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(Dolan BE)
March 13, 1985
5:00 p.m. RR

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1985

I'm delighted to have this opportunity to greet all of my fellow members of the National Rifle Association and extend to you my warmest wishes for a successful and productive get-together.

My admiration for the NRA and what you have accomplished over the years is not exactly a secret. I've said for many years that the NRA has given all Americans an admirable example of how to bring about responsible and peaceful change in public opinion and in our legislative process.

In the halls of Government, you led the fight against those who would deprive Americans of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Almost single-handedly, you challenged those who tried to create a climate of hysteria, you stood up against cynical attempts to manipulate concern over rising crime for the purpose of enacting overly-stringent gun control legislation.

Because of your efforts, every American's right to keep and bear arms is safer today than it has been in many years. And I'm sure you've noticed, too, that for the first time in a long while crime has declined by significant margins for 2 years in a row. The facts will bear me out on this: the decline in crime was accomplished not by taking arms away from honest and upright citizens, but largely by putting more career criminals behind bars where they belong.

Now I know a number of items remain on the NRA legislative agenda. And we look forward to working with your leadership on these items. You've had great success in a number of States, especially California. Because of your support, here in Washington, the Firearms Owners Protection Act was given serious consideration in the U.S. Senate at the end of the last session of the Congress. That bill contained vital measures to restore the rights of honest gunowners in every State in the Union. With your help, and that of your leadership, these badly needed reforms could be on my desk for signing into law this year.

Congratulations are in order here to your new executive vice president, Ray Arnett. I'm proud to say Ray has been an important member of my Administrations, both while I served as Governor and as President.

So, too, since your Phoenix meeting, we've been working with Harlon Carter on your ambitious plans to expand your training, safety, and sportsmanship programs. I'm a believer that the best defense is a good offense -- so I wish you and Harlon every success as you show millions of Americans how firearms can be used safely and responsibly.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for what you have done to promote and maintain the constitutional freedoms of every American. This is an exciting time for America -- she is growing stronger and better and, thanks to the efforts of people like yourselves, maintaining her proud and best traditions. To Ray Arnett, Harlon Carter, and all of my fellow NRA members, I salute you.

(Dolan/BE)
March 13, 1985
11:00 a.m. RR

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
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THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1985

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Jonny

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/12/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:30 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: TAPING: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
(3/12/85 - 12:00 draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 4:30 p.m. today, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Page 2. Have OMB/Treasury confirmed that this year's bill is identical to the one we supported in past? Once the President has spoken definitively, it leaves little room to resolve conflicts or problems.

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

identify

in Review

(Dolan/BE)
March 12, 1985
12:00 Noon

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1985

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My admiration for the NRA and what you have accomplished over the years is not exactly a secret. I've said for many years that the NRA has given all Americans an admirable example of how to bring about responsible and peaceful change in public opinion and in our legislative process.

In the halls of Government, you led the fight against those who would deprive Americans of their constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Almost single-handedly, you challenged those who tried to create a climate of hysteria, you stood up against cynical attempts to manipulate concern over rising crime for the purpose of enacting overly-stringent and clearly unconstitutional gun control legislation.

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Now I know a number of items remain on the NRA legislative agenda. And we look forward to working with your leadership on these items. You've had great success in a number of States, especially California, in the last year. Because of your support, here in Washington, the Firearms Owners Protection Act ^{was} passed ~~a test vote~~ in the U.S. Senate at the end of the last session of the Congress. This bill contains no less than 15 vital measures to restore the rights of honest gunowners in every State in the Union. And with your help, and that of your leadership, these badly needed reforms will ~~soon~~ be on my desk for signing into law *this year.*

Congratulations are in order here to your new executive vice president Ray Arnett. I'm proud to say Ray has been an important member of my Administrations, both while I served as Governor and as President.

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It would be disingenuous to call a "test vote". The McClure-Wolkmer bill was adopted in 1968.

passed

was laid down

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: SHERRIE M. COOKSEY *SMC*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Taping: National Rifle
Association Annual Meeting

We have reviewed the above-referenced proposed Presidential remarks and have the following comments.

First, in the last sentence of paragraph 3, page 1, we recommend that the phrase "clearly unconstitutional" (which modifies unspecified past gun control legislation) be deleted. As a matter of policy, we do not consider it appropriate for the President to label unspecified legislation as "clearly unconstitutional"; moreover, we are unaware of any specific gun control legislation on which the President has taken a position in the last four years which has been labeled as "clearly unconstitutional."

Second, we suggest that the references in paragraph 1, page 2, to the Firearms Owners Protection Act be carefully cleared with OMB, Treasury and Justice as we recall that past Administration statements on this legislation were carefully phrased because Treasury and possibly Justice had reservations about some of its provisions.

Finally, we note that the first sentence of the last paragraph of these proposed remarks may overstate the efforts of the NRA in protecting our constitutional freedoms as it also states that the NRA has "advanced" such freedoms. Perhaps it would be more accurate to state that they have "promoted and maintained" such freedoms.

cc: David L. Chew

(Dolan/BE)
March 12, 1985
12:00 Noon SS

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DRAFT SPEECH

I am delighted to be able to share a few minutes with the members of the National Rifle Association. I only wish I could be there in person as I was at your 112th annual meeting two years ago.

It always does my spirit good to be with people who never lose faith in America, who never stop believing in their future — and who never back down one inch from defending the Constitutional freedoms that are every American's birth right. During my service in Washington, I have had the privilege of working with your organization and I have come to know that you can always count on the NRA for providing the leadership in defending the cherished Constitutional freedoms of Americans. That's a valuable commodity, not only in Washington, but across our great nation.

The NRA stands for the freedom to own and use firearms for sport, recreation, and personal protection, and it stands for our hunting heritage and responsible wildlife management.

Over the last few years I have had the pleasure of watching and assisting your organization's efforts to advance these cherished freedoms. I am happy to say the victories have been many. The NRA has fought for and pushed through Congress legislation eliminating needless recordkeeping restrictions on .22 caliber rimfire

ammunition. Your NRA has passed legislation saving Americas custom gunsmiths from financial ruin. And just last year we changed the law to allow the importation of hundreds of thousands of valuable collectors firearms found on the curios and relics list. As President, I have had the privilege of signing into law these vital reforms and I take great pride in the fact that they represent the first roll backs of the 1968 Gun Control Act and advancements for Americas firearms owners.

I have always believed the old football saying that the best defense is a good offense and your leadership of the National Rifle Association has taken that philosophy to heart. Since the Phoenix meeting, my Administration has worked with Harlon Carter and the NRA on ways to expand the shooting sports in America. This has included the opening of some military ranges to civilian use, as well as expanding the civilian marksmanship program, and increasing the sales of M-1's to high-power competitors. Equally as important as what happens in Washington is your activity in our State Capitols around America. I still believe the government that functions best is the government closest to the people. You can be proud of the fact that over the last several years you have written into several state constitutions provisions safeguarding the rights of

citizens of those states to own firearms. I take pride in the fact that when the voters of my home state, California, had an opportunity to side with sportsmen against the referendum which would have taken away cherished firearms liberties, the good sense of the people prevailed. They flocked to the polls in support of the NRA's efforts to defend our cherished freedoms. Finally my Administration has reached agreement with Congressman Volkmer and Senators Hatch and McClure in our effort to reform the Gun Control Act of 1968. The Firearms Owners Protection Act passed a test vote in the U.S. Senate at the end of the last session of Congress with the strong backing of the National Rifle Association. This bill contains no less than 15 vital measures to restore the rights of honest gun owners in every state in the Union. And with your help those badly needed reforms will soon be on my desk for signing into law.

I want to take this time to congratulate the National Rifle Association. Your organization stands as a tall, unbending oak against those who would deprive Americans of our heritage and Constitutional freedoms to own firearms. On a practical level, the National Rifle Association is the voice of common sense driving home the message that you will never solve the crime problem by passing laws and restrictions which only take

away the rights of law abiding citizens — and do not reach those who operate outside the law — namely criminals.

I am proud that you are now over 3 million strong. I take pride in the fact that I am one of those 3 million. I remember only a few years ago reading Harlon's pronouncement on having reached 2 million and his dream of the National Rifle Association at 3 million strong. Some didn't believe it was possible. Yet, Harlon persevered and succeeded. I believe the key to that success lies in something Harlon knew all along and it has been the guiding light of my own political career - "Trust the American people and they will do the right thing." The NRA in a very real way stands for the American dream. In your advertisements you haven't resorted to sleek, fancy gimmicks but instead relied on individual Americans stating one simple phrase, "I am the NRA." When I hear that phrase, "I am the NRA," I see it as much much more. You are the heart and soul of the U.S.A.

The American dream burns today as it did 200 years ago in the hearts of citizens throughout our land. Equally important, the will to act to protect the freedoms our Founding Fathers gave us 200 years ago remains just as strong. I predict the same will to protect our rights will see the NRA grow to 5 million members and beyond.

On a personal note I would like to congratulate Ray Arnett on his election to the office of Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association. I have known Ray personally for many years as my Director of the California Department of Fish and Game while I served as Governor and as Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks during my first term as President of the United States. I can think of no better leader for the NRA in the years ahead. And I am gratified in the fact that the American people have not lost him. He has simply been reassigned to the frontline in the battle he has fought all his life -- to defend and advance the firearms and hunting freedoms of American citizens. To Ray Arnett, Harlon Carter and to all of my fellow NRA members, I salute you!