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Legal affairs,
gun control

Dear _____:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding gun control.

My opposition to firearms laws which have been proposed recently is that they make the law-abiding citizen, rather than the criminal, the target of their restrictions. I would certainly take a different viewpoint if it could be clearly demonstrated that criminal acts involving guns would decrease if ownership of guns were banned. I have yet to be convinced this would be the case.

Legislation cannot guarantee our safety nor can government at any level afford all the police it would take to insure our safety and our freedom unless the overwhelming majority of us are guided from within by a personal code of morality. There is today a crying need for a spiritual revival and a rejection of the permissive attitude that has permeated too many homes, too many schools and too many courts. If we are to have law and order and justice, the individual--not society--must be held ~~RESP~~ accountable; each one of us must accept ^{the} responsibility for his own deeds. Perhaps we are just now realizing that we cannot ask someone else to solve all our problems--that we must begin ~~xxxxxxx~~ with ourselves and our children. The future of our country depends on it.

I appreciate your writing and giving me the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

RKT:

RR

guns

Reagan Will Fight for Gun Ownership

Opposes Firearms Ban, Says Issue Not Involved in Texas Shootings

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ
Times Political Writer

Ronald Reagan, Republican nominee for governor, promised Tuesday to "resist any effort that would take from the American citizen his right to own and possess firearms."

He also said he would oppose any law requiring registration of firearms.

Reagan spoke out on the subject at a news conference in East Los Angeles at which he was asked to comment on the shooting tragedy Monday at the University of Texas and specifically to say whether he felt greater control of firearms was needed.

The GOP candidate said he does not believe firearms control is really involved in the mass Texas shootings.

Outlines His Position

However, Reagan said, he believes some control of mail-order gun sales would be in order.

The candidate said he could not comment on the relative adequacy of California's laws on firearms control or what changes, if any, he would advocate if elected governor.

The news conference had been called to announce that Dr. Francisco Bravo, businessman, physician and member of the city police commission, was supporting Reagan for governor.

The doctor said Gov. Brown has disregarded his pleas for more involvement of Mexican-Americans in state government. Only insignificant or "crumb" appointments have been forthcoming, Bravo said.

Significant appointments are made only at election time in "an obvious attempt to buy us in his time of need," he said.

"We do not sell cheap."

Bravo said he worked for President Kennedy in the 1960 election and for Brown in 1962. He worked against Brown and for Mayor Samuel W. Yorty in this year's Democratic gubernatorial primary.

In answer to a question, Bravo said Reagan has not done anything

to date to encourage Mexican-American support "but neither has Brown."

"So we can't do any worse," he said.

He said he has not attempted to extract any promises from Reagan in return for his support, and Reagan interjected that "after this election is over, nobody will have to show me any precinct (voting) lists—to get my attention."

"The fact still remains that they've been neglected."

ON GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

Excerpts from Indianapolis, Indiana Press Conference
June 13, 1968

Well, I think all of us should keep our heads and be a little cautious today so that we don't oversimplify, and so we don't suddenly turn to gun legislation as the answer to tragedies such as the one we knew last week.

California has probably the most stringent--or if not, it ranks up with the top two or three states in the nation--with the most stringent gun control laws.

The man who committed the crime in Los Angeles a week ago ... that man was--under our law, it was illegal for him to possess a weapon. It was illegal for the weapon to be loaded in a public place. So he had violated several of our own gun laws, and yet, the crime was committed.

Now, I'm in favor of any legislation that will make it more difficult for the wrong person to get a gun. But I think that we are going down a dead-end road when we talk of gun legislation that will actually only affect the legitimate law-abiding citizen and make it harder for him, and won't affect the criminal.

I feel the same way about some of the turn-in-gun campaigns. My first reaction to who's going to come in and turn in their gun is that it is going to be the legitimate law-abiding citizen. The next one is going to be the criminal who happens to be in possession of a hot gun he'd like to get rid of because it was used in a crime. He would like to dispose of the evidence.

But for California, there is a piece of national legislation I wish we could have. We have very stringent laws about who cannot get a gun and about the waiting period between buying a gun and the time the gun can be delivered, to allow time for checking on the individual to make sure he isn't violating the law. On mail order purchase of guns--now I don't rule it out, but I believe we should have national legislation that would make mail order delivery have to be by way of a licensed dealer within the state. This would enable us to enforce our state laws with regard to that other source of supply. And this can only be done at the national level.

There are a number of things that can be done that way, but again, as I say, too many of the things that are proposed only restrict the law-abiding. The criminal is still going to have his gun.

Governor Ronald Reagan announced today he has vetoed legislation (SB 1223, Moscone) deleting boards of police commissioners, city and town marshals from the list of persons authorized to issue a license to carry a concealed firearm.

He said that the bill "should receive further legislative study.

"The entire question of the issuance by local law enforcement officials of licenses to carry concealed firearms is a difficult one," the governor said. "There is a difference of opinion among issuing authorities concerning the principles governing the issuance of such permits. This difference is illustrated by the opposition expressed by many law enforcement officials to this bill."

The measure would have required an applicant for such a license to reside within the city or county served by the licensing officer.

The bill also provided that, in court proceedings to compel issuance of a license to carry a concealed firearm, the person whose application had been denied would have had to prove he was eligible for the license.

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Governor Ronald Reagan, acting to prevent the possibility of a chaotic maze of differing local ordinances pertaining to the licensing and registration of firearms by hunters and sportsmen in California, today signed legislation which will insure uniform regulations on their use throughout the state.

The measure (SB 4, Richardson) affirms the authority of the state to regulate the licensing of commercially manufactured firearms, in much the same way as the state establishes uniform regulations governing such things as traffic safety on highways throughout California.

Governor Reagan said, "Without this legislation, sportsmen might well be confronted in the future by a chaotic maze of differing local firearm licensing regulations each time they entered another local jurisdiction to go hunting.

"Imagine driving along a freeway from one county to another, not knowing from one mile to the next if traffic regulations had changed and, if so, in what way," he said. He noted that California now has a comprehensive Deadly Weapons Control Act which provides for statewide regulation of firearms.

"California's hunters and sportsmen who use firearms are a highly mobile group. It is not unusual for them to travel from one part of the state to another, often a number of counties away from home, to hunt," he said.

"Without the provisions of this bill, they could well face a multiplicity of unfamiliar and dissimilar ordinances pertaining to firearms each time they crossed into a different county.

"The potential for such a situation in the future would have been very real had this legislation not reached my desk. Already, several communities in the state have enacted separate local firearms licensing and registration regulations.

"California's hunters and sportsmen represent a significant segment of our population. Approximately one million hunting licenses are taken out in California each year.

"These sportsmen should not be expected to have to cope with the difficulties inherent in independent local regulation of licensing and registration of firearms. The authority given to the state by this bill will assure that the possibility of such a situation does not arise," the governor said.

From the office of
ASSEMBLYMAN DON MULFORD
Majority Caucus Chairman
Room 3143, State Capitol
Sacramento, Ca 95814
Telephone: 916)445-7554

PRESS RELEASE # 3

January 26, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SACRAMENTO---Assemblyman Don Mulford (R-Oakland), Majority Caucus Chairman, today introduced legislation to provide a 5-day waiting period before delivery of any rifle or shotgun purchased in California.

"I was shocked by the recent murder and suicide that took place on a downtown San Francisco street," Mulford said.

"The murderer entered a pawnshop, purchased a rifle and ammunition, then walked out, shot one person dead and wounded another before killing himself with the weapon. He may or may not have been under the influence of drugs...but whatever the cause... the frightening thing is, it can happen again.

"Chief of Police Cahill of San Francisco informs me," Mulford added, "that crimes committed with rifles and sawed-off shotguns are increasing. This is because the State now has tough laws governing the sale of pistols and other concealable weapons."

Mulford emphasized that the 5-day delay is strictly a cooling-off period and is not part of a gun registration procedure.

Mulford, who has previously authored significant gun control legislation, says his current bill is aimed primarily at the deranged or emotional person apt to commit a crime on the spur of the moment.

"If this bill saves one life, it is worth the effort," Mulford concluded.

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RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM
CALIFORNIA RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION, INC.
FOR REPRINT IN SPORTSMEN'S PUBLICATIONS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA
BY RONALD REAGAN, GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA
September 24, 1970

The danger of gun control legislation is that much of it is aimed in the wrong direction. I have been opposed to mandatory registration of firearms for this very reason--it makes the law-abiding citizen the target, rather than the criminal.

If it is to be effective, the law must be sighted on those who acquire weapons illegally and use them for illegal purposes, not the sportsman and the collector.

I believe that any gun control legislation should make it more difficult for persons with criminal records or those who have a history of mental illness from obtaining weapons.

If a weapon is possessed by an individual who commits a crime, whether or not it is used in that crime, I believe the weapon should be confiscated.

I believe also that the convicted criminal should be denied the right to possess firearms and that the terms of his probation or parole should prohibit him from having access to weapons.

Furthermore, if he is convicted of violating these laws, I believe he should receive an additional mandatory jail term and these restrictions should be made part of the terms of his probation or parole.

In California we have some of the most stringent gun control laws in the nation. They are designed not to harass the law-abiding citizens--the sportsmen and the collectors--but those who violate and ignore the law.

Response to Inquiry from California Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc.
(Continued)

Last year when some local governments were contemplating ordinances that would restrict the rights of honest citizens to possess guns, I signed a bill that affirms the state's exclusive authority to regulate commercially manufactured firearms.

It was designed to protect sportsmen from being subjected to a chaotic maze of differing firearm regulations whenever they traveled from one county to another.

It is my philosophy that we do not need additional laws to restrict the rights of gun owners who obey the law, but we do need stronger enforcement of existing laws and stiffer penalties for those convicted of violating them.

I will continue to look at any specific proposals on gun control with this philosophy.

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June 12, 1972

Cancel
8-28-72

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Dear ---:

I share your deep concern over the climate of violence and fear that continues to plague our country. I am shocked and dismayed at the shooting of George Wallace; assassination has never been an expected or acceptable alternative in the democratic history of this country. Regardless of who a candidate may be, he is entitled to seek the support and vote of our citizens.

However, I am opposed to firearms laws which have been proposed recently because they make the law-abiding citizen, rather than the criminal, the target of their restrictions. I would certainly take a different viewpoint if it could be clearly demonstrated that criminal acts involving guns would decrease if ownership of guns were banned. I have yet to be convinced this would be the case.

Legislation cannot guarantee our safety nor can government at any level afford all the police it would take to insure our safety and our freedom unless the overwhelming majority of us are guided from within by a personal code of morality. There is today a crying need for a spiritual revival and a rejection of the permissive attitude that has permeated too many homes, too many schools, and too many courts. If we are to have law and order and justice, the individual--not society--must be held accountable; each one of us must accept the responsibility for his own deeds. Perhaps we are just now realizing that we cannot ask someone else to solve all our problems--that we must begin with ourselves and our children. The future of our country depends on it.

Thank you for writing and giving me the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN
Governor

RKT:---

Form approved by:

6/12/72 *[Signature]*

6/12/72

Reagan Offer

Tougher Penalties For Gun Crimes

By Lee Fremstad
Bee Capitol Bureau Chief

Gov. Ronald Reagan presented to the California Legislature today a 164-page blue-bordered document calling for sweeping changes in law enforcement and the criminal justice system to crack down on crime.

"Law-abiding citizens must once again feel free to walk our city streets and neighborhoods without fear,"

The governor's crime committee recommends The Bee's Secret Witness program statewide. Story on Page A12.

said the governor in presenting the report of his Select Committee on Law Enforcement Problems.

"During this golden age of permissiveness the crime rate has skyrocket-

ed. Instead of coming to grips with the problem the criminal justice system has become part of the problem."

Among the document's major recommendations are those for stiffening punishment aspects in the criminal justice system — especially in narcotics cases and in crimes committed with firearms.

It would make a prison sentence mandatory for anyone convicted of a crime using firearms by amending the Penal Code to remove a judge's authority to grant probation at his discretion.

"Law-abiding citizens cannot understand why some criminals wielding firearms during the commission of a crime are not sent to prison but, instead, are given suspended sen-

See Back Page, A12, Col. 4

See Bee 8-1-73

Reagan Offers Anti-Crime Bill To Legislature

Continued from page A1
tences or placed on probation to prey again on society," said Reagan.

"I share their concern."

The committee, chaired by Ventura County Counsel Edwin M. Osborne, offered these other recommendations "to protect the public against armed criminals and narcotics pushers:"

—"Declare a clear state policy that criminals who wield firearms in committing a crime shall go to prison.

—"Amend the Penal Code to prohibit probation for anyone unlawfully armed with a firearm at the time of arrest or during commission of a specified crime."

—"Make prison sentences for convicted narcotics pushers the general rule and mandatory for heroin sellers. Convicted heroin users would be given a choice between commitment to the California Rehabilitation Center, one year in county jail or five years' probation with frequent tests for drug use.

Another major element in the report would scrap the so-called exclusionary evidence rule which now prevents courtroom use of evidence seized illegally by lawmen.

"In effect, the exclusionary rule blocks ascertainment of the truth, causes false verdicts, frees defendants who are clearly guilty and affords protection only to the guilty," the select committee concluded.

The report adopts the recommendation of US Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger to abolish this 50-year tenant of criminal law and in its place provide that the victim of unlawful search and seizure collect damages from the agency employing the officer.

Among other recommendations are those to train more bomb specialists, sniper suppression specialists, prosecute perjury even if the defendant has already been convicted of the original charge, require that a criminal case go to trial within 60 days, allow six-member juries (instead of 12), authorize a verdict by 5 out of 6 votes and create a universal emergency phone number.

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this one with regard to the treatment of marijuana. The more that our own crime studies group or drug studies group goes forward here in our drug center in state government, the more we are learning, strengthens the position that marijuana has been vastly underestimated as to its potential for harm.

Q What are some of the other areas where you disagreed with the President's report?

A I was in total disagreement with their proposal for the confiscation of all hand guns in the United States, because I still think that the answer to gun control and guns in the use of crimes is the one that our own commission has proposed and the one that we tried a few years ago and then found was bogged down on a technicality, and that is to make -- to increase considerably the penalty for someone carrying a gun in the commission of a crime. Now, if you remember, in 1969 we passed a measure that added five to fifteen years to the sentence of a person was convicted and had a gun while he was -- while he was committing the crime. Even if he didn't use the gun. And the first year that cut armed robbery 31 per cent in California. But what happened immediately thereafter was they found a little clause that you always try to have some elasticity in laws -- that said "except in exceptional circumstances." And evidently most of the courts in California decided that every case of a man having a gun was an exceptional circumstance, and we found that they no longer were using or giving that added penalty. And so we have gone right back to the regular rate of use of weapons and of armed crime -- armed robbery.

Q Do you think the proposal that the task force makes on abolishing the exclusionary rule would stand up under federal courts' scrutiny?

A Yes, I would. And I'm -- I've been a little shocked at the carelessness with which that's been interpreted. This idea that -- that the exclusionary rule proposal that was made by our

PC
8-14-73

