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, William F. Goodling of Pennsylvania, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Ralph Hall of Texas, James V. Hansen of Utah, Richard "Doc" Hastings of Washington, J. D. Hayworth of Arizona, Van Hilleary of Tennessee, Earl Hilliard of Alabama, Tim Holden of Pennsylvania, John N. Hostettler of Indiana, Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, Walter Jones, Jr. of North Carolina, Paul E. Kanjorski of Pennsylvania, Ray LaHood of Illinois, Ron Lewis of Kentucky,

Frank R. Mascara of Pennsylvania, David McIntosh of Indiana, Mike McIntyre of North Carolina, John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania, Sue Myrick of North Carolina, Bob Ney of Ohio, Charles Norwood of Georgia, Ron Paul of Texas, Joe Scarborough of Florida, Linda Smith of Washington, John E. Peterson of Pennsylvania, Charles "Chip" Pickering, Jr. of Mississippi, Nick J. Rahall II of West Virginia, Bob Riley of Alabama, Max A. Sandlin of Texas, Pete Sessions of Texas, John M. Shimkus of Illinois, Adam Smith of Washington, Mark Souder of Indiana, Floyd Spence of South Carolina, Bob Stump of Arizona, Gene Taylor of Mississippi, John R. Thune of South Dakota, Jim Turner of Texas, Wes W. Watkins of Oklahoma, Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Don Young of Alaska.

In explaining H. R. 339, Congressman Stearns said it is "designed to facilitate the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves, their families and their property."

Stearns said that H. R. 339, if enacted into law, would allow that the law of each State govern conduct within that State where the State has a right-to-carry statute, and that federal law would provide a bright-line standard of conduct applicable to States which do not have a right-to-carry statute.

Stearns stated that, under his proposal, "if State A has a right-to-carry statute, an individual's conduct who was licensed in State B would be governed by the right-to-carry laws of State A while he was traveling within State A. Therefore, if State A imparts more privileges upon the individual licensed to carry than State B, then the individual licensed to carry in State B would be governed by the right-to-carry laws of State A while he was in State A.

"The individual licensed in State B would also be in compliance with the law if he carried in State C with no right-to-carry statute pursuant to the federal bright-line standard. The federal bright-line standard governing those states with no right-to-carry statute would solve the problem of states with no carry licenses and thus no standards.

"This federal bright-line standard governs conduct only, meaning it governs

where one may not carry a concealed firearm notwithstanding the fact that they have a license to carry. It is intended to make clear that an individual may not carry a concealed firearm in certain highly sensitive locations, such as court rooms, police stations, schools and other locations."

Congressman Stearns pointed out that "the federal bright-line standard is not a licensing mechanism. Licenses to carry would still need to be lawfully obtained from a State which has a licensing mechanism."

He said "a federal standard governs the conduct of non-residents in those states that do not have a right-to-carry statute. However, states that do not have their own right-to-carry statutes can be assured that their state laws will be respected by non-residents who are within their borders.

"This legislation greatly benefits and protects this Nation's ever increasingly mobile society. I believe citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families anywhere in America. It does not make sense for Americans to forfeit their safety because they happen to be on a vacation or business trip.

"However, if the law of a given State explicitly allows licensees to carry in some places not authorized in the federal standard, it certainly makes no sense for the non-resident to be in violation while the resident would not be held in violation. My bill authorizes the carrying of a concealed firearm by a licensee if the licensee meets the conditions of the state law through which the non-resident is traveling or if their conduct meets the federal bright-line standard."

Stearns said his proposal "would not establish a federal licensing bureaucracy, nor would it override existing state laws which specify the times, places and manners in which licensed individuals may carry firearms, much like automobile permits from different states are recognized in all 50 states. Unlike the Brady Act, H. R. 339 respects the Tenth Amendment and does not impose enforcement or implementation duties on local officials. Instead, in the states which currently have some type of licensing system for the carrying of concealed firearms, it would

# SOCIOLOGIST JAMES WRIGHT THE CCRKBA RIGHTS AWARDEE

Professor James D. Wright of Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, a noted scholar in the sociological field of firearms research, is the designated recipient of the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for January.

In nominating Wright, the Charles and Leo Favrot Professor of Human Relations in the Department of Sociology at Tulane for the Award, John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, stated that "Jim has established himself as a leader in the objective study of firearms ownership in the United States. He is an expert on the relation between that ownership and the use and misuse of guns in our society.

"When Jim started out on the path of firearms research 20 years ago, he and his co-researcher at the time, Peter H. Rossi, were faced with a general 'scholarly' predilection against gun ownership. As a result of their analyses of literature in the field, however, they reported later in *UNDER THE GUN: WEAPONS, CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN AMERICA* in 1983, that 'there is no compelling evidence that the private ownership of firearms among the general population is, per se, an important cause of criminal violence. This is not to conclude that guns are not a cause of crime, but rather that no one has yet persuasively demonstrated this to be the case. The unproved hypothesis is just that: unproved, not necessarily true or false.'

"Since then, Jim's scholarly works have done a lot to rectify certain misconceptions about popular gun ownership in the United States. While a number of such misconceptions still are prevalent among large segments of the media and the political universe, Jim and people like him deserve a lot of credit for their pursuit of the truth in this matter, for undertaking the intellectual spadework without which it would not be possible to develop certain lines of rational argumentation. He is most deserving of this Award."

Professor Wright received his Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University in 1973, his Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1970, and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in

1973. He has published 16 books and 125 journal articles, book chapters and essays on topics ranging from survey research methods, American politics, homelessness and poverty, to gun control. In addition to his continuing research on urban poverty, on alcohol and drug issues, and on firearms and violence, James Wright currently is directing a five-year collaborative effort between Tulane and Xavier Universities, the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designed to increase the economic self-sufficiency and improve the overall quality of life for residents of public housing.

In addition to *UNDER THE GUN*, his books on firearms issues include *IN THE LINE OF FIRE: YOUTH, GUNS AND VIOLENCE IN URBAN AMERICA* (1995) and *ARMED AND CONSIDERED DANGEROUS: A SURVEY OF FELONS AND THEIR FIREARMS* (1986).

At Tulane University, Jim is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He also has been a full professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts as well as the Director of that University's Social and Demographic Research Institute.

Last October, Professor Wright discussed his *TEN ESSENTIAL OBSERVATIONS ON GUNS IN AMERICA* during a scholars conference in Washington, D. C. sponsored by the American Firearms Council, Inc.

First published in the March, April, 1995 issue of *RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY*, Jim lists the following as his 10 observations:

1. Half the households in the country own at least one gun.
2. There are 200 million guns already in circulation in the United States, give or take a few tens of millions.
3. Most of those 200 million guns are owned for socially innocuous sport and recreational purposes.
4. Many guns are also owned for self-defense against crime, and some are indeed used for that purpose; whether they are actually safer or not, many people certainly seem to feel safer when

they have a gun.

5. The bad guys do not get their guns through customary retail channels.

6. The bad guys inhabit a violent world; a gun often makes a life-or-death difference to them.

7. Everything the bad guys do with their guns is already against the law.

8. Demand creates its own supply.

9. Guns are neither inherently good nor inherently evil; guns, that is, do not possess teleology.

10. Guns are important elements in our history and culture.

Wright makes a number of deductions and draws some interesting conclusions from an analysis of his "10 observations."

He notes, for instance, "it is frequently argued by pro-control advocates that the mere presence of guns causes people to do nutty and violent things that they would otherwise never even consider. In the academic literature on 'guns as aggression-eliciting stimuli,' this is called the 'trigger pulls the finger' hypothesis. If there were much substance to this viewpoint, the fact that half of all U. S. households possess a gun would seem to imply that there ought to be a lot more nuttiness 'out there' than we actually observe. In the face of widespread alarm about the skyrocketing homicide rate, it is important to remember that the rate is still a relatively small number of homicides (10 to 15 or so) per hundred thousand people. If half the households own guns and the mere presence of guns incites acts of violence, then one would expect the bodies to be piled three deep, and yet they are not."

Wright notes that "when one asks gun owners why they own guns, various sport and recreational activities dominate the responses - hunting, target shooting, collecting and the like. Even when the question is restricted to handgun owners, about 40 percent say they own the gun for sport and recreational applications, another 40 percent say they own it for self-protection, and the remaining 20 percent cite their job or occupation as the principal reason for owning a gun.

"Thus for the most part, gun ownership is apparently a topic more appropriate to the sociology of leisure than to the criminology or epidemiology of violence. The vast majority of guns now in circulation



# QUICK SHOTS

Five animal rights activists were arrested in front of the White House early last month, according to THE WASHINGTON POST. U. S. Park Police said they were charged with defacing government property and demonstrating without a permit.

The demonstrators, organized by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), were protesting the use of leg-hold traps. The protest took place as President Clinton met in the White House December 5 with European Union representatives to discuss the subject.

Police said about 25 protesters took part in the demonstration. Some wore furlike garments and hid bottles of red paint underneath them. When they lay down, red paint squirted out and seeped onto the sidewalk in front of the Executive Mansion.



In endorsing pro-gun Congressman Bob Barr's call with H. Res. 304 for an inquiry of impeachment against gun grabbing President Bill Clinton, the influential INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY editorialized that "sooner or later, Congress has to fish or cut bait. Through hearings into fund raising abuses and other scandals, it has unearthed plenty of evidence that points to illegal conduct by the President. If nothing comes of this, the public will know that a President can break laws with impunity. Congress would be no better than the President if it lets the matter end there..."

"The easy response to Barr's challenge is to write him off as a fringe figure. But as Speaker Newt Gingrich was compelled to note, Barr is a 'serious man.' A former U. S. Attorney who once successfully prosecuted a GOP Congressman, he also knows a case of corruption when he sees one.

"We think Barr is just arriving early at a choice that the rest of Congress will sooner or later realize it has to make. And at least he has a plan of action, which is more than the rest of Congress has."

POINT BLANK readers who support H. Res. 304 should contact their own U.

S. Representative and ask him or her to become a cosponsor of it. Also contact Speaker Newt Gingrich, House Majority Leader Richard Armey, House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, House Rules Committee Chairman Jerry Solomon and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde and ask them to get on board. All of them may be reached by calling (202) 224-3121 or by writing them at the U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.



In September, according to WASHINGTON CITY PAPER for December 12, 1997, inmate Michael F. Schmitz, 45, serving two years in the Kentucky State Reformatory for drunken driving, filed a \$1.9-million lawsuit against the Lexington, Kentucky Police Department complaining that officers had been too "nice" when they arrested him in 1996. According to the lawsuit, when the police found a loaded so-called "assault rifle" in Schmitz' car and could not figure out how to dismantle it, they uncuffed the obviously inebriated Schmitz and had him take it apart. Schmitz says he "could have shot most everyone standing around watching this escapade" and thus contends that the police endangered the public.



When the North Carolina legislature debated the concealed carry issue in 1995, State Sen. Leslie Winner of Mecklenberg, an extremist anti-self-defense politician, predicted that "as more people carry guns, more will use them." However, statistics have proved that she and other critics of her ilk are wrong, according to the CHARLOTTE NEWS AND OBSERVER. Statistics throughout the state show decreasing crime rates and safe handling by permit holders.

Charlotte-Mecklenberg Police Chief Dennis Nowicki said "the concerns that I had - with more guns on the street, folks

may be more apt to square off against one another with weapons - we haven't experienced that."

The most significant drop in crime rates, according to the newspaper, have occurred in the counties with the heaviest per capita concentration of permit holders in the Carolinas. That's in the suburbs around Charlotte, where in some places the rate is as high as 11 per 1,000 adults.



Pistolsmith Richard Heinie of Quincy, Illinois, recently donated \$3,200 collected from a pistol auction to the Mason District Hospital Foundation, according to THE MASON COUNTY DEMOCRAT of Havana, Illinois.

STI, Inc., a pistol component manufacturer, and Gun Games Magazine of California teamed up to promote the pistol auction for charity. STI and Gun Games Magazine recruited eight of the top pistolsmiths in the country to each make a pistol for sale at an auction where the proceeds go to a charity of each pistolsmith's choice.

Heinie was chosen as one of the eight "Dream Team" pistolsmiths. His pistol, a .40 caliber practical/competition pistol, brought the most of the eight, at \$3,200. He chose to donate the money to Mason District Hospital. "I wanted the money to go to an organization that would help its community, and I knew Mason District Community Hospital would utilize the money to do just that," he said.

Richard's pistol shop, Heinie's Specialty Products, is on 301 Oak Street in Quincy. He currently is backlogged for over six years with custom pistol orders. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three children, Jeff, Annette and Janet. Jeff is a pharmacist in Quincy. Annette works for the University of Illinois medical research team in East Peoria. Janet is a chemist for Exxon in Baton Rouge.

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