

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

DATE: 2/15

NOTE FOR: *Paster; Rasco; Klain; George S.*

The President has reviewed the attached, and it is forwarded to you  
for your:

Information

Action

Thank you.

**JOHN D. PODESTA**  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
(x2702)

cc:

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 13, 1993

Mr. President,

Attached is a decision memo from Howard Paster regarding the Brady Bill. Rep. Schumer and Sarah Brady would like to introduce a free-standing bill -- even if eventual passage is tied to a larger crime bill -- and have asked if the Administration objects.

Howard recommends indicating that we have no objection to introduction of the bill, while assuring Speaker Foley and House Judiciary Chairman Jack Brooks that we are not seeking legislative action at this time.

We have circulated the memo to senior staff. George, Mark Gearan and Carol Rasco concur in Howard's recommendation.

John Podesta  
Todd Stern

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

3 FEB 11 AIO: 29

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1993

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Howard Paster *HP*

SUBJECT: The Brady Bill

I. ACTION-FORCING EVENT: Should the Administration indicate a preference on the introduction of the Brady Bill with a waiting period for handgun purchases as a free-standing bill, as opposed to waiting for inclusion in a broader crime bill.

## II. BACKGROUND

Representative Charles Schumer called, and Sarah Brady and others from Handgun Control came to see me to ask if the Administration would mind if they introduced the waiting period legislation as a stand alone bill, even if eventual passage were tied to a larger crime bill. There is a concern among handgun control advocates that waiting for a crime bill will diminish the focus on Brady legislation. It is also clear that Handgun Control needs legislation around which to organize and to mobilize its members.

Senators Mitchell and Dole last Congress reached a compromise on the Brady Bill, and it is that compromise the handgun control forces would propose to initiate. I have spoken with Senator Mitchell and introduction poses no problem for him.

Speaker Foley and Chairman Brooks, on the other hand, might discourage this approach -- if asked -- because of the difficulty of gun issues in their districts. Yet Mrs. Brady and others only seek concurrence on introduction, and do not now seek White House intervention with the leadership.

Pressing for gun legislation at this time is not in the interest of the Administration. There already is backlash about us overloading the legislative circuits. But this should not be dispositive in the simple introduction of legislation, to which your support could be attached.

### III. RECOMMENDATION

We indicate to Representative Schumer and Mrs. Brady that we have no objection to the introduction of free standing legislation for a waiting period, and George be prepared to respond affirmatively to a question about Administration support. At the same time, we make certain that Speaker Foley and Chairman Brooks understand we are not seeking legislative action at this time.

This approach is agreeable to our allies.

### IV. DECISION

Accept recommendation

Further Discussion

THE WHITE HOUSE

Howard G. Paster 10/P

CAROL RASCO -

your views, please,  
or Recommendations

PRESIDENT or

FIRST LAST

ATTEND?

Howard

Red dot to <sup>ham</sup>  
<sup>10/4/93</sup>  
Jose - need  
~~am~~ rec by  
close of business  
today (Fri.)

**HANDGUN CONTROL**Richard M. Aborn  
President**ONE MILLION STRONG . . . working to  
keep handguns out of the wrong hands.**

October 6, 1993

Mr. Howard G. Paster  
Assistant to the President and  
Director for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Howard:

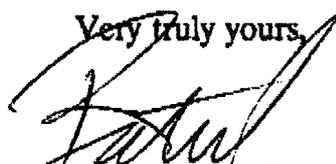
On October 19, Handgun Control's partner organization, the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence is having its second annual "Stop the Violence" benefit at the Sequoia Restaurant in Georgetown. As you may know, Sarah serves as the Chair and I am President of the Center. We are honored to have President and Mrs. Clinton on the Presidential Host Committee for the event.

Sarah and Jim just received a note dated October 1 from the President stating that the scheduling office would be in touch soon as to whether or not the President and First Lady will be able to attend. Their appearance at the benefit on the 19th would give the Center and the gun violence issue the national attention they deserve. We are expecting over 400 people at the event, including a number of business leaders, entertainers, philanthropists and victims of gun violence, all who share the President's concern about the toll gun violence is taking on our country, especially our children. Nearly all of the victims of the tragic shooting at the Pettit and Martin firm in San Francisco will be attending the event and then lobbying on the Hill. I know how touched that would all be by the President and First Lady making an appearance.

We are grateful for the President's continued outspoken commitment to the Brady Bill and the First Lady's attention to gun violence as part of her health care reform package. We would be honored if the President and First Lady and/or an Administration representative could attend the benefit. Please give me a call if you would like to discuss this.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard M. Aborn