This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

**WHORM Subject File Code:** CM010  
**Case file Number(s):** 226311-269999

To see more digitized collections visit:  

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:  

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: [https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing](https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing)

National Archives Catalogue: [https://catalog.archives.gov/](https://catalog.archives.gov/)
MEMORANDUM

May 24, 1984

To: Ed Meese
From: Joe Wright
Subject: Armor-Piercing Bullet Legislation

1. Per your request, I have prepared a summary and am attaching a Decision Memorandum regarding the Administration's position on armor-piercing bullet legislation. The Decision Memorandum comes from Greg Jones of our Legislative Reference Division staff and is addressed to Mike Horowitz and Jim Cicconi who worked actively with Justice and Treasury in coming up with the language of a bill that appears to be acceptable to most of the key players in this matter.

2. As to the bill:

   o It codifies Treasury's current, voluntary ban against armor-piercing bullets;

   o It covers and bars the importation and manufacture of all current ammunition that is armor-piercing in nature ("solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, [and] depleted uranium");

   o It permits -- on a highly restrictive and limited basis -- a non-statutory expansion of the ban, but only as to "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from ... similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated";

   o It exempts from any ban the Federal or any State government or any of their agencies or political subdivisions;

   o It expressly exempts from the definition of armor-piercing ammunition all ammunition now in use which serves a non-armor-piercing purpose -- it does so by affirmatively authorizing the use of steel shotgun shot and shooting gallery ammunition;
o It provides broad authority to the Secretary of Treasury to further exempt from the ban any ammunition which he finds "is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes;" and

o It includes the Omnibus Crime bill provision of a mandatory five year sentence for anyone using or carrying a firearm loaded with armor-piercing ammunition "during and in relation to the commission of a felony."

3. I believe we are in a position to support the bill:

o Both Treasury and Justice have signed off;

o Remarkably, Treasury reports that the leadership of the National Rifle Association has taken a no-opposition position to the bill;

o With a proper marketing effort, undertaken swiftly, police groups (who were instrumental in pushing us to work for a bill) should be highly supportive.

4. Justice is scheduled to testify today before the Hughes subcommittee, and will of course only be in a position to oppose the Biaggi and Moynihan bills and to temporize on whether we will be sending up our own bill. I believe it important for a rapid decision to be made as to the Administration’s position on the bill, both because events are moving quickly and because our draft is likely to leak before long, thus giving the Democrats an opportunity to preempt and oppose it. As noted, quick movement should put us in a position to do well with police groups.
MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE HOROWITZ
JIM CICCONI

FROM: GREG JONES
(LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION)

SUBJECT: Legislation Concerning Armor-Piercing Bullets

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on March 7 on S. 555 (Moynihan), a bill that would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or importation of armor-piercing (aka, "copkiller") bullets. Justice and Treasury testified in opposition to the bill.

On Thursday, May 17, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on H.R. 953 (Biaggi). Another hearing will be held on May 24. Treasury testified at May 17 hearing and is scheduled to testify on the 24th. Justice will testify only at the May 24 hearing.

The Administration has testified against the pending bills, and guidance is needed regarding the desirability of proposing an alternative Administration "copkiller" bullet bill.

BACKGROUND

In common parlance, a "copkiller" bullet is a bullet that -- because of its ballistic or explosive characteristics -- is capable of penetrating body armor when fired from a handgun. The most well known armor-piercing ammunition is the so-called "KTW" or "Teflon-coated" bullet.

Police forces throughout the United States generally use body armor made of material called "Kevlar." Body armor of this kind is flexible and lightweight and has come into common use during the past ten years. It replaced body armor that was bulky, inflexible, and difficult to wear.

As a result of a network news broadcast in 1982, the availability of ammunition that could penetrate several layers of Kevlar became widely known. This raised two concerns. First, some thought that criminals would be encouraged to obtain KTW bullets. Second, others believed that police officers who otherwise wore body armor would discontinue doing so if they believed they were likely to be shot at with armor-piercing ammunition. As a consequence, legislation was introduced to ban the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing bullets. H.R. 953 and S. 555 are the version of this legislation under consideration in the 98th Congress.
S. 555/H.R. 953 AND AGENCY VIEWS

H.R. 953 and S. 555 would generally prohibit the importation, manufacture, or sale of a "restricted handgun bullet," which is defined as a bullet that, "as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, when fired from a handgun with a barrel five inches or less in length, is capable of penetrating body armor." Violators would be subject to both imprisonment and fines.

Both Treasury and Justice oppose H.R. 953 and S. 555. The Departments say that a strict interpretation of this bill could result in a ban on a number of bullets with legitimate uses and would deprive thousands of citizens of the use of their handguns. In addition, the bill's definition of "restricted handgun bullet" is so imprecise that manufacturers and importers could not know whether the ammunition that they were manufacturing or importing was lawful or unlawful.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

Although Treasury and Justice oppose both S. 555 and H.R. 953, they have assisted in drafting a bill that could be offered as a substitute if a senior-level policy decision is made to do so.

Justice put a draft bill on the table first. Its draft bill would have prohibited the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing handgun ammunition but would have defined "armor-piercing handgun ammunition" in terms of its ability to perforate a specified number of metal plates in controlled test conditions. At a series of senior-level meetings held over several weeks and attended by members of the White House staff, OMB, Justice, Treasury, and Defense (which has certain expertise in this area), however, it was generally agreed, for technical and policy reasons, that this approach was not workable. (Justice did not, and does not, necessarily concur in this assessment, however.)

At the meetings, Treasury advised that it had worked with manufacturers and importers of armor-piercing ammunition and had obtained voluntary participation in a program to limit the availability of armor-piercing ammunition. Treasury further advised that it had obtained informal agreements from the major manufacturers and importers of this kind of ammunition to sell it only to (1) the United States military, (2) State and local law enforcement agencies, or (3) foreign governments, as authorized by law. Treasury also told us that this voluntary ban seemed to be working well.
Based on Treasury’s representations concerning the voluntary ban on copkiller bullets already in effect, as well as expressions of Congressional interest in a bill that codified this voluntary ban, it was suggested that Treasury attempt to draft a bill, for Senior Staff consideration, that would do precisely that: ban only ammunition that is already unavailable in the marketplace. Treasury prepared such a bill, which has been carefully reviewed by the interested parties and, following certain clarifying amendments, is acceptable to them all, including the Department of Justice. The Treasury alternative bill codifies the present ban. Key provisions of the bill:

- Prohibit the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing ammunition, except with respect to ammunition for the use of the United States Government; for the use of State governments; or for exportation;

- Define "armor-piercing ammunition" to mean "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper [and] depleted uranium;"

- Further include within the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated;" and

- Exempt from the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" ammunition that might otherwise qualify but that clearly has a legitimate purpose, such as certain shotgun shot, ammunition used in shooting galleries, and any other ammunition that the Secretary of the Treasury finds is intended primarily to be used for sporting purposes.

In developing this draft legislation -- the drafting of which required considerable effort and time on the part of all parties involved -- there were several critical objectives:

- It had to cover only ammunition that is clearly armor-piercing in nature.

- It could not, either by its breadth or by conferring unduly broad discretion on Treasury, encompass ammunition with legitimate purposes.

- It had both to provide Treasury with adequate discretion to exempt bullets that might otherwise fit the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition," but that have sporting uses, and to exempt existing ammunition that might otherwise be covered, but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., shotgun shot).
If possible, without unduly granting discretionary authority to Treasury, it had to provide Treasury with some kind of tool with which to ban ammunition that may be clearly armor-piercing in nature which may be developed in the future.

The alternative bill achieves each of these objectives. By listing with specificity the materials out of which ammunition cannot be made, this bill should effectively ban only what is already being withheld voluntarily from the marketplace. And, in particular, should reach the most popular kinds of "copkiller" bullets (e.g., the KTW). The bill also severely restricts Treasury's ability to ban other kinds of ammunition to bullets, and only those bullets, that meet the strict test of being made of "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated." (In this regard, an earlier draft of the bill would have allowed Treasury to go after bullets that were merely "comparable" to currently-available copkiller bullets.) This feature, combined with the bill's provision that expressly permits Treasury to exempt certain classes of ammunition from the ban on broad "sporting purpose" grounds has resulted in a bill that is considerably less expansive in its scope, as well as being more workable, than either S. 555 or H.R. 953.

DISCUSSION

In considering whether the Administration should propose a cop-killer bill, the following factors should be kept in mind.

First, there may be some confusion over whether the President has supported cop-killer bullet legislation, and if so, what kind. Administration officials may have told a group of law enforcement officials that the Administration does support a ban on copkiller bullets. The Washington Post of March 4, 1984, ran a column that said, in part: "[T]he National Rifle Association has opposed any effort to ban these [copkiller] bullets - which have no use whatsoever in hunting or target shooting. Standing tall with the NRA and against the cop on the beat, Ronald Reagan has come out against banning these bullets - in a speech to the NRA convention." With respect to armor-piercing bullets, the President told the 1983 Convention of the National Rifle Association that the NRA "should support our efforts for a minimum mandatory term of 5 years imprisonment ... for the use of armor-piercing bullets during a Federal crime of violence. These are designed to truly be a threat to law enforcement officers, who, so many times, have to depend on bulletproof vests."
Second, the NRA has in the past opposed any legislation that would restrict the ownership of armor-piercing ammunition. In a letter mailed to its membership on April 16, 1984, for example, the NRA expressed strong support of the Nation's police officers but opposed H.R. 953 and related bills, because they "amount to gun control which would adversely impact the shooting sports in America and the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to use firearms for lawful purposes. They delegate to a federal bureaucrat the authority to determine what ammunition should be banned and what shouldn't be banned. They attempt to solve a non-existent problem by imposing gun control-restrictions which will only affect the law-abiding gun owner - not the criminal."

Of critical note, however, Treasury has advised that NRA leadership will not oppose the alternative draft -- they are of course hardly enthusiastic about any legislation, but have made the judgment that the alternative draft faithfully codifies the current, voluntary ban and goes no further, and that they can therefore live with it.

Third, there is reportedly heavy support for this kind of legislation among law enforcement groups. Although the threat to police officers from armor-piercing bullets is probably much less than what many perceive it to be -- no police officer has ever been killed by such bullets while wearing body armor -- there is nevertheless a widespread perception in the law enforcement community that armor-piercing ammunition constitutes a real danger.

RECOMMENDATION

We believe that general, and police community support for a bill to restrict the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing ammunition, as well as the related possibility that such legislation may actually be enacted this year, argues in favor of an Administration bill. In addition, not only is the alternative draft clearly preferable to the other bills under consideration, but, as noted, it appears to have achieved something close to consensus support.

The alternative bill addresses the concerns of the gun groups. First, it very narrowly defines the ammunition that is covered to include only ammunition that is not currently available because of the voluntary ban Treasury has negotiated with the major manufacturers and importers. Second, the bill severely circumscribes Treasury's discretion to ban additional kinds of bullets: only bullets "made of similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, [the] enumerated [materials]" would be covered. Third, and by
contrast, the bill grants Treasury exceptionally broad discretion to exempt from the ban ammunition that might otherwise be covered but that Treasury determines to be intended for sporting purposes. Fourth, the bill specifically exempts from its coverage all known ammunition currently in use that would otherwise be covered but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., steel buckshot and ammunition used in shooting galleries). What this adds up to is a bill that codifies the existing voluntary ban on the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing bullets.

An important advantage in proposing an Administration bill is that it would be viewed as a solid statement of support for law enforcement officers. Treasury and Justice believe that the major police organizations would support the alternative bill. If a decision is made to clear the bill, steps should be taken to assure that the major law enforcement groups are notified and brought on board.

The provision in the alternative bill giving greatest concern to the gun groups is the one which gives discretion to Treasury to ban future ammunition made of materials which the bill does not expressly list. But, lack of a tool to go after ammunition that is not made of the listed materials that is nonetheless demonstrably armor-piercing in nature, could defeat the purpose of the bill, or, alternatively, open a loophole that unscrupulous manufacturers could use to circumvent the intent of the legislation. Even if this were not a problem, however, the result of such an approach -- requiring a statutory amendment whenever armor-piercing ammunition is manufactured from materials not currently listed -- could cause unreasonable delays and other practical difficulties. Even from the NRA's perspective, the need to amend the law each time that a non-listed material or alloy were used for new armor-piercing ammunition would provide a window of opportunity for those seeking wider restrictions on guns and ammunition.

In summary, it appears that a consensus has been achieved in general support of the alternative bill. Because of the likelihood that both Judiciary Committees will be processing armor-piercing bullet legislation in the not-far-distant future, a timely decision is essential with respect to clearance of the alternative bill.

A copy of the alternative bill is attached.
DECISION

_____ CLEAR THE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT BILL (OMB/TREASURY RECOMMENDATION. JUSTICE WOULD SUPPORT BUT PREFERENCES ITS APPROACH.)

_____ CLEAR THE JUSTICE BILL (JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION).

_____ DO NOT CLEAR ANYTHING.

_____ OTHER.

Attachment
A BILL

To amend Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, to regulate the manufacture and importation of armor piercing ammunition.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 921(a)(17) of Title 18 of the United States Code is redesignated as section 921(a)(17)(A), and a new subparagraph (B) is added to section 921(a)(17) to read, as follows:

"(B) The term 'armor piercing ammunition' means solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, depleted uranium, or similar materials which exhibit armor piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated. The term shall not include shotgun shot required by Federal or State environmental or game regulations for hunting purposes, frangible projectiles designed for target shooting, or any projectile which the Secretary finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes."

SEC. 2. Section 922(a) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, except that this paragraph shall not apply to (A) the manufacture or importation of armor piercing ammunition for the use of the United States or any department or agency thereof or any State or any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, or

(B) the manufacture of armor piercing ammunition for the sole purpose of exportation."

SEC. 3. Subparagraph (A) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000 per year;".
SEC. 4. Subparagraph (C) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(C) of ammunition for firearms, other than ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $10 per year."

SEC. 5. Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 923(a)(2) of Title 18 of the United States Code are amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000 per year; or

"(B) of firearms other than destructive devices or ammunition for firearms other than destructive devices, or ammunition other than armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $50 per year."

SEC. 6. Section 924(c) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended (a) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and adding in lieu thereof a comma and the word "or" and (b) by adding a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) during and in relation to the commission of a felony uses or carries a firearm loaded with armor piercing ammunition shall, in addition to the punishment provided for the commission of such felony, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not less than five years. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall not suspend the sentence of any person convicted of a violation of this subsection, nor place him on probation, nor shall the term of imprisonment run concurrently with any other term of imprisonment, including that imposed for the felony in which the armor piercing ammunition was used or carried. No person sentenced under this subsection shall be eligible for parole during the term of imprisonment imposed herein."

SEC. 7. These amendments shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that sections 3, 4, and 5 shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  

June 1, 1984

FOR: JOHN A. SVAHN  
FROM: MICHAEL M. ULLMANN  
SUBJECT: Status Report on KTW Ammunition

By way of supplementing the attached Wright-Meese memo, rank and file NRA opposition has surfaced to the "expander clause" and the previously reluctant support of NRA leadership and staff for the bill has been withdrawn. The "expander clause" is the underlined section on page 1 of the attached bill.

Minus the expander clause, however, the bill will not be objectionable to the NRA, and the policy decision required to be made is whether to modify the draft bill by deleting the expander clause.

Arguments in favor:

- Without the expander clause, the bill should achieve consensus support and be enacted.
- Following the election or whenever in the future the bill will need to be amended, an expander clause is more likely to gain consensus support.

Arguments against:

- Without an expander clause, armor-piercing bullets made of substances other than those specifically listed in the bill will be expressly legal, and this may lead to efforts to "sneak in" armor-piercing ammunition before new legislation can be enacted.
- Without an expander clause, the subject of federal regulation of armor-piercing ammunition is likely to remain a live one.

-added to 1984 schedule of June 28, 1984, which shows the attendance meeting with Stimson, Walker, and others concerning Armor Piercing Bullets. Also attached a May 24, 1984 memo from Joe Wright.
A BILL

To amend Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, to
regulate the manufacture and importation of armor piercing
ammunition.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of
Representatives of the United States of America in Congress
assembled, That section 921(a)(17) of Title 18 of the United
States Code is redesignated as section 921(a)(17)(A), and a new
subparagraph (B) is added to section 921(a)(17) to read, as
follows:

"(B) The term ‘armor piercing ammunition’ means solid
projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten
alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper,
depleted uranium, or similar materials which exhibit
armor piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated. The term shall not include shotgun
shot required by Federal or State environmental or
game regulations for hunting purposes, frangible pro-
jectiles designed for target shooting, or any projectile
which the Secretary finds is primarily intended to be
used for sporting purposes."

SEC. 2. Section 922(a) of Title 18 of the United States
Code is amended by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor
piercing ammunition, except that this paragraph shall not
apply to (A) the manufacture or importation of armor
piercing ammunition for the use of the United States or
any department or agency thereof or any State or any
department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, or

(B) the manufacture of armor piercing ammunition for the
sole purpose of exportation."

SEC. 3. Subparagraph (A) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18
of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive
devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000
per year;".
SEC. 4. Subparagraph (C) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(C) of ammunition for firearms, other than ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $10 per year."

SEC. 5. Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 923(a)(2) of Title 18 of the United States Code are amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000 per year; or

"(B) of firearms other than destructive devices or ammunition for firearms other than destructive devices, or ammunition other than armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $50 per year."

SEC. 6. Section 924(c) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended (a) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and adding in lieu thereof a comma and the word "or" and (b) by adding a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) during and in relation to the commission of a felony uses or carries a firearm loaded with armor piercing ammunition shall, in addition to the punishment provided for the commission of such felony, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not less than five years. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall not suspend the sentence of any person convicted of a violation of this subsection, nor place him on probation, nor shall the term of imprisonment run concurrently with any other term of imprisonment, including that imposed for the felony in which the armor piercing ammunition was used or carried. No person sentenced under this subsection shall be eligible for parole during the term of imprisonment imposed herein."

SEC. 7. These amendments shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that sections 3, 4, and 5 shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
A BILL

To amend Chapter 44, Title 18, United States Code, to regulate the manufacture and importation of armor piercing ammunition.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 921(a)(17) of Title 18 of the United States Code is redesignated as section 921(a)(17)(A), and a new subparagraph (B) is added to section 921(a)(17) to read, as follows:

"(B) The term 'armor piercing ammunition' means solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, depleted uranium, or similar materials which exhibit—armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated. The term shall not include shotgun shot required by Federal or State environmental or game regulations for hunting purposes, frangible projectiles designed for target shooting, or any projectile which the Secretary finds is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes."

SEC. 2. Section 922(a) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) for any person to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, except that this paragraph shall not apply to (A) the manufacture or importation of armor piercing ammunition for the use of the United States or any department or agency thereof or any State or any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, or

(B) the manufacture of armor piercing ammunition for the sole purpose of exportation."

SEC. 3. Subparagraph (A) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000 per year;".
SEC. 4. Subparagraph (C) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

"(C) of ammunition for firearms, other than ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $10 per year."

SEC. 5. Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 923(a)(2) of Title 18 of the United States Code are amended to read as follows:

"(A) of destructive devices, ammunition for destructive devices or armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $1,000 per year; or

"(B) of firearms other than destructive devices or ammunition for firearms other than destructive devices, or ammunition other than armor piercing ammunition, a fee of $50 per year."

SEC. 6. Section 924(c) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended (a) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and adding in lieu thereof a comma and the word "or" and (b) by adding a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) during and in relation to the commission of a felony uses or carries a firearm loaded with armor piercing ammunition shall, in addition to the punishment provided for the commission of such felony, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment for not less than five years. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the court shall not suspend the sentence of any person convicted of a violation of this subsection, nor place him on probation, nor shall the term of imprisonment run concurrently with any other term of imprisonment, including that imposed for the felony in which the armor piercing ammunition was used or carried. No person sentenced under this subsection shall be eligible for parole during the term of imprisonment imposed herein."

SEC. 7. These amendments shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act, except that sections 3, 4, and 5 shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
MEMORANDUM

May 24, 1984

To: Ed Meese
From: Joe Wright
Subject: Armor-Piercing Bullet Legislation

1. Per your request, I have prepared a summary and am attaching a Decision Memorandum regarding the Administration's position on armor-piercing bullet legislation. The Decision Memorandum comes from Greg Jones of our Legislative Reference Division staff and is addressed to Mike Horowitz and Jim Cicconi who worked actively with Justice and Treasury in coming up with the language of a bill that appears to be acceptable to most of the key players in this matter.

2. As to the bill:

- It codifies Treasury's current, voluntary ban against armor-piercing bullets;
- It covers and bars the importation and manufacture of all current ammunition that is armor-piercing in nature ("solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, [and] depleted uranium");
- It permits -- on a highly restrictive and limited basis -- a non-statutory expansion of the ban, but only as to "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from ... similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated";
- It exempts from any ban the Federal or any State government or any of their agencies or political subdivisions;
- It expressly exempts from the definition of armor-piercing ammunition all ammunition now in use which serves a non-armor-piercing purpose -- it does so by affirmatively authorizing the use of steel shotgun shot and shooting gallery ammunition;
o It provides broad authority to the Secretary of Treasury to further exempt from the ban any ammunition which he finds "is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes;" and

o It includes the Omnibus Crime bill provision of a mandatory five year sentence for anyone using or carrying a firearm loaded with armor-piercing ammunition "during and in relation to the commission of a felony."

3. I believe we are in a position to support the bill:

o Both Treasury and Justice have signed off;

o Remarkably, Treasury reports that the leadership of the National Rifle Association has taken a no-opposition position to the bill;

o With a proper marketing effort, undertaken swiftly, police groups (who were instrumental in pushing us to work for a bill) should be highly supportive.

4. Justice is scheduled to testify today before the Hughes subcommittee, and will of course only be in a position to oppose the Biaggi and Moynihan bills and to temporize on whether we will be sending up our own bill. I believe it important for a rapid decision to be made as to the Administration's position on the bill, both because events are moving quickly and because our draft is likely to leak before long, thus giving the Democrats an opportunity to preempt and oppose it. As noted, quick movement should put us in a position to do well with police groups.
MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE HOROWITZ  
JIM CICCONI  
FROM: GREG JONES (LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION)  
SUBJECT: Legislation Concerning Armor-Piercing Bullets

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on March 7 on S. 555 (Moynihan), a bill that would prohibit the manufacture, sale, or importation of armor-piercing (aka, "copkiller") bullets. Justice and Treasury testified in opposition to the bill.

On Thursday, May 17, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on H.R. 953 (Biaggi). Another hearing will be held on May 24. Treasury testified at May 17 hearing and is scheduled to testify on the 24th. Justice will testify only at the May 24 hearing. The Administration has testified against the pending bills, and guidance is needed regarding the desirability of proposing an alternative Administration "copkiller" bullet bill.

BACKGROUND

In common parlance, a "copkiller" bullet is a bullet that -- because of its ballistic or explosive characteristics -- is capable of penetrating body armor when fired from a handgun. The most well known armor-piercing ammunition is the so-called "KTW" or "Teflon-coated" bullet.

Police forces throughout the United States generally use body armor made of material called "Kevlar." Body armor of this kind is flexible and lightweight and has come into common use during the past ten years. It replaced body armor that was bulky, inflexible, and difficult to wear.

As a result of a network news broadcast in 1982, the availability of ammunition that could penetrate several layers of Kevlar became widely known. This raised two concerns. First, some thought that criminals would be encouraged to obtain KTW bullets. Second, others believed that police officers who otherwise wore body armor would discontinue doing so if they believed they were likely to be shot at with armor-piercing ammunition. As a consequence, legislation was introduced to ban the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing bullets. H.R. 953 and S. 555 are the version of this legislation under consideration in the 98th Congress.
S. 555/H.R. 953 AND AGENCY VIEWS

H.R. 953 and S. 555 would generally prohibit the importation, manufacture, or sale of a "restricted handgun bullet," which is defined as a bullet that, "as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, when fired from a handgun with a barrel five inches or less in length, is capable of penetrating body armor." Violators would be subject to both imprisonment and fines.

Both Treasury and Justice oppose H.R. 953 and S. 555. The Departments say that a strict interpretation of this bill could result in a ban on a number of bullets with legitimate uses and would deprive thousands of citizens of the use of their handguns. In addition, the bill's definition of "restricted handgun bullet" is so imprecise that manufacturers and importers could not know whether the ammunition that they were manufacturing or importing was lawful or unlawful.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

Although Treasury and Justice oppose both S. 555 and H.R. 953, they have assisted in drafting a bill that could be offered as a substitute if a senior-level policy decision is made to do so.

Justice put a draft bill on the table first. Its draft bill would have prohibited the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing handgun ammunition but would have defined "armor-piercing handgun ammunition" in terms of its ability to perforate a specified number of metal plates in controlled test conditions. At a series of senior-level meetings held over several weeks and attended by members of the White House staff, OMB, Justice, Treasury, and Defense (which has certain expertise in this area), however, it was generally agreed, for technical and policy reasons, that this approach was not workable. (Justice did not, and does not, necessarily concur in this assessment, however.)

At the meetings, Treasury advised that it had worked with manufacturers and importers of armor-piercing ammunition and had obtained voluntary participation in a program to limit the availability of armor-piercing ammunition. Treasury further advised that it had obtained informal agreements from the major manufacturers and importers of this kind of ammunition to sell it only to (1) the United States military, (2) State and local law enforcement agencies, or (3) foreign governments, as authorized by law. Treasury also told us that this voluntary ban seemed to be working well.
Based on Treasury's representations concerning the voluntary ban on copkiller bullets already in effect, as well as expressions of Congressional interest in a bill that codified this voluntary ban, it was suggested that Treasury attempt to draft a bill, for Senior Staff consideration, that would do precisely that: ban only ammunition that is already unavailable in the marketplace. Treasury prepared such a bill, which has been carefully reviewed by the interested parties and, following certain clarifying amendments, is acceptable to them all, including the Department of Justice. The Treasury alternative bill codifies the present ban. Key provisions of the bill:

- Prohibit the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing ammunition, except with respect to ammunition for the use of the United States Government; for the use of State governments; or for exportation;

- Define "armor-piercing ammunition" to mean "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper [and] depleted uranium;"

- Further include within the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated;" and

- Exempt from the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" ammunition that might otherwise qualify but that clearly has a legitimate purpose, such as certain shotgun shot, ammunition used in shooting galleries, and any other ammunition that the Secretary of the Treasury finds is intended primarily to be used for sporting purposes.

In developing this draft legislation -- the drafting of which required considerable effort and time on the part of all parties involved -- there were several critical objectives:

- It had to cover only ammunition that is clearly armor-piercing in nature.

- It could not, either by its breadth or by conferring unduly broad discretion on Treasury, encompass ammunition with legitimate purposes.

- It had both to provide Treasury with adequate discretion to exempt bullets that might otherwise fit the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition," but that have sporting uses, and to exempt existing ammunition that might otherwise be covered, but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., shotgun shot).
If possible, without unduly granting discretionary authority to Treasury, it had to provide Treasury with some kind of tool with which to ban ammunition that may be clearly armor-piercing in nature which may be developed in the future.

The alternative bill achieves each of these objectives. By listing with specificity the materials out of which ammunition cannot be made, this bill should effectively ban only what is already being withheld voluntarily from the marketplace and, in particular, should reach the most popular kinds of "copkiller" bullets (e.g., the KTW). The bill also severely restricts Treasury's ability to ban other kinds of ammunition to bullets, and only those bullets, that meet the strict test of being made of "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated." (In this regard, an earlier draft of the bill would have allowed Treasury to go after bullets that were merely "comparable" to currently-available copkiller bullets.) This feature, combined with the bill's provision that expressly permits Treasury to exempt certain classes of ammunition from the ban on broad "sporting purpose" grounds has resulted in a bill that is considerably less expansive in its scope, as well as being more workable, than either S. 555 or H.R. 953.

DISCUSSION

In considering whether the Administration should propose a cop-killer bill, the following factors should be kept in mind.

First, there may be some confusion over whether the President has supported cop-killer bullet legislation, and if so, what kind. Administration officials may have told a group of law enforcement officials that the Administration does support a ban on copkiller bullets. The Washington Post of March 4, 1984, ran a column that said, in part: "[T]he National Rifle Association has opposed any effort to ban these [copkiller] bullets - which have no use whatsoever in hunting or target shooting. Standing tall with the NRA and against the cop on the beat, Ronald Reagan has come out against banning these bullets - in a speech to the NRA convention." With respect to armor-piercing bullets, the President told the 1983 Convention of the National Rifle Association that the NRA "should support our efforts for a minimum mandatory term of 5 years imprisonment ... for the use of armor-piercing bullets during a Federal crime of violence. These are designed to truly be a threat to law enforcement officers, who, so many times, have to depend on bulletproof vests."
Second, the NRA has in the past opposed any legislation that would restrict the ownership of armor-piercing ammunition. In a letter mailed to its membership on April 16, 1984, for example, the NRA expressed strong support of the Nation’s police officers but opposed H.R. 953 and related bills, because they "amount to gun control which would adversely impact the shooting sports in America and the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to use firearms for lawful purposes. They delegate to a federal bureaucrat the authority to determine what ammunition should be banned and what shouldn’t be banned. They attempt to solve a non-existent problem by imposing gun control-restrictions which will only affect the law-abiding gun owner - not the criminal.”

Of critical note, however, Treasury has advised that NRA leadership will not oppose the alternative draft -- they are of course hardly enthusiastic about any legislation, but have made the judgment that the alternative draft faithfully codifies the current, voluntary ban and goes no further, and that they can therefore live with it.

Third, there is reportedly heavy support for this kind of legislation among law enforcement groups. Although the threat to police officers from armor-piercing bullets is probably much less than what many perceive it to be -- no police officer has ever been killed by such bullets while wearing body armor -- there is nevertheless a widespread perception in the law enforcement community that armor-piercing ammunition constitutes a real danger.

RECOMMENDATION

We believe that general, and police community support for a bill to restrict the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing ammunition, as well as the related possibility that such legislation may actually be enacted this year, argues in favor of an Administration bill. In addition, not only is the alternative draft clearly preferable to the other bills under consideration, but, as noted, it appears to have achieved something close to consensus support.

The alternative bill addresses the concerns of the gun groups. First, it very narrowly defines the ammunition that is covered to include only ammunition that is not currently available because of the voluntary ban Treasury has negotiated with the major manufacturers and importers. Second, the bill severely circumscribes Treasury’s discretion to ban additional kinds of bullets: only bullets "made of similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, [the] enumerated [materials]" would be covered. Third, and by
contrast, the bill grants Treasury exceptionally broad discretion to exempt from the ban ammunition that might otherwise be covered but that Treasury determines to be intended for sporting purposes. Fourth, the bill specifically exempts from its coverage all known ammunition currently in use that would otherwise be covered but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., steel buckshot and ammunition used in shooting galleries). What this adds up to is a bill that codifies the existing voluntary ban on the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing bullets.

An important advantage in proposing an Administration bill is that it would be viewed as a solid statement of support for law enforcement officers. Treasury and Justice believe that the major police organizations would support the alternative bill. If a decision is made to clear the bill, steps should be taken to assure that the major law enforcement groups are notified and brought on board.

The provision in the alternative bill giving greatest concern to the gun groups is the one which gives discretion to Treasury to ban future ammunition made of materials which the bill does not expressly list. But, lack of a tool to go after ammunition that is not made of the listed materials that is nonetheless demonstrably armor-piercing in nature, could defeat the purpose of the bill, or, alternatively, open a loophole that unscrupulous manufacturers could use to circumvent the intent of the legislation. Even if this were not a problem, however, the result of such an approach -- requiring a statutory amendment whenever armor-piercing ammunition is manufactured from materials not currently listed -- could cause unreasonable delays and other practical difficulties. Even from the NRA's perspective, the need to amend the law each time that a non-listed material or alloy were used for new armor-piercing ammunition would provide a window of opportunity for those seeking wider restrictions on guns and ammunition.

In summary, it appears that a consensus has been achieved in general support of the alternative bill. Because of the likelihood that both Judiciary Committees will be processing armor-piercing bullet legislation in the not-far-distant future, a timely decision is essential with respect to clearance of the alternative bill.

A copy of the alternative bill is attached.
DECISION

--- CLEAR THE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT BILL (OMB/TREASURY RECOMMENDATION. JUSTICE WOULD SUPPORT BUT PREFERENCES ITS APPROACH.)

--- CLEAR THE JUSTICE BILL (JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION).

--- DO NOT CLEAR ANYTHING.

--- OTHER.

Attachment
INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ANDY MOLCHAN

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING COMING EVENTS IN 1984 AND ABOUT FIREARMS OWNERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>DISPOSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROUTE TO:</td>
<td>ACT DATE TYPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)</td>
<td>CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARGARET TUTWILER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REFERRAL NOTE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORG 84/09/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMENTS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| MI MAIL USER CODES: | (A)_________ (B)_________ (C)_________ |

*ACTION CODES:  *DISPOSITION CODES:  *OUTGOING *
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  A-ANSWERED  TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
* C-COMMENT/RECOM  B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  OF SIGNER *
* D-DRAFT RESPONSE  C-COMPLETED  CODE = A *
* F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  S-SUSPENDED  COMPLETED = DATE OF *
* I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*  * OUTGOING *
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *  |
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE *  |
* X-INTERIM REPLY *  |

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
Dear Mr. Molchan:

Thank you for your recent letters regarding your Mass Announcement Telephone Number Proposal.

As you know, the President has authorized the establishment of a principal campaign committee, Reagan-Bush '84, to work on his behalf. As a matter of policy, all campaign-related correspondence and suggestions must be sent to Reagan-Bush '84 for appropriate action. I, therefore, have forwarded your letter to the appropriate officials at the campaign for their review and response.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write and share your campaign suggestion.

Sincerely,

Margaret D. Tutwiler
Deputy Assistant to the President for Political Affairs

Mr. Andy Molchan
NAFLFD
2801 East Oakland Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33306
September 6, 1984

President Reagan
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

We are an association of firearms retailers. Naturally, we are not very happy with Ms. Ferraro's and Mr. Mondale's position on firearms ownership.

Enclosed is a copy of our ad/editorial from one of our publications, FFL BUSINESS NEWS -- 100,000 circulation monthly.

There are 25 million hunters in America, another 7 million people who sport shoot, but do not hunt, and another 5 million people, who collect firearms as a hobby. That's 37 million people. Most of them are adult head-of-household men.

Ferraro is sitting on a giant bomb. Why don't you light the fuse?

Many millions of these hunters and shooters are rank-and-file union members in the Northeast. They do not know Ferraro's position on firearms ownership. Why not tell them?

As Tip O'Neill has said, "come out swinging". And we have.

Best wishes,

Andy Molchan
NAFLFD President

2801 East Oakland Park Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306 (305) 561-3505
A Call to Battle
This is a personal message from the publisher about the 1984 elections and the future of America.

Blame America for everything

After the Democratic Convention this last July, President Reagan gave a perfect and clear sighted summary. He said, "The Democratic Party has moved so far to the left, they have left America." Indeed, the Democratic Party is now controlled by people who have contempt for the values of our 1776 American Revolution. They have contempt for the idea of America and for all the values that have made America one of the most just societies in the world, certainly not perfect, but a lot better than anywhere else. One of the new leaders of the Democratic Party ideology is a well-known professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who draws capacity crowds of dozing left-wing students to his lectures on campuses all across the nation. He recently said, as reported in one of the largest newspapers in America, "Washington, D.C. has become the torrid capital of the world."

Ferraro and firearms owners

So what about Ferraro? To make a long story short, Teddy Kennedy would be better. Ferraro is a friend of Teddy, Tip O'Neill, Peter Rodino and just about every other left-wing anti-gun demagogue in Congress. Ferraro co-sponsored the extremely restrictive HR 5443 Kennedy-Rodino anti-firearms bill. In 1983 she co-sponsored HR 40, calling for a complete ban on the manufacture, importation, sale and civilian ownership of firearms. Ferraro is on Handgun Control's favored list and gets money from them. Ferraro is from New York City, which has one of the most totalitarian firearms laws in the world, and also one of the highest crime rates. Like all other left-wing Democrats she blames crime on the police and firearms manufacturers. She's indicated that she favors a national Sullivan-type law which would make the ownership of any kind of firearms illegal, even for off-duty police officers.

Mondale is also anti-firearms ownership

Walter Mondale, and his socialist staff, were perfectly aware of Ferraro's ultra left-wing anti-firearms voting record. In addition, with Mondale's approval, the Democratic Party has written into the Official 1984 Democratic Platform a ban on the sale and manufacture of firearms.

A Party in bondage

The National Democratic Party has been seised by the ultra left-wing socialist forces in America. The ghost of Joe McCarthy is now very much alive and well, and in control of the Democratic Party. On one hand you have the left-wing socialist leadership of the Democratic Party which is hostile to anyone and anything which represents the traditional values and ideals of America. They are loud, pushy, and obnoxious, demanding that things only be seen the way they want them to be seen. In the last analysis, they, like Joe McCarthy, are potentially very dangerous. On the other hand, there are the traditional Democrats who love their country, and believe in America, but are either too unenlightened or too frightened to oppose the liberal socialists who have seized the Democratic Party.

The old Democratic Party is dead

When I turned 21, I started working for the Democratic Party in Chicago. My parents were also Democrats. I was a voting and working Democratic Party Member for almost twenty years. Even when I was in the Army in Korea, I used an absentee ballot and voted Democratic, but with time, I got smarter. When I moved from Chicago to Florida, I re-registered as a Republican, and tore up my Democratic Party card. In reality, I didn't leave the Democratic Party, it left me! The old Democratic Party is dead. I was smart enough to see what was in front of my eyes, now it's vital for you to see also.

Harry Truman wanted a reduction in taxes, and reduced them. He wanted a strong national defense. He wanted to stand up to the Russians, and did so during the Cuban missile crisis. Ronald Reagan wanted a reduction in taxes, and reduced them. He wanted a strong national defense. He wanted to stand up to the Russians, and did so by breaking the Russian Berlin blockade in 1948.

Ronald Reagan wanted a reduction in taxes, and reduced them. He wanted a strong national defense. He wanted to stand up to the Russians, and did so by taking Grenada back from the Russians.

It's Mondale and his yellow-belly, cowardly "new" Democratic Party who are way out in left field. The "new" Democratic Party is a Party for whining.

Think about your vote

Rather than voting by habit or family tradition, you should re-examine exactly what's happening. The Democratic Party no longer represents you, what you believe in, or what you want America to be for your children and grandchildren. Ask yourself what I ask of myself:

1. Is the party of Teddy Kennedy my party?
2. Is the party that supports banning firearms ownership my party?
3. Is the party that wants to weaken our Army, Navy and Air Force my party?
4. Is the party of fast-buck Ferrar and mandaine Mondale my party?
5. Is the party of the anti-prayer, left-wing school teacher unions my party?
6. Is the party that wants to give Central America to the Russians my party?
7. Is the party that uses tax money to pay for abortions my party?
8. Is the party that persecutes private church schools my party?
9. Is the party that believes violent criminals should be set free on the streets of America, and the Russian Army and KGB should be set free on the world, is this my party?
10. Is the party that thinks the police are the causes of crime in my party?
11. Is the party that reasons, the more America's National Defense is weakened, the more safe we become from Russian attack, my party?
12. Is the party that believes in more tax, and more tax, my party?
13. Is the party that preaches class hatred, class-prejudice, and general all around hatred against all successful people really my party?
14. Is the party that blames everything on REagan, and does little more than provide liquor bombs with excuses for being lazy bums my party?
15. Is the party that blames everything bad in the world on Americans my party?
16. Is the party that believes in its heart, that America must be punished, my party?
17. Is the party of massive negativism really my party?
18. Is the party that would be happy to turn my kids and grandkids into pacifist whimpies my party?

The end conclusion is that the old Democratic Party is dead, and like a walking zombie, the "new" Democratic Party is possessed by something which is very sinister. Think and see!!

The "New" Democratic Party's "New Ideas"

The "new" ideas of the Democratic Party are really very old, ultra right-wing ideas with a new left-wing hue. The "new" Democratic ideas are basically a policy of American isolationism and a foreign policy of passive non-violence based on the ideas of Mahatma K. Gandhi. The old right-wing Republicans wanted isolationism based on military strength. The "new" left-wing Democratic Party idea is isolationism based on passive resistance. The "new" version believes we should be militarily weak. A weakness is to be compensated for by a noble-spirited diplomacy that will shame the world into respecting our rights. It's a policy that opposes sending American arms or troops to El Salvador, Honduras, Grenada, Guatemala, or Western Europe or even to Mexico or Canada, and perhaps to California or New York.

The central problem is that the "new" Democrats are historical nerds. The lesson of Gandhi and 20th Century history is that passive resistance ONLY works if you are dealing with something like the English Parliament or the United States Supreme Court. In the 1930's the Ukrainians tried passive resistance against Stalin. He simply killed them by the millions. In the 1930's the Jews in Germany tried passive resistance against Hitler, and that just made it a lot easier for Hitler to kill them by the millions. Passive resistance is a formula for death when dealing with people like the KGB and the Russian Red Army.

The real lesson of current world history

The first lesson of current world history is that communist revolutions in the Third World are NOT concerned with the struggle for national independence or social justice. They are primarily oriented towards the creation of totalitarian states, and the crippling of the only long-term source of resistance to that objective which is American power and the American willingness to use that power.

The lessons to learn from the "new" Democratic Party is that the activist left-wing of the Democratic Party is NOT genuinely devoted to peace or human rights. On the contrary, it is devoted to the political cause of totalitarian revolutions of the Third World. In that devotion, it has shown itself to be a traitor to the central ideals of America, and more capable of duplicity than the very worst of any U.S. administration.

It is time for the good people of America to remove the halls of moral purity from the heads of the liberal Democrats who vitally an anticommunist policy in Central America, and invoke the Indochina experience as
The central motivation of the "new" Democratic Party

The socialists who now control the Democratic Party are primarily upper-middle-class and upper-class younger people who suffer from massive guilt feelings over their money and relatively privileged position, and the condition of the masses in the world. They have a tremendous internal conflict between their elitist and their egalitarian impulses. They claim to be "working people at heart," but can just barely hide their contempt and fear for traditional values of working people. They feel guilty about their family's money, and they want to relieve those feelings by punishing the rich of America. That punishment takes the form of higher and higher taxes to build an army of left-wing bureaucrats. The punishment takes the form of weakening American's position in the world in any way possible. The "new" Democratic Party liberals in Congress follow a pattern of general obstructionism, and a steady flow of mis-information, which they funnel out to the liberals in the big press, who in turn, put together "investigative journalism" articles which are usually character assassinations against those who are loyal to the ideals of America.

The future of America under the "new" Democratic Party

If you want to see what would happen to America under the "new" Democrats, just look at England. In 1910, England was the greatest power in the world. By 1970, just 60 years later, it was a third rate country, saved from Russian embarrassment only because it was protected by America. What happened? At the beginning of the century the socialists moved into the English schools and universities. They took over the English Teaching Unions just like the pacific socialists have captured most American Teacher unions. The socialists took over the national press in England, and they started pumping their poison into the minds of the English kids who then grew up and started electing left-wing politicians. The end result is that today, Japan which was nothing in 1910 has a socialists took over the national press in 1910 has a Socialists union just like the English Teachers unions just like the English Teachers unions just like the English Teachers unions just like the American Teachers unions. The English Teachers unions just like the socialists moved into the English Teaching Unions under the "new" Democratic Party office, see if you can use your store to help register pro-firearms and pro-hunting people.

A footnote to parents and grandparents

Tell your kids, and all kids, that money is only a tool. It's just like a gun. It's neither good nor bad in itself. It all depends on what the user does with it. Tell them to make as much money as they can, and then use that money as a tool to fight the devious bastards of the world like the KGB, the Castro's, and Gaddafii. If they want a noble cause, they can use their talents and recapture the big media from the left-wingers who now control it, and they can recapture the Democratic Party from the left-wingers who control the Party machinery.

The idea of America

All of my grandparents were born in Europe, in Bohemia and Austria. They did NOT come to America because America was unwilling to defend itself from Russia. They did NOT come to America because America had a great welfare system for burns, with the great estates of the millionaires broken up and given to anyone who wanted anything. They came to America to be free from the European bureaucracy who wanted to control every aspect of their lives. They wanted to build a new life with their own work, with their own labors, and with their own sweat. They wanted to clean up their own act. But until you clean up your own act, I'm NOT giving the 'new' Democratic Party the time of day. It is your duty as an American to get rid of the 'blame America first' Democrats.

What should FFL dealers do?

Firearms dealers, you should:

1. Tell every one of your customers, friends, hunting and shooting club members, etc., that Mondale and Ferraro are real noonehicks.
2. Go over to the local Republican Party office, see if you can use your store to help register pro-firearms and pro-hunting people.
3. Do everything you can to help vote in a Republican Senate and a Republican House this November.
4. Start electing Republican state governors.
5. Cut out this letter, tape it to some cardboard, and put it up in your store. Permission is given to make reprints and distribute to customers, hunting and shooting clubs.

An appeal to Southern and Western Democrats

A special appeal to Texas, Southerners and Southerners who moved West. The Republican Party goes back to George Washington. Before the Civil War many voters in the South were Republicans, but Abraham Lincoln, U.S. Grant, and most of the Union generals were Republicans, so after the Civil War, almost all Whites in the South voted Democratic; and most of the Blacks voted Republican. After WWI millions of Blacks moved North, and were drawn into the Democratic Party; then went South and registered Southern Blacks into the Democratic Party. The point is, do not vote by habit.

Should we be attacking the Democratic Party?

Yes. We must give the good Democrats some backbone. We have to motivate the good Democrats who believe in America, so they will rid themselves of the socialist Democrats and the radical chic Democrats, who now control the Democratic Party. The only way to motivate the good Democrats is to have them start losing elections, and losing them big. When talking with your local Democratic Party people, you should say, "When you get the hate-America Democrats and the radical chic bubble brains out of the party, then I'll give you my time, my work, my financial support, and my vote. But until you clean up your own act, I'm NOT giving the 'new' Democratic Party the time of day."

How the Republicans should handle the Democrats

The Republicans should handle the 'blame-America-for-everything' Democrats in the same way that Sen. Joseph McCarthy was eventually handled. Rather than play Joe McCarthy's game with Joe McCarthy's ground rules, you go one step above. You look the liberal Democrats in the eye and say, "Just where the hell is all this crap coming from?"

How about a little help from you?

FFL Business News was designed to bring the news to the whole FFL system. It's neither easy nor safe to attack something like the Democratic Party, but when you have radical anti-gun people like Ferraro, somebody has to stand up and say something. When a major national institution like the Democratic Party is captured by the left-wingers, somebody has to stand up and say something. A subscription to FFL BUSINESS NEWS is only $6. With this you will receive every issue and miss nothing that's important. It will be a big help to us, a help to the whole FFL system. Fill out the coupon below and send it in today.

Thank you:
Andrew Molchan
Publisher, FFL Business News
Also an American, and proud to be an American

Help us grow so we can help you

Don't miss any issue of FFL Business News. Fill out this coupon and mail it with your check today. SOLD ONLY TO FFL HOLDERS.

☐ Yes, enclosed is $6, sign me up

Name ____________________________

Store Name _______________________

Address ___________________________

City _____________________________

State _________________________

Zip ________________

FFL Number _______________________

Published every month, sudden silver winners in every issue, firearms content in every issue. Latest news, only $6 per year for all monthly issues. Mail to:

FFL Business News
2801 East Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33306
305-561-3503.
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. HUGHES

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING LEGISLATION THAT WOULD
PERMIT SALE OF AMMUNITION DESIGNED TO
PENETRATE POLICE BODY ARMOR

ACTION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)

ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED
CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD

M. B. OGLESBY

ORG 84/09/26 C 84/10/31

REFERRAL NOTE: 990MB A 84/10/31 897/178

REFERRAL NOTE: 7/7 7/7 7/7

REFERRAL NOTE: 7/7 7/7

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 1230

MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

*********************************************************************

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION CODES: *OUTGOING
* * * CORRESPONDENCE:
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *OF SIGNER
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED *CODE = A
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* *OUTGOING
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY* *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *
*X-INTERIM REPLY *

*********************************************************************

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(Room 75, OEOB) Ext. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1984

TO: LYNN SKOLNICK
FROM: MELANIE BLESSE, Legislative Affairs

Per our conversation the other day, I'm sending over the telegram from Rep. Hughes regarding H.R. 6067, the Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act. Because it's so old, we're not going to do an interim, but I thought I'd let you look at it to see if you all could do some kind of wrap-up response, i.e. the final outcome of the bill. If that type of response can't be done, the file can just be closed out.

Thank you for your help.

As I mentioned to you, this file should simply be closed. Linn
Dear Mr. President:

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives will consider H.R. 6067, the Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act to ban the manufacture, import and sale of ammunition specially designed to penetrate the protective soft body armor that you and most of the nation's police officers wear.

We understand that tomorrow an amendment will be offered, allegedly with your support, that would permit the wide open sale of this ammunition.

We are sure that if you knew that this was the major purpose of that amendment, you would not support it since it puts 400,000 police officers' lives in jeopardy.

Today we said publicly that the only way that your administration could take such a position was because you were unaware of the issue.

We urge you to join with the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and the International Union of Police Associations who today called for a ban on the sale of this ammunition. Sincerely.

Congressman William J. Hughes
Congressman Mario Biaggi

1204 EST
THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 06, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SEAGRAVES

SUBJECT SUGGESTS INITIATING LEGISLATION FOR CONTROL OF HANDGUNS

ROUTE TO:
OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)  

ACTION DISPOSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT DATE</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>C COMPLETED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANNE HIGGINS

ORG 84/11/06

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE: D 84/11/06

REFERRAL NOTE: 7 7 7

REFERRAL NOTE: 7 7 7

REFERRAL NOTE: 7 7 7

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES:  

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A)_________ (B)_________ (C)_________  

*******************************************************************************
* ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION CODES: *OUTGOING
* * * * * CORRESPONDENCE: *
* A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *** TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
* C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
* D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
* F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
* I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* * OF OUTGOING *
* R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
* S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
* X-INTERIM REPLY * * *
*******************************************************************************

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
February 1, 1985

Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

Your letter has just reached my desk, and I want to thank you for giving your thoughts on the matter of handgun control.

I share your concern about firearms abuse, but I also believe that the rights of law-abiding citizens to the legitimate use of firearms should not be infringed. This is by no means an easy balance to strike, but I believe that vigorous enforcement of existing Federal laws and tough, mandatory sentencing of those who commit crimes with firearms are the preferred means of disarming criminals.

While we approach this important issue from different perspectives, I assure you that I will continue to do everything in my power to reduce the incidence of firearms abuse.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves
1813 Shepherd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

RR: WDB; DE: AVH; ech(1PMNB)

cc: Dan Engler, Room 93
January 31, 1985

Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

Your letter has just reached my desk, and I want to thank you for giving your thoughts on the matter of handgun control.

I share your concern about firearms abuse, but I also believe that the rights of law-abiding citizens to the legitimate use of firearms should not be infringed. This is by no means an easy balance to strike, but I believe that vigorous enforcement of existing Federal laws and tough, mandatory sentencing of those who commit crimes with firearms are the preferred means of disarming criminals.

While we approach this important issue from different perspectives, I assure you that I will continue to do everything in my power to reduce the incidence of firearms abuse.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves
1813 Shepherd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011

RR:WDB:DE:AVH:ech(IPMNB)

cc: Dan Engler, Room 93
Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

Your letter has just reached my desk, and I want to thank you for giving your thoughts on the matter of handgun control.

I share your concern about firearms abuse, but I also believe that the rights of law-abiding citizens to the legitimate use of firearms should not be infringed. This is by no means an easy balance to strike, but I believe that vigorous enforcement of existing Federal laws and tough, mandatory sentencing of those who commit crimes with firearms are the preferred means of disarming criminals.

While we approach this important issue from different perspectives, I assure you that I will continue to do everything in my power to reduce the incidence of firearms abuse.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

RR

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves
1813 Shepherd Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20011
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves  
1813 Shepherd St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011  

Dear Mrs. Seagraves,

Thank you for your letter of November 3. The Administration's position on firearms regulation is, I think, well known. We reject the notion that registration of weapons is either desirable or necessary, and believe that mandatory sentences for those who use firearms in the commission of a crime is a preferable way to approach the problem of firearms abuse. Accordingly, the Administration has directed its enforcement efforts to the punishment of firearms violations by criminals, not to the search for technical infractions by otherwise law-abiding sportsmen, collectors, and dealers.

To this end, we successfully have urged Congress to enact as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 provisions that impose mandatory sentences of imprisonment for the use of firearms in the commission of a federal felony. In an additional effort to disarm the criminals of this country, the Attorney General has instructed the United States Attorneys to enforce existing federal firearms laws vigorously.

Again, thank you for sharing your views with us.
TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED: (DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER)

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 258310
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1984
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN
FROM: MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SEAGRAVES
1813 SHEPHERD STREET, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20011

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS INITIATING LEGISLATION FOR CONTROL OF HANDGUNS

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in the hope that in the first weeks or months of your second administration you may consider initiating legislation setting in motion a gradual, but effective, means of controlling handguns in our country.

You are the only leader in America today who has the stature and political following to propose and work for such legislation. Such action would be hailed by a wide majority of our people, and it would surely be seen by the rest of the world as a strong statement of purpose and progress in a free society.

My grandmother, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, said that the practice of human rights begins "in small places, close to home." Yet the small voices of average Americans will never be recognized on problems of national guidelines for handgun control unless presidential leadership provides the steadfast energy needed by Congress to act on the matter.

Handgun control is by no means a "single issue" of mine. Rather, it seems to me that in a world all too prone to act with violence, and amidst the toll against human life in America attributable to this type of weapon, it is an issue whose time has come. The United States, under a strong Republican president stands to gain enormously in international stature and domestic security should you see fit to exercise historic leadership affecting this aspect of our national civility and well-being.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Van. H. Seagraves)
265478

ID # ______

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

□ O • OUTGOING
□ H • INTERNAL
☒ I • INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 841/01

Name of Correspondent: __ Mr. __ Mrs. __ Miss ____________ __________

□ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _______ (B) _______ (C) _______

Subject: No response to previous letter regarding firearm price control

ROUTE TO:

Office/Agency (Staff Name)

CoCoza

ACTION

Action

Code

Tracking

Date

YY/MM/DD

ORIGINATOR

DD/10/110

Referral Note:

A

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure
I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION

Type of Response

Code

Completion Date

YY/MM/DD

C

8411/10

8411/10

8411/10

8411/10

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: __________________________

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.
RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: ______ Individual Codes: __________

Prime Subject Code: ______

Secondary Subject Codes: ______

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence
n = 0 - Unknown
n = 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
n = 2 - Ronald Reagan
n = 3 - Ron
n = 4 - Dutch
n = 5 - Ron Reagan
n = 6 - Ronald
n = 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
n = 0 - Unknown
n = 1 - Nancy Reagan
n = 2 - Nancy
n = 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBSn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
n = 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
n = 2 - Ron - Nancy

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code __ Date __ Comment __ Form __

C __ DSP __

Time: ____________ P-____

Time: ____________ Media: ______

MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package
C - Copy
D - Official document
G - Message
H - Handcarried
L - Letter
M - Mailgram
O - Memo
P - Photo
R - Report
S - Sealed
T - Telegram
V - Telephone
X - Miscellaneous
Y - Study
Mr. John F. Morrison  
354 Bay Ridge Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11209  

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Your letter to the President inquiring about the importation into the United States of a German army model P08 Luger parabellum pistol has been referred to this office for reply.

The firearm you wish to import is a surplus military firearm which, until recently, was specifically excluded from importation into the United States by the Gun Control Act of 1968. A surplus military firearm is defined as one that belonged to a regular or irregular military force at any time. However, the President recently approved the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, amending the importation provisions of the Gun Control Act to allow the importation of certain surplus military curio or relic firearms.

Specifically, the Trade and Tariff Act amended 18 U.S.C. § 925 by adding a new subsection (e) providing for the importation of firearms "listed" by the Secretary as curios and relics even though they are surplus military. The Act also provides that such firearms may only be imported by Federally licensed importers. Furthermore, any handgun imported under the new provision must be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. These amendments will become effective on November 14, 1984.
Mr. John F. Morrison

Upon the effective date of these amendments, the Luger pistol referred to in your letter could lawfully be imported into the United States. However, as previously mentioned, it would have to be imported through a licensed importer.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) William T. Drake

William T. Drake
Deputy Director
TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIREC'T REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 265478

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 1, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JOHN F. MORRISON
354 BAY RIDGE PARKWAY
BROOKLYN NY 11209

SUBJECT: NO RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS LETTER REGARDING FIREARMS PRICE CONTROL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your communication of today dated 1st May, 1978, wherein you say that you have not received any letter from me on the matter of your stay in this country.

I regret to say that I have been unable to ascertain the whereabouts of you, and I am therefore unable to communicate with you.

I trust that you will understand the difficulty of the situation.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

[Date]
WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☐ I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 84/11/03

Name of Correspondent: Warren K. Kaplan

☐ MI Mail Report

Subject: Writes Concerning his friend Walt Hebesky: asks died - the victim of a Saturday Night Special. Wants to know why the Administration will not support a National Handgun Control Law.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

Office/Agency (Staff Name) ACTION CODE

Tracking Date YY/MM/DD

Type Completion Date YY/MM/DD

DISPOSITION

ORIGINATOR

Referral Note: 84/11/06

Referral Note: 84/11/06

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

Referral Note:

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.
**RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY**

**CLASSIFICATION SECTION**

No. of Additional Correspondents: ___  
Prime Subject Code: CM 010   
SEC. Subject Code: LE  

**PRESIDENTIAL REPLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSP</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**signature codes:**

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence  
  - n-0: Unknown  
  - n-1: Ronald Wilson Reagan  
  - n-2: Ronald Reagan  
  - n-3: Ron  
  - n-4: Dutch  
  - n-5: Ron Reagan  
  - n-6: Ronald  
  - n-7: Ronnie  

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence  
  - n-0: Unknown  
  - n-1: Nancy Reagan  
  - n-2: Nancy  
  - n-3: Nancy  

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence  
  - n-1: Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan  
  - n-2: Ron - Nancy  

**Media Codes:**

- B - Box/package  
- C - Copy  
- D - Official document  
- G - Message  
- H - Handcarried  
- L - Letter  
- M - Mailgram  
- O - Memo  
- P - Photo  
- R - Report  
- S - Sealed  
- T - Telegram  
- V - Telephone  
- X - Miscellaneous  
- Y - Study
PROVOST

DRAFT FROM: 209

Kaplan

Reviewed & Edited by: [Signature]

Rewritten by: [Signature]

Action Required: [OK]

To Stripping

To Director

Other

APPROVED BY: [Signature]

Av H. Justice

Provided attached
Draft on behalf
of the Proc. Rather
than an RR one as requested
January 11, 1985

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

Thank you for your letter to the President relating the tragic story about your friend Walt Hardesty. I believe that the Administration's position on firearms regulation is well known. We reject the notion that the registration of weapons is either desirable or necessary, and believe that mandatory sentences for those who use firearms in the commission of a crime is a preferable way to approach the problem of firearms abuse. Accordingly, the Administration has directed its enforcement efforts to the punishment of firearms violations by criminals, not to the search for technical infractions by otherwise law-abiding sportsmen, collectors, and dealers.

To this end, we successfully have urged Congress to enact as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 provisions that impose mandatory sentences of imprisonment for the use of firearms in the commission of a federal felony. In an additional effort to disarm the criminals of this country, the Attorney General has instructed the United States Attorneys to enforce existing federal firearms laws vigorously.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Warren K. Kaplan
Suite 1100
1801 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 269321

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 2, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. WARREN K. KAPLAN

SUITE 1100 K

1801 K STREET, NW

WASHINGTON DC 20006

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING HIS FRIEND WALT HARDESTY WHO DIED - THE VICTIM OF A SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL; WANT TO KNOW WHY THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT SUPPORT A NATIONAL HANDGUN CONTROL LAW

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO:

AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY

DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON

PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE
November 2, 1984

President Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Reagan:

You would have liked my friend Walt Hardesty. You might not have cottoned to his politics, but his basic gentleness and love of family shone through almost at first meeting. Before the gun went off in the back of Walt's neck yesterday evening, he was one of those patient, cheerful, hard-working and tireless souls that seem to be in increasingly short supply these days. He was the kind of man of whom you would be proud, Mr. President, the kind of decent, God-fearing, salt-of-the-earth individuals who deserve to live in that shining city on a hill you talk about so often. I don't believe he ever had an enemy.

I used to see Walt most frequently at my home on weekends, when he would come in his white and green-painted taxi to pick up or drop off his 14-year-old son, Kiefer -- a classmate and good friend of my son Gabe, who would often spend the night at our house. Walt drove the cab for a living while studying to get a graduate degree in psychology at George Washington University and scrambling to make ends meet.

He drove that cab during all the several years I knew him, to keep body and soul together and feed his family. He somehow managed against all the odds to put aside enough money to keep his two children, Kiefer and Becca, in private school. He was a firm believer, you see, in the importance of a good education, and he worked tirelessly to give his kids the very best.
I never heard Walt complain -- not about the long hours of driving that cab, not about the years-long struggle to get his doctoral degree, not about the serious family medical problems at home, not about the poor hand fate had dealt him, not about anything. Under his neatly-trimmed thatch of prematurely white hair, Walt was always ready with a smile and a cheery word.

I last saw Walt two weeks ago at a school evening program for parents on the hazards of drug use among teenagers. We sat and listened in the school auditorium while Dr. DuPont lectured on the addictive properties of recreational drugs.

Walt died yesterday in his cab, Mr. President, the victim of a Saturday Night Special. This good and kindly man, unselfish and nonviolent to his core, was brutally murdered by a gunman's bullet. The motive was probably robbery, the police believe.

When I heard the news, I wanted to shout out, it's not fair, he didn't deserve it. No shooting -- not even yours, Mr. President -- was ever more senseless, more unjustified, more undeserved.

Some of us who knew Walt may clench our fists and pound the table helplessly in frustration and rage, casting about in vain for some explanation of how and why such a grotesquely horrible thing should happen, and how a recurrence might be prevented.

There are no satisfactory answers, of course. Walt is gone now, and there's not much that can be done about the sick, sub-human mind that pulled the trigger on Walt. But there is something that can be done to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence.

When, Mr. President, are we ever going to take gun control seriously? When will the president of this country and the members of Congress stop knuckling under to the lobbying power of the National Rifle Association and vote their respective consciences for a sane and enforceable gun control law? Is it really political suicide for a politician to oppose the gun lobby? Walt's widow Pat will support you on gun control, Mr. President. There's one vote right there. Do we really have to pay such a price for each such vote?
Mr. President, I've got a problem now that maybe you can help me with. One day soon, after the funeral, Walt's son Kiefer will come to my house again to stay overnight with Gabe. I shall want to say something comforting, something reassuring to him. How do I explain to him, Mr. President, why his father had to die? What should I tell him as to why it is that you won't support a national handgun control law in this country? Come to think of it, Mr. President, I know you're awfully busy these days, but perhaps you'd like to come on over and explain it to Kiefer yourself. Just let me know when you can make it, Mr. President, and I'll put on a pot of coffee and invite Pat and Becca at the same time. I'm sure they'd like to hear your answer, too.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Warren K. Kaplan
Mr. Warren K. Kaplan  
1801 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

Your letter to the President, relating the tragic story about your friend Walt Hardesty, was referred to me. I believe that the Administration's position on firearms regulation is well-known. We reject the notion that the registration of weapons is either desirable or necessary, and believe that mandatory sentences for those who use firearms in the commission of a crime is a preferable way to approach the problem of firearms abuse. Accordingly, the Administration has directed its enforcement efforts to the punishment of firearms violations by criminals, not to the search for technical infractions by otherwise law-abiding sportsmen, collectors, and dealers.

To this end, we successfully have urged Congress to enact as part of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 provisions that impose mandatory sentences of imprisonment for the use of firearms in the commission of a federal felony. In an additional effort to disarm the criminals of this country, the Attorney General has instructed the United States Attorneys to enforce existing federal firearms laws vigorously.

Again, thank you for your letter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

AVH