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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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MEMORANDUM

May 24, 1984

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

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

2. As to the bill:

- o It codifies Treasury's current, voluntary ban against armor-piercing bullets;
- o It covers and bars the importation and manufacture of all current ammunition that is armor-piercing in nature ("solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, [and] depleted uranium");
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- o It exempts from any ban the Federal or any State government or any of their agencies or political subdivisions;
- o It expressly exempts from the definition of armor-piercing ammunition all ammunition now in use which serves a non-armor-piercing purpose -- it does so by affirmatively authorizing the use of steel shotgun shot and shooting gallery ammunition;

- o It provides broad authority to the Secretary of Treasury to further exempt from the ban any ammunition which he finds "is primarily intended to be used for sporting purposes;" and
- o It includes the Omnibus Crime bill provision of a mandatory five year sentence for anyone using or carrying a firearm loaded with armor-piercing ammunition "during and in relation to the commission of a felony."

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

- o Both Treasury and Justice have signed off;
- o Remarkably, Treasury reports that the leadership of the National Rifle Association has taken a no-opposition position to the bill;
- o With a proper marketing effort, undertaken swiftly, police groups (who were instrumental in pushing us to work for a bill) should be highly supportive.

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





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May 23, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: MIKE HOROWITZ  
JIM CICCONI

FROM: GREG JONES **GmJ**  
(LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DIVISION)

SUBJECT: Legislation Concerning Armor-Piercing Bullets

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

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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



S. 555/H.R. 953 AND AGENCY VIEWS

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

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

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

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

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

At the meetings, Treasury advised that it had worked with manufacturers and importers of armor-piercing ammunition and had obtained voluntary participation in a program to limit the availability of armor-piercing ammunition. Treasury further advised that it had obtained informal agreements from the major manufacturers and importers of this kind of ammunition to sell it only to (1) the United States military, (2) State and local law enforcement agencies, or (3) foreign governments, as authorized by law. Treasury also told us that this voluntary ban seemed to be working well.

Based on Treasury's representations concerning the voluntary ban on copkiller bullets already in effect, as well as expressions of Congressional interest in a bill that codified this voluntary ban, it was suggested that Treasury attempt to draft a bill, for Senior Staff consideration, that would do precisely that: ban only ammunition that is already unavailable in the marketplace. Treasury prepared such a bill, which has been carefully reviewed by the interested parties and, following certain clarifying amendments, is acceptable to them all, including the Department of Justice. The Treasury alternative bill codifies the present ban. Key provisions of the bill:

- o Prohibit the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing ammunition, except with respect to ammunition for the use of the United States Government; for the use of State governments; or for exportation;
- o Define "armor-piercing ammunition" to mean "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper [and] depleted uranium;"
- o Further include within the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated;" and
- o Exempt from the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" ammunition that might otherwise qualify but that clearly has a legitimate purpose, such as certain shotgun shot, ammunition used in shooting galleries, and any other ammunition that the Secretary of the Treasury finds is intended primarily to be used for sporting purposes.

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

- o It had to cover only ammunition that is clearly armor-piercing in nature.
- o It could not, either by its breadth or by conferring unduly broad discretion on Treasury, encompass ammunition with legitimate purposes.
- o It had both to provide Treasury with adequate discretion to exempt bullets that might otherwise fit the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition," but that have sporting uses, and to exempt existing ammunition that might otherwise be covered, but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., shotgun shot).



- o If possible, without unduly granting discretionary authority to Treasury, it had to provide Treasury with some kind of tool with which to ban ammunition that may be clearly armor-piercing in nature which may be developed in the future.

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

#### DISCUSSION

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

First, there may be some confusion over whether the President has supported cop-killer bullet legislation, and if so, what kind. Administration officials may have told a group of law enforcement officials that the Administration does support a ban on copkiller bullets. The Washington Post of March 4, 1984, ran a column that said, in part: "[T]he National Rifle Association has opposed any effort to ban these [copkiller] bullets - which have no use whatsoever in hunting or target shooting. Standing tall with the NRA and against the cop on the beat, Ronald Reagan has come out against banning these bullets - in a speech to the NRA convention." With respect to armor-piercing bullets, the President told the 1983 Convention of the National Rifle Association that the NRA "should support our efforts for a minimum mandatory term of 5 years imprisonment ... for the use of armor-piercing bullets during a Federal crime of violence. These are designed to truly be a threat to law enforcement officers, who, so many times, have to depend on bulletproof vests."



Second, the NRA has in the past opposed any legislation that would restrict the ownership of armor-piercing ammunition. In a letter mailed to its membership on April 16, 1984, for example, the NRA expressed strong support of the Nation's police officers but opposed H.R. 953 and related bills, because they "amount to gun control which would adversely impact the shooting sports in America and the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to use firearms for lawful purposes. They delegate to a federal bureaucrat the authority to determine what ammunition should be banned and what shouldn't be banned. They attempt to solve a non-existent problem by imposing gun control-restrictions which will only affect the law-abiding gun owner - not the criminal." Of critical note, however, Treasury has advised that NRA leadership will not oppose the alternative draft -- they are of course hardly enthusiastic about any legislation, but have made the judgment that the alternative draft faithfully codifies the current, voluntary ban and goes no further, and that they can therefore live with it.

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The alternative bill addresses the concerns of the gun groups. First, it very narrowly defines the ammunition that is covered to include only ammunition that is not currently available because of the voluntary ban Treasury has negotiated with the major manufacturers and importers. Second, the bill severely circumscribes Treasury's discretion to ban additional kinds of bullets: only bullets "made of similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, [the] enumerated [materials]" would be covered. Third, and by



contrast, the bill grants Treasury exceptionally broad discretion to exempt from the ban ammunition that might otherwise be covered but that Treasury determines to be intended for sporting purposes. Fourth, the bill specifically exempts from its coverage all known ammunition currently in use that would otherwise be covered but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., steel buckshot and ammunition used in shooting galleries). What this adds up to is a bill that codifies the existing voluntary ban on the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing bullets.

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

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

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

A copy of the alternative bill is attached.

DECISION

\_\_\_\_\_ CLEAR THE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT BILL (OMB/TREASURY  
RECOMMENDATION. JUSTICE WOULD SUPPORT BUT PREFERS ITS  
APPROACH.)

\_\_\_\_\_ CLEAR THE JUSTICE BILL (JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION).

\_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT CLEAR ANYTHING.

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER.

Attachment



A BILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 4. Subparagraph (C) of section 923(a)(1) of Title 18 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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June 1, 1984

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

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

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

Arguments in favor:

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

Arguments against:

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

*attached to my Svaahn's scheduling  
June 5 84 schedule shows he attended  
meeting w/ Stephens, Walker, Abbott,  
Ciccotilli, Riggs, Harvitt, and others  
concerning Armor Piercing Bullets  
Also attached is my 24 84 memo to  
Meese from Joe Wright*



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



S. 555/H.R. 953 AND AGENCY VIEWS

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

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

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

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

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

At the meetings, Treasury advised that it had worked with manufacturers and importers of armor-piercing ammunition and had obtained voluntary participation in a program to limit the availability of armor-piercing ammunition. Treasury further advised that it had obtained informal agreements from the major manufacturers and importers of this kind of ammunition to sell it only to (1) the United States military, (2) State and local law enforcement agencies, or (3) foreign governments, as authorized by law. Treasury also told us that this voluntary ban seemed to be working well.

Based on Treasury's representations concerning the voluntary ban on copkiller bullets already in effect, as well as expressions of Congressional interest in a bill that codified this voluntary ban, it was suggested that Treasury attempt to draft a bill, for Senior Staff consideration, that would do precisely that: ban only ammunition that is already unavailable in the marketplace. Treasury prepared such a bill, which has been carefully reviewed by the interested parties and, following certain clarifying amendments, is acceptable to them all, including the Department of Justice. The Treasury alternative bill codifies the present ban. Key provisions of the bill:

- o Prohibit the manufacture or importation of armor-piercing ammunition, except with respect to ammunition for the use of the United States Government; for the use of State governments; or for exportation;
- o Define "armor-piercing ammunition" to mean "solid projectiles or projectile cores constructed from tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper [and] depleted uranium;"
- o Further include within the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" "similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, those enumerated;" and
- o Exempt from the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition" ammunition that might otherwise qualify but that clearly has a legitimate purpose, such as certain shotgun shot, ammunition used in shooting galleries, and any other ammunition that the Secretary of the Treasury finds is intended primarily to be used for sporting purposes.

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

- o It had to cover only ammunition that is clearly armor-piercing in nature.
- o It could not, either by its breadth or by conferring unduly broad discretion on Treasury, encompass ammunition with legitimate purposes.
- o It had both to provide Treasury with adequate discretion to exempt bullets that might otherwise fit the definition of "armor-piercing ammunition," but that have sporting uses, and to exempt existing ammunition that might otherwise be covered, but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., shotgun shot).



- o If possible, without unduly granting discretionary authority to Treasury, it had to provide Treasury with some kind of tool with which to ban ammunition that may be clearly armor-piercing in nature which may be developed in the future.

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

#### DISCUSSION

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

First, there may be some confusion over whether the President has supported cop-killer bullet legislation, and if so, what kind. Administration officials may have told a group of law enforcement officials that the Administration does support a ban on copkiller bullets. The Washington Post of March 4, 1984, ran a column that said, in part: "[T]he National Rifle Association has opposed any effort to ban these [copkiller] bullets - which have no use whatsoever in hunting or target shooting. Standing tall with the NRA and against the cop on the beat, Ronald Reagan has come out against banning these bullets - in a speech to the NRA convention." With respect to armor-piercing bullets, the President told the 1983 Convention of the National Rifle Association that the NRA "should support our efforts for a minimum mandatory term of 5 years imprisonment ... for the use of armor-piercing bullets during a Federal crime of violence. These are designed to truly be a threat to law enforcement officers, who, so many times, have to depend on bulletproof vests."



Second, the NRA has in the past opposed any legislation that would restrict the ownership of armor-piercing ammunition. In a letter mailed to its membership on April 16, 1984, for example, the NRA expressed strong support of the Nation's police officers but opposed H.R. 953 and related bills, because they "amount to gun control which would adversely impact the shooting sports in America and the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to use firearms for lawful purposes. They delegate to a federal bureaucrat the authority to determine what ammunition should be banned and what shouldn't be banned. They attempt to solve a non-existent problem by imposing gun control-restrictions which will only affect the law-abiding gun owner - not the criminal." Of critical note, however, Treasury has advised that NRA leadership will not oppose the alternative draft -- they are of course hardly enthusiastic about any legislation, but have made the judgment that the alternative draft faithfully codifies the current, voluntary ban and goes no further, and that they can therefore live with it.

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

The alternative bill addresses the concerns of the gun groups. First, it very narrowly defines the ammunition that is covered to include only ammunition that is not currently available because of the voluntary ban Treasury has negotiated with the major manufacturers and importers. Second, the bill severely circumscribes Treasury's discretion to ban additional kinds of bullets: only bullets "made of similar materials which exhibit armor-piercing characteristics equal to, or greater than, [the] enumerated [materials]" would be covered. Third, and by



contrast, the bill grants Treasury exceptionally broad discretion to exempt from the ban ammunition that might otherwise be covered but that Treasury determines to be intended for sporting purposes. Fourth, the bill specifically exempts from its coverage all known ammunition currently in use that would otherwise be covered but that has other legitimate uses (e.g., steel buckshot and ammunition used in shooting galleries). What this adds up to is a bill that codifies the existing voluntary ban on the manufacture and importation of armor-piercing bullets.

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

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

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

A copy of the alternative bill is attached.

DECISION

\_\_\_\_\_ CLEAR THE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT BILL (OMB/TREASURY  
RECOMMENDATION. JUSTICE WOULD SUPPORT BUT PREFERS ITS  
APPROACH.)

\_\_\_\_\_ CLEAR THE JUSTICE BILL (JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION).

\_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT CLEAR ANYTHING.

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER.

Attachment



12

ID# 247262

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CM 010

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ANDY MOLCHAN

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

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARGARET TUTWILER	ORG	84/09/10	MOT 17	A 84/09/10
REFERRAL NOTE:		7/7		7/7
REFERRAL NOTE:		1/1		1/1
REFERRAL NOTE:		7/7		7/7
REFERRAL NOTE:		7/7		7/7

TR

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 11, 1984

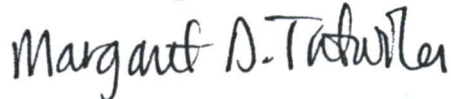
Dear Mr. Molchan:

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

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



247262



37  
M. Tuttle

**The National Association of Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers**

September 6, 1984

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

Dear President Reagan:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes,

Andy Molchan  
NAFLFD President  
Encl. AM/mk



# A Call to Battle

This is a personal message from the publisher about the 1984 elections and the future of America.

## Blame America for everything

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

## Ferraro and firearms owners

So what about Ferraro? To make a long story short, Teddy Kennedy would be better. Ferraro is a friend of Teddy, Tip O'Neill, Peter Rodino and just about every other left-wing anti-gun demagogue in Congress. Ferraro co-sponsored the extremely restrictive HR 1543 Kennedy-Rodino anti-firearms bill. In 1981 she co-sponsored HR 40, calling for a complete ban on the manufacture, importation, sale and civilian ownership of firearms. Ferraro is 'on Handgun Control's favored list and gets money from them. Ferraro is from New York City, which has one of the most totalitarian firearms laws in the world, and also one of the highest crime rates. Like all other left-wing Democrats, she blames crime on the police and firearms manufacturers. She's indicated that she favors a national Sullivan-type law which would make the ownership of any kind of firearm illegal, even for off-duty police officers!

## Mondale is also anti-firearms ownership

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

## The old Democratic Party is dead

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

**John F. Kennedy** wanted a reduction in taxes, and reduced them. He wanted a strong national defense. He wanted to stand up to the Russians, and did so during the Cuban missile crises.

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

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

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

## A Party in bondage

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

## Think about your vote

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

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

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

The "new ideas" of the Democratic Party are really very old, ultra right-wing ideas with a new left-wing hue. The "new" Democratic ideas are

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

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

## The real lesson of current world history

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

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

**It is time for the good people of America to remove the halo of moral purity from the heads of the liberal Democrats who vilify an anticommunist policy in Central America, and invoke the Indochina experience as**

S/S



*justification. The record of the liberal Democratic slimeballs suggests that it is they themselves who have much to answer for.*

## The central motivation of the "new" Democratic Party

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

## The future of America under the "new" Democratic Party

If you want to see what would happen to America under the "new" Democrats, just look at England. In 1910, England was the greatest power in the world. By 1970, just 60 years later, it was a third rate country, saved from Russian enslavement only because it was protected by America. What happened? At the beginning of the century the socialists moved into the English schools and universities. They took over The English Teacher unions just like the pacifist socialists have captured most American Teacher unions. The socialists took over the national press in England, and they started pumping their poison into the minds of the English kids who then grew up and started electing left-wing politicians. The end result is that today, Japan which was nothing in 1910 has a *higher* per-person income than England! The same thing can and will happen to America unless good people like you do something. Today England is protected from Russia by America, but once the socialist Democrats destroy America, like the socialists destroyed England, who's going to protect America from Russian enslavement? Perhaps Mr. Mondale and his dullard socialist Democrats can come up with the answer?

I'm very sure of one thing, *America will deteriorate downward*, and perhaps very fast, just like England. If the kids of America's upper classes remain un-socialized and continue to think it's fashionable to be anti-America, too much production capacity is being lost, and too much damage is being done. The upper class kids who, because of their backgrounds, should be some of the most productive in our society, but are often among the most destructive. Two things to remember: 1. In the last analysis a nation is only as strong and productive as the sum total productivity of each one of its citizens. 2. A sinking ship takes down everything and everyone.

Here's a long-term idea, perhaps, just perhaps, it's not the world's greatest idea to keep blasting holes in the bottom of USS America? Perhaps if we keep doing that, there just might be a logical cause-and-effect and we might sink!

## A footnote to parents and grandparents

Do NOT, that's NOT tell your kids or anyone's kids that they have a great deal more than other people, and they do NOT deserve what they have. If you lay this guilt trip on them for 15 years, you *will succeed* in turning them into the kind of guilt-ridden, left-wing, hate-America, blame America for everything, poopheads who now control the "new" Democratic Party and much of the big media.

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

## The idea of America

All of my grandparents were born in Europe, in Bohemia and Austria. They did NOT come to America because America was unwilling to defend itself from Russia. They did NOT come to America because America had a great welfare system for bums, with the great estates of the millionaires broken up and given to anyone who wanted anything. They came to America to be free from the European bureaucrats who wanted to control every aspect of their lives. They wanted to build a new life with their own work, with their own labors, and with their own sweat. They wanted their labors going to their family rather than to some autocrat or government bureaucrat. That's what the *idea of America* was all about. The "new" Democratic Party represents the kind of control-over-everything autocrats that my grandparents fled.

## What should FFL dealer's do?

Firearms dealers, you should:

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

## An appeal to Southern and Western Democrats

A special appeal to Texas, Southerners and Southerners who moved West. The Republican Party goes back to George Washington. Before the Civil War many voters in the South were Republicans, but Abraham Lincoln, U.S. Grant, and most of the Union generals were Republicans, so after the Civil War, almost all Whites in the South voted Democratic, and most of the Blacks voted Republican. After WW1 millions of Blacks moved North, and were drawn into the Democratic Party, then went South and registered Southern Blacks into the Democratic Party. The point is, do not vote by habit.

## Should we be attacking the Democratic Party?

Yes. We must give the good Democrats some backbone. We have to motivate the good Democrats who believe in America, so they will rid themselves of the socialist Democrats and the radical chic Democrats, who now control the Democratic Party. The

only way to motivate the good Democrats is to have them start losing elections, and losing them big. When talking with your local Democratic Party people, you should say, "When you get the hate-America Democrats and the radical chic bubble brains out of the party, then I'll give you my time, my work, my financial support, and my vote. But until you clean up your own act, I'm NOT giving the 'new' Democratic Party the time of day." It is your *duty* as an American to get rid of the "blame America first" Democrats.

## How the Republicans should handle the Democrats

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

## How about a little help from you?

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

Thank you:

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

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8/3



THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

CM010

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. HUGHES

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

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	84/09/26		C 84/10/31
REFERRAL NOTE:				
	A	84/10/31	NAN	C 84/11/08
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>Laogee</i>				
	A	84/11/14		C 84/11/14
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>syn</i>				
		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:				
		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: *0001* MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1984

TO: LYNN SKOLNICK  
FROM: MELANIE BLESSE, Legislative Affairs

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

Thank you for your help.

As I mentioned to Kathy,  
this file should simply  
be closed.  
Lynn

50

Congressman

Com: HR-6067

248449

mo

1-008930A269 09/25/84

ICS IPMWGWJ WSH

00150 GOVT BUWASHINGTON DC 176 09-25 1251P ED

SEP 25 P 1:55

PMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

TOMORROW, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL CONSIDER H.R. 6067, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PROTECTION ACT TO BAN THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORT AND SALE OF AMMUNITION SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO PENETRATE THE PROTECTIVE SOFT BODY ARMOR THAT YOU AND MOST OF THE NATION'S POLICE OFFICERS WEAR.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT TOMORROW AN AMENDMENT WILL BE OFFERED, ALLEGEDLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THAT WOULD PERMIT THE WIDE OPEN SALE OF THIS AMMUNITION.

WE ARE SURE THAT IF YOU KNEW THAT THIS WAS THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THAT AMENDMENT, YOU WOULD NOT SUPPORT IT SINCE IT PUTS 400,000 POLICE OFFICERS' LIVES IN JEOPARDY.

TODAY WE SAID PUBLICLY THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT YOUR ADMINISTRATION COULD TAKE SUCH A POSITION WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE UNAWARE OF THE ISSUE.

WE URGE YOU TO JOIN WITH THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS WHO TODAY CALLED FOR A BAN ON THE SALE OF THIS AMMUNITION. SINCERELY.

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM J HUGHES

CONGRESSMAN MARIO BIAGGI

1204 EST



THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

*CMD10*

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 06, 1984

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SEAGRAVES

SUBJECT SUGGESTS INITIATING LEGISLATION FOR CONTROL  
OF HANDGUNS

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) ACT CODE DATE YY/MM/DD TYPE RESP C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD

~~VANNE HIGGINS~~

ORG 84/11/06

*CP2A A85102 01 AB*

REFERRAL NOTE:

*Justice*

REFERRAL NOTE:

*D 84/11/09*

*C 850719*

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

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

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

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



February 1, 1985

Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

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

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

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

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*ROMAN TERRY* *A*  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves  
1813 Shepherd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

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

cc: Dan Engler, Room 93 ✓

85 2



January 31, 1985

Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

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

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

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

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves  
1313 Shepherd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011

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

cc: Dan Engler, Room 93

*pu*



DRAFT/Date January 29, 1985

RR / wdb / DE / ab  
(Drafter) (Rev. I) (Rev. II)

AVH / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Enclosures:

Other:

cc Dan Engler Rm. 93

Dear Mrs. Seagraves:

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

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

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

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

RR

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



*Handwritten:*  
I think we need to be more faithful in view of her views.

~~COHIGG~~  
**DRAFT**

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves  
1813 Shepherd St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011

Dear Mrs. Seagraves,

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

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

Again, thank you for sharing your views with us.

*S*

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

NOV 9 3 43 PM '84

REFERRAL

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
OFFICE OF  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

NOVEMBER 9, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

( DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER )

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 258310

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SEAGRAVES  
1813 SHEPHERD STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20011

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS INITIATING LEGISLATION FOR CONTROL  
OF HANDGUNS

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

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

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



258310

37  
AH

1813 Shepherd Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20011

3 November 1984

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

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

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

*Eleanor Roosevelt Seagraves*  
(Mrs. Van. H. Seagraves)



*cm 010*

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 84/1/01

Name of Correspondent:  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss John F. Morrison

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: No response to previous letter regarding firearm price control

### ROUTE TO:

### ACTION

### DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoCoza	ORIGINATOR	<i>DDI</i> 84/1/10		C	<i>DDI</i> 84/1/10
	<i>Tres.</i>		R 84/1/12		A	<i>DDI</i> 84/1/12

#### ACTION CODES:

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

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

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

#### FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
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# RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

## CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: \_\_\_\_\_ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Subject Code: CPn 010 Secondary Subject Codes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

**SIGNATURE CODES:**

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

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

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

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 M - Mailgram  
 O - Memo  
 P - Photo  
 R - Report  
 S - Sealed  
 T - Telegram  
 V - Telephone  
 X - Miscellaneous  
 Y - Study



84-15700

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

NOV 1 - 1984

CC-33,956 FE:DJH

Mr. John F. Morrison  
354 Bay Ridge Parkway  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Your letter to the President inquiring about the importation into the United States of a German army model PO8 Luger parabellum pistol has been referred to this office for reply.

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

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



Mr. John F. Morrison

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

Sincerely yours,

(signed) William T. Drake

William T. Drake  
Deputy Director



15700

## T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

## REFERRAL

OCTOBER 12, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

## ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

## DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 265478

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED OCTOBER 1, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. JOHN F. MORRISON  
354 BAY RIDGE PARKWAY  
BROOKLYN NY 11209SUBJECT: NO RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS LETTER REGARDING  
FIREARMS PRICE CONTROL

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

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

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



354 Box Ridge Parkway  
Burlington, N.Y. 11059

1 October 84

265478

31  
Jolley  
copy  
Dear Mr. President,

Since your election I have been writing you on a myriad of issues. I have not received any indication of you ever having received much less read my observation on issues. Still no need for you to worry that I shall cut off my nose to spite your face by voting for Mondale. However in the same period I've been photographed by requests from you and your agents for contribution. With in my means I have given a lot to people like Jesse Stearns but clear to you. My income is \$22,000 per annum, \$15,000 after deduction Federal Social Security, State and City. I'm a white collar worker with 9' half dollars beyond of any intrinsic value. I predate Vietnam II and I've received European grade education.

I recently wrote you requesting your assistance in getting a waiver or exemption under the terms of the 1968 old PATF of your own Secretary Donald J. Reagan to make such indulgence as to what constitutes a relief or civic. I desire permission to report on absolute relief of world war II. It is a world Roman Army model POS Super Pantheon poster. At the same time since like this is a post act, I want new quasi military arm in multi as important e.g. the US, Saudi for Israel, the HK's from Germany, the British in Italy, Northern from Germany, FN from Belgium, and AKR's, SKS from Finland and Egypt. A military arm in civilian clothes is no less a military arm. My report will in no way affect DOD's pattern or enlarge the nation. I have a N.Y.C. P.D. briefing (poster) license. I'll still fail to get any except negative or positive take me off your contribution including list. I still write notes for Reagan's change of in trial of being important for contribution but signed with just a person.

Yours Truly  
John F. Monahan



*CMO19 CMO10*

*Sg/ps*

# WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

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

Name of Correspondent:  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss Warren K. Kaplan

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Writes concerning his friend Walt Hardisty who died ~~is~~ the <sup>victim</sup> ~~subject~~ of a Saturday Night Special. Wants to know why the Administration will not support a national handgun control law.

### ROUTE TO: ACTION DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<i>Conley</i> <del>Coker</del>	ORIGINATOR	<u>84 11 10</u>	<i>AH</i>	<i>A</i>	<u>85 01 11</u> <i>AB</i>
	<i>DoJ</i>	<del>DOE</del>	<u>84 11 10</u>		<i>C</i>	<u>85 01 07</u> <i>AB</i>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

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## CLASSIFICATION SECTION

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Prime Subject Code: CM 010 Secondary Subject Codes: LE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

**SIGNATURE CODES:**

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
  - n - 0 - Unknown
  - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
  - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
  - n - 3 - Ron
  - n - 4 - Dutch
  - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
  - n - 6 - Ronald
  - n - 7 - Ronnie
  
- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
  - n - 0 - Unknown
  - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
  - n - 2 - Nancy
  - n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan
  
- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
  - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
  - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

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- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



DRAFT FROM DOG

NAME Kaplan

Reviewed & Edited by JmH

Rewritten by \_\_\_\_\_

Action Required: OK

To Stripping \_\_\_\_\_

To Director ✓

Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: AVH

AVH. Justice  
Provided attached  
draft on behalf  
of the Pres. rather  
than an RR one as request  
ed.



January 11, 1985

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

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

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

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

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



RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Nov 9 8 47

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

EXECUTIVE SECRET  
OFFICE OF  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL

NOVEMBER 8, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 269321

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED NOVEMBER 2, 1984

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: MR. WARREN K. KAPLAN  
SUITE 1100 K  
1801 K STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20006

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

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

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

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



Sally -  
pls ask  
Justin  
for  
Pres.  
draft

TX  
T  
9

---



31

269821

Suite 1100 K  
1801 K Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

November 2, 1984

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

Dear President Reagan:

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

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

He drove that cab during all the several years I knew him, to keep body and soul together and feed his family. He somehow managed against all the odds to put aside enough money to keep his two children, Kiefer and Becca, in private school. He was a firm believer, you see, in the importance of a good education, and he worked tirelessly to give his kids the very best.



I never heard Walt complain -- not about the long hours of driving that cab, not about the years-long struggle to get his doctoral degree, not about the serious family medical problems at home, not about the poor hand fate had dealt him, not about anything. Under his neatly-trimmed thatch of prematurely white hair, Walt was always ready with a smile and a cheery word.

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

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

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

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


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

When, Mr. President, are we ever going to take gun control seriously? When will the president of this country and the members of Congress stop knuckling under to the lobbying power of the National Rifle Association and vote their respective consciences for a sane and enforceable gun control law? Is it really political suicide for a politician to oppose the gun lobby? Walt's widow Pat will support you on gun control, Mr. President. There's one vote right there. Do we really have to pay such a price for each such vote?



Mr. President, I've got a problem now that maybe you can help me with. One day soon, after the funeral, Walt's son Kiefer will come to my house again to stay overnight with Gabe. I shall want to say something comforting, something reassuring to him. How do I explain to him, Mr. President, why his father had to die? What should I tell him as to why it is that you won't support a national handgun control law in this country? Come to think of it, Mr. President, I know you're awfully busy these days, but perhaps you'd like to come on over and explain it to Kiefer yourself. Just let me know when you can make it, Mr. President, and I'll put on a pot of coffee and invite Pat and Becca at the same time. I'm sure they'd like to hear your answer, too.

Sincerely,



Warren K. Kaplan



**DRAFT**

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

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

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

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

Again, thank you for your letter.

*With best wishes,*

*Sincerely,*

*AVH*