

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

April 11, 2000

***S.A.F.E. COLORADO RALLY***

**DATE:** April 12, 2000  
**LOCATION:** Colorado Convention Center  
**MEET & GREET TIME:** 10:35am - 10:55am  
**EVENT TIME:** 11:00am - 12:00pm  
**FROM:** Bruce Reed

**I. PURPOSE**

To show your support for S.A.F.E. Colorado's state ballot initiative to close the gun show loophole, and to urge the Congress to pass federal gun safety legislation.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Today in Denver, you will participate in a citizen rally, of approximately 3,000 people, sponsored by S.A.F.E. Colorado in support of a statewide ballot initiative to close the gun show loophole. You will highlight the leadership that Colorado and other states are now demonstrating on gun safety - but you will also point out that national legislation is needed to address this national problem. For over nine months, Congress has failed to act on the gun legislation passed by the Senate last May. That legislation includes a measure requiring background checks for all sales at gun shows, and it served as the model for the Colorado ballot initiative. Today you will again challenge Congress to put the interests of American families above those of the gun lobby and to pass common-sense gun legislation before departing for recess at the end of this week.

In September, Governor Bill Owens and Attorney General Ken Salazar announced their support for a bipartisan five-point plan to reduce gun violence that included a provision to close the gun show loophole. House Minority Leader Ken Gordon championed the initiative in the House, but there was no sponsor in the Senate. The bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee in late January by one vote, but failed later in mid-February to pass out of the House Appropriations Committee by one vote when a previously undecided member caved into pressure from the gun lobby and voted against the measure. On March 8, 2000, SAFE Colorado filed their ballot initiative to require background checks at gun shows that is largely based on the Administration's gun show

bill. In order to get the measure on the ballot in November, SAFE Colorado must collect 62,000 signatures by August. The Rocky Mountain Gun Owners has vowed to stall the referendum by filing a lawsuit on procedural grounds with the Colorado Supreme Court. This tactic will postpone signature collection until early May, but SAFE expects to easily win the case.

**The Gun Show Loophole: Providing Criminals With Easy Access To Firearms.**

Every year, an estimated 5 million people attend over 4,400 gun shows in convention centers, school gyms, and on fairgrounds across our nation. While most people who buy and sell guns at gun shows are law-abiding citizens, a dangerous trend is emerging: criminals, juveniles and other restricted persons are exploiting a loophole under current law that allows unlicensed individuals to sell guns at gun shows without conducting background checks or keeping the records necessary to help law enforcement trace a gun used in a crime. Since unlicensed individuals account for up to 50 percent of all sellers at gun shows, this loophole has made gun shows a prime location for illegal activities. In response to a presidential directive, the Departments of Treasury and Justice released a study last year documenting 314 gun show investigations linked to over 54,000 crime guns; 46 percent of the investigations involved the purchase or sale of firearms by felons and 34 percent involved the sale of firearms later used in serious crimes.

**Colorado Citizens: Taking Action To Close The Deadly Gun Show Loophole.**

Citizens working with S.A.F.E. Colorado filed the state ballot initiative to close the gun show loophole in March after the Colorado state legislature failed to pass gun show legislation supported by Governor Bill Owens. S.A.F.E. (Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic) Colorado is a bipartisan organization that lobbies in support of reasonable gun laws. The gun show ballot initiative is modeled on the Administration's gun show measure that passed the Senate last May, requiring background checks and recordkeeping for all firearms sales at gun shows and providing law enforcement up to three business days to complete background checks. In order to get the initiative onto the ballot this November, S.A.F.E. Colorado must collect at least 62,000 signatures in support by August. But the gun lobby has vowed to block the initiative and its stalling tactics at every turn have cut the amount of time available to collect the needed signatures. Today you will remind the people of Colorado of their power to make their voices heard, and will urge them to stand up to the gun lobby and its allies. A recent survey shows that the ballot initiative has the support of 83 percent of Colorado voters.

**Calling On Congress To Close The Gun Show Loophole Nationwide Before Recess.**

Your participation at today's rally comes just one day after you joined Governor Parris Glendening for the signing of a new comprehensive gun safety law in Maryland requiring built-in child safety locks on all handguns. You will note that action on the state level is making a powerful difference. At the same time, you will also underscore the importance of pursuing a strong national framework for our gun laws. You will point out that a patchwork of inconsistent state gun laws enables criminals to exploit loopholes in states with weaker laws and commit crimes in states with stronger laws. You will also point out

that Congress can pass lifesaving new gun laws far more quickly than all 50 states. Yet for over nine months, Congress has failed to act on common sense gun safety legislation that would require background checks at gun shows; mandate child safety locks with every handgun sold; ban the importation of high capacity ammunition clips; and bar the most violent juvenile offenders from possessing firearms when they become adults. Today you will once again urge congressional leaders to take action on this legislation before they recess this week.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### Briefing Participants:

Karen Tramontano

Bruce Reed

Joe Lockhart

Leanne Shimabukuro

Jeff Shesol

#### Meet and Greet Participants:

See attached list.

#### Stage Participants:

Former Governor Richard Lamm (D-CO)

Representative Diana DeGette (R- CO)

Attorney General Ken Salazar (D-CO)

Mary Estill Buchanan, Former Secretary of State (R-CO), S.A.F.E. Colorado Board of Directors

J.D. MacFarlane, Former Attorney General (D-CO), S.A.F.E. Colorado Board of Directors

Steven Foster, S.A.F.E. Colorado Board of Directors

David Spreace, S.A.F.E. Colorado Board of Directors

Michael Barnes, President, Handgun Control, Inc.

Note: Representative Gephardt will be in the VIP section of the Rally.

#### Program Participants:

**YOU**

Mayor Wellington Webb (D- Denver, CO)

Arnold Grossman, Co-President, S.A.F.E. Colorado

John Head, Co-President, S.A.F.E Colorado

Tom Mauser, Political Director, S.A.F.E. Colorado, and father of Columbine shooting victim

#### **IV. PRESS PLAN**

Open Press.

#### **V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

- YOU will be greeted by the stage participants and proceed backstage.
- YOU will greet S.A.F.E. Colorado representatives and supporters backstage.
- Representative DeGette, Governor Richard Lamm, Attorney General Ken Salazar, Mary Estill Buchanan, J.D. MacFarlane, Michael Barnes, Steven Foster, and David Spreace will be announced onto the stage.
- YOU will be announced onto the stage, accompanied by Mayor Wellington Webb, Arnold Grossman, John Head, and Tom Mauser.
- Mayor Wellington Webb will make remarks and introduce Arnold Grossman.
- Arnold Grossman will make remarks and introduce John Head.
- John Head will make remarks and introduce Tom Mauser.
- Tom Mauser will make remarks and introduce YOU.
- YOU will make remarks, work a ropeline, and depart.

#### **VI. REMARKS**

To be provided by Speechwriting.

#### **VI. ATTACHMENT**

List of Meet and Greet Participants.

**S.A.F.E. Colorado Meet & Greet Participants**  
**April 12, 2000**

David Bailey, Norwest Bank, Denver, CO  
Robert L. Cohen, Insurance Management Associates, Denver, CO  
Steve Farber, Attorney, Brownstein, Hyatt, and Farber, Denver, CO – lives in Englewood, CO  
Joyce Foster, City Councilwoman, Denver, CO  
Steven Foster, Rabbi, Temple Emanuel, Denver, CO  
Carl Friedman, Repertoire Capital Ventures, Englewood, CO  
Ben Gelt, S.A.F.E. Students, Denver, CO\*  
Arnold Grossman, Co-President, S.A.F.E. Colorado  
Pat Hamill, CEO Oakwood Homes, Castle Pines, CO  
John Head, Co-President, S.A.F.E. Colorado  
Marshall Kaplan, Executive Director, Institute for Policy, University of Colorado, Denver, CO  
Donald Kortz, CEO, Fuller & Company, Denver, CO  
Steve Leatherman, Investor/Entrepreneur, Denver, CO  
Randi Lee, Randi Lee Goldworks (Guest of Arnold Grossman), Englewood, CO  
Tom Mauser, Political Director, S.A.F.E. Colorado  
Paul Mirage, CEO, Chef America, Englewood, CA  
Eddie Robinson, Robinson Dairy, Denver, CO  
Mary Rossick-Kern, Volunteers of America, Castle Rock, CO  
Jared Schutz, Proflowers.com, Boulder, CO  
Mike Shaw, CEO, Shaw Buick Saab Chevrolet, Englewood, CO  
Linda Shoemaker, Brett Family Foundation, Boulder, CO  
Charles Steinbrueck, Retail Venture Partnership, Denver, CO  
Michael Smith, Basin Exploration, Englewood, CO  
Terry Vitale, New West Publishing, Englewood, CO  
David Winkler, S.A.F.E. Students, Denver, CO\*  
Daniel Yohannes, President, US Bank, Denver, CO

\*NOTE: You met the youth co-leaders of S.A.F.E. students when they visited Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress on gun legislation in July 1999.

## **PRESIDENT CLINTON: STANDING WITH COLORADO VOTERS TO CLOSE THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE**

April 12, 2000

Today in Denver, President Clinton will participate in a citizen rally sponsored by SAFE Colorado in support of a statewide ballot initiative to close the gun show loophole. The President will highlight the leadership that Colorado and other states are now demonstrating on gun safety -- but he will also point out that national legislation is needed to address this national problem. For over nine months, Congress has failed to act on the gun legislation passed by the Senate last May. That legislation includes a measure requiring background checks for all sales at gun shows, and it served as the model for the Colorado ballot initiative. The President today will again challenge Congress to put the interests of American families above those of the gun lobby and to pass common-sense gun legislation before departing for recess at the end of this week.

**THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE: PROVIDING CRIMINALS WITH EASY ACCESS TO FIREARMS.** Every year, an estimated 5 million people attend over 4,400 gun shows in convention centers, school gyms, and on fairgrounds across our nation. While most people who buy and sell guns at gun shows are law-abiding citizens, a dangerous trend is emerging: criminals, juveniles and other restricted persons are exploiting a loophole under current law that allows unlicensed individuals to sell guns at gun shows without conducting background checks or keeping the records necessary to help law enforcement trace a gun used in a crime. Since unlicensed individuals account for up to 50 percent of all sellers at gun shows, this loophole has made gun shows a prime location for illegal activities. In response to a presidential directive, the Departments of Treasury and Justice released a study last year documenting 314 gun show investigations linked to over 54,000 crime guns; 46 percent of the investigations involved the purchase or sale of firearms by felons and 34 percent involved the sale of firearms later used in serious crimes, including homicides.

**COLORADO CITIZENS: TAKING ACTION TO CLOSE THE DEADLY GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE.** Citizens working with SAFE Colorado filed the state ballot initiative to close the gun show loophole in March after the Colorado state legislature failed to pass gun show legislation supported by Governor Bill Owens. SAFE (Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic) Colorado is a bipartisan organization that lobbies in support of reasonable gun laws. The gun show ballot initiative is modeled on the Administration's gun show measure that passed the Senate last May, requiring background checks and recordkeeping for all firearms sales at gun shows and providing law enforcement up to three business days to complete background checks. In order to get the initiative onto the ballot this November, SAFE Colorado must collect at least 62,000 signatures in support by August. But the gun lobby has vowed to block the initiative and its stalling tactics at every turn have cut the amount of time available to collect the needed signatures. The President today will remind the people of Colorado of their power to make their voices heard, and he will urge them to stand up to the gun lobby and its allies. A recent survey shows that the gun show ballot initiative has the support of 83 percent of Colorado voters.

**CALLING ON CONGRESS TO CLOSE THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE NATIONWIDE BEFORE RECESS.** The President's participation at today's rally comes just one day after he joined Governor Parris Glendening for the signing of a new comprehensive gun safety law in

Maryland requiring built-in child safety locks on all handguns. The President will note that action on the state level is making a powerful difference. At the same time, he will also underscore the importance of pursuing a strong national framework for our gun laws. He will point out that a patchwork of inconsistent state gun laws enables criminals to exploit loopholes in states with weaker laws and commit crimes in states with stronger laws. He will also point out that Congress can pass lifesaving new gun laws far more quickly than all 50 states. Yet for over nine months, Congress has failed to act on common sense gun safety legislation that would require background checks at gun shows; mandate child safety locks with every handgun sold; ban the importation of high capacity ammunition clips; and bar the most violent juvenile offenders from possessing firearms when they become adults. Just yesterday, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Hyde and Representative Conyers sent a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Hatch urging him to schedule a meeting to work out their differences on pending gun provisions and to make progress on the legislation. The President today will once again urge congressional leaders to take action on this legislation before they recess this week.

**S.A.F.E. Colorado Meet & Greet Participants**  
**April 12, 2000**

David Bailey, Norwest Bank, Denver, CO  
Robert L. Cohen, Insurance Management Associates, Denver, CO  
Steve Farber, Attorney, Brownstein, Hyatt, and Farber, Denver, CO – lives in Englewood, CO  
Joyce Foster, City Councilwoman, Denver, CO  
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Randi Lee, Randi Lee Goldworks (Guest of Arnold Grossman), Englewood, CO  
Tom Mauser, Political Director, S.A.F.E. Colorado  
Paul Mirage, CEO, Chef America, Englewood, CA  
Eddie Robinson, Robinson Dairy, Denver, CO  
Mary Rossick-Kern, Volunteers of America, Castle Rock, CO  
Jared Schutz, Proflowers.com, Boulder, CO  
Mike Shaw, CEO, Shaw Buick Saab Chevrolet, Englewood, CO  
Linda Shoemaker, Brett Family Foundation, Boulder, CO  
Charles Steinbrueck, Retail Venture Partnership, Denver, CO  
Michael Smith, Basin Exploration, Englewood, CO  
Terry Vitale, New West Publishing, Englewood, CO  
David Winkler, S.A.F.E. Students, Denver, CO\*  
Daniel Yohannes, President, US Bank, Denver, CO

\*NOTE: You met the youth co-leaders of S.A.F.E. students when they visited Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress on gun legislation in July 1999.

## KEEPING GUNS AWAY FROM YOUTH AND CRIMINALS

-- The Clinton-Gore Administration Record --

### KEEPING GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF CRIMINALS

**Winning Passage of the Brady Bill.** Since taking effect in 1994, the Brady Law has helped to prevent over a half a million felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns. In November 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) took effect under the Brady Law, allowing access to a fuller set of records that law enforcement officials can use to conduct checks of all prospective gun purchases – not just for handguns. As of March 2000, NICS has conducted over 10 million background checks on gun purchasers, and stopped an estimated 179,000 illegal gun sales.

**Banning the Manufacture and Importation of 19 of the Deadliest Assault Weapons.** The 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies, while specifically protecting more than 50 legitimate sporting weapons. Cop-killing assault weapons, like the Uzi, are the weapons of choice for drug dealers and gangs – not hunters and sportsmen.

**Banning the Importation of Modified Deadly Weapons.** In 1998, President Clinton announced a general ban on the importation of more than 50 non-recreational, modified assault weapons. The Treasury Department concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines – or LCMM rifles – are not “particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes” and are generally not importable. The more than 50 models of firearms affected by the decision are modified versions of military assault weapons that were banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or by the assault weapons ban of 1994.

**Strengthening Penalties that Apply to Gun-Carrying Criminals and Drug Traffickers.** In November 1998, the President signed a new law to clarify and strengthen the federal penalties that apply to violent criminals and drug felons who commit crimes while carrying a gun. This new law makes it clear that violent criminals and drug felons who possess a firearm during the commission of a federal crime are subject to an additional – and mandatory – sentence of five years. The law provides that in addition to the penalties that apply for underlying violent or drug crimes – criminals receive a mandatory minimum sentence of at least seven years for brandishing a firearm and of at least 10 years if the firearm is discharged.

**Cracking Down on Problem Gun Dealers.** In February 2000, the President announced new enforcement actions that the ATF will take to crack down on problem gun dealers in order to prevent guns from entering into the illegal firearms market. While the vast majority of gun dealers are law-abiding businesspeople, a recent ATF report shows the need to focus resources on the relatively small number of dealers and pawnbrokers who are the source of most traced crime guns. President Clinton announced new actions ATF will take to target enforcement and inspection resources on those dealers who have high numbers of crime gun traces, whose guns quickly turn up in crimes after sale, and who have a poor record of cooperation with law enforcement.

**Strengthening Gun Enforcement Efforts.** Under the Clinton Administration, the number of gun prosecutions has increased 16 percent from 1992 to 1999, and gun crime has decreased by over 35 percent. In March 1999, President Clinton directed the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney General to develop a national strategy to increase gun prosecutions and further reduce gun violence. This strategy will expand the Administration's successful enforcement efforts like Project Exile in Richmond, VA and Operation Ceasefire in Boston, MA to more jurisdictions. The strategy includes: expanded efforts to identify illegal gun markets and gun "hot spots"; improved coordination with state and local law enforcement; closer supervision of gun criminals on parole or probation; and innovative, community-based efforts to reduce gun violence.

**Creating a National Gun Buyback Program.** In 1999, President Clinton launched the largest gun buyback program in history. The program provides \$15 million for public housing authorities to partner with local law enforcement agencies to take an estimated 300,000 firearms out of circulation in communities nationwide. Cities across the nation – including New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. – have conducted successful gun buybacks to curtail incidences of gun violence, including accidental shootings, homicides, suicides and domestic violence. Over 80 public housing authorities, including Flint, Michigan and Memphis, Tennessee, have already committed to conducting gun buybacks within the next year.

## **RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO GUNS**

**Launching the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative.** In 1996, President Clinton launched the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) in 17 cities to help trace crime guns to their source, as well as identify and arrest the adults who traffic firearms to children. Since then, the President has expanded the YCGII initiative to 37 cities ATF agents have conducted more than 200,000 crime gun traces for local law enforcement. In 1998 alone, ATF initiated over 300 investigations in these cities, which involved over 3,300 illegally trafficked firearms. The President's FY 2001 budget proposes to increase YCGII to 50 cities with more ATF agents and additional resources to help more cities to trace their firearms.

**Issuing Directive on Child Safety Locks for Handguns.** Child safety locks and other safety devices can reduce the unauthorized use of handguns, by a child at play or a teen looking to commit a crime. Many youth have to look no further than their own home to get their hands on a gun: an estimated one-third of all privately-owned handguns are left both loaded and unlocked. In March 1997, the President signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with all handguns issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers followed the President's lead and have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns.

**Signing into Law the Youth Handgun Safety Act.** In 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Youth Handgun Safety Act, which generally banned the possession of handguns or handgun ammunition by juveniles under the age of 18, and made it a federal offense for adults to transfer handguns to juveniles, with limited exceptions. In 1997, the President directed the Treasury Department to require that signs be posted on the premises of Federal firearms licensees and that written notification be issued with each handgun sold to non-licensees to help ensure compliance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act.

**Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools.** In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring school districts to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce the "zero tolerance" policy for guns in schools, consistent with the Gun-Free Schools Act. Over the 1996-98 school years, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, nearly 10,000 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

## **WORKING WITH THE GUN INDUSTRY TO IMPLEMENT UNPRECEDENTED REFORMS**

**Reached historic agreement with Smith and Wesson.** On March 17, 2000, President Clinton announced an unprecedented partnership between the government and Smith and Wesson – the largest handgun manufacturer in the nation – to bring about meaningful reforms in the way the industry does business. The agreement represents the first time a major gun manufacturer has committed to fundamentally change the way guns are designed, distributed and marketed. Key provisions of the landmark agreement include: (1) new design standards to make guns safer and prevent accidental shootings and gun deaths, with required locking devices and smart gun technology; (2) new sales and distribution controls to help keep guns out of the hands of criminals including restrictions on sales at gun shows, required ballistics testing for new firearms, and gun safety training requirements for purchasers; and (3) a new oversight commission that will work with ATF to help oversee implementation of the agreement.

## **MOVING FORWARD WITH AN AGGRESSIVE AGENDA TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE**

**Introducing the Youth Gun Crime Enforcement Act.** In 1999, the President unveiled the most comprehensive gun legislation put forward by any Administration in over 30 years. The President's legislation would strengthen the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban, restrict access to guns by our youth and crack down on illegal gun traffickers. The President's proposed bill would: (1) require Brady background checks for the purchase of explosives and at gun shows; (2) raise the age of the youth handgun ban from 18 to 21 years of age; (3) ban youth possession of semi-automatic assault rifles; (4) prohibit violent juveniles from ever owning guns; (5) require child safety locking devices for guns; (6) reduce illegal gun running by limiting the purchase of handguns to no more than one per month; (7) halt the importation of large capacity ammunition magazines (8) help law enforcement trace more crime guns to their source; and (9) require a 3-day mandatory waiting period for all handgun sales.

**Proposing the Largest Increase Ever for Gun Enforcement.** President Clinton's FY 2001 budget contains an unprecedented \$280 million for gun enforcement, to: (1) hire 500 new ATF agents and inspectors to crack down on armed criminals and illegal gun traffickers; (2) hire over 1,000 new federal, state and local gun prosecutors to put more dangerous gun criminal behind bars; (3) fund comprehensive crime gun tracing and increased ballistics testing to catch and prosecute more gun criminals; (4) fund local media campaigns to highlight penalties for breaking gun laws and proper storage of firearms to preventing child access; and (5) to support research in "smart gun" technologies that can limit a gun's use to its authorized owner.

**Unveiling a State-Based Licensing Proposal for Handgun Purchases.** In this year's State of the Union Address, President Clinton proposed a state-based licensing system that would apply to all handgun purchases. Under the President's proposal, individuals seeking to buy a handgun would be required to obtain a photo license from their state of residence, and to present the license when they purchase a handgun. States would issue a license only if the applicant has: (1) passed a Brady background check; and (2) shown proof of having completed a certified safety course or exam. Under the President's proposal, state participation would be optional, not mandated. For states that choose not to participate, federally-approved gun dealers or a federal entity would be authorized to issue licenses, in an arrangement comparable to the current Brady check system.

## MSNBC Town Hall on Guns

### Q&A

April 12, 2000

**Q: Is the ready availability of guns responsible for the recent shootings in schools, office buildings and places of worship?**

**A:** These recent shootings have all been tragedies, and they all had different factors at play. But they did share one key element: guns in the wrong hands. We need to make sure we do everything we can to make sure that those who shouldn't have guns cannot get access to them. This includes tougher enforcement of our gun laws as well as strengthening existing laws to keep guns from falling into the hands of criminals, the mentally unstable, domestic abusers and perhaps most of all, our children. I have asked Congress to help us to do both, by passing my gun enforcement initiative to fund over 1,000 more gun prosecutors and 500 new ATF agents and inspectors, and to pass commonsense gun legislation that, among other things, closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks for new handguns.

**Q: Can gun violence be curbed with more laws, or is this a result of a larger societal problem?**

**A:** While no single law can prevent all instances of gun violence from occurring, we know that stronger gun laws can make a difference in preventing gun crime and accidents. When I took office, violent crime – especially gun violence – was on the rise for years. So, we put into place a strategy of more police on our streets and put strong new laws on the books, including the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban. The Brady Law alone has stopped over half a million gun sales to felons, fugitives, stalkers, and others who are prohibited by law from owning guns. As a result of our efforts, stronger State gun laws and local efforts to curb gun violence, gun crime is down 35 percent since 1993 and the homicide rate is at its lowest point in 31 years.

But no one thinks gun violence is at an acceptable level. We could build our success immediately if the Congress would pass the common sense gun legislation that has been languishing for over nine months. These are simple safety measures we can take – closing the gun show loophole that allows criminals to buy guns no questions asked at gun shows, requiring child safety locks for handguns to prevent young people from using guns to hurt themselves or others. We know these measures will save lives and there is simply no excuse for sitting on our hands.

But of course, we can do more to address violence beyond passage of laws. Responsible members of the gun industry can do their part by working with us to make meaningful changes in the way they do business. The media and entertainment industries can help change a culture that too often glorifies violence. Schools and community groups can reach troubled youth before their troubles simmer over. And most fundamentally, parents can talk to their children, teach them to resolve their conflicts peacefully, and raise them

with the right values. I believe that if we set our minds to it, and work together, we can make this the safest big country in the world.

**Q: How can parents protect their children from the dangers of guns?**

A: First of all, I think it is important for parents to remember that violent crime and gun crime have dropped significantly all across the country. Having said that, I believe we can all do more to help make our children safer from gun violence. I would say to parents that it is important to talk to your children, if they're old enough, about these recent shootings. And reassure them that these are rare occurrences. Parents should remind children that schools are still about the safest places in any community.

Just as importantly, for parents that have guns at home, I would urge them to keep their guns safely stored and locked away so that their children cannot get access to them. The accidental firearms death rate for children under age 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in 25 other industrialized nations. This is unacceptable. UCLA and RAND recently released a study that showed that over a third of all homes with children had at least one firearm. Among those homes, 43 percent had at least one unlocked firearm. This shows that parents need to take greater care to ensure that their children – or other children – cannot use their guns.

**Q: Does there need to be more federal gun control laws or should gun control laws be done by the states?**

A: Recently, we have seen more states making progress to enact stronger gun laws. Yesterday, I joined the Governor of Maryland as he signed into law a number of common sense measures that would, for instance, mandate internal child safety locks on handguns and require all gun purchasers to get training on safe storage and handling of guns. Last week, I was in California, where the Governor has signed into law measures to limit handgun sales to one per month and to ban all "junk guns." These are all important steps that will help reduce gun violence, and I plan to do all I can to help bolster these efforts.

However, I still believe that that a national framework for our gun laws is needed. A patchwork of inconsistent state gun laws allows criminals to obtain guns by exploiting loopholes in states with weaker laws to commit crimes in states with stronger laws. And Congress can pass lifesaving new gun laws far more quickly than all 50 states. Take the Brady law. Before we passed this historic law, some states required background checks, but most of them did not. Back then, criminals who couldn't pass a background check in their home state could simply buy guns in neighboring states that didn't require them. Today, background checks are required in every state and the Brady law has helped block over 500,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from purchasing firearms.

Congress could act immediately to build on the success of the Brady law and pass common sense gun measures that passed in the Senate last spring that included measures requiring background checks at gun shows and mandating the sale of child safety locks. Instead, the Congress has allowed this lifesaving legislation to languish for over nine

months. Despite their inaction, states like Colorado and Oregon are considering ballot initiatives to require background checks at gun shows. They recognize the public safety benefits of getting this done in their own communities. But every child in America deserves that same level of protection. And only Congress can pass legislation that protects every child in every corner of our country.

**Q: What can be done to make guns safer?**

A: There is a lot we can do to make guns safer and prevent gun accidents and other unintended uses of firearms. First, we should require child safety locks for handguns. This is a common sense proposal I have been pushing for years. I issued a directive to require child safety locks to be distributed to all federal law enforcement. I proposed legislation to require such locks, and the Senate passed this measure last year. The Congress can and should enact this provision right away, along with other common sense gun provisions to close the gun show loophole and ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips. I was just in Maryland yesterday, where the Governor signed a new law to require built-in locks in handguns to make them even harder for unauthorized people to use them.

In addition to safety locks, we should help support "smart gun" technology that can limit a gun's use to its proper adult owner. I think there is incredible potential in smart guns, which is why I have proposed \$10 million in my budget to expand and develop research into such technology. The agreement we reached with Smith and Wesson last month will advance gun safety significantly, by requiring external locks, internal locks, and smart guns within a few years. The agreement also require guns to be subject to performance tests, and other safety standards to ensure safer, higher quality guns.

**Q: What are the main components of the Smith and Wesson agreement? Does it do anything to make guns safer?**

A: The landmark agreement that we reached with Smith and Wesson, represents an unprecedented partnership between the government and the gun industry to bring about meaningful reforms in the way the industry does business. Under the agreement, they will make major changes to the way they design, distribute and market their firearms. This means that Smith and Wesson will not only make guns that are safer, but they will also take actions to help ensure that their guns don't fall into the hands of criminals.

Smith and Wesson agreed to a number of changes in the way they design their guns that will help to make their guns safer. Handguns will have external safety locks, internal safety locks and eventually smart gun technology. Handguns will also have child safety features to help ensure that young children can't fire them.

Just as importantly, Smith and Wesson will require dealers and distributors who sell their products to abide by a code of conduct and help ensure that guns don't slip into the illegal market and get into the hands of criminals. Under the agreement, guns cannot be sold at gun shows without background checks, new limits will be placed on multiple handgun

sales, and safety training will be required before individuals can purchase their gun. These breakthrough measures show what is possible when we work together in good faith – and they disprove the gun lobby's long standing claim that such reforms were impossible. We applaud Smith and Wesson's leadership, and hope other responsible members of the gun industry will step forward too.

**Q: What is your position on smart gun technology? Will it really work? When will it be available?**

A: I support smart guns, which is why my budget provides \$10-million to fund the expansion, testing, and replication of such technologies. Smart gun technologies limit a gun's use to the proper owner – preventing accidental gun death, theft, and other unintended gun use. Several handgun manufacturers have already started to experiment with smart gun technologies. Through a partnership the Justice Department formed with one gun manufacturer, a prototype of one type of smart gun technology has been developed. My budget will build additional partnerships with gun manufacturers to help speed the availability of smart gun technology to the average consumer. While it is hard to say when this will be widely available, Smith and Wesson has already agreed to make smart guns available in the next 36 months.

**Q: What do you think of the NRA's personal attacks on you?**

A: I don't care if the NRA wants to attack me, but this debate shouldn't be about personal attacks. It's not about politics. It's about saving lives. The gun lobby wants to change the subject away from the reasonable gun safety reforms that are supported by the majority of Americans. The truth is, the NRA doesn't have the arguments on their side, so they're choosing to make it personal instead.

**Q: What is your response to the NRA's claims that your Administration has been abysmal at enforcing laws already on the books?**

A: Well, what they don't say is that federal firearms prosecutions are actually up 16 percent since 1992. Federal gun offenders are serving sentences that are about two years longer since I took office. And because of our unprecedented partnership with states and localities, overall prosecutions – federal, state, and local combined – are up 22 percent since 1992. More importantly, gun crime is down 35 percent since I took office in 1993. So, to say we haven't been enforcing the law, and that the results have been disastrous, is just plain wrong.

I do believe that we should do all we can to enforce the law, which is why I proposed the largest increase for gun enforcement – to fund 500 more ATF agents and inspectors, over 1,000 federal, State and local gun prosecutors, more resources to trace more guns, and to expand ballistics testing so we can catch even more gun criminals. For all their talk about enforcement, the gun lobby and their allies have been uncommonly silent when it comes to supporting real resources to crack down on gun criminals. We've been doing

the job on enforcement, and we're putting our money where our mouth is. I hope the NRA will come around and support my enforcement proposals.

**Q: Many supporters of gun control believe the next step is the licensing and registration of handguns. If you support registration in principle, why did you only offer a proposal to license handgun buyers in this year's State of the Union?**

A: As I have said before, I believe gun registration is a good idea. But I also believe that the best next step to strengthen our gun laws is a state-based licensing system to help ensure that handgun purchasers may legally possess firearms and can safely handle and store them. This will help law enforcement efforts to keep guns out of the wrong hands, and it can help prevent many accidental shootings. So, I want to focus now on making the case for licensing, and pressing the Congress to pass common sense gun provisions such as closing the gun show loophole, requiring child safety locks for handguns, and banning the importation of large capacity ammunition clips.

**REMINDER:** MSNBC will re-air the President's Town Meeting at 10:00 pm EDT followed by a LIVE panel discussion on guns moderated by Tom Brokaw beginning at 11:00 pm EDT. The panel includes, and hopes to include, the following:

Bruce Reed

Maybe an NRA member

Michael Barnes, Handgun Control

Tom Mauser

Dave Anver, Dave's Guns

State Rep. Doug Deane

State Rep. Ken Gordon

Brenda Flowers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Advocate

Governor Bill Owens (TBD)

Matt Bai, Newsweek

David Olinger, Denver Post

Mitchell Wright, husband of the Jonesboro, AR teacher Shannon Wright who was killed

Kimberly Rolland, Bell Campaign

Diana Holland, Littleton Community Task Force

Angela Kincaid, Women Against Violence

Bob Ford, President, Rocky Mountain Guns Shop

Doug Painter, Executive Director, National Shooting Sports Foundation

Jerry Oliver, Richmond, VA Chief of Police

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 LAMAR S. SMITH, TEXAS  
 ELTON GALLEGLY, CALIFORNIA  
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 EDWARD A. PEASE, INDIANA  
 CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
 JAMES E. ROGAN, CALIFORNIA  
 LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA  
 MARY BONO, CALIFORNIA  
 SPENCER BACHUS, ALABAMA  
 JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA  
 DAVID WITTER, LOUISIANA

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April 11, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman  
 Committee on the Judiciary  
 U. S. Senate  
 SD-224  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

We write to request a juvenile justice conference meeting as soon as possible.

As you are aware, in the last two months, we have witnessed a succession of gun violence tragedies. We have been shocked by a six-year-old shooting a six-year-old in Mount Morris Township, Michigan. We have seen a nursing home held hostage and a mass shooting in Pittsburgh. In February, Memphis firefighters responding to a call were shot and killed by a disturbed man. It is clear that the Nation would like Congress to respond.

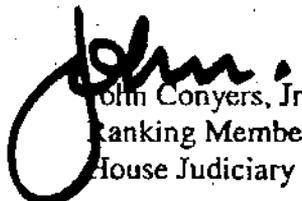
We know that there is not complete agreement on all of the issues before the Conference. We also recognize the need for compromise. We have already agreed in principle to proposed language to reduce the waiting period to 24 hours in most cases, but are still trying to resolve appropriate "safety hatch" exceptions.

We have pledged to each other to begin anew negotiations. We believe, however, that beginning the work of the Conference will play a constructive role in the necessary process of narrowing our differences.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
 Henry I. Hyde  
 Chairman  
 House Judiciary Committee

  
 John Conyers, Jr.  
 Ranking Member  
 House Judiciary Committee



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Tuesday April 11 6:31 PM ET

Report: Youth Crimes Declining

By ANJETTA McQUEEN, AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Youth violence is falling, but more children are paying the price of public fears driven by high-profile school shootings - harsher punishments for nonviolent or minor offenses - says a new report.

"We've got kids getting kicked out of school for saying 'bang-bang' to each other," said Vincent Schiraldi of the Justice Policy Institute, a youth advocacy think tank that co-authored report. "It's no more fair to stereotype them all as school shooters than to stereotype all adults as Timothy McVeigh," who bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The report - released a week before the first anniversary of the April 20 Columbine High School massacre - says the public isn't paying attention to overall youth-violence trends. Instead, shootings in Colorado, Arkansas, Oregon and most recently Michigan - where one first-grader shot and killed another youngster in class - have driven schools to install more metal detectors, conduct more locker searches and impose more suspensions and expulsions for threats, Schiraldi said.

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"Even though these are awful tragedies, we can't set public policy based on these events," Schiraldi said in a recent interview.

The report by the Justice Policy Institute, based in Washington and San Francisco, and the nonprofit legal aid Children's Law Center in Covington, Ky., recommends more school counseling, balanced media coverage of school shootings and tougher gun control laws. The groups - which gleaned data from federal and state agencies and nonprofit research centers - are releasing the report publicly Wednesday.

The report's findings include:

-Seven in 10 Americans think a school shooting could happen in their communities, but a child has a 1 in 2 million chance of being killed in a U.S. school.

-Youth homicide arrests dropped 56 percent from 1993 to 1998, but two-thirds of 1,000 people polled by The Washington Post in November said they believed children were getting more violent.

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More on Travel Classes

said they believed children were getting more violent.

-Citing Maryland as an example, suspensions for false alarms and bomb threats went up 44 percent from the 1997-98 school year to the 1998-99 year. Although it was not known whether the alarms and threats themselves increased, the group said the significant increase in suspensions alone reflected a crackdown on such infractions.

"Kids have to know there are consequences to illegal activity," said Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the 285,000-member police union. "The real issue is how can they (officials) be tough without creating the perceptions that they are oppressing these kids."

Most of the punishments were for what the report called "petty acts." For example:

-A 17-year-old junior was expelled from his suburban Chicago high school in 1998 after the paper clip he shot with a rubber band struck a cafeteria worker, drawing a small amount of blood. He was also charged with disorderly conduct.

-Two 10-year-old boys in Arlington, Va., were suspended for three days for putting soapy water in a teacher's drink. Felony charges filed against them were later dismissed.

The crack down hit minority children especially hard, the report said. In Phoenix, black students are suspended from school at 22 times the rate of white students; in Denver, San Francisco and Austin, they are suspended at least three times as often.

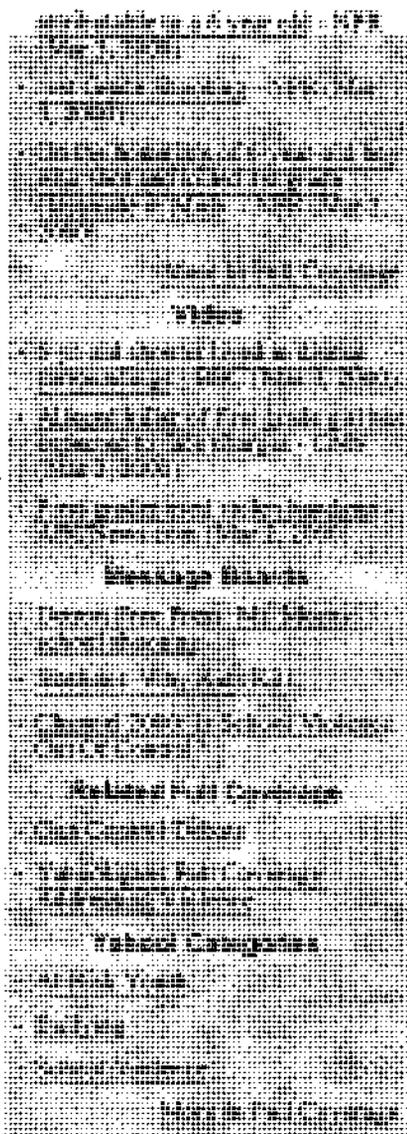
Some parents oppose zero-tolerance laws that require tough penalties for all children who carry weapons, start fights or make threats.

"I don't think anyone who is in a position of responsibility can be mindless," said Alan Heitner, a physician in Madeira, Ohio, whose son Dana, 18, was suspended for school-election signs in a restroom that joked about a bomb in the toilet.

Heitner said the two-week suspension didn't protect anyone and caused his son to miss exams at his suburban Cincinnati high school: "From a safety standpoint, this is really absurd."

On the Net: The report will be available Wednesday:  
<http://www.cjcj.org/schoolhousehype/shh2.html>

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**MSNBC Town Hall on Guns**  
**Questions and Answers**  
**April 12, 2000**

**Q: Is the ready availability of guns responsible for the recent shootings in schools, office buildings and places of worship?**

A: These recent shootings have all been tragedies. Each one had different factors at play and I think it is impossible to say that there was one thing responsible for all of the shootings. But they did, in fact, share one key element: guns in the wrong hands. We need to make sure we do everything we can to make sure that those who shouldn't have guns cannot get access to them. This includes tougher enforcement of our gun laws as well as strengthening existing laws to keep guns from falling into the hands of criminals, the mentally unstable, domestic abusers and perhaps most of all, our children. I have asked Congress to help us to do both, by passing my gun enforcement initiative to fund more 1,000 gun prosecutors and 500 new ATF agents and inspectors, and to pass commonsense gun legislation that, among other things, closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks for new handguns.

**Q: Can gun violence be curbed with more laws, or is this a result of larger societal problem?**

A: While no single law can prevent all instances of gun violence from occurring, we know that stronger gun laws can make a difference in preventing gun crime and accidents. When I took office, violent crime – especially gun violence – was on the rise for years. So, we put into place a strategy of more police on our streets and put strong new laws on the books, including the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban. The Brady Law alone has stopped over half a million gun sales to felons, fugitives, stalkers, and others who are prohibited by law from owning guns. As a result of our efforts, stronger State gun laws and local efforts to curb gun violence, gun crime is down 35 percent since 1993 and the homicide rate is at its lowest point in 31 years.

But no one thinks gun violence is at an acceptable level. We could build our success immediately if the Congress would pass the common sense gun legislation that has been languishing for over nine months. These are simple safety measures we can take – closing the gun show loophole that allows criminals to buy guns no questions asked at gun shows, requiring child safety locks for handguns to prevent young people from using guns to hurt themselves or others. We know these measures will save lives and there is simply no excuse for sitting on our hands.

But of course, we can do more to address violence beyond passage of laws. Responsible members of the gun industry can do their part by working with us to make meaningful changes in the way they do business. The media and entertainment industries can help change a culture that too often glorifies violence. Schools and community groups can

reach troubled youth before their troubles simmer over. And most fundamentally, parents can talk to their children, teach them to resolve their conflicts peacefully, raise them with the right values. I believe that if we set our minds to it, and work together, we can make this the safest big country in the world.

**Q: How can parents protect their children from the dangers of guns?**

**A:** First of all, I think it is important for parents to remember that violent crime and gun crime have dropped significantly all across the country. Having said that, I believe we can all do more to help make our children safer from gun violence. I would say to parents that it is important to talk to your children, if they're old enough, about these shootings. And reassure them that these are rare occurrences. Parents should remind children that schools are still about the safest places in any community.

Just as importantly, for parents that have guns at home, I would urge them to keep their guns safely stored and locked away so that their children cannot get access to them. The accidental firearms death rate for children under age 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in 25 other industrialized nations. This is unacceptable. UCLA and RAND recently released a study that showed that over a third of all homes with children had at least one firearm. Among those homes, 43 percent had at least one unlocked firearm. This shows that parents need to take greater care to ensure that their children -- or other children -- cannot use their guns.

**Q: Does there need to be more federal gun control laws or should gun control laws be done by the States?**

**A:** Recently, we have seen a lot of States making progress to enact stronger gun laws. Yesterday, I joined the Governor of Maryland as he signed into law a number of common sense measures that would, for instance, mandate internal child safety locks on handguns and require all gun purchasers to get training on safe storage and handling of guns. Last week, I was in California, where the Governor has signed into law measures to limit handgun sales to one per month and to ban all "junk guns." These are all important steps that will help reduce gun violence, and I plan to do all I can to help bolster these efforts.

However, I still believe that that a national framework for our gun laws is needed. A patchwork of inconsistent state gun laws allows criminals to obtain guns by exploiting loopholes in states with weaker laws to commit crimes in states with stronger laws. And, Congress can pass lifesaving new gun laws far more quickly than all 50 states. Take the Brady law, for instance. Before we passed this historic law, some states required background checks, but most of them did not. Back then, criminals who couldn't pass a background check in their home state could simply buy guns in neighboring states that didn't require them. Today, background checks are required in every state and the Brady law has helped us to prevent over 500,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from purchasing firearms.

Congress could act immediately to build on the success of the Brady law and pass common sense gun measures that passed in the Senate last spring that included measures requiring background checks at gun shows and mandating the sale of child safety locks. Instead, the Congress has allowed this lifesaving legislation to languish for over nine months. Despite their inaction, states like Colorado and Oregon are considering ballot initiatives to require background checks at gun shows. They recognize the public safety benefits of getting this done in their own communities. But every child in America deserves that same level of protection. And only Congress can pass legislation that protects every child in every corner of our country.

**Q: What can be done make guns safer?**

A: There is a lot we can do to make guns safer and prevent gun accidents and other unintended uses of firearms. First, we should require child safety locks for handguns. This is a common sense proposal I have been pushing for years. I issued a directive to require child safety locks to be distributed to all federal law enforcement. I proposed legislation to require such locks, and the Senate passed this measure last year. The Congress can and should enact this provision right away, along with other common sense gun provisions to close the gun show loophole and ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips. I was just in Maryland yesterday, where the Governor signed a new law to require built-in locks in handguns to make them even harder for unauthorized people to use them.

In addition to safety locks, we should help advance "smart gun" technology that can limit a gun's use to its proper adult owner. I think there is incredible potential in smart guns, which is why I have proposed \$10 million in my budget to expand and develop research into such technology. The agreement we reached with Smith and Wesson last month will advance gun safety significantly, by requiring external locks, internal locks, and eventually smart guns within a few years. The agreement also require guns to be subject to performance tests, and other safety standards to ensure safer, higher quality guns.

**Q: What are the main components of the Smith and Wesson agreement? Does it do anything to make guns safer?**

A: The landmark agreement that we reached with Smith and Wesson, represents an unprecedented partnership between the government and the gun industry to bring about meaningful reforms in the way the industry does business. Under the agreement, they will make major changes to the way they design, distribute and market their firearms. This means that Smith and Wesson will not only make guns that are safer, but they will also take actions to help ensure that their guns don't fall into the hands of criminals.

Smith and Wesson agreed to a number of changes in the way they design their guns that will help to make their guns safer. Handguns will have external safety locks, internal safety locks and eventually smart gun technology incorporated into their new handguns. Handguns will also have child safety features to help ensure that young children can't fire them.

Just as importantly, Smith and Wesson will require dealers and distributors who sell their products to sign onto a code of conduct that contains a number of stringent requirements to help ensure that guns don't slip into the illegal market and get into the hands of criminals. Under the agreement, guns cannot be sold at gun shows without background checks, new limits will be placed on multiple handgun sales, and safety training will be required before individuals can purchase their gun. These breakthrough measures show what is possible when we work together in good faith. We applaud Smith and Wesson's leadership, and hope other responsible members of the gun industry will step forward too.

**Q: What is your position on smart gun technology? Will it really work? When will it be available?**

A: My Administration supports smart gun technology, which is why my FY 2001 budget provides \$10 million to fund the expansion, testing, and replication of "smart gun" technologies. Smart gun technologies limit a gun's use to the proper owner – preventing accidental gun death, theft, and other unintended gun use. Several handgun manufacturers have already started to experiment with smart gun technologies. Through a partnership the Justice Department formed with one gun manufacturer, a prototype of one type of smart gun technology has been developed. My budget will build additional partnerships with gun manufacturers to help speed the availability of smart gun technology to the average consumer. While it is hard to say when this will be widely available, under our agreement with Smith and Wesson, they will make smart guns available in the next 36 months.

**Q: What do you think of the NRA's personal attacks on you?**

A: I don't care if the NRA wants to make personal attacks on me, but I do have a problem with the NRA using personal attacks as a reason for standing in the way of passing common sense gun legislation. They use their attacks as a smokescreen to passing reasonable gun safety reforms that are supported by the majority of Americans. The truth is, they don't have the arguments on their side, so they choose to make it personal instead.

**Q: What is your response to the NRA's claims that your Administration has been abysmal at enforcing laws already on the books?**

A: Well, what they don't say is that federal firearms prosecutions are actually up 16 percent since 1992. Federal gun offenders are serving sentences that are about two years longer since I took office. And because of our unprecedented partnership with States and localities, overall prosecutions – federal, state, and local combined – are up 22 percent since 1992. More importantly, gun crime is down 35 percent since I took office in 1993. So, to say we haven't been enforcing the law, and that the results have been disastrous is just plain wrong.

I even agree with the NRA that we could do even more to enforce the law, which is why I proposed the largest increase for gun enforcement ever proposed – to fund 500 more ATF agents and inspectors, over 1,000 federal, State and local gun prosecutors, more resources to trace more guns, and to expand ballistics testing so we can catch even more gun criminals. For all their talk about enforcement, they've been uncommonly silent when it comes to supporting real resources to crack down on gun criminals – which I think shows that they are aren't very serious about enforcement at all, but just want to use it as a reason to block other common sense gun safety measures we should take to keep guns out of the wrong hands in the first place.

**Q: Many supporters of gun control believe the next step is the licensing and registration of handguns. If you support registration in principle, why did you only offer a proposal to license handgun buyers in this year's State of the Union?**

A: As I have said before, I believe gun registration is a good idea. But I also believe that the best next step to strengthen our gun laws is a state-based licensing system to help ensure that handgun purchasers may legally possess firearms and can safely handle and store them. This will help law enforcement efforts to keep guns out of the wrong hands, and it can help prevent many accidental shootings. So, I want to focus now on making the case for licensing, and pressing the Congress to pass common sense gun provisions such as closing the gun show loophole, requiring child safety locks for handguns, and banning the importation

FOCUS - 2 OF 34 STORIES

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March 19, 2000 Sunday 2D EDITION

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A-01

LENGTH: 3109 words

HEADLINE: Gun watchdog slow on the draw ATF let arms dealers keep licenses despite violations

BYLINE: By David Olinger, (C)2000 The Denver Post Corp.,

BODY:

Federal regulators let two Colorado gun stores stay in business long after investigators reported they had sold guns to criminals and were operated by men forbidden to possess weapons.

In Lakewood, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms granted a new firearms license to Lawrence Lockert after state investigators concluded he repeatedly had sold handguns to people disqualified on background checks, including a convicted felon found running his shop. Lockert kept the license despite a 1998 restraining order prohibiting him from having weapons and a 1999 guilty plea to a domestic violence charge.

In Delta, state and federal agents discovered in 1996 that Ronald Jackson Sr., a man imprisoned three times on kidnapping and weapons charges, was operating a store with a federal license to sell guns. The ATF let the shop, licensed in the names of his wife and son, sell guns until its license expired more than a year later. No charges were filed.

At the same time, a veteran ATF inspector alleges, **the supervisor of agency inspection programs in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah waged a lengthy personal crusade against a leading Colorado gun dealer. While that claim is disputed, supervisor David McCombs did try unsuccessfully to revoke Dave Anver's license and later was reprimanded for trying to shut down Anver's display at a police trade show, according to interviews and ATF records.**

The inspector, Chris Eastburn, said he was ordered home on a paid leave in January, nearly two years after he filed a misconduct complaint against McCombs.

McCombs referred questions about his management of ATF inspections to senior officials at the agency's regional office in Phoenix.

They responded that ATF inspections suffer from inadequate resources, not poor leadership. Because of budget constraints, 'our staffing level is lower now than it was 15 years ago,' said Chris Sadowski, director of the ATF's regional office. 'Hiring additional inspectors is one of my top priorities.'

Sadowski also said the ATF is often viewed as an agency that can immediately shut down a dealer violating gun laws, when in reality a business may continue operating for months during license-revocation proceedings.

'Even if we conduct a criminal investigation and they're indicted by a grand jury, they have a right under the law to continue selling guns until the case is disposed of,' he said.

Sadowski and Tom Crone, who directs ATF inspection programs in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, said they learned just last month that Lockert's gun shop in Lakewood was licensed in the name of a corporation that had not existed for a year. They have ordered the store to stop selling guns, effective Monday. They also disclosed that for unknown reasons, the ATF's inspection report on the Jackson gun business in Delta was not completed until the store's three-year license had expired.

Eastburn contends he sent agency officials repeated warnings about improper regulation of Colorado gun businesses, including an urgent e-mail to Sadowski after Lockert threatened to 'take out' the city of Lakewood during an argument over unpaid taxes.

To document his complaints, Eastburn obtained records from his employer through the Freedom of Information Act and provided them to The Denver Post. The records show ATF was informed that Lockert sold handguns to people with criminal records nearly four years before the agency took action.

Lakewood firearms dealer

has a history of conflict

One wall of L&L Guns displays photos of a young soldier in Vietnam beside a U.S. government certificate honoring him for bravery. A bumper sticker over a rear door displays a different message for Uncle Sam: 'Fear the government that fears your gun.'

Lockert, a 59-year-old veteran, grandfather and rifle-accessory inventor, owns the West Colfax Avenue gun shop. He is also a federally licensed firearms

dealer with a history of conflicts with government regulators and local police.

The trouble began in 1995, when the Colorado Bureau of Investigation discovered that Lockert had kept nearly \$ 3,000 in fees paid by gun customers for criminal background checks under the state's new Insta-Check program.

A CBI agent went to L&L Guns in October 1995, looking for the owner and his sales records. Lockert wasn't there. The shop was being run by Galan Almy, a man sporting a semiautomatic pistol in a holster. When the agent checked CBI records, he learned that Almy had a felony car-theft conviction. He also found that Lockert had sold Almy a handgun, then left him in charge of the gun store.

CBI agents raided the store a week later. They reported finding 10 other instances in 18 months in which customers had acquired handguns despite being denied on criminal background checks. In some cases, they concluded Lockert simply sold the gun after a denial. Two other times, they found, L&L Guns had sold a handgun to a spouse within 20 minutes of her husband being disqualified on a background check.

Lockert said he recalled one instance where a woman had to buy her own birthday gift, a handgun, after her husband was turned down by Insta-Check. He insisted that, in every case, CBI investigators wrongly accused him of selling handguns illegally.

'I have never, ever, ever made a straw sale' to someone other than the actual handgun buyer, he said. 'Never have. Never would.'

Soon after the CBI raid, Lockert turned in the missing Insta-Check fees. State investigators nevertheless concluded in 1996 that 'Mr. Lockert has shown willful disregard' for Colorado and federal gun laws, 'causing the transfer of handguns to convicted felons.'

Almy was arrested for illegally possessing a handgun in Lockert's store and sentenced in state court to probation. CBI investigators handed their findings on Lockert's gun sales to the ATF, which imposed no penalties and issued Lockert a new firearms license in 1997.

In January 1998, Eastburn filed a formal complaint of misconduct against McCombs, the supervisor of ATF inspections. Lockert's gun license was Exhibit A. Eastburn wrote that he recommended revoking it for 'willful and repeated violations' of gun laws, but McCombs pressured him to change his report, claiming that the ATF regional office - then based in Dallas - would not accept a revocation attempt. Eastburn said he eventually relented and recommended that the agency formally warn Lockert, but that never happened, either.

In October 1998, Lockert's gun business was jeopardized again, this time by a criminal charge that he beat his wife in a Perkins restaurant while she held their grandson in her arms. According to the restaurant manager, Lockert had pulled her back by her hair when she tried to leave, then 'backhanded' her in the face and slammed her against a wall.

Lakewood officers reported that Lockert also threatened them, saying 'if we started trouble with him, we would have a big problem to deal with.'

He was arrested on charges of child abuse, harassment and resisting arrest. The next day he signed a restraining order stating that he 'shall not possess or control a firearm or other weapon.' His bond conditions upon release also prohibited weapons.

Yet, according to CBI records, Lockert continued to call in background checks on gun customers from his shop.

The child-abuse charge was dropped in March 1999, but Lockert pleaded guilty to the other charges and agreed to attend domestic-violence classes. Judgment and sentencing have been deferred, pending the outcome of his probation.

Eight months later, Lockert had another run-in with Lakewood authorities. According to a police report, he appeared at city hall to see an auditor about a summons for sales-tax violations and said 'something to the effect of, 'Don't threaten me. If I get arrested again, I'll take out this whole f---ing city.'"

The auditor declined to press charges, and Lockert paid his sales taxes. But Jacque Wedding Scott, Lakewood's finance director, took the precaution of posting Lockert's photo. 'There was a perceived threat with one of the tax auditors,' she said. 'We just want to make sure our employees are on the alert.'

Lockert said the auditor misquoted him. 'I'm Christian, and I wouldn't say something like that,' he said, adding that he may have said something like, 'Ain't no SOB ever going to handcuff me again.'

He said that as a helicopter pilot who earned the Distinguished Flying Cross in combat, he resented being threatened over unpaid sales taxes. 'I'm an American war hero,' he said. 'I was shot down three times in Vietnam.'

Federal law generally prohibits people with restraining orders against them or those 'convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence' from possessing or controlling guns.

Lockert declined to discuss how he managed to remain a gun dealer while there was a restraining order against him. But he said his deferred judgment means he has no domestic violence conviction.

'I have not been convicted, OK?' he said. 'I never will be.'

Susan Kitchen, who heads CBI's background-check program, said Lockert is prohibited from possessing guns in Colorado, despite the deferred judgment, because he pleaded guilty to a domestic violence charge that has not been dismissed.

Crone, the ATF regional inspection director, said the ATF unfortunately visits licensees so infrequently that a dealer's arrest in a domestic-violence case may not be noticed for some time.

Crone said he knew an inspector was complaining about Lockert's license, but saw no proof of a problem until last month - records showing that the corporation holding the license had ceased to exist in February 1999.

'As soon as that issue was presented to me,' Crone said, 'that issue was addressed.'

He said Lockert was given 30 days to sell off his inventory and told he could not personally handle any guns remaining in stock as of Monday because of his domestic-violence case.

Delta gun seller noted

for lengthy criminal record

In 1996, CBI agents acting on a tip visited a tiny house north of Delta that had been turned into a business called M&R Military Supply. They noticed camouflage fatigues and guns, including an SKS assault rifle. When they arrived, Ronald Jackson Sr., a man with a lengthy criminal record, 'was conducting business from that location,' according to a search warrant affidavit filed in Delta County.

Jackson had been arrested in the 1960s, '70s and '80s on charges ranging from burglary to kidnapping and weapons offenses. He had spent two years in an Idaho state prison for abducting a 17-year-old girl at gunpoint as she crossed a street. He had done time in federal prison in Oklahoma on a weapons charge and in a Colorado state prison, again for possessing guns illegally.

Yet CBI agents found Jackson in charge of a gun shop that had been licensed by the ATF for two years - in the names of his wife and son, Ronald Jackson Jr.

That's not all the agents found when they raided the business in April 1996.

They reported finding handguns sold without a record of acquisition, without signatures and without serial numbers. They cited evidence of a 'straw' handgun sale to David Corrales, a convicted felon who had been deported to Mexico - eight minutes after Corrales was denied on a background check, M&R Military Supply had sold a handgun to his housemate. They found that neither Jackson nor the business had filed income-tax returns.

The agents also reported that Jackson insisted 'there were no handguns for sale on the premises' during their initial visit, yet the store called CBI to approve two handgun sales within two hours after they left.

Chris Eastburn, who was involved in the case as a federal inspector, said the ATF chose to let the Jacksons get out of the gun business without facing any charges. On one handgun sale, 'We even had a witness that heard (Ronald Jackson Sr.) say, 'Now this isn't legal,' Eastburn said.

Ronald Jackson Sr. could not be reached for comment. But his son told The Post that his father did not run the store. His father helped sell military supplies, 'but he never sold any of the guns,' Jackson Jr. said. 'He knew he couldn't.'

He also said ATF agents never asked him to turn in his gun dealer's license. 'They just told us it would be beneficial not to renew it.'

The ATF is divided into a compliance branch that employs inspectors to check federally licensed businesses and an enforcement branch that employs agents with arrest powers who investigate criminal complaints.

Agency officials in Phoenix said they have not determined what became of the criminal investigation into M&R Military Supply. They found that Eastburn's inspection report was not completed until September 1997 - 17 months after the CBI raid and one month after the store's federal firearms license expired.

Eastburn said he had expected criminal charges to be filed, and submitted a report detailing the store's violations only after learning that Jackson would not be prosecuted.

'Scrupulous' dealer allegedly

targeted by vendetta

One license ATF's Colorado inspection supervisor did try to revoke belongs

to the man who became the state's leading firearms dealer and police supplier.

**David McCombs recommended putting Dave Anver out of business in 1993 for allegedly violating federal gun-show regulations that allow dealers to attend out-of-state shows but require them to ship any guns they sell from their home states. According to ATF records, McCombs was overruled by its enforcement branch, and the case was dropped.**

The misconduct complaint Eastburn filed in 1998 alleges that McCombs has pursued Anver ever since, abusing his regulatory power in a vendetta that 'has the potential to embarrass or harm the bureau.'

**ATF employees in Colorado are well aware 'that Dave McCombs is 'out to get Dave Anver,' Eastburn wrote. He alleged that McCombs referred to Anver, who has long hair and tattoos, as 'a scumbag,' and personally asked him to 'get anything you can to use against Anver.'**

Eastburn cited a 1994 incident in which McCombs showed up at a trade show sponsored by the Denver Police Brotherhood, abruptly tried to shut down the Dave's Guns display, and was removed by two Denver officers. ATF records indicate McCombs later received a 'letter of counseling.'

Anver said he has never met McCombs. But for some reason, the ATF has inspected his books yearly, bringing as many as 'four or five guys,' he said, and once tried to go through his records twice in one year despite a 1986 federal law limiting ATF inspections to one annually.

'The last inspector who was here stayed over a week,' Anver said. 'Found nothing.'

**Eastburn rates Dave's Guns as one of the most scrupulous firearms dealers in Colorado. By ordering repeated inspections and instructing employees to get Anver's license, McCombs 'is using his government office to commit prohibited acts against a licensee,' he said.**

**Crone disagrees. He said ATF records reflect three inspections of Anver's business in seven years. 'I've seen nothing in the record that indicates he's receiving any more attention than anyone else is, that's for sure.'**

Eastburn's misconduct complaint also concerns McCombs' use of government property and a subordinate employee.

He alleged that in 1994, while his application for a promotion was pending, McCombs 'insisted that I come over right away to help him with a basement remodeling project in his home.'

Eastburn estimates he spent 14 hours doing electrical work in McCombs' home, a job for which he was never paid.

'Dave did ask if I was going to charge him for the work,' Eastburn wrote, but 'it was not a comfortable situation asking for money from your boss at that point.'

Later, his complaint says, McCombs gave him 'a bookcase and a steel four-drawer file cabinet' belonging to the ATF, which he took home but returned after growing uneasy about this 'means of disposal' of government property.

The records Eastburn obtained through the Freedom of Information Act include an affidavit from his supervisor saying, 'I asked Chris for the bill' on the electrical work. The affidavit acknowledges that 'at one point I asked Inspector Eastburn if he could store a file cabinet for us,' adding, 'I said he may have to bring it back at some point.'

Sadowski said Eastburn's complaint received 'a complete, independent investigation' from the ATF's Office of Inspection in Washington, which presented its findings to the agency's Professional Review Board.

The board concluded that the ATF's Denver-area supervisor should get a letter of caution for violating ethical standards that prohibit accepting favors from a subordinate employee.

'Regardless of whether you intended to pay Inspector Eastburn for his services, you should not have asked him to provide electrical work at your residence,' said the letter signed by John Brooks, then the ATF's southwest district director. He also cautioned that 'allowing an employee to store property at home suggests impropriety or misuse of government property.'

The letter made no mention of Eastburn's complaints about ATF regulation of Colorado gun dealers.

Staff writers Nancy Lofholm and Stacie Oulton contributed to this report.

David Olinger can be reached at [dolinger@denverpost.com](mailto:dolinger@denverpost.com).

## THE ATF IN COLORADO

Facts about ATF inspections of firearms dealers in Colorado:

Total number of retail firearms licenses: about 1,300.

Inspections for compliance with federal regulations: 21 in fiscal 1997, 26 in fiscal 1998, 47 in fiscal 1999.

Inspections of applicants for firearms licenses: 420 in fiscal 1997, 147 in fiscal 1998, 175 in fiscal 1999.

Total firearms-related inspections (includes some miscellaneous inspections): 463 in fiscal 1997, 147 in fiscal 1998, 175 in fiscal 1999.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: The Denver Post/Glen Martin The ATF granted a license to Lawrence Lockert, owner of this Lakewood gun store, despite his selling guns to people who had failed background checks. PHOTOS: Lockert Jackson

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 2000

FOCUS - 32 OF 34 STORIES

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SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A-01

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HEADLINE: Cops put guns back in circulation Arms banned from manufacture sent to dealers

BYLINE: By David Olinger, (c)1999 The Denver Post Corp., GUNS FOR SALE,

BODY:

Colorado police agencies have supplied the consumer market with hundreds of used guns equipped with high-capacity magazines banned from manufacture by the 1994 federal assault-weapons law.

The banned weapons delivered to gun stores and distributors by recent police sales range from pistols with 15-round clips to SWAT team assault rifles. One agency also sold handguns confiscated from criminals for as little as \$ 5 apiece. Another agreed to sell 10 rifles classified as machine guns, then canceled the deal upon receiving a request to ship them to a Miami gun wholesaler.

'I didn't realize they were selling things that were considered to be assault weapons,' said Colorado House Minority Leader Ken Gordon, a Denver Democrat who has called for stricter gun controls. 'I have a problem with that. They shouldn't be putting them in the stream of commerce.'

But Robert Delfay, president of the Connecticut-based National Shooting Sports Foundation, the largest lobbying organization for gun manufacturers, said police departments commonly trade used firearms for newer models, and 'it's just logical that guns being traded in right now are going to be pre-ban.'

He sees nothing wrong with that. 'Those firearms are sold through firearms dealers to individuals who have to pass a background check,' he said.

And even if criminals eventually acquire some of those used police guns, 'in the average criminal shooting, 3.6 shots are fired,' Delfay said. 'That would seem to indicate that the magazine capacity is not really an issue.'

Police sales of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines are not unique to Colorado. Law-enforcement agencies throughout the country have traded used semiautomatic pistols and SWAT weapons, getting new guns at little or no cost.

That's because Congress created an unusual gun market when it voted five years ago to outlaw production of selected assault weapons and all large-capacity magazines - defined as holding more than 10 bullets - but allowed existing supplies to be owned and resold. To get their hands on 'pre-ban' guns, firearms manufacturers turned to the people who could supply them with what they could no longer make for the general public.

The police.

Demand for guns

'The gun dealers and the gun manufacturers have recognized that there is going to be a very big market in high-capacity firearms,' said Larry Todd, a firearms committee member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. 'There's not a police agency in the country that hasn't been contacted, I suspect, by a manufacturer offering to accept those weapons in trade for new weapons.'

The police chiefs' association adopted a resolution last year urging police departments to destroy their used guns, as well as those seized from criminals, to avoid the risk that police guns will end up in the hands of criminals. Earlier this month, President Clinton announced a \$ 15 million program to help police departments buy and destroy as many as 300,000 used guns from private owners throughout the country.

At the same time, however, some law-enforcement agencies are selling weapons that have been illegal to make for five years.

Today, gun magazines holding more than 10 rounds and certain types of assault weapons are manufactured only for law-enforcement agencies and cannot legally be resold to the public. Firearms experts say nobody knows how many police guns with 'pre-ban' magazines have been traded back to manufacturers and redistributed to gun dealers since the assault-weapons law took effect.

But 'there's absolutely no question, after the assault-weapons ban, police weapons were a huge source' of high-capacity magazines, said Violence Policy Center analyst Tom Diaz, author of a book on the gun industry.

Aside from some imports, 'it's the only legal source left,' he said.

## Colorado small player

Colorado actually ranks as one of the smaller players in the national trade of police guns and magazines made before the assault-weapons ban. Most of Colorado's large police departments require officers to purchase their own pistols from an approved list, and therefore have no handguns to sell.

Yet a Denver Post survey of law-enforcement agencies around the state found that at least six have sold or traded assault rifles or pistols with high-capacity magazines in the past three years: the police departments in Aurora, Lakewood and Littleton, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Colorado Department of Corrections and the Colorado State Patrol. A seventh, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, plans to trade its pre-ban pistols for another model.

The largest gun trade involved the State Patrol. It switched from one pistol model to another last year, creating a supply of almost 1,800 used 15-round magazines with 596 used pistols, all made before the magazines were banned.

State Patrol Chief Lonnie Westphal said that trade was made without considering its contribution to the market for 'pre-ban' weapons.

'We've always traded them in to a firearms dealer and let them resell them. I've always pretty much supported that policy,' he said.

But by trading in pistols that can fire 15 bullets in seconds, 'we are allowing those magazines to continue to be available,' he acknowledged. Today, 'I would do that differently as far as the magazines are concerned.'

The State Patrol, like many police agencies across the country, switched from six-shot revolvers to semiautomatic pistols a decade ago. In theory, the pistols had decided advantages over the standard police gun. They were easier to load in stressful situations - just slip a clip into the gun - and they let police officers keep up with the increasingly potent firepower that gun manufacturers were supplying to the general public.

In 1991, Colorado state troopers began carrying more firepower of their own: 9mm Smith & Wesson pistols, each equipped with three 15-round magazines.

In 1998, the State Patrol followed the latest trend in police pistols, switching from the 9mm model to a larger caliber semiautomatic. The rationale: the 9mm bullet proved too small and swift, too likely to pass through an intended target and strike a bystander, and not heavy enough to stop an attacker instantly.

This trend was encouraged by the two leading police gun suppliers, Smith & Wesson and Glock, which both introduced a pistol with a larger, slower .40-caliber bullet. Both offered to take police pistols with 'pre-ban' magazines in trade, at prices that let law-enforcement agencies get new guns almost for free.

The State Patrol, for example, paid \$ 388,000 for 710 new pistols last year. But that cost was offset by a credit of more than \$ 300,000 for its old pistols.

'It's not like we're taking them to a gun show or advertising them in the Yellow Pages,' State Patrol spokesman Capt. Steve Smee said of the trade. 'I think it's only frugal that we do that with the taxpayers' money.'

The State Patrol's used pistols and magazines went to Tuxall Uniforms, a Denver police supply company serving as the middleman in the trade. About two-thirds were bought back at the discounted price of \$ 347 each by state troopers, who are free to resell them to anyone in Colorado who can legally own a gun.

Doug Smith, a Tuxall employee, said a Smith & Wesson representative boxed the rest, putting two 15-round magazines with each pistol and the remaining magazines in a separate box, and shipped them all to a wholesale gun distributor in Alabama.

Westphal recalls no debate about the merits of selling high-capacity magazines to a gun manufacturer. 'Quite honestly, at the time that issue was not even brought to my attention. Of course since that time it's been a very hot topic,' he said.

Westphal grew more uncomfortable with the second part of the Smith & Wesson deal: trading away 10 M-16 military rifles for \$ 500 each. The State Patrol had converted the M-16s from automatic weapons to semiautomatic rifles, which fire one bullet with each squeeze of the trigger. But because they could be easily reconverted to automatic weapons, they had to be sold to someone with a special license to own machine guns.

The patrol kept the M-16s while Smith & Wesson hunted for a buyer. Recently a Smith & Wesson representative called to say a buyer had been found. Could the State Patrol ship the M-16s to a wholesale gun distributor in Miami?

The chief bought the M-16s back. 'I just didn't like the feel of that,' he said.

Two events made the market for assault weapons in general, and police

pistols in particular, a hot topic this year. In April, Dylan Klebold used a TEC-DC9 assault pistol made just before the assault weapons ban to attack his classmates at Columbine High School. Last month, Buford Furrow used a Glock pistol sold by a police department in the state of Washington to shoot children at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles and kill a postal worker.

In Colorado, the Columbine High shooting led the Aurora Police Department to reverse a longstanding policy permitting the sale of used and confiscated guns.

But first, the department decided to go ahead with one last sale.

On July 15, Aurora police took 206 guns to a local gun store, Dave's Guns, and received a \$ 19,575 credit toward the purchase of future police supplies.

The department sold six Jennings, Lorcin, Phoenix and Raven pistols - all cheap, California-made pistols commonly called Saturday night specials - for \$ 5 each.

It got \$ 250 apiece for a Glock pistol and a Norinco rifle with high-capacity magazines. It got \$ 65 for an Intratec TEC-22, a smaller version of the assault pistol Klebold took to Columbine High, and \$ 300 for a MAC-10, an assault weapon banned in 1994 that was notoriously easy to convert to a machine gun.

Aurora police spokesman Bob Stef said the department later reclaimed the MAC-10, deducted the \$ 300 credit and destroyed the gun. 'We just felt it was in the best interest of the community to get that one back,' he said.

Until this year, the Aurora department routinely sold guns it confiscated from criminals. 'Almost exclusively, it helped to equip the SWAT team,' Chief Verne Saint Vincent said. 'It helped us buy some very expensive weaponry, as well as bulletproof vests, ballistic shields, those types of items.'

But after the Columbine High tragedy, Saint Vincent decided the risk of putting guns back on the street outweighed the economic benefits to his department.

By then, 'we had already in my mind made a commitment to make that deal' with Dave's Guns, he said. But 'I told my executive staff - this is the last one. We're not going to be in the business of doing this anymore.'

**Dave Anver, owner of Dave's Guns, has a good reputation with law-enforcement agencies. He buys police guns, sells police supplies and maintains police weapons. Posted inside his front door is a newspaper article on the Denver police gang unit.**

The article explains that almost half the guns seized by the gang unit were cheap Saturday night specials. Beneath it, Anver posted a pledge not to sell 10 brands of 'trash' guns at any price. Five brands - Intratec, Jennings, Lorcin, Phoenix and Raven - were on the list of handguns Aurora police sold to his store for \$ 5 to \$ 65.

Anver said a gunsmith paid him \$ 5 each to strip parts from the cheap pistols, and he then returned the receivers with serial numbers to Aurora police.

'I think all of the garbage weapons were destroyed,' he said. 'I'll be damned if I ever support somebody's right to have a piece of 'Saturday Night' crap like that.'

Dave's Guns served as a middleman in several of Colorado's police gun trades.

In the last three years, the Department of Corrections has shipped 80 semiautomatic pistols, some with pre-ban magazines, to Anver's store. Denver police sent him 197 used Remington shotguns in a 1996 trade for new shotguns.

Some police guns stay in his shop. But most are shipped to wholesalers, who in turn distribute them nationally to retail gun stores.

'There is no way on God's green earth to sell a thousand of the same pistols' at a single retail store, Anver said.

About 50 of the pistols sold by the Corrections Department to three different gun dealers in the last three years came with magazines banned from manufacture in 1994.

'The reason for trading is economics: You save a lot of taxpayer money,' said Liz McDonough, a DOC spokeswoman.

She emphasized that the Corrections Department sells pistols only to federally licensed firearms dealers. 'We're relying on that system to work and believe that it does,' she said.

#### Change in policy

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the agency investigating the Columbine High massacre, sold a few AR-15 assault rifles - a sale Sheriff John Stone said will not be repeated. Two cities in Jefferson County, Lakewood and Littleton, also sold AR-15s made before the assault weapons ban.

To sell or not to sell: For law-enforcement agencies throughout Colorado, the gun-disposal question has created a powerful dilemma, pitting fiscal vs. moral concerns. In Mesa County, it keeps Sheriff Riecke Claussen in a quandary.

Claussen destroys sawed-off or unsafe guns, but he said he can't decide what to do with confiscated guns that are in good condition. So he keeps them - indefinitely - in evidence. He guesses he has several thousand in his evidence vault, including a few collector's items worth thousands of dollars each.

'I am loath to destroy them, but I'm also cognizant it's not the most popular thing to do, to put guns back on the street,' Claussen said. 'I guess you could say I'm in a position of analysis-paralysis.'

The sales of used police guns in Colorado have been dwarfed by some trade-ins on the East Coast and in California, where most large police departments purchase handguns for their officers.

In Washington, D.C., for example, Glock obtained nearly 5,600 guns and 17,000 'pre-ban' magazines in a single pistol trade with the city police department.

In New York state, a scandal erupted from a gun trade involving the law-enforcement branch of its Department of Environmental Conservation that enabled Glock to get back more than 700 'pre-ban' pistols just three years after it sold them. That trade, like the Colorado State Patrol exchange, involved a switch from 9mm to .40-caliber models and allowed officers to buy back their weapons at a discount.

In December 1996, the New York state inspector general reported that many conservation officers had resold pre-ban pistols for profit, in some cases to people ineligible to buy them. Three of the guns traded in by a law-enforcement agency switching gun models twice in three years had been traced to people arrested in Miami and Los Angeles.

Days later, New York Gov. George Pataki ordered all state agencies to stop trading in used police guns and destroy them instead.

In Colorado, the state wildlife agency is proposing a similar trade with the same gun manufacturer.

For about seven years, Division of Wildlife officers have carried .40-caliber Smith & Wesson pistols, Model 4026. 'The problem we've got is they don't make the 4026 anymore,' said John Bredehoft, the agency's law-enforcement chief.

In January, the division of wildlife plans to buy new .40-caliber pistols from Glock. Under terms of the proposed trade, Glock would get all 250 of the division's Smith & Wesson pistols, along with its 'pre-ban' 11-round magazines, and Colorado wildlife officers would have an opportunity to buy those used pistols at a discount.

'It makes a lot of fiscal sense to trade these handguns,' Bredehoft said. 'Of course, it would bother me if the handgun ended up someplace where it wasn't supposed to be.'

The continuing sales of used police weapons with 'pre-ban' magazines troubles U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who introduced legislation, now in a conference committee, to stop all imports of high-capacity magazines.

'One of our main goals is to dry up the supply of those magazines,' said Howard Gantman, Feinstein's spokesman.

'Having police agencies resell them to firearms dealers has the opposite effect. It's keeping them available.'

Staff writers Peter G. Chronis and Nancy Lofholm contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Special to The Denver Post/Mickey Krakowski Mesa County Sheriff Reicke Claussen inspects one of thousands of guns his department has seized from criminals over the years. Most remain in his evidence vault and he can't decide whether to destroy them, sell them or keep them indefinitely. PHOTO: The Denver Post/Barry Staver Colorado State Patrol Chief Lonnie Westphal, showing his .40-caliber pistol, says the agency traded 'pre-ban' weapons back to dealers without considering the effects on the market for the guns. The Denver Post Sold by Colorado police

LOAD-DATE: October 06, 1999

LEVEL 1 - 6 OF 6 STORIES

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April 16, 1992, Thursday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 17; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 750 words

HEADLINE: SOURCE OF BROWN DRUG CHARGE EMERGES;  
CAMPAIGN: FORMER STATE POLICE VETERAN REPEATS HIS ACCUSATIONS ON  
NETWORK NEWS.  
THE CALIFORNIAN AGAIN FLATLY DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS.

BYLINE: By MARK GLADSTONE and KENNETH REICH, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

BODY:

One of ABC News' six anonymous sources who have alleged that drugs were used at the Los Angeles home of Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr. while he was governor went public with his accusations Wednesday.

Robert E. Ford, now a weapons designer for Rocky Mountain Arms Inc., an arms manufacturer in Longmont, Colo., said on ABC's nationwide news broadcast that while he was with the California State Police, from 1976 to 1978, he and other security officers saw marijuana cigarette butts in ashtrays at Brown's Laurel Canyon home and found a white, powdery residue there that tested positive for cocaine content.

"We'd find small roaches left, rather incompletely burned marijuana cigarettes," he said. "You could smell marijuana coming from the residence."

Brown has flatly denied the allegations. Campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination in Pennsylvania on Wednesday, he said: "We are trying to keep up with this malicious story of ABC's. . . . We are going to prove ABC wrong, and I'm going to want an apology from (ABC president) Rooney Arledge."

Ford said in the brief, on-camera interview that he was convinced that Brown was aware of the alleged drug use.

"As far as him stating that he didn't see it," Ford said of Brown's denials, "he would have to be blind and have no sense of smell to not be aware of what

was going on there."

Ford did not say, however, that he saw anyone in the Brown home use either of the drugs.

Pressed for details later in telephone interviews, Ford told The Times he did not believe Brown used drugs.

"He has some strange habits, but dope is not one of them," he said.

"It could have been (his) friends were there," he went on. "But officers could smell marijuana there when the governor came. Sometimes, the smell was in the air."

Ford also said he felt Brown did not like to have officers on his security detail who had worked for Ronald Reagan, his predecessor.

"There was an animosity between us that should never have occurred," he said.

Brown could not be reached for comment on the point.

Ford told ABC that he and other officers were warned by supervisors to ignore the alleged drug use.

"We were told 'if you enjoy your job, you'd better re-evaluate what you are seeing,'" Ford said. "Or, 'if you're that uncomfortable, we have another assignment available for you.'"

ABC said that Ford told them he reported the drug allegations to Capt. Donald Buckland, now retired. Contacted by The Times, he called Ford's allegations "a damn, out-and-out lie.

"If this kind of stuff was reported to me, involving the governor, it would have instantly been reported upward," he said. "It was never reported to me. It was always quiet out there (at the Brown home)."

In Sacramento, Capt. Robert Donnalley, spokesman for the State Police, confirmed that Ford had been with the department in the Los Angeles area during Brown's first term as governor, before 1978. Ford joined the Pasadena Police Department on Sept. 11, 1978, and left Nov. 17, 1986, a Pasadena spokesman said.

The charges of drug use at Brown's home were first aired by ABC last week, and heatedly denied by Brown and many of his associates. The network came under fire from them and some figures in the news media for using only anonymous sources in its initial reports.

During his campaign day Wednesday, Brown pitched himself squarely at organized labor in heavily unionized Pennsylvania. He stressed his support for strengthening unions and for instituting universal medical care during appearances before labor groups in Erie and Bethlehem. He denied that his chances had been undercut when a key AFL-CIO committee recommended Monday that the 14-million member labor group endorse Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton for the Democratic nomination.

Brown repeatedly stressed his support for a "single-payer" universal health insurance program run by the government or by private, nonprofit agencies.

Referring to Harris Wofford, a Pennsylvania Democrat who won an upset victory for U.S. Senate last year largely on the strength of his advocacy of universal medical care, Brown noted that no such program has yet emerged from Congress.

"Why? Because \$30 million goes into the (congressional) campaigns from drug companies, from insurance companies and from equipment manufacturers," he said.

Times staff writers Jack Cheevers in Erie, Pa., and John Hurst in Sacramento contributed to this story. Gladstone reported from Sacramento, Reich from Los Angeles. FORD, ROBERT E

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 51 STORIES

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The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, UT)

February 2, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. B01

LENGTH: 731 words

HEADLINE: 2 sides keep guns cocked

BYLINE: By Jennifer Toomer-CookDeseret News staff writer

BODY:

Groups pushing a citizens initiative to remove legally concealed guns from churches and schools aren't too upset that lawmakers shot down legislation with a similar target.

In fact, some said Tuesday's House Education Standing Committee action may add momentum to their effort to let voters, dubbed "the silent majority" by Utah Education Association president Phyllis Sorensen, decide the issue in November. Utah PTA and school officials agree.

"By preventing any kind of reasonable legislation from going forward, that lends support to the idea there's no way the Legislature will ever act," said Doug Bates, director of school law and legislation for the state Office of Education.

"Bring it on," gun rights advocates indicate. Winton Clark Aposhian of the Utah Self Defense Instructors Network says an educated public won't support the initiative, which targets upstanding citizens with no desire to become "gun-toting Rambos." He says existing laws adequately address gun crimes in schools.

"I would love to put it to the vote of the people," he said. "This entire situation is serving to educate the public . . . and we stand on our record."

Facing a room packed with more than 100 residents -- mostly gun-rights advocates -- the committee voted 7-6 to table HB248, sponsored by House Minority Leader Dave Jones, D-Salt Lake. The bill is similar to the citizens petition, though the petition would make colleges gun-free zones, too.

The bill failed along party lines, with the exception of the committee

chairmen, Reps. Ron Bigelow, R-West Valley, and Lloyd Frandsen, R-South Jordan, who voted to keep the bill alive.

Bigelow said that as a lay minister, he would not want guns in his church. He also defended fellow lawmakers, however they voted.

"I am not aware of any legislator in the state of Utah that does not place the safety of children as the utmost importance," Bigelow said. The issue is "how that can properly be done."

Jones' bill sought to take the burden off homeowners and churches to tell visitors they can't bring their guns inside, requiring concealed weapons permit holders to ask permission instead.

Catholic and Episcopal church officials support the idea. But not Tom Corkish, pastor of Anchor Baptist Church in Salt Lake. He says the bill "discourages worshipers who need self-protection" and forces clergy to become policemen.

The bill also sought to ban concealed weapons permit holders from toting guns into public or private schools, though principals could make exceptions, such as for stalking victims. Concealed weapon permit holders would have been able to carry guns in parking lots, streets or sidewalks next to school property. Law enforcement officers would be exempt.

"My bringing this bill forward does not suggest concealed weapon permit holders are criminals," Jones said, adding the bill is about safety, not crime.

"I think what you have to ask yourself is, if you're a parent, does it make you feel more comfortable if there's a loaded weapon (in class)?" he said. "I think the vast majority of Utahns will answer, 'No.'"

**But Janalee Tobias, founder of Women Against Gun Control, indicated schools would be sitting ducks if criminals knew no guns were inside. Treat the situation like a good poker hand and bluff instead, she said, challenging Jones to a game of "strip-poker" in an apparent attempt to illustrate her point.**

**"You don't want to tell where the guns aren't," she said.**

Gov. Mike Leavitt has repeatedly urged lawmakers to tackle the guns in schools and churches issue. While gun restriction bills have been filed, those addressing that issue are not included in the GOP crime-fighting package.

Senate President Lane Beattie, R-West Bountiful, however, is carrying two bills: One would require concealed weapon permit holders to notify the principal

when bringing a firearm into a public school, although the principal could not ask the person to leave or reveal to others the gun carrier is on school grounds. The other requires the legal gun carrier to notify a church official, who could tell the gun-toter to leave.

While Beattie has said the bills strike a compromise between gun-rights and gun-control advocates, school officials have said they don't go far enough.

Jones hopes to amend those bills to include some of his own, if they make it to the House floor. "Now, the venue moves," he said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 2, 2000

LEVEL 1 - 16 OF 51 STORIES .

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The Deseret News (Salt Lake City, UT)

July 1, 1999, Thursday

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. B01

LENGTH: 640 words

HEADLINE: 5th-graders mull pros, cons of guns

BYLINE: By Diane UrbaniDeseret News staff writer

BODY:

**You never know when a gunman will invade your school, Janalee Tobias warned a roomful of children at South Jordan Elementary.**

**"The shooter might enter through that door," the gun advocate said.**

**The students looked over their shoulders. Tuesday morning's classroom discussion had grown serious -- and not a giggle or fidget could be seen among teacher Laurie Erickson's fifth-graders. The 22 students listened intently to Tobias and other "witnesses" in a mock hearing over whether to allow teachers to bring guns to school.**

**Teachers need concealed weapons to save lives, said Tobias, a member of Utah Women Against Gun Control.**

**"At least guns give students and teachers a fighting chance to protect themselves," she said.**

That notion didn't give 11-year-old Katrina Irving much comfort. While many students at her school worry about attackers coming to their classrooms and playgrounds, she said, she doesn't want her teacher carrying a gun for protection.

Two weeks ago, Erickson told her fifth-graders that they would soon have a chance to debate the question of guns in schools. Choose a pro or con position, she instructed. Do research to back it up and on the day of testimony, cross-examine witnesses from both sides. A jury of 12 students would then vote on which was the more powerful argument.

Gun control is also the hot topic in Washington and in the State Capitol,

where the governor and lawmakers are mulling over whether to convene a special session of the Legislature to consider restrictions on licensed concealed weapons -- including banning them from public school grounds.

"A lot of kids disagree" on whether teachers need firearms, said 11-year-old Taryn Heffernan. For her part, Taryn hopes schools stay gun-free -- as does witness Chris Palmer, a second-grade teacher at South Jordan Elementary.

"I don't want my students visualizing me, as a role model, shooting at someone," said Palmer. "If I carried a gun, I wouldn't be teaching my children anything positive. It would be a hypocritical message to send."

"How would you protect your class against somebody with a gun?" asked gray-suited "attorney" Aaron Lawrence, 11. "Would you poke him with a pencil? Would you give him an F?"

Palmer said teachers are trained to deal with assailants in their classrooms.

"We are taught to de-escalate when there is danger," Palmer said. "Pulling a gun out would escalate the situation. If a teacher is scared, her aim might not be perfect. More injuries could come from accidental ricochets."

Palmer told the students she would instead use her cellular phone to call 911 after she had gathered the children behind her or made sure they had all sought cover under their desks.

If Columbine High School's teachers had brought guns to campus, the April 20 massacre might have been even bloodier, Palmer said. There would have been more shooting and possibly more injuries and deaths.

But Claudia Hepner, another member of Women Against Gun Control, told the children that armed teachers might have averted the Columbine killings.

"Knowing that some teachers have guns is like having undercover cops all over your school," Hepner said. "I would definitely send my kids to a school where the teachers have guns."

Hepner passed out pink Women Against Gun Control pamphlets to students and teachers at South Jordan Elementary, which has a zero-tolerance policy prohibiting firearms on campus.

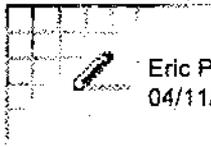
Many students at the school don't want that policy to change, said Taryn Heffernan, 11. She surveyed other classrooms and found that the majority of children are against concealed weapons at their school.

After 90 minutes of vehement testimony, the jury voted 8-4 against allowing teachers to carry guns to school. Fifth-grader Kate Compton let out a whoop.

"I'm so happy," she said. Then everybody went out to recess.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: July 1, 1999



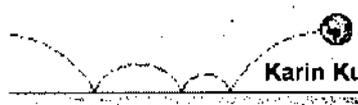
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Possibly worth a mention -- "Why, just this week the gun lobby here in CO blocked a measure that would have kept guns off school grounds" -- though getting a little closer to explicit Columbine references.

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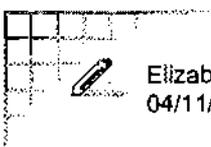


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School gun ban voted down

By Mike Soraghan and Fred Brown  
Denver Post Capitol Bureau

April 11 - Republican state senators Monday defeated a Democratic proposal to ban holders of concealed-weapons permits from taking their guns onto school grounds, rekindling a debate over guns in schools that raged hotly even before the

## Columbine High School massacre.

The echoes undoubtedly will be heard in Statehouse elections later this year as Democrats try to take over the Senate. "I guess this is what we're going to see in November," said Sen. Bryan Sullivant, a Republican from Breckenridge whose seat has been aggressively targeted by Democrats. "Well, tee me up, because I'm a 'no' vote. I'm going to stand up for the Second Amendment." Senate Minority Leader Mike Feeley, a Lakewood Democrat, said opponents were backing the gun lobby, not the Constitution.

"They had a chance to keep all guns out of schools, and again they didn't do it," Feeley said. "It's because they don't have the courage to stand up to the National Rifle Association and the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners."

Current law bans guns from school grounds unless the person carrying the gun is in a car or has a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Sen. Ed Perlmutter, D-Golden, attempted to remove those exemptions in an amendment to Senate Bill 133, a school safety bill.

The debate has been a sensitive one for Republicans. Last year, House Republicans abruptly changed course after initially refusing to pass the ban. Gov. Bill Owens threatened to veto a concealed-weapons-permit bill if the ban on guns in schools wasn't included. The ban would have been part of the concealed-weapons bill if it had passed, but the bill was scrapped in the wake of the Columbine shootings.

Owens said he still opposes guns in schools, but his spokesman, Dick Wadhams, said Perlmutter's proposal went beyond that by banning concealed weapons from college campuses.

"It would probably be better if Democrats quit playing politics with safe schools and started working to make our K-12 schools safer," Wadhams said.

Perlmutter said Columbine showed the need to ban guns from schools.

"Using Columbine as an example is exactly appropriate," Perlmutter said.

Sullivant said the proposal "wouldn't even address what happened there." The whole thing, he said, was "revolting to me." Sen. MaryAnne Tebedo, R-Colorado Springs, said she has attended night classes at area universities and said the campuses can be scary places at night.

"I don't think kids should have guns at schools. I don't support the Columbine tragedy," Tebedo said. "I'm voting no, for the right to self-protect."

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**MSNBC'S LIVE Town Hall on Guns: "UP IN ARMS: WHAT SHOULD AMERICA DO?"**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2000  
1:00 pm MDT/3:00 pm EDT  
University of Denver**

(The following timetable and possible questions are a working draft for internal discussion only. This document provides guidance only and we can add/delete or change it. All times are approximate and are MDT.)

- 1:00 pm** Cold Open followed by Tom Brokaw and a summary of the gun control debate and the President's day so far in Colorado.
- 1:03.30 pm** Tom Brokaw introduces the President from off-stage. (NOTE: The President will wear a wireless lavalier microphone and proceed to a stool -- bar style, straight back with arms -- in the center of the stage beside Tom Brokaw.)
- 1:04 pm-  
1:10 pm** Tom Brokaw and the President discuss the following: Since gun violence is one of the leading causes of death in America, the following issues will be discussed: Is the ready availability of guns responsible for the recent shootings in schools, office buildings, and places of worship? Can gun violence be curbed with more laws, or is this a larger societal problems? How can parents protect their children from the dangers of guns? Does there need to be more federal gun control laws or should gun control laws be done by the states?
- 1:10 pm-  
1:14 pm** Tom Brokaw asks member of "VIP" -- see potential list of names below -- to ask a question of the President.
- 1:15 pm-  
1:19 pm** Commercial Break
- 1:20 pm-  
1:24 pm** Tom Brokaw asks the President about gun safety; the Smith & Wesson Deal; and smart-gun technology.
- 1:25 pm-  
1:27 pm** "VIP" asks a question of the President.
- 1:27 pm-  
1:28 pm** Matt Bai, Newsweek correspondent, asks a question of the President.
- 1:28 pm-  
1:31 pm** Commercial Break
- 1:32 pm-  
1:34 pm** "VIP" asks a question of the President.

**1:34 pm-  
1:40 pm** Tom Brokaw asks the President about the NRA's lobbying tactics and personal attacks on him. (note enforcement) Brokaw will show the NRA ad accusing the President of being a liar.

**1:41 pm-  
1:43 pm** "VIP" asks a question of the President.

**1:43 pm-  
1:45 pm** Tom Brokaw asks the President about licensing and registration of handguns.

**1:46 pm-  
1:48 pm** Commercial Break

**1:49 pm-  
1:52 pm** "VIP" asks a question of the President.

**1:53 pm-  
1:57 pm** Tom Brokaw and the President wrap-up discussion.

**1:58 pm-  
2:00 pm** Close and commercial break

**POTENTIAL "VIP" MEMBERS (contingent on WH approval/List is still evolving)**

Mayor Wellington Webb  
Dave Thomas, Jefferson County DA  
Attorney General Salazar  
State Rep. Doug Deane  
State Rep. Ken Gordon  
US Attorney Tom Strickland  
Gerry Whitman, Chief of Police, Denver  
Matt Bai, Newsweek Correspondent  
David Olinger, Denver Post reporter  
Lance Kirkland, injured Columbine student  
Tom Mauser  
Handgun Control (2 local reps tbd)  
Arnie Grossman, Co-President SAFE Colorado  
John Head, Co-President SAFE Colorado  
Brian Rohbaugh, Columbine parent whose son, Danny, was killed  
Littleton Community Task Force (2 local reps tbd)  
Raul Paradis, President, Pike Peak FireArms Coalition, gunshop owner discontinuing sales of Smith&Wesson  
Dave Anver, Dave's Guns (large gunshop)  
Bob Ford, small gun manufacturer, President, Rocky Mountain Arms (per Brokaw)

Angela Kincaid, Women Against Gun Control  
Amy Sodnikar, Colorado organizer for Million Mom March in DC  
Carmelita Conrad, local organizer for Million Mom March in Colorado  
Brenda Flowers, Second Amendment Advocate (daughter committed suicide with handgun)  
Second Amendment Sisters (2 local reps tbd)

**REMINDER:** MSNBC will re-air the President's Town Meeting at 10:00 pm EDT followed by a LIVE panel discussion on guns moderated by Tom Brokaw beginning at 11:00 pm EDT. The panel includes, and hopes to include, the following:

Wayne LaPierre, NRA – via satellite, no interaction  
Michael Barnes, Handgun Control  
Tom Mauser  
Dave Anver, Dave's Guns  
State Rep. Doug Deane  
State Rep. Ken Gordon  
Brenda Flowers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Advocate  
Governor Bill Owens (TBD)  
Matt Bai, Newsweek  
David Olinger, Denver Post  
Mitchell Wright, husband of the Jonesboro, AR teacher Shannon Wright who was killed  
Kimberly Rolland, Bell Campaign  
Diana Holland, Littleton Community Task Force  
Angela Kincaid, Women Against Violence  
Bob Ford, President, Rocky Mountain Guns Shop  
Doug Painter, Executive Director, National Shooting Sports Foundation  
Jerry Oliver, Richmond, VA Chief of Police

**BACKDROP**

Dark panel wood with artistic renditions of guns/MSNBC logo/No gun at POTUS

# Women Against Gun Control

"The 2nd Amendment is the Equal Rights Amendment," says Janalee Tobias, president of Utah-based Women Against Gun Control (WAGC). As President Bill Clinton and the media exploit the particularly nasty school shooting of one Michigan 6-year-old by another to advance their "for our children" gun control agenda, Tobias is not impressed.



WAGC President  
Janalee Tobias

"President Clinton is the one who's anti-family," she said in a recent

interview with HUMAN EVENTS, "because he doesn't want to allow children to be protected. He has no idea of how to protect children. Women have the primary responsibility for protecting our children. And it's just a physiological fact that women are not as strong as men."

Ignored by Clinton and his allies, Tobias said, is the disproportionate impact on law-abiding women that gun control has. "The criminals will always have guns," she said flatly.

"The rapist and the murderer does not obey the law anyway. The housewife, the church-going woman won't have one. The fact is, a woman's husband may be away, she may have a violent ex-boyfriend or ex-husband. A woman needs to know how to responsibly and safely handle a firearm so she can deter crime."

She noted that gun control advocates seem to think that inanimate objects are responsible for causing crime. "Guns are not the root of the crime problem," she said.

"For example, Harris and Klebold [the Littleton murderers] were on some kind of mind-altering drug. All the kids in these shootings may have been on some mind-altering drug."

Tobias was particularly disgusted with the speed with which Clinton seized upon the Michigan killing for political advantage, pushing trigger locks and other measures that would supposedly make America safer. Referring to that case of the 6-year-old killer, Tobias said, "You really think a stolen gun would have a trigger lock on it? No. How many violent acts has this kid seen, at least on TV or in movies?"

An article on WAGC's website by Jo Ann Nolan says, "Have you ever been awakened by a noise at night and you were afraid? Have you ever thought that someone could be following you and you were afraid? You have the power to change these feelings. All it takes is a little educa-

tion and some practice and you can feel secure and confident." She tells how she learned to handle a gun and, now, she no longer feels afraid.

"I had a self-defense class at Brigham Young University. We had a man come in and we practiced all our moves to defend ourselves," Tobias said.

"It was fine when the guys were fooling around, but when the instructor said okay, use

all your force. I was helpless against the attacker." That taught her the importance of guns for women, she said.

"Sometimes a woman will call and say she used to be against guns. But then she was victimized in her home, and so she bought a gun and learned how to shoot."

All-volunteer-staffed WAGC has "thousands of members, and members in all 50 states, and a few internationally," she said. "We call ourselves Ladies of high caliber." They range from housewives to doctors to accountants to statisticians.

Tobias devotes herself full-time to unpaid activism, and has come to Washington to speak at a press conference organized by Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R.-Utah).

"I'm an activist on a lot of issues," she said, "for gun rights, against frivolous mass transit, against government waste and abuse, for protecting open space. . . . I've been harassed and vandalized frequently." Developers have even used Tobias for trying to block their plans to develop open space.

Tobias's most politically incorrect fight is for guns. She said that she has received calls from major publications seeking to interview her, "but when they find out I'm a normal mom and that I don't shoot dinner from my back porch and I didn't marry my brother, they don't want to publish anything about me." She can still produce a solid packet of local Utah clips, however.

Begin one from the Salt Lake City *Deseret News*. "Janalee Tobias hasn't checked her e-mail for a week. She cringes at what waits—an avalanche of messages that will take her hours to read. Let alone answer. There will be invitations to speak, pleas to continue her good work, stories that make her cry, and universally one question: 'How do I get involved?'"

WAGC may be reached at P.O. Box 521000, Salt Lake City, Utah 84152-1000 (801-328-9660; e-mail: info@wagc.com; website: www.wagc.com).

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The company of cowboy legend and wartime firepower is broke and nearly out of business. The fall of an American icon. BY MATT BAI

# Unmaking a Gunmaker



DONALD ZILKHA NEVER really planned to get into the gun business. In 1993 he turned 42, and had yet to make his own fortune. Success was expected of him: his family built one of the biggest banking empires in the Middle East

before conquering New York. He worried aloud to friends that his father, a philanthropist and banker, disapproved of him. Zilkha was looking for a chance to prove himself, and suddenly there it was. Colt's Manufacturing Co.—known to the world as Colt—had fallen on hard times and could be bought for next to nothing.

His family, Zilkha told others, was appalled. His mother, a board member at the Metropolitan Opera, thought it a dirty business. His billionaire uncle refused to help. But Zilkha defied them. He was a city kid enthralled by cowboy legends. He was also a shrewd businessman, and he thought he'd found a way to make the guns profitable and "respectable." Colt had helped America win two world wars; it wasn't like owning some cheap handgun maker. Zilkha would buy up Colt's competitors for military weapons, Wall Street style. Later there were other ideas: "smart guns" that would make the world safer, Western theme parks for kids. He just might become a modern Samuel Colt.

*Long line: Samuel Colt, who made 'the gun that won the West' in the 1830s; inspecting Colt .45s in the 1940s*

Now here he was, in the summer of 1999, sitting in his office 46 floors above midtown Manhattan, listening on the speaker phone as Colt executives told him the dream was dying. Colt was deep in debt and paying more than \$300,000 a month in legal fees. The bank wouldn't loan him any more cash. With school shootings dominating the news, Zilkha's private investors wanted nothing more to do with guns. And if he didn't come up with \$4 million in a hurry, the nation's oldest gunmaker would be forced to close its doors. So Zilkha did what he had to do. He and his partner, John Rigas, secretly put up \$1 million of their own money so that Colt could hastily build 1,100 modified assault rifles for the civilian market. They knew those guns were in high demand—even though they're banned





*'Coltsville': The legendary gunmaker missed the modern trends*

in several states. The rifles gave Colt a cash infusion so it could pay its factory workers. But it wasn't enough; the money ran out, and Colt soon announced it would have to stop making most consumer handguns.

The fall of Colt—"the gun that won the West"—reflects a shift in the way Americans think about guns. Once the symbol of heroic lawmen and soldiers in battle, guns are now the target of growing public anger. Colt's journey from frontier legend to the brink of extinction is part of a larger story of gunmakers that turned away from hunting rifles and military weapons in favor of handguns that, in the public's view, too often fall into criminal hands.

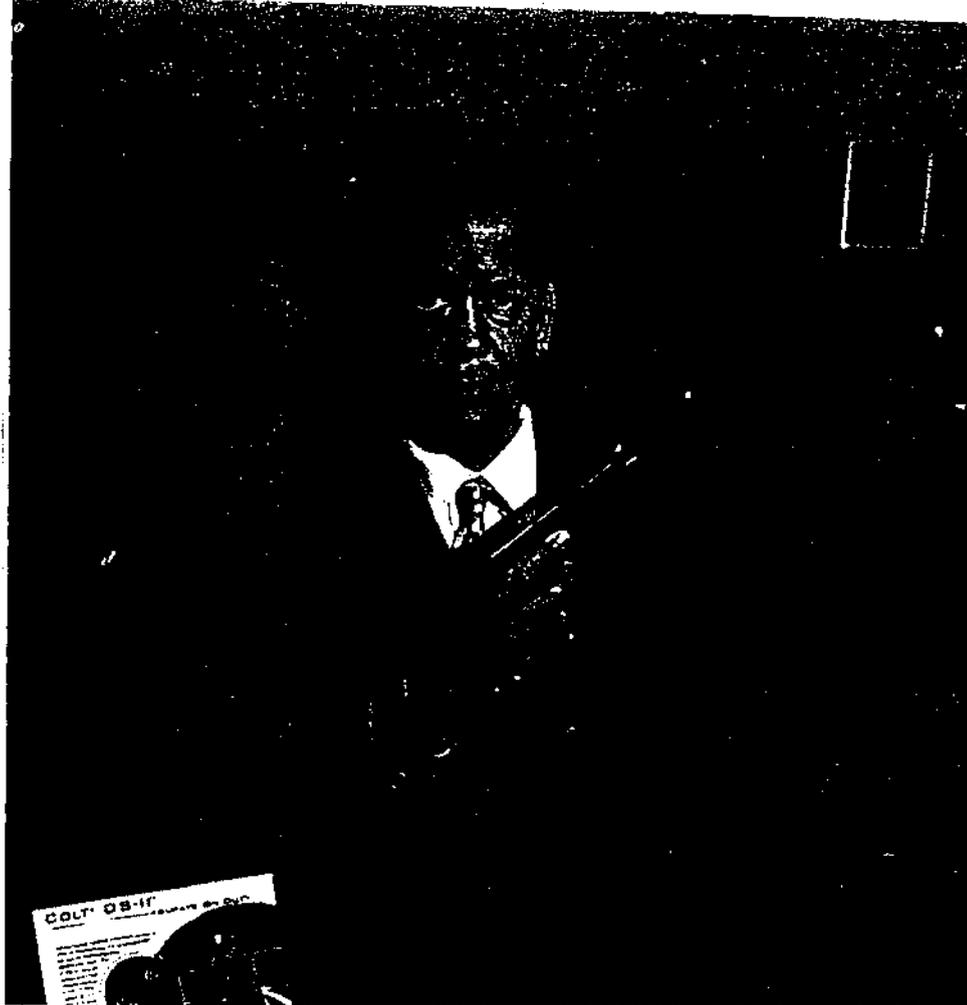
Little is known about the inner world of the gun industry. But exclusive NEWSWEEK interviews with Colt's owner and former and current executives tell the inside story of an industry in trouble—and the desperate measures gunmakers will take to save themselves. Lawsuits from the cities are draining the companies' cash. Politicians are pushing for new laws. Pro-gun crusaders are threatening to punish any company that looks for compromise. Some gunmakers vow to fight on; Smith & Wesson opted for a deal with the Feds to change its ways. Colt tried everything to save itself—and ended up nearly broke.

Zilkha and the outsiders he brought to Colt thought they could teach other gunmakers a thing or two about modern business. But they knew nothing about the people who buy guns, or the people who hate them. They wanted to build safer guns but found themselves buried under lawsuits. They tried negotiating with their enemies, only to infuriate their customers. And while they were able to make the kind of handguns that sell on the street, they feared the image it conveyed. The well-meaning men who ran Colt missed a hard truth of the trade: gunmakers don't push the latest in pocket pistols and assault rifles because they think everyone should have one. They do it to survive.

Only a trickle of guns—military rifles and engraved collectibles—now flows from the troubled Colt plant in West Hartford, Conn. But Colt was once so vibrant that the old plant and its grounds were known as Coltsville, a town unto itself. Sam Colt invented his revolver in the 1830s; by the end of World War II his pistol was in the holster of every American soldier and most cops, too. During the Vietnam War, the company churned out as many as 50,000 M-16s a month.

But then, in the 1970s, revolvers gave way to semiautomatic pistols. As gun sales sagged in an increasingly urban country, gunmakers came to rely on the only market with any

➤ SUBMIT QUESTIONS NOW FOR A LIVE TALK WITH MATT BAI ABOUT COLT. THEN LOG ON TO NEWSWEEK.COM, APRIL 13, AT NOON EDT.



**Rocket scientist:** Sliwa (with a 'smart gun') could not fund his dream weapon; an ad for a 'ladies' gun'

growth: small and powerful self-defense handguns, many of which ended up on the street. Beginning in 1968, gun-control advocates fought several fierce battles with the gun lobby in an effort to curb handguns. But the gun companies themselves were never targeted; the public seemed not to notice them. Colt, meanwhile, had missed the modern trend entirely. Its outdated handguns weren't cool or affordable, and by 1993—after a prolonged labor strike—the company was bankrupt.

That's when Donald Zilkha stepped into the gun world, wearing pin-striped suits and polished leather shoes. To run the company he hired Ron Stewart, a former Chrysler executive. Stewart knew even less about guns than Zilkha, but he saw why handguns were the lifeblood of the industry. He could make a concealable Mustang

pistol cheap and sell it for 40 percent more, and it would be a sure source of monthly cash. At the plant one day in 1996, Stewart was introduced to Joe Cartabona, an ex-cop who owned a small gun shop. Stewart asked Cartabona if he stocked Colts in his store, and he said no. Why? "Because they suck," Cartabona replied. To test that theory, he and Stewart took down a pile of assembled handguns and test-fired 20 of them. Eleven misfired. Stewart hired Cartabona and charged him with revamping the handgun line.

Cartabona had been buying and shooting handguns his entire life. As a high-school football star, he had been enlisted by school janitors to bring in his .22-caliber pistol and shoot the rats in the boiler room. Cartabona and the Colt engineers produced nine light, inexpensive handguns, including a 9mm pocket pistol made to compete head-on with Smith & Wesson and Glock. He even developed his own testing process: he and his friends would take each new model behind his shop, firing into a sack of calf livers at close range to test the gun's reaction to "blowback" of blood and tissue.

By 1998, as the political furor over guns was getting louder, Cartabona and a Texas-based company were developing a survivalist gun called the Multi-Caliber, which would appeal to Y2K worriers because it could fire any caliber of bullet. "I envisioned marketing that gun with gas masks and beef jerky," Cartabona says.

In his trademark black uniform with the Colt insignia, Cartabona may seem like the perfect villain for a dark industry. But in fact, like most gun executives, he is more complicated than that. He is being earnest when he says that he refused to advertise his guns alongside tobacco ads. "The last thing I want little Johnny to do is pick this up, see a Colt ad, then flip to the back and see this cigarette ad," he says, grasping a magazine. Genial and frank, Cartabona says he would never sell junk guns, and he favors licensing and registration. He has used some gun profits to buy paint for the high school. The guns he was making at Colt, he says, "are designed to get you home at night, which is your God-given right." Does Cartabona feel any responsibility for gun violence? "Not one iota."

The meaner, cheaper Colt handguns hadn't been part of Zilkha's grand plan. He says he approved them because they were designed just for cops. In fact, Colt was aggressively marketing them to the buying public. But Zilkha had little choice; by 1998 he had won back military contracts for Colt, but his bid to buy a major competitor had fallen apart, and in the wake of school shootings, mayors were starting to talk about suing the gun industry—a new tactic that would be devastating to a declining industry. Money was tight, and the new handguns were Colt's only promising new line.

Selling handguns takes a certain mentality. Manufacturers live by a general rule: you don't have to be a "gun nut," but it doesn't hurt to pretend. As outsiders to the industry, Zilkha and Stewart didn't get it. First Stewart, sensing that the gunmakers were headed for the same kind of regulation as car companies, wrote an article saying the industry would be wise to accept some kind of registration. Gun owners revolted, turning up evidence that Zilkha had contributed money to the New York Senate campaign of gun foe Charles Schumer. The resulting grass-roots boycott cost Colt as much as \$10 million.

The bad publicity and the darkening political climate worried Colt's board members, none of whom had any experience in the gun trade. They lived in the real world, not Charlton Heston's, and the public's growing out-

**"I don't want to make a gun where some guy shoots some guy, and the ATF comes back here asking questions."**

—BILL KEYS, Colt CEO



rage over handguns made them uncomfortable. Defending themselves against public lawsuits wasn't what board members had in mind when they agreed to serve. They made their arguments to Zilkha in business terms, saying the modest profits from his sleek new handguns weren't worth the potential liability, but in some cases their feelings were plainly more visceral. "The guy, in my opinion, who was buying that gun was buying it for the wrong reason," says Bill Keys, a retired Marine general who sat on the board and now runs the company. "I don't want to make a gun where some guy shoots some guy, and the ATF comes back here asking questions." As for its intended use for self-defense, Keys says with military disdain, "The pocket gun is a ladies' gun."

Zilkha's partner, Rigas, told other board members that handguns were a dead-end business. With Stewart preparing to leave in 1998, Rigas stepped in and hired a new CEO: Steven Sliwa, a former NASA rocket scientist and college president who barely knew a gun from a grenade. The idea was for Sliwa to hurry along the "smart gun," a high-tech weapon that could be fired only by its owner. The National Rifle Association had at first warned Colt away from the idea, but now it had softened its stance. Sliwa says that as a businessman he was determined not to let his political views on guns affect the bottom line, but employees had little doubt about where he stood. Sliwa's wife cried when he took the job, but he said of the smart gun: "If somebody doesn't get in there and do this, who will?"

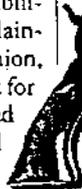
Sliwa's style, a mix of academia and New Age, seemed almost comical in a gun factory. His first move was to send his executives to a New York shrink he called "Uncle Morty," for \$8,000 a pop. The psychiatrist asked them, among other things, what their religious views were and how they got along with their in-laws. Sliwa gave Cartabona a new title: "Colt Fellow." No one knew what that meant. One executive's wife teased him about the new corporate culture, saying he had to go to the gun plant and "feel the love." Some managers thought Sliwa seemed afraid to handle the guns they put in his hand.

Sliwa arrived with a host of ideas for selling Colt's image: videogames, theme restaurants, kids' books. He traveled to Las Vegas to meet with developers about a Colt casino and kiddie ranch. In the gun business, no one introduces a product that may not sell instantly, because the cash flow is too precarious; Sliwa planned to roll out a new innovation every quarter. He was obsessed with the smart gun. In his desperation to find the right parts, he spent weeks in South Africa unsuccessfully negotiating to buy Vector—a gunmaker that was selling guns to outlaw nations like Libya.

## 'The Gun That Won the West,' Then and Now

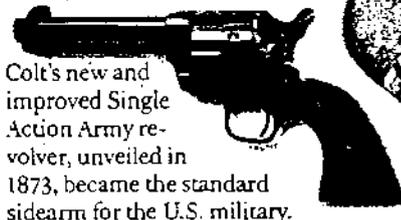
Samuel Colt went bankrupt trying to sell his first revolver in the 1830s. But by the end of World War II, Colt's guns were king, issued to every American soldier and most cops.

### 1 The Paterson Revolver



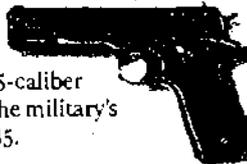
Men were born of varying abilities, it was said on the frontier, but Colonel Colt made them all equal. Here's how. The world's first revolver turned Colt into a legend and changed the firearms trade forever.

### 2 The Peacemaker



Colt's new and improved Single Action Army revolver, unveiled in 1873, became the standard sidearm for the U.S. military.

### 3 The 1911 Pistol



Designed by the legendary John Browning, the .45-caliber pistol remained the military's sidearm until 1985.

### 4 The M-16 Assault Rifle

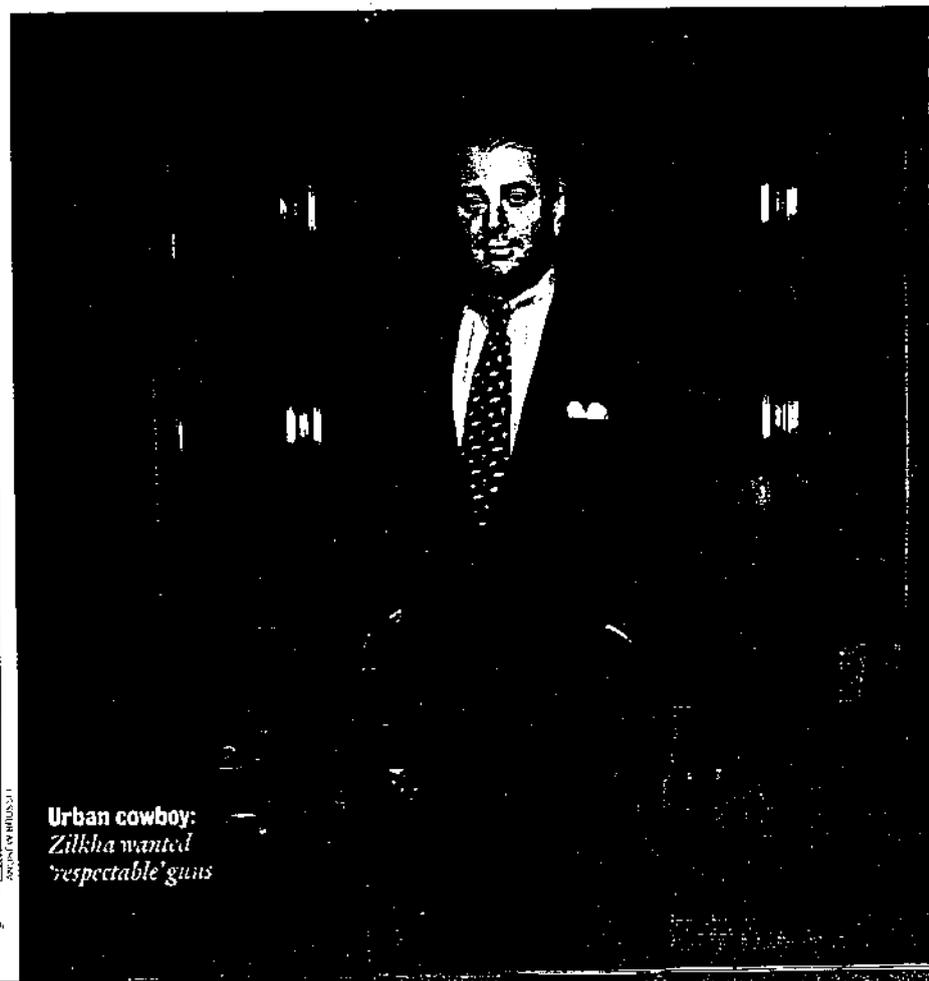


A new gun for a new kind of warfare, the M-16 Assault Rifle made its name in the rice fields of Vietnam. Today's version, the M-4, is still in production.

### 5 Pocket 9



The sleek 9mm consumer handgun entered the market in 1998, signaling a new kind of Colt pistol for a new kind of buyer. It is no longer made.



Urban cowboy: Zilkha wanted 'respectable' guns

TOP CENTER PHOTO: JETT MANN/CORBIS; GUNS: COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NO CREDIT; FIRST COLT: JEFF RIEDEL; ARMY COLT: NO CREDIT; 1911: JEFF RIEDEL; 5MM

Unknown to the rest of the industry, Stewart and other Colt officials had been meeting secretly with anti-gun activists to develop a strategy for introducing the smart gun. Sliwa continued the process and went a step further, appearing at an anti-gun conference. He was so concerned about Colt's image that on the day of the Columbine High School shootings last April, he wanted to make some gesture to the families. His New York media consultant talked him out of it, saying it would seem empty.

While Sliwa was busy being a "change agent," Colt was sinking. Growing legal bills and a delay on a foreign rifle deal had the company in a bind. Zilkha had managed to buy a smaller competitor, taking on additional debt. But if the pocket guns could help pay the bills, Sliwa wasn't interested. They weren't the future. He would phase them out, along with the profitable assault-style rifles, leaving only the socially acceptable, high-priced collectible guns. Cartabona's new 9mm pistol and his Y2K gun had locked up more than 12,000 orders at the industry's annual Shot Show, but neither would ever come to market. There were no parts.

Sliwa had even more worries. By summer it was obvious that employees had been lying about the inventory of completed rifles in order to mislead the bank and keep the loans flowing in. Sliwa had evidence that employees were stealing guns and products from the plant. On the verge of losing his beloved smart gun to bankruptcy, Sliwa agreed to leave his job and spin off a separate company that would raise money for the project. Nobody wanted to invest.

On an unseasonably warm day in December, just before Christmas, everyone responsible for selling new handguns arrived at the plant to find he had been furloughed without pay. Joe Cartabona left Colt with his Pony Pocket Lite pistol still in his front pocket, among the last the company would ever make. The people who ran Colt had used up their time and money looking for another way to survive—something that wouldn't make them social pariahs. "I just don't think there was an affinity with the final customer," a board member says. "I don't believe we were the kind of ownership or board that was capable of running a gun company."

Donald Zilkha is still trying. He's now negotiating to buy yet another foreign competitor. His family wishes he would



**The ex-cop:** Cartabona's scheme for producing meaner, cheaper handguns had never been part of Colt's plan; a 1982 ad evoking John Wayne

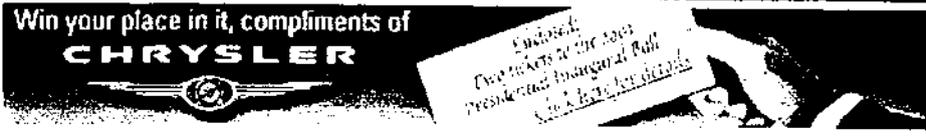
dump Colt once and for all, but with the industry in crisis he doesn't have that option. "I'd love to," Zilkha says. "But the fact is, who wants to buy a piece of cancer?" He is eating french toast at Manhattan's Four Seasons Hotel, reflecting on what went wrong. He blames the lawsuits for Colt's demise. He expects that sooner or later the American gun industry will be reduced to nothing.

Do he and other gunmakers bear any of the blame for gun violence? "People don't take responsibility for things anymore," Zilkha says in frustration. Then he relates a painful story from when he was 8 years old. He and some friends were at a birthday party, playing like swashbucklers with kitchen knives, when one kid stabbed another in the liver and accidentally killed him. The problem, he explains, was with the kids, not the knife. "It is tragic. It is a great lesson, in a sense! One has to have a certain amount of discipline. One needs to take responsibility." It is an argument he makes a lot these days. Donald Zilkha is all grown up now, and being a cowboy isn't nearly what it seemed.

**“[The new Colt handguns] were designed to get you home at night, which is your God-given right.”** —JOE CARTABONA, former Colt official



Nation U.S. edition PRINT EDITION



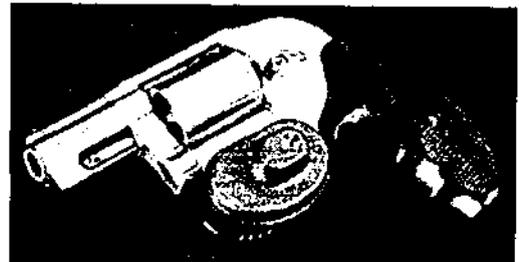
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High Noon in Gun Valley

Smith & Wesson's deal with Clinton on new safety rules is roiling the gun lobby. The inside story of the secret breakthrough.

By Matt Bai Newsweek, March 27, 2000



Dealing in gun reform: a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver with an attached trigger lock (Courtesy Smith & Wesson)

Ed Shultz is a hard guy to figure, even to fellow gunmakers. In a business often defined by ideology, Smith & Wesson's CEO is the ultimate pragmatist. A gruff Midwesterner, Shultz got his start in metals and office furniture—not firearms—and when the gun lobby and the White House start shouting at each other, it's not always clear whose side he's on. "I'm not willing to be a pawn in a political chess game," he says with typical bluntness. So when the industry abruptly decided to break off negotiations with the White House on new gun-safety rules early this year—and Shultz made it plain that he still preferred a deal—the other gun barons weren't sure if he was with them or not.

They got their answer last week. Shultz broke ranks and secretly cut a sweeping deal with the White House to keep Smith & Wesson out of court, agreeing to wide-ranging concessions such as locking devices and required training for its customers. To a stunned gun lobby, and to some of his closest colleagues, it was an act of treason. "Wow," exclaimed Jonathan Mossberg, whose family makes the venerable Mossberg shotgun. "It would have been nice to be told." Shultz's old friends at the National Rifle Association instantly became his mortal enemies, faxing members a scathing alert with his office number attached. To Shultz, typically, it wasn't personal—it was business. "I'm concerned for the industry," Shultz told NEWSWEEK in an interview just after the announcement. "But at some point, the company has to save itself."

In the gun world, that's getting harder to do. With more than 20 cities suing the gunmakers, claiming they make unsafe guns and do nothing to keep them from criminals, and with the Clinton administration and two states threatening to pile on, the companies are facing extinction by legal fees. Meanwhile the rhetoric in Washington is verging on the hysterical; even some Republicans—including George W. Bush—seem resigned to some kind of gun control. A bottom-line man if there ever was one, Shultz concluded it would cost less to overhaul his business than it would to pay an army of lawyers to salvage it. Never mind that Smith's revolvers are still assembled by old men at rusted metal desks; Shultz's story shows that the lawsuits have forever changed life in Gun Valley.

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National Affairs

- Bush, Gore Can't Win Media Primary High Noon in Gun Valley A Firebrand's Long Run A Ticket to Private School 'The Bogeyman Came' Periscope Conventional Wisdom Cyberscope My Turn Letters Perspectives Newsmakers Last Word by Anna Quindlen

International Edition

Special Issues

Smith & Wesson may now face an even more determined enemy: the people who buy its products. Twice before in recent years, gun companies—Colt and Sturm, Ruger—have embraced far more modest reforms. In each case, a consumer boycott cost them millions. This time, the NRA lost little time in recasting the nation's most respected gunmaker as a greedy foreigner taking a torch to the Bill of Rights. (Smith is owned by a British firm.) Bracing himself at the company's Springfield, Mass., headquarters, Shultz said he'd take a rapid consumer uprising over years of costly litigation. "I'm willing to take my chances," he said, sighing. "It's the difference between dying of a heart attack and dying of cancer. The risk is the same. But one is considerably more painful."

The settlement was a coup for Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who stepped into the fray of gun litigation last year. The gunmakers were looking hard for a way out of court, but the companies needed to cut a deal with someone who had the power to make all the city lawsuits go away. Cuomo and White House aide Bruce Reed were supposed to meet with industry negotiators at the annual Shot Show in Las Vegas last January to begin hammering out a compromise. But then the companies suddenly changed their minds; some execs apparently choked at the idea of giving Clinton an election-year victory at their expense. Shultz was annoyed. He had 800 employees, most of whom have been working in the plant for 20 years. A few miles down the road, Colt was already laying off hundreds of workers because of a cash shortfall it blamed on the litigation. When a Cuomo deputy called to feel him out, Shultz decided to listen.

Shultz met with Cuomo's negotiators first in Nashville, Tenn., where Smith has a subsidiary, and then in Springfield and Washington. It came down to a marathon meeting at an airport hotel in Hartford, Conn., last Wednesday, where Cuomo and Shultz finally met in person. In his usual tough manner, Shultz says the discussion was all business. But others in the room say he and Cuomo developed a mutual trust. The last sticking point was the most important: in order for the settlement to take effect, at least 10 cities had to sign on. Shultz worried that Cuomo wouldn't be able to deliver them. Sometime after midnight, Cuomo told him: "I'll bet you that I can." "You really think so?" Shultz teased. "Put your money where your mouth is." In front of incredulous aides, they structured a \$60 personal wager on the cities. A handshake sealed the bet, which Cuomo won.

The real goal of the lawsuits has always been clear: to take the gun-control issue away from Congress and force the industry to regulate itself. The Smith & Wesson pact went a long way toward making it happen. The agreement includes a weakened version of the "one gun a month" proposal so hated by the NRA; under the plan, anyone who buys more than one gun will have to wait 14 days to take the rest home. Smith won't allow any of its guns to be sold at a gun show unless all buyers are subjected to a background check. Dealers will have to make their gun stocks "theft-proof," walling them off in some cases, if they want to carry Smith & Wessons. And Smith will personalize all its new handguns with new technology—meaning that they can be fired only by their owners—within three years.

As it happened, the announcement capped the most dramatic—and least civil—week in the ongoing political debate over guns. In an unusually

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harsh exchange, Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice president, said President Clinton had "blood on his hands" for a murder in Illinois, because the killer could have been prosecuted under federal law for trying to buy a gun illegally. "He's willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda," LaPierre said. Seemingly unbothered, Clinton chided him for shedding "crocodile tears." LaPierre was probably playing, in part, to his own audience; the NRA's annual board meeting is a month away, and his comments about Clinton are likely to go over well with the true believers. But in more moderate Republican circles, the attack on the president was seen as less than helpful. Spooked House members urged a compromise on the Hill, while New York Gov. George Pataki endorsed a list of gun-control proposals—including trigger locks and a tougher assault-weapons ban—that even a liberal could love. Straddling the fault line in his own party, Bush seemed almost in denial. Responding in a statement to the Smith & Wesson deal, he praised the trigger-lock provision but ignored the rest.

Ed Shultz hopes he can leave all this behind and go back to his day job—making guns. It's not likely to be business as usual. The NRA needs money for its election-year battles in crucial swing districts, and Smith & Wesson is likely to feature prominently in its fund-raising appeals. The lobby never tells its members whose guns they should boycott, exactly, but it doesn't take a cryptologist to get the message. As of last week, a defiant Shultz hadn't tried to talk to anyone in the gun lobby. "I have no reason to," he says. Other companies are waiting anxiously to see if dealers or distributors will cave in to pressure and refuse to stock Smith guns. In a dwindling market, some gunmakers may even join the rebellion. "They'll demonize us and take whatever competitive advantage they can get by going to the user community and saying we've done some terrible thing," Shultz says. Still, if any gunmaker can survive the onslaught, it's Smith & Wesson. For one thing, the company sells some 25 percent of its handguns to cops, not general consumers. And those people who do buy Smith's vaunted high-end guns may not be quick to give them up.

It's probably only a matter of time before other big companies follow Shultz's lead. Sources say Shultz tried unsuccessfully to persuade another giant, Glock, to join in the agreement. (Glock officials couldn't be reached for comment.) Emboldened by the settlement, lawyers for the cities say the Smith & Wesson deal is a limited-time offer. "There is a risk to coming forward first," says Dennis Henigan of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence. "So we made compromises with Smith & Wesson that we may not be willing to make later." One promise the lawyers made has held true: Smith & Wesson didn't pay a dime to settle the suits, and nobody appears to have profited from the agreement. Unless, of course, you count the \$60 in cash that ended up in Andrew Cuomo's pocket, his winnings from a gunmaker. The way Ed Shultz figures it, that's still a pretty good deal.

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**NRA ADS**  
**Released March 10, 2000**

**Script of "Crack House"**

CHARLTON HESTON: When a 6-year-old in a crack house finds a stolen gun and shoots a schoolmate, the president doesn't demand gun theft prosecution or busting drug dealers. He demands safety locks.

Don't get me wrong -- nobody supports safety locks more than the NRA. But his solution is to give crack house drug dealers ... safety Mr. Clinton, when what you say is wrong, that's a mistake. When you know it's wrong, that's a lie.

(On screen: Paid for by the National Rifle Association of America)

**Script of "Criminal Lottery" (TV)**

CHARLTON HESTON: Mr. Clinton, before you peddle more gun laws, let's see if you're enforcing what you've got. Of all federal gun convictions in 1998, here's a chilling example of how many went to prison:

Eight in San Francisco, 14 in New Jersey, nine in Pittsburgh, two in Washington, D.C. With odds that good, criminals can't lose. (Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports 1998)

More laws won't make us safer, more prosecution will -- with a president who knows the difference.

(On screen: Paid for by the National Rifle Association of America)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 2000

'00 APR 11 PM 7:52

### MSNBC'S TOWN MEETING ON GUNS

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 12, 2000  
**LOCATION:** University of Denver, Denver, Colorado  
**TIME:** Briefing: Aboard AFI en route Denver, Colorado  
Briefing: 12:35 pm - 12:50 pm MDT  
Town Meeting: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm MDT  
**FROM:** Joe Lockhart

#### I. PURPOSE

For you to participate in an MSNBC-televised town meeting on the gun control debate.

#### II. BACKGROUND

You will participate in the first hour of MSNBC's two-hour town meeting on the issues of gun ownership, regulation and control, "Up in Arms: What Should America Do?" moderated by NBC News' Tom Brokaw from the University of Denver. During the first hour, Brokaw will interview you and take questions from audience members, followed by a second hour that begins at 11:00 pm EDT, in which Brokaw will moderate a live debate with advocates representing opposing points of view on the gun.

The Town Meeting will air live on MSNBC. Additionally, NBC Nightly News will air live from Denver with reports on the town meeting as well as news of the day. MSNBC will re-air the Town Meeting at 10:00 pm EDT, followed by a LIVE panel discussion on guns that will include members of Congress, administration officials, gun manufacturers, and citizens, moderated by Tom Brokaw, beginning at 11:00 pm EDT.

Expect the following questions from Brokaw:

- Is the ready availability of guns responsible for the recent shootings in schools, office buildings, and places of worship?
- Can gun violence be curbed with more laws, or is this a larger societal problem? How can parents protect their children from the dangers of gun?
- Does there need to be more federal gun control laws or should gun control laws be done by the states?

Expect further discussion on gun safety, the Smith & Wesson Deal, smart-gun technology, the NRA, and licensing and registration of handguns.

One of the questions will come from Newsweek correspondent Matt Bai, who has recently written on the Smith & Wesson deal and the gun manufacturer Colt (see attached articles.) Brokaw will also air 2 NRA ads. The scripts are attached.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### YOU

Tom Brokaw

Audience members who will ask questions and/or make comments. (see attached list)  
Approximately 350 University of Denver students, some of whom have submitted pre-screened questions to NBC and who may be called upon.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

The Town Meeting will air live on MSNBC. Additionally, NBC Nightly News will air live from Denver with reports on the town meeting as well as news of the day. MSNBC will re-air the Town Meeting at 10:00 pm EDT, followed by a LIVE panel discussion on guns that will include members of Congress, administration officials, gun manufacturers, and citizens, moderated by Tom Brokaw, beginning at 11:00 pm EDT. The Town Meeting will also be transcribed for immediate release.

### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Upon arrival YOU will proceed to hold for a logistical briefing and makeup.
- YOU will proceed immediately to the backstage area where you will put on a wireless lavalier microphone. YOU must be in place by 12:55 pm.
- At exactly 1:00 pm, the following occurs:

#### **FIRST SEGMENT (Total Running Time: approx. 14 minutes)**

- Town Meeting begins.
- Tom Brokaw is announced onto stage and welcomes everyone.
- Brokaw introduces a set-up piece on the gun control debate in America and YOUR day in Colorado. **At this time YOU proceed on stage unannounced.**
- Brokaw introduces YOU (YOU are already seated)
- Possible Questions By Brokaw To YOU:
  - What would you like to say to the people of Colorado as we approach the one-year anniversary of Columbine? How important is the gun show loophole?
  - Does there need to be more gun control laws or is more enforcement the answer?
  - Why shouldn't the states – like Maryland and Colorado – and not the federal government pass gun laws?
- Questions And/Or comments from "VIP" Audience follow (approx. 6 questions if time allows)
- Commercial Break (approx. 3 minutes, 15 seconds)

#### **SECOND SEGMENT (Total Running Time: Approx. 10 Minutes, 5 Seconds)**

TOPIC: Smith & Wesson (Footage Of Rose Garden Announcement To Be Shown)

- Possible Questions by Brokaw to YOU:
  - How did the agreement come to be with Smith & Wesson?
  - Are you working with gunmakers to develop smart gun technologies and do you think they'll work?
  - Are more safety devices on guns the answer?

- Question From Student In Audience (Question Is Pre-Screened By NBC Producers)
- Question From Matt Bai, *Newsweek*. On The Smith & Wesson Agreement
- Questions And/Or Comments From "VIP" Audience Follow (Approx. 4 Questions)
- Commercial Break (Approx. 2 Minutes, 40 Seconds)

**THIRD SEGMENT (Total Running Time: Approx. 10 Minutes, 35 Seconds)**

TOPIC: NRA ATTACKS (NOTE: Crack House And Criminal Lottery Attack Ads Will Be Shown)

- Possible Questions By Brokaw To YOU
- Crack House Attack Ad Is Shown – YOU Respond
- Criminal Lottery Attack Ad Is Shown – YOU Respond (Note: Brokaw Will Follow-Up With You After Response Is Given)
- Questions And/Or Comments From "VIP" Audience Follow (approx. 5 questions)
- Questions From Students (Approx. 2—Questions Are Pre-Screened By NBC)
- Commercial Break (Approx. 3 Minutes, 20 Seconds)

**FOURTH SEGMENT (Total Running Time: approx. 6 minutes, 35 seconds)**

TOPIC: LICENSE AND REGISTRATION OF HANDGUNS

- Possible Questions By Brokaw To YOU:
  - Why just license new handguns and not all guns? Follow-Up By Brokaw
- Question From Student In Audience (Question Is Pre-Screened By NBC)
- Questions And/Or Comments From "VIP" Audience Follow (Approx. 5 Questions)
- Commercial Break (Approx. 2 Minutes, 20 Seconds)

**FIFTH SEGMENT (Total Running Time: approx. 3 minutes, 20 seconds)**

- WRAP-UP
- Possible Question By Brokaw To YOU:
  - "What can be done about the millions of guns that are on the streets of America?"
- Brokaw Closes

**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

Gun Q&A

Participants/Article on Women Against Gun Control (who will attend the event)

Newsweek article on Smith & Wesson, Matt Bai, April 17

Newsweek article on Colt, Matt Bai, March 27

NRA Ads, "Crackhouse" and "Criminal Lottery"

big advocate trigger locks, suing Remington)

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

--two screened members

**TZE AND BREAK**

BUMP: WS-AUDIENCE

BEAUTY SHOT DENVER

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**HARD BREAK #2 @ 27:20** **2:40**

**SEGMENT 3 - START OF SECOND HALF HOUR**

**TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 8:40**

BUMP: RE-JOIN ANIMATION

**TOPIC: REFORMS**

1. checks/wait periods
2. ban weapons
3. safety measures

**AUDIENCE VIPS**

- kimberly rolland (PRO GUN CONTROL, member million mom march)
- bob ford (ANTI GUN CONTROL, rocky mountain arms)
- diana holland (leans PRO, but org. is neutral, co-chair littleton community task force)

**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

--2 screened members

**TZE & BREAK**

BUMP: WS-AUDIENCE

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**BREAK #3=3:20**

**SEGMENT 4 - TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 8:35**

**TOPIC: LEGISLATION**

- state v federal
- enforce v laws
- litigation crusade
- 2nd ammendment

**VIP GUESTS**

- tom mauser (PRO GUN CONTROL, political arm of SAFE COLORADO, father of columbine victim)
- rep. Ken gordon (PRO GUN CONTROL, (d) state house minority leader)
- rep. Doug dean (ANTI GUN CONTROL, (r) state house majority leader)
- robin ball (ANTI GUN CONTROL, member second amendment sisters)

**TZE & TOSS TO BREAK**

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**SOFT BREAK #4=2:20**

**SEGMENT 5 - TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 4:00**

BUMP: WS-AUDIENCE & SHOW ANIMATION

FINAL THOUGHTS: IS AMERICA A GUN SOCIETY?

THANKS/WRAP/SIGNOFF  
BUMP  
GUN ANIMATION

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**HARD BREAK #5-2:50**  
**must hit TERMINAL w/BILLBOARD @ 57:10**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

**Bruce Reed**

7:35 Motorcade (South Portico)  
10:35 Meet/Greet  
11:00 SAFE Rally  
12:35 Briefing (Hold)  
1:00 MSNBC Town Hall Mtg (U/Denver)  
*2 buses to Adams Mark Hotel*  
*1550*  
*15th St*  
*15th St*  
*Adams Mark Hotel*  
*Downtown Denver*  
*Ph: 303-893-3333*  
*Conf: 0399310200*  
*\$83/govt rate*  
*1401 17th St #1600*  
*294-4480*  
7:45 MSNBC Pickup  
4949 S. Birch  
Cherry Hills Village  
Ph. 303-779-4342  
9:00 MSNBC Town Hall  
10:00 MSNBC Car to Hotel

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*MSNBC Contact*  
*Jeremy Gaines*  
*646-342-3649*

**POTUS**

7:35 Departs WH  
9:45 (MDT) Arr Denver  
10:30 Colorado Convention Center  
10:35 Meet/Greet SAFE (Backstage)  
11:00 SAFE Rally  
12:05 Police/Driver Photos  
12:35 Briefing (Hold)  
1:00 MSNBC Town Hall Mtg (U/Denver)  
3:05 Departs Denver  
8:40 Arr WH

## AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ASK QUESTIONS

### Matt Bai, Newsweek

Currently covering Campaign 2000 for the magazine. He specializes in law enforcement and urban affairs. He was among the first to report on litigation against the gun industry, and broke an exclusive story on cutbacks at Colt that is in this week's edition.

### David Olinger, Denver Post

Member of the recent Pulitzer Prize winning staff of the paper for their collective coverage on guns in Colorado and Columbine. He has done investigative pieces on the gun culture and gun dealers in Colorado.

### The Honorable Wellington Webb

Mayor of Denver

### Tom Mauser

Father of Columbine Victim, SAFE Colorado Political Director

### Brian Rohrbaugh

Father of Columbine Victim Danny Rohrbaugh

### Amy Sodnikar

Million Mom March, Denver area coordinator for DC national march

### Carmelita Conrad

Million Mom March, Denver coordinator for local Denver march

### Arnie Grossman

Co-President of SAFE Colorado

### John Head

Co-President of SAFE Colorado

### Rep. Ken Gordon (D)

Minority Leader, Colorado State Legislature

### Paul Paradis

President of Pike Peak Firearms Coalition; Gun Shop Owner; discontinuing the sale of Smith & Wessons because of their agreement with the federal government.

### Dave Anver

Owner, Dave's Guns

Anver, according to story in the *Denver Post*, is a well-liked gun store owner who has a good reputation with law-enforcement agencies. The police have sold him hundreds of repossessed guns including "Saturday Night Specials," which Anvers returned, pledging not to support anybody's right to own such guns in recent years. However, according to another *Denver Post*

Money in budget

report, Anver has been investigated by the ATF in 1993 for allegedly violating federal gun-show regulations. The case was dropped.

**Bob Ford**

President Rocky Mountain Arms

Ford is a former California State trooper who is now the President of Rocky Mountain Arms. In 1992, Ford was one of ABC News' sources alleging drug use at the home of former Governor, Jerry Brown.

**Rep. Doug Dean (R)**

Colorado State Legislature

**Deborah Wasilewski**

Women against Gun Control Colorado Chapter

Women Against Gun Control is fighting vigorously against a bill in Utah that will ban carrying concealed weapons in churches and schools, saying "schools would be sitting ducks if criminals knew no guns were inside."

**Brenda Flowers**

Daughter committed suicide with a handgun. She became a Second Amendment advocate after her daughter's death.

**The Honorable Ken Salazar**

Attorney General of Colorado

**Lance Kirklin**

Columbine student who was shot in the face last year. He supports the right to bear arms and still hunts with his father.

**Diana Holland**

Co-chair of the Littleton Community Task Force, which was formed post-Columbine to provide a dialogue between the civic, business, and school communities in the Littleton, CO.

**The Honorable Tom Strickland**

US attorney in Colorado, sponsored Project Exile in Colorado

**Gerry Whitman**

Denver Police Chief

**Dave Thomas**

Jefferson County District Attorney

**OTHER AUDIENCE MEMBERS**

All of the above plus approximately 350 students from the University of Denver. Tom Brokaw will try and have at least 2 students ask a question of the President. These students will have had their questions screened by NBC and will not be randomly chosen.

## MSNBC TOWN HALL ON GUNS

### **Is the ready availability of guns responsible for the recent shootings in schools, office buildings and places of worship?**

These recent shootings have all been tragedies, and they all had different factors at play. But they did share one key element: guns in the wrong hands. We need to make sure we do everything we can to make sure that those who shouldn't have guns cannot get access to them. This includes tougher enforcement of our gun laws as well as strengthening existing laws to keep guns from falling into the hands of criminals, the mentally unstable, domestic abusers and perhaps most of all, our children. I have asked Congress to help us to do both, by passing my gun enforcement initiative to fund over 1,000 more gun prosecutors and 500 new ATF agents and inspectors, and to pass commonsense gun legislation that, among other things, closes the gun show loophole and requires child safety locks for new handguns.

### **Can gun violence be curbed with more laws, or is this a result of a larger societal problem?**

While no single law can prevent all instances of gun violence from occurring, we know that stronger gun laws can make a difference in preventing gun crime and accidents. When I took office, violent crime – especially gun violence – was on the rise for years. So, we put into place a strategy of more police on our streets and put strong new laws on the books, including the Brady Law and the assault weapons ban. The Brady Law alone has stopped over half a million gun sales to felons, fugitives, stalkers, and others who are prohibited by law from owning guns. As a result of our efforts, stronger State gun laws and local efforts to curb gun violence, gun crime is down 35 percent since 1993 and the homicide rate is at its lowest point in 31 years.

But no one thinks gun violence is at an acceptable level. We could build our success immediately if the Congress would pass the common sense gun legislation that has been languishing for over nine months. These are simple safety measures we can take – closing the gun show loophole that allows criminals to buy guns no questions asked at gun shows, requiring child safety locks for handguns to prevent young people from using guns to hurt themselves or others. We know these measures will save lives and there is simply no excuse for sitting on our hands.

But of course, we can do more to address violence beyond passage of laws. Responsible members of the gun industry can do their part by working with us to make meaningful changes in the way they do business. The media and entertainment industries can help change a culture that too often glorifies violence. Schools and community groups can reach troubled youth before their troubles simmer over. And most fundamentally, parents can talk to their children, teach them to resolve their conflicts peacefully, and raise them with the right values. I believe that if we set our minds to it, and work together, we can make this the safest big country in the world.

## How can parents protect their children from the dangers of guns?

First of all, I think it is important for parents to remember that violent crime and gun crime have dropped significantly all across the country. Having said that, I believe we can all do more to help make our children safer from gun violence. I would say to parents that it is important to talk to your children, if they're old enough, about these recent shootings. And reassure them that these are rare occurrences. Parents should remind children that schools are still about the safest places in any community.

Just as importantly, for parents that have guns at home, I would urge them to keep their guns safely stored and locked away so that their children cannot get access to them. The accidental firearms death rate for children under age 15 in the United States is nine times higher than in 25 other industrialized nations. This is unacceptable. UCLA and RAND recently released a study that showed that over a third of all homes with children had at least one firearm. Among those homes, 43 percent had at least one unlocked firearm. This shows that parents need to take greater care to ensure that their children – or other children – cannot use their guns.

## Does there need to be more federal gun control laws or should gun control laws be done by the states?

Recently, we have seen more states making progress to enact stronger gun laws. Yesterday, I joined the Governor of Maryland as he signed into law a number of common sense measures that would, for instance, mandate internal child safety locks on handguns and require all gun purchasers to get training on safe storage and handling of guns. Last week, I was in California, where the Governor has signed into law measures to limit handgun sales to one per month and to ban all "junk guns." These are all important steps that will help reduce gun violence, and I plan to do all I can to help bolster these efforts.

However, I still believe that that a national framework for our gun laws is needed. A patchwork of inconsistent state gun laws allows criminals to obtain guns by exploiting loopholes in states with weaker laws to commit crimes in states with stronger laws. And Congress can pass lifesaving new gun laws far more quickly than all 50 states. Take the Brady law. Before we passed this historic law, some states required background checks, but most of them did not. Back then, criminals who couldn't pass a background check in their home state could simply buy guns in neighboring states that didn't require them. Today, background checks are required in every state and the Brady law has helped block over 500,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from purchasing firearms.

Congress could act immediately to build on the success of the Brady law and pass common sense gun measures that passed in the Senate last spring that included measures requiring background checks at gun shows and mandating the sale of child safety locks. Instead, the Congress has allowed this lifesaving legislation to languish for over nine months. Despite their inaction, states like Colorado and Oregon are considering ballot initiatives to require background checks at gun shows. They recognize the public safety benefits of getting this done in their own communities. But every child in America deserves that same level of protection. And only Congress can pass legislation that protects every child in every corner of our country.

### **What can be done to make guns safer?**

There is a lot we can do to make guns safer and prevent gun accidents and other unintended uses of firearms. First, we should require child safety locks for handguns. This is a common sense proposal I have been pushing for years. I issued a directive to require child safety locks to be distributed to all federal law enforcement. I proposed legislation to require such locks, and the Senate passed this measure last year. The Congress can and should enact this provision right away, along with other common sense gun provisions to close the gun show loophole and ban the importation of large capacity ammunition clips. I was just in Maryland yesterday, where the Governor signed a new law to require built-in locks in handguns to make them even harder for unauthorized people to use them.

In addition to safety locks, we should help support "smart gun" technology that can limit a gun's use to its proper adult owner. I think there is incredible potential in smart guns, which is why I have proposed \$10 million in my budget to expand and develop research into such technology. The agreement we reached with Smith and Wesson last month will advance gun safety significantly, by requiring external locks, internal locks, and smart guns within a few years. The agreement also requires guns to be subject to performance tests, and other safety standards to ensure safer, higher quality guns.

### **What are the main components of the Smith and Wesson agreement? Does it do anything to make guns safer?**

The landmark agreement that we reached with Smith and Wesson, represents an unprecedented partnership between the government and the gun industry to bring about meaningful reforms in the way the industry does business. Under the agreement, they will make major changes to the way they design, distribute and market their firearms. This means that Smith and Wesson will not only make guns that are safer, but they will also take actions to help ensure that their guns don't fall into the hands of criminals.

Smith and Wesson agreed to a number of changes in the way they design their guns that will help to make their guns safer. Handguns will have external safety locks, internal safety locks and eventually smart gun technology. Handguns will also have child safety features to help ensure that young children can't fire them.

Just as importantly, Smith and Wesson will require dealers and distributors who sell their products to abide by a code of conduct and help ensure that guns don't slip into the illegal market and get into the hands of criminals. Under the agreement, guns cannot be sold at gun shows without background checks, new limits will be placed on multiple handgun sales, and safety training will be required before individuals can purchase their gun. These breakthrough measures show what is possible when we work together in good faith – and they disprove the gun lobby's long standing claim that such reforms were impossible. We applaud Smith and Wesson's leadership, and hope other responsible members of the gun industry will step forward too.

**What is your position on smart gun technology? Will it really work? When will it be available?**

I support smart guns, which is why my budget provides \$10 million to fund the expansion, testing, and replication of such technologies. Smart gun technologies limit a gun's use to the proper owner – preventing accidental gun death, theft, and other unintended gun use. Several handgun manufacturers have already started to experiment with smart gun technologies. Through a partnership the Justice Department formed with one gun manufacturer, a prototype of one type of smart gun technology has been developed. My budget will build additional partnerships with gun manufacturers to help speed the availability of smart gun technology to the average consumer. While it is hard to say when this will be widely available, Smith and Wesson has already agreed to make smart guns available in the next 36 months.

**What do you think of the NRA's personal attacks on you?**

I don't care if the NRA wants to attack me, but this debate shouldn't be about personal attacks. It's not about politics. It's about saving lives. The gun lobby wants to change the subject away from the reasonable gun safety reforms that are supported by the majority of Americans. The truth is, the NRA doesn't have the arguments on their side, so they're choosing to make it personal instead.

**What is your response to the NRA's claims that your Administration has been abysmal at enforcing laws already on the books?**

Well, what they don't say is that federal firearms prosecutions are actually up 16 percent since 1992. Federal gun offenders are serving sentences that are about two years longer since I took office. And because of our unprecedented partnership with states and localities, overall prosecutions – federal, state, and local combined – are up 22 percent since 1992. More importantly, gun crime is down 35 percent since I took office in 1993. So, to say we haven't been enforcing the law, and that the results have been disastrous, is just plain wrong.

I do believe that we should do all we can to enforce the law, which is why I proposed the largest increase for gun enforcement – to fund 500 more ATF agents and inspectors, over 1,000 federal, State and local gun prosecutors, more resources to trace more guns, and to expand ballistics testing so we can catch even more gun criminals. For all their talk about enforcement, the gun lobby and their allies have been uncommonly silent when it comes to supporting real resources to crack down on gun criminals. We've been doing the job on enforcement, and we're putting our money where our mouth is. I hope the NRA will come around and support my enforcement proposals.

**Many supporters of gun control believe the next step is the licensing and registration of handguns. If you support registration in principle, why did you only offer a proposal to license handgun buyers in this year's State of the Union?**

As I have said before, I believe gun registration is a good idea. But I also believe that the best next step to strengthen our gun laws is a state-based licensing system to help ensure that handgun

purchasers may legally possess firearms and can safely handle and store them. This will help law enforcement efforts to keep guns out of the wrong hands, and it can help prevent many accidental shootings. So, I want to focus now on making the case for licensing, and pressing the Congress to pass common sense gun provisions such as closing the gun show loophole, requiring child safety locks for handguns, and banning the importation of large capacity ammunition clips.

# BRUCE

## "UP IN ARMS: WHAT SHOULD AMERICA DO?" SECOND HOUR BREAKDOWN - 11pm ET

### SEGMENT 1 - TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 11:50

2<sup>nd</sup> COLD OPEN SOT  
NEW ARRIVAL VO w/ANNOUNCE  
WS-AUDIENCE

WELCOME BACK & SETUP

INTRO ONE-ON-ONE INTV  
--gov. bill owens

TZE AND BREAK  
BUMP  
MOS/GUNS SOT

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### BREAK #1-3:15

### SEGMENT 2 - TOTAL RUNNING TIME: 12:15

BUMP; PAN OF DEMO TABLE

#### GUN DEMONSTRATION

--tom with gun shop owner DAVID ANVER

--can demo the following guns:

- junk gun (revolver)
- smith and wesson (9 mm pistol)
- glock 9mm (model 17)
- Tech DC9
- semiautomatic shotgun
- semiautomatic rifle (high point carbine like the one used in columbine)
- sawed off shotgun
- cable & key locks, trigger locks, smart gun technology (key or wrench)

accessories: telescoping stock, pistol grip, bayonet mount, flash suppressor/threaded barrel, grenade launcher

#### PANEL:

- bruce reed (PRO GUN CONTROL) on set
- michael barnes (PRO GUN CONTROL) on set
- doug painter (ANTI GUN CONTROL) on set
- angela kincaid (ANTI GUN CONTROL) on set
- col. jerry oliver (COP, leans both ways) on set
- \*\*\* may be available: dennis deconcini\*\*\*

#### REPORTER QUESTION

--matt bai (newsweek - can put "hardware" questions in perspective)

### SEGMENT 2 continued:

#### AUDIENCE VIP

--mitchell wright (PRO GUN CONTROL, husband of jonesboro teacher shannon wright,