

THE Gun Owners

34 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2009

HR 45 May be More Troubling Than the Average Anti-gun Bill

– Legislation may reflect Obama's thinking

by Mike Hammond

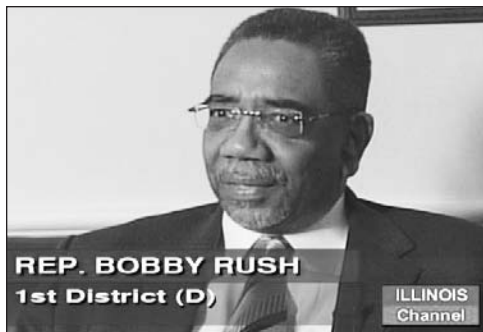
Those of you who regularly peruse the GOA website know that there are dozens of anti-gun abominations which are introduced as legislation in the Senate and House each Congress. These include, particularly, national gun licensing and broad gun bans.

GOA provides a summary of these bills for the benefit of our members and friends. Many of the measures are cynically introduced so that the Brady Campaign can raise money by threatening anti-gun legislation it could never pass.

But the first anti-gun bill of the 111th Congress — Chicago Congressman Bobby Rush's H.R. 45 — has caught the attention of many in the Second Amendment community as something we need to be worried about.

This is because of the extremity of the bill:

- H.R. 45 would require a federal license for all handguns and semiautomatics, including those you currently possess; and
- It would require handgun and semi-auto owners to be thumbprinted at the police station and to sign a certificate that, effectively, the firearm will not be kept in a place where it would be available for the defense of the gun owner's family.



Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL), a former Black Panther who spent time in jail on weapons charges, has introduced H.R. 45 — a bill that is arguably the most draconian, anti-gun bill in the Congress.

Pretty scary, huh? But, while this despotic nuttiness makes you wonder why a congressman from the Murder Capital of the Midwest would think that it would help to make the residents of New Hampshire, Alaska, and Wyoming com-



GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt appeared on Fox News' Glenn Beck show in February.

ply with his blood-soaked city's anti-gun laws, there have been other bills which are just as unconstitutional.

Rather, what makes H.R. 45 troubling is its sponsor and its timing.

Its sponsor is Congressman Bobby Rush — a scion of the same super-corrupt Chicago political machine that produced disgraced Governor Rod Blagojevich and President Barack Obama.

And as for its timing, it was introduced during the confirmation of Attorney General nominee Eric Holder — the man who tried to exploit the Columbine tragedy in order to pass gun licensing as Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton administration.

And make no mistake about it: Licensing is only a way-station to discouraging, arresting, or humiliating gun owners and outlawing guns. Under H.R. 45, for example, the applicant must also make available ALL of his psychiatric records, pass an exam, and pay a fee.

So ... are you a veteran who has ever consulted a psychologist or psychiatrist? Guess what? The FBI would soon be examining every confidential statement you have ever made during those consultations.

Private sales of handguns and semi-autos would be out-

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Inside:

- Did your Senators vote for gun control? (see pages 4-5)
- How to combat TV media's anti-gun bias (see pages 6-7)

Look Whose Ox is Being Gored Now

by Erich Pratt

Americans were stunned. They sat riveted, watching a sitting governor being arrested and led away in handcuffs.

That was the big news in December. By the end of January, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D) had been impeached and removed from office.

The allegations of corruption were quite varied, and even the FBI agents involved were reportedly “shocked” by the brazen attitude that Blagojevich displayed in his quest to sell the vacant senate seat formerly held by President-elect Barack Obama.

As outrageous as the governor’s actions were, FBI tapes revealed far more than just a senate seat for sale to the highest bidder.

Reportedly, Blagojevich was also threatening to block the sale of Wrigley Field by the parent company of the *Chicago Tribune* if certain editors who had criticized the governor were not fired.

This infringement of liberty rightfully shocked the media. In its editorial of December 10, the editors at *The Washington Post* said that Blagojevich’s squeezing the *Tribune* to fire its editors “alarms us.” And an editorialist at the Chicago newspaper labeled those same charges to be “shocking.”

Yes, these revelations are shocking. And it’s refreshing to see the media so “alarmed” by this disregard of constitutional liberty.

But gun owners are left to wonder about the media: “Hey, where have you been?”

This type of abuse may be uncommon when it comes to First Amendment freedoms, but the restrictions placed upon the Second Amendment are commonplace. And when it happens, there is hardly ever a peep heard from the news media.

For example, during his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Blagojevich was rated an F- by the Gun Owners of America, and his record as governor in the state of Illinois was not any better.

But where was the outrage against



The media “gets it” when a sitting governor — like Rod Blagojevich (D) — tries to get some newspaper editors fired, but they don’t seem to mind when it’s gun owners’ rights that are getting trampled.

Blagojevich who, even though he owned a state issued Firearm Owners ID card, did everything he could to restrict the ability of average citizens to own guns?

Where was the outrage when Shaun Kranish, an Illinois resident, was arrested for carrying a firearm in 2005 while Blagojevich was governor? Kranish was charged with carrying the gun in his fanny pack, even though he was legally carrying the pistol with the magazine outside the gun. The charges against this college student were eventually dropped, but not before he had spent almost \$10,000 in legal fees.

Where was the outrage when another Illinois resident, John Horstman, was illegitimately prosecuted for similar allegations? Those charges were subsequently dropped as well, but there was nary an outcry from the media.

These violations of our Second Amendment freedoms are not limited to Illinois. In recent years, gun owners have been forced to endure countless infringements of their liberties, but the media has been virtually silent. Consider the following:

- A Delaware woman was recently denied the right to purchase a handgun because she was too old and — please be sitting down for this — because she was a woman! A subsequent investigation found that the state police were using the Brady check system to register and record gun buyers, something which is explicitly against the law.

- In California, newly-appointed sheriff Sandra Hutchens has tried to revoke concealed carry permits in Orange County. In a letter to hundreds of permit holders, Hutchens warned that they could lose their licenses unless they can prove to her satisfaction that they have a valid reason for carrying the firearms. Can you imagine such a similar request being made to the editors of a newspaper — demanding that they justify the reasons for printing a story?
- It gets worse. Across the nation, the Clinton and Bush administrations used the Brady Law to revoke the gun rights of roughly 150,000 military veterans who are suffering from things like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The message to the veterans is, “Thank you for your military service ... sorry the rigors of combat have stressed you out ... now give up your guns.”

Where has been the outrage?

The recent impeachment of Gov. Blagojevich is yet another reminder that politicians will frequently claim to be acting in the public interest, when really, they are thinking about no one but themselves.

Truth be told, the media’s yelping about the infringements against their liberties reveals a similar myopic attitude. And now that their ox is being gored, they can (almost) understand what us gun owners live with on a daily basis. ■



Delaware Police Superintendent Col. Thomas MacLeish says the 81-year-old woman who was denied a firearm was initially rejected over concerns “based upon age and gender.”

HR 45 Legislation

Continued from page 1

lawed, and reports to the attorney general of all transactions would be required, even when — as the bill allows — the AG determines that a state licensing system is sufficiently draconian to substitute for the federal license.

But, you may be thinking, “I’m just a hunter with a deer rifle ... surely, none of this is relevant to me”?

Then you should know that, with virtually no exceptions, ALL firearms transactions (including person-to-person private sales of long guns, hunting rifles, shotguns, etc.) would be subject to the same paperwork hassles that are required when buying from a dealer.

In addition, the bill would make it unlawful in virtually all cases to keep any loaded firearm for self-defense. A variety of “crimes by omission” (such as failure to report certain things to the government) would be created.

Criminal penalties of up to ten years and virtually unlimited



Gun owners’ fear of increased Second Amendment restrictions has resulted in runs on ammunition — and hence, shortages — in several states.

GOA in the News



GOA’s Executive Director Larry Pratt debated the right of citizens to own guns for self-defense with Jane Valez on CNN’s *Headline News* in December.

regulatory and inspection authority would be established.

Combined with the Ammunition Accountability effort to outlaw ammunition in numerous states, this two-pronged attack would soon make gun ownership a thing of the past.

Barack Obama was fond of saying during the campaign that he supported the Second Amendment. And we read of gun buyers who are flocking — while it is still legal — to purchase firearms, but who concede that they believed Obama’s assurances and voted for him.

But we may soon see a more horrific, nastier side of Barack Obama ... and a capacity to go after his political enemies. And we have to assume that he will view gun owners as just about the most important of those enemies. ■

Mike Hammond is the legislative legal consultant for Gun Owners of America.

Are You A Bitter Clinger?

Who is a Bitter Clinger?

According to Barack Obama, who was recorded unawares at a San Francisco fundraiser, bitter clingers are voters who are bitter because of their economic frustration and so cling bitterly to their Bibles and their guns.

If you are a bitter clinger, Gun Owners of America has a T-shirt for you!



You can proudly proclaim your membership in this class of people so looked down upon by the elites in our country.

To order a Bitter Clinger T-shirt, go to:

<http://www.gunowners.org/merch9066.htm>





by John Velleco

As soon as the election was over, President Barack Obama put aside the campaign rhetoric of being a supporter of the individual right to keep and bear arms and started attacking the Second Amendment even before he was sworn in to office.

In a brazen affront to gun rights supporters, Obama nominated anti-gun activist Eric Holder for Attorney General.

It's hard to imagine an Attorney General who will be more hostile to the Second Amendment than Eric Holder, a man who is giving gun owners flashbacks to the days of Janet Reno and the Clinton Administration.

Holder, who served as Deputy Attorney General from 1997-2001, was Janet Reno's go-to guy on gun control and is on record supporting a 3-day waiting period for handgun purchases, the licensing and registering all gun owners, regulating gun shows out of existence, and much more.

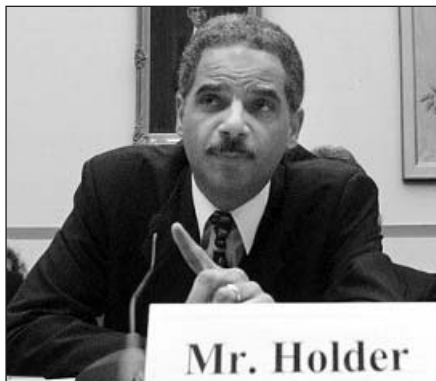
Senators expose the Attorney General's anti-gun views

Several Senators took to the floor during debate in the Senate to decry Holder's anti-Second Amendment activism.

"As Deputy Attorney General, he advocated restrictive gun control legislation, such as waiting periods, an age limit, that a soldier coming back from Iraq could not own a shotgun because he wasn't 21 yet, a registration for every gun in this country, the elimination for me to be able to give my shotgun to my grandson when it is time to teach him to go hunting," said Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn (R).

Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning (R) added that Holder "seems to hold the view that gun possession is not a right, as the [*D.C. v. Heller*] case confirmed, but more a privilege or hobby that needs to be strictly regulated. Mr. Holder is supportive of old ideas for gun control that have never proven to make people safer at the expense of tak-

President Obama Hits the Ground Running — Attacks on the Second Amendment Have Already Begun



President Obama's anti-gun pick for Attorney General, Eric Holder, was confirmed by the Senate in February.

ing away their rights. He has indicated he will favor licensing and registering all gun owners, a policy I do not think will sit well with Americans."

Sens. Coburn and Bunning joined 19 other principled pro-gun Senators and opposed Holder. Others, like Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) voiced concerns over Holder's views but betrayed gun owners and voted to confirm him anyway. (See if your Senators voted for Holder on page 5)

Placing someone as hostile to the Second Amendment as Holder in a position to enforce the federal gun laws in this country is a cynical slap in the face of law-abiding gun owners.

Gun Owners of America was the only national pro-gun organization to actively oppose Holder's confirmation and to notify Senators that the vote would be a scored in the 2010 Congressional rating.

Senator David Vitter (R-LA) thanked GOA and its members for its work opposing Holder's confirmation. "Thank you for all the work GOA has done revealing the anti-Second Amendment record of Attorney General Nominee Eric Holder. GOA has led the national gun rights organizations in actively opposing Mr. Holder's nomination and has helped provide the Senate with more time to consider this important vote," said Sen. Vitter.

New law to "stimulate" anti-gun groups like ACORN

Shortly after the Holder confirmation, the Congress took up and passed a multi-billion dollar, pork-laden, so-called "stimulus" bill. While debate continues over whether the new law, known as H.R. 1, will help or hurt the economy, one thing it will "stimulate" is anti-gun activity on the left.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), the radical anti-gun group under investigation for voter fraud, could be eligible to receive millions, if not *billions*, of dollars from the "stimulus" bill signed by President Obama in February.

ACORN was an aggressive supporter of Barack Obama — who had served as the group's legal counsel and even trained ACORN in "community organizing" — in the presidential election. The Obama campaign even paid the group \$800,000 for "voter turnout," the very activities that came under scrutiny by the FBI.

In October 2008, ACORN's Las Vegas office was raided by law enforcement agents investigating voter registration fraud. According to the Nevada Secretary of State's office, voter information submitted by the group included nonexistent names, false addresses, duplicate filings and even the starting lineup of the Dallas Cowboys.

ACORN pursues anti-gun legislation

In addition to allegedly turning in massive amounts of fraudulent voter

Did your congressmen vote for the anti-gun "stimulus" bill?

After Congress passed a so-called "stimulus" bill in February that will impact upon gun rights, President Obama wasted little time in signing it into law.

To see how your Representative and Senators voted, please go to <http://gunowners.org/cgv.htm> on the GOA website.

registration forms leading up to the 2008 elections, ACORN is also involved in anti-Second Amendment activism. For instance, a New Jersey ACORN chapter supported a one-gun-a-month



“GOA has led the national gun rights organizations in actively opposing Mr. Holder's nomination.” — U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-LA), pictured on the left, with GOA's John Velleco on the right

ordinance in Jersey City, a law that was struck down last year by an appeals court for violating the State's preemptive law.

This group should not be eligible to receive one penny of Americans' tax money, yet ACORN has received over \$28 million in taxpayer dollars in 2008 alone and over \$53 million since 1994. Last year, some members of Congress were able to strip \$100 million of potential ACORN money from the home mortgage industry bailout bill, but it was reinserted into the current legislation.

The total amount of money for which groups like ACORN are eligible in the new law is over \$4 billion, under a provision for “neighborhood stabilization

activities.” According to the legislation, the money can be utilized by state and local governments and also “nonprofit entities or consortia of nonprofit entities.”

ACORN can possibly collect more money under this legislation that it has over the past 15 years, and you can bet that ACORN is expert at accessing those funds.

MoveOn.Org to also get a stimulus

Another group that could benefit from H.R. 1 is MoveOn.org, an organization that has advocated for sweeping gun control laws.

According to Rep. Darrell Issa, a California Republican, “MoveOn.org's civic action committee could receive stimulus funds such as money earmarked for energy ‘activities,’ since MoveOn.org lists one of its goals to ‘reduce America's dependence on oil.’”

Both ACORN and MoveOn.org have also been heavily involved in supporting Secretary of State candidates, thus placing allies in a position where they can help swing close elections in their favor.

This strategy has apparently paid off handsomely in Minnesota, where ACORN supporter and former community organizer Mark Ritchie ran the election recount that saw pro-gun incumbent Senator Norm Coleman's slight lead on election night evaporate

into a win for supposed funnyman Al Franken. Over 25 voting precincts recorded more votes than there are registered voters, votes that “happened” to be overwhelmingly in favor of Franken.

Mark Ritchie was supported in 2006 by the Secretary of State Project, a so-called “527” organization co-founded by MoveOn.org's director of grassroots mobilization.

The defeat of Sen. Coleman, if it holds up in court, will mean one less Senator to vote against bills like the semi-auto ban.

More hidden gun control in the “stimulus” law

Finally, one other aspect to the new “stimulus” legislation should concern gun owners.

The new law spends between \$12 and \$20 BILLION on requiring your doctor to retroactively put your most confidential medical records into a government database.

Based on our experience with veterans, we would expect the government to try to use computerized psychiatric records to impose gun bans on people who have sought (or will seek) treatment.

If the first two months of Obama's Presidency is any indication, gun owners are in for a tough four years. Gun Owners of America will continue to call on the Congress to help thwart even more anti-gun legislation from passing. ■

Senators Voting for Anti-gun Eric Holder

Akaka (D-HI)	Corker (R-TN)	Kohl (D-WI)	Reed (D-RI)
Alexander (R-TN)	Dodd (D-CT)	Kyl (R-AZ)	Reid (D-NV)
Baucus (D-MT)	Dorgan (D-ND)	Landrieu (D-LA)	Rockefeller (D-WV)
Bayh (D-IN)	Durbin (D-IL)	Lautenberg (D-NJ)	Sanders (I-VT)
Bennet (D-CO)	Feingold (D-WI)	Leahy (D-VT)	Schumer (D-NY)
Bennett (R-UT)	Feinstein (D-CA)	Levin (D-MI)	Sessions (R-AL)
Bingaman (D-NM)	Gillibrand (D-NY)	Lieberman (I-D-CT)	Shaheen (D-NH)
Bond (R-MO)	Graham (R-SC)	Lincoln (D-AR)	Snowe (R-ME)
Boxer (D-CA)	Grassley (R-IA)	Lugar (R-IN)	Specter (R-PA)
Brown (D-OH)	Gregg (R-NH)	McCain (R-AZ)	Stabenow (D-MI)
Burr (D-IL)	Hagan (D-NC)	McCaskill (D-MO)	Tester (D-MT)
Byrd (D-WV)	Harkin (D-IA)	Menendez (D-NJ)	Udall (D-CO)
Cantwell (D-WA)	Hatch (R-UT)	Merkley (D-OR)	Udall (D-NM)
Cardin (D-MD)	Inouye (D-HI)	Mikulski (D-MD)	Voinovich (R-OH)
Carper (D-DE)	Isakson (R-GA)	Murkowski (R-AK)	Warner (D-VA)
Casey (D-PA)	Johnson (D-SD)	Murray (D-WA)	Webb (D-VA)
Chambliss (R-GA)	Kaufman (D-DE)	Nelson (D-FL)	Whitehouse (D-RI)
Collins (R-ME)	Kerry (D-MA)	Nelson (D-NE)	Wyden (D-OR)
Conrad (D-ND)	Klobuchar (D-MN)	Pryor (D-AR)	

Singing a different tune?



Many gun owners were extremely upset with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, who not only failed to use his powerful position on the Judiciary Committee to generate opposition against Eric Holder, but actually went so far as to vote in favor of Holder's confirmation.

As National Geographic TV Takes Aim at Your Guns... It's time for gun owners to demand "equal time"

by Erich Pratt

National Geographic Channel ran a show recently entitled *Guns In America*. According to the program, there are millions of misguided gun owners across the nation. Why? Because their guns are supposedly more likely to do harm than to help them in an emergency.

"As a society, we're totally out of control with weapons," said one Philadelphia cop who was interviewed during the show. "You need to limit access that people have to these type of firearms."

That was the basic thrust of the program which first aired in December. National Geographic recited the usual worn-out factoids that are peddled by the Brady Campaign. It only cited anti-gun cops. And for every person who was filmed stating he or she believed in a right to own firearms for self-defense, the program would cite "facts" to prove that such a hope was misplaced.

Many gun owners who saw the show were left wondering when NatGeo became so political. Wasn't this the organization that loved showing pictures of kangaroos and foliage — images that we normally attribute to their magazine?

The National Geographic Channel presents itself as an educational, unbiased alternative. But *Guns in America* was hardly unbiased, as can be seen by the following agenda items that were pushed during the program:

1. *Guns in America* falsely claimed that guns in the home are 22 times more likely to kill a family member than to serve as protection. That is simply not true. The author of this study, Arthur Kellerman, has been discredited many times by other studies and by groups such as the National Academy of Sciences.(1)

2. *Guns in America* overstated the number of children who die by unintentional gunfire. In fact, when you look at the statistics involving younger children (ages 0-14), one sees that kids have a greater chance of dying from choking on things like the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that you feed them.(2) Hmm, why doesn't National



The National Geographic Channel portrayed twelve times as many negative uses of guns as positive uses — even though in the real world, guns are used at least 50 times more often to save life than take life.

Geographic want to report on those killer peanuts?

3. *Guns in America* portrayed twelve times as many negative uses of guns as positive uses -- even though in the real world, the truth is quite the opposite. According to statistics from the Clinton Justice Department in 1997, guns are used at least 50 times more often to save life than take life.(3) But none of this was presented, so the lesson for the NatGeo show viewer was: Guns are bad.

4. *Guns in America* only quoted anti-

gun "authorities," thus leaving the impression that all law-enforcement support gun control. Never mind the fact that when one looks at polls of the police community — which can be found on the website for the National Association of Chiefs of Police — they overwhelmingly hold pro-gun attitudes.(4) But none of these authorities were ever cited.

How to fight back

So what can we do? Short of buying out the National Geographic channel — a very expensive option! — there is plenty that concerned gun owners can do.

First, many activists like making the advertisers "feel the pain." And to that end, GOA has posted a list of the show's advertisers in our December 17, 2008 alert that is on the GOA website.

Second, and most important, we can demand "equal time" — but not in the way you're probably thinking. It would be a mistake to support legislation that would force media outlets like NatGeo to give "equal time." As tempting as that might be to some, we don't want to do anything that smacks of bringing back the UnFairness Doctrine.

The so-called Fairness Doctrine was used to keep conservative voices off the

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TIPs for Countering the Media Bias

T — Target the groups you want to inform (church youth group, Boy Scouts troop, high school government class, university club, etc.)

I — Identify anniversaries (of past shootings or of heroic examples where guns were used in self-defense) that will serve as a springboard to present your message.

P — Plan to show entertaining, hard-hitting DVDs to generate debate and counter the anti-gun media that Americans are being spoon-fed.

You can purchase pro-gun DVDs on the GOA website at www.gunowners.com/bookst.htm

National Geographic TV

Continued from page 6

air for many years. In fact, were it still in place, we would not have seen the rise of conservative talk radio which cut into the liberal stranglehold on how America receives the news. (But that's another whole discussion.)

So how can we demand "equal time"? Well, look in the mirror; you'll find the answer.

You are "equal time"

Gun owners can make use of pro-gun media to impact the world around them. But we have to be willing to think "outside of the box," and not just wait for someone else to take over a media channel to get the pro-gun view out.

Every gun owner has a sphere of influence. Have you been using yours?

What if gun owners were to take entertaining, hard-hitting DVDs and show them to their own teenagers? Or to their youth group at church? Or to their kid's Boy Scout troop?

What about getting the local high school government teacher to show one to his class to generate discussion? Or even getting a club at the local university to sponsor such a viewing for a similar debate?

Pro-gun DVDs that will turn the tide

GOA offers several DVDs on its website at www.gunowners.com/bookst.htm to give people the effective tools to counter the type of drivel that National Geographic offered up. For example:

- *Michael & Me* is a great answer to the tripe that Michael Moore frequently peddles. Hosted by Larry Elder, *Michael & Me* shows how the media distorts the positive role of guns in society and provides viewers many vivid examples of how guns save lives.
- *Innocents Betrayed* is an excellent DVD produced by Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership — a DVD which demonstrates how gun control has been a first step to genocide in many nations around the globe.
- *Shooting Back* explains the story of Charl van Wyk, an ordinary Christian man who became a hero on

July 25, 1993 — the day that would become known as the St. James Massacre. It was on this date that van Wyk shot back at the terrorists who were attacking an innocent congregation gathered in prayer, and saved many lives in the process.

- And, finally, *In Search of the Second Amendment* is a documentary that explains what the Second Amendment is all about. In interviewing professors, historians and other authorities, a legal expert presents original historical documents, many of which have never before been filmed. This is the documentary to equip the Second Amendment activist and convince many of those who don't like guns.

Change the world around you

Here's how you can use these pro-gun DVDs. Look for important anniversaries or current events.

For example, the anniversary of the start of the War for Independence falls on Sunday, April 19 this year. So why not get your church youth group to discuss how gun control was *the issue* that led to the hostilities at Lexington and Concord? The American War for Independence began on April 19, 1775 — the very day that British soldiers tried to steal weapons and gunpowder from the colonists in Massachusetts.

If you present this to a youth group, you can discuss how this was the very type of campaign was waged in I Samuel 13, where the nation of Philistia imposed a ban on blacksmiths in Israel to keep them from making weapons! This was done in preparation for a campaign of terrorism that the Philistines were inflicting upon the Israelites (see ch. 13:16-22).

After laying this groundwork, have your youth group watch the *Innocents Betrayed* video which shows how this same pattern of gun control (leading to

genocide) has played out all over the globe, time and time again.

You will be amazed to see the scales falling from your kids' eyes!

Or, the next time there is a nationally-televised shooting, use the *Shooting Back* DVD to show your teenagers — or your Boy Scouts troop — how courageous gun owners have used guns to stop massacres and protect defenseless people.

Or, use these DVDs on campus. Any of them would generate excellent debate in a school or university setting.

The point is, you can be an effective messenger in countering the drivel that the media is peddling.

It's bad enough that a liberal teacher's union controls the education of our kids in the public schools, and that many of them are being brainwashed with politically correct thinking.

But even though supposedly neutral programs like National Geographic are peddling the Brady Campaign's favorite



An ATF agent prepares to destroy guns that were seized in the United States. While all the police authorities quoted during the NatGeo show took an anti-gun view, the truth is that polls of police chiefs and sheriffs every year reveal they overwhelmingly hold pro-gun attitudes.

factoids to an unsuspecting public, we can help change the thinking of the next generation. ■

- (1) See <http://www.gunowners.org/sk0701.htm>. Also, see Charles F. Wellford, John Pepper, Carol Petrie, *Firearms and Violence: A Critical Review* (National Research Council of the National Academies, 2004), p. 118.
- (2) See GOA's Gun Control Fact Sheet at <http://gunowners.org/fs0404.htm>
- (3) See GOA's Gun Save Lives Fact Sheet at <http://www.gunowners.org/sk0802.htm>
- (4) See the yearly surveys of police chiefs and sheriffs conducted by the National Association of Chiefs of Police at <http://www.aphf.org/survey.html>



One More Reason the Brady Law Must Go

by Larry Pratt

One of the emblems of Hurricane Katrina was the horrific invasion of Patricia Konie's home by members of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). They entered Miss Konie's home — against her expressed

wishes. The Oakland TV station video of this can be seen at <http://gunowners.org/neworleans.ram> in the RealPlayer format.

Miss Konie (as she is universally known) was told that she needed to leave the city even though the storm had passed, her home was high and dry, and she was well-provisioned. One of the cops asked what she would do if a looter invaded the house and she lifted her antique .38 revolver as if she were holding a paperweight. "With this," she said.

One of them immediately shouted: "She's got a gun." Three of these big thugs then tackled her in her kitchen, breaking her collar bone. As they scuffled on the floor, one of them said, "We're just trying to help you."

The CHP attack team then hauled Miss Konie (pronounced Connie) out of her house, manhandling her into a truck to be shipped off to South Carolina for three months. Taxpayers also got stuck with the \$3500 bill for providing shots and general care for her dog during this time.

In a conversation with Rep. Steve Scalise of New Orleans, I asked whether this little lady who probably does not weigh 100 pounds had had her gun returned. The Congressman had her phone number in his blackberry, and he had his staff get an answer to this question. She had not, of course, gotten her gun back.

So we agreed that even though GOA could not get in the business of indemnifying gun owners who have been abused by their government, we could make whole this very conspicuous lady who had suffered from an out-of-control government.

I travelled to New Orleans on October 22 for the presentation of a replacement .38 caliber handgun. Scalise arranged for this to be done at the Pro Sport Shop in downtown New Orleans. Miss Konie made the purchase, and we had the news conference which went very well.

After the media left, the shop owner called in for a Brady Instant Check — as required by law — but was told the sale could not go through. Apparently, Miss Konie's birth date on her Medicare records did not match the date on the driver's license she used for the sale.

So, the government invades Miss Konie's home, breaks her collar bone, steals her gun, and then uses a law that does not keep criminals from getting guns to keep Miss Konie from getting hers!

Don't you feel safer knowing how the Brady Law has been protecting you from the likes of Miss Konie?

An additional dimension of government thuggery emerged during my visit. While serving in the state legislature, Representative Scalise got acquainted with Jim Gelé, the owner of Pro Sport Shop. The City of New Orleans had been suing Pro Sport because a gun that had been legally sold there had ended up being used in a crime. Scalise got a law passed that cut the lawsuit off at the knees, but not before it had cost Pro Sport tens of thousands of dollars.

Miss Konie's continuing abuse by government also underscores the need to get rid of the Brady Law.

While the City lost the case, they were not finished hammering Pro Sport. During Katrina, when the store was abandoned, neighbors reported seeing the police invade the store from the front, and on another occasion, from behind.

No wonder the population of New Orleans has declined post-Katrina. Many folks found that life was better after they fled the city and ended up in new locations.

The travails of Miss Konie and Pro Sport spotlight all that is wrong with the attitude of too many in government who consider themselves above the law.

Miss Konie's continuing abuse by government also underscores the need to get rid of the Brady Law. The National Academy of Science and the federal government's Center for Disease Control have both found that there is no research that indicates that any gun control law has lowered crime. Even more reason to junk a bad idea and say: "Bye, bye, Brady." ■

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