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Gun Control/Assault Weapons Ban Articles/Quotes

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3/21/96

Assault Weapons Ban Talking Points
March 21, 1996

"It would be deeply wrong for Congress to repeal this assault weapons ban and take the side of the Washington gun lobby over the interests of the law-enforcement people of this country and the law-abiding citizens of this country."

- President Clinton, March 21, 1996

Choose kids and cops over lobbyists. Too many police officers have lost their lives outgunned by violent criminals armed with assault weapons. Too many children have been killed by violent criminals spraying a rain of bullets from assault weapons. The bottom line is simple: Will America stand with the police officers who risk their lives for us, or will we cave in to the pressure tactics of the Washington gun lobby?

The assault weapons ban is working. The assault weapons ban is taking 19 deadly assault weapons and their copies off our streets. Before the ban, the number of assault weapons involved in crimes was rising steadily. But in just the first year since the ban took effect, the number of assault weapons traced to crimes has dropped eighteen percent.

Make no mistake about it: these are weapons of war. Assault weapons are the weapons of choice for gang leaders and drug dealers. They are designed for one reason only: the close-quarter, rapid-fire slaughter of human beings.

Protects the rights of hunters and sportsmen. The assault weapons ban explicitly protects the rights of hunters and target shooters to enjoy their sport. For the first time ever, the ban specifically exempts over 650 hunting and recreational guns. No law-abiding hunter will have his gun taken away.

America's police officers asked for the assault weapons ban. Every single major law enforcement organization in the country fought for the ban, including:

- National Association of Police Organizations
- Fraternal Order of Police
- International Union of Police Associations
- National Sheriffs Association
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Narcotic Officers Association Coalition
- International Brotherhood of Police Officers
- Major Cities Chiefs
- Police Foundation
- Police Executive Research Forum

As long as Bill Clinton is President, the assault weapons ban will be the law of the land. The President calls on the Republican Congressional leadership to reconsider their decision to vote on a repeal, and he has vowed to veto any bill that repeals the assault weapons ban.

**NEW YORK CIVIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS
COMMENTS SUPPORTING THE ASSAULT WEAPON BAN**

MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI

"There is no justification for protecting weapons that kill the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time." [New York Daily News, 1/29/96].

"The assault weapons ban is vital to making a difference in our communities. Eliminating weapons that kill the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time will make law enforcement safer and more successful." [Nation's Cities Weekly, 8/22/94]

**WILLIAM BRATTON
FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER, NEW YORK CITY**

When asked his opinion on Congress' efforts to repeal the assault weapons ban Former Police Commissioner, William Bratton replied:

"Oh, rabidly against what they did. They are talking out of both sides of their mouths -- they want to say they want to support American police and on the other hand they are arming the people that are killing us left and right... Congress wake up!..." [Larry King Live, 3/27/96]

**MARY JO WHITE
U.S. ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEW YORK**

"...And maybe someday someone can explain to me both the resistance to and the movement to repeal the ban on the sale of assault weapons. Weapons designed for the sole and single purpose of killing the most number of people in the shortest period of time." [Statement of Mary Jo White, 5/3/96]

**CAROLYN MCCARTHY
FORMER REPUBLICAN; WIDOW AND MOTHER OF LIRR MASSACRE VICTIMS**

"I'm a Republican, and I can't understand why Republicans like George Pitaki have opposed the ban on assault weapons....We're not trying to take away guns for hunting or sport. We're trying to take away these killing machines." [Buffalo News, 11/1/94]

**JOHN PITTA
EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSN.**

"While assault weapon laws are not the panacea to the violence that plagues America, they are another important tool needed to help law enforcement....The issue of these weapons may be a political one to some of you on the subcommittee but it is a 'life and death' issue for us every day as we step out of the front doors of our homes and go to work." [Testimony of John Pitta, Subcommittee on Crime and Criminal Justice, U.S. House of Representatives, 4/25/94]

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LEVEL 1 - 2 OF 9 STORIES

Copyright 1996 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)

January 29, 1996, Monday

SECTION: News; Pg. 23

LENGTH: 421 words

HEADLINE: LIFT FED WEAPON BAN, SEZ FORBES

BYLINE: By WILLIAM GOLDSCHLAG in Washington and BOB LIFF in New York

BODY:

WASHINGTON Rising GOP presidential hopeful Steve Forbes called yesterday for repealing the federal ban on assault weapons, labeling it "meaningless" as a crime-fighting tool.

Mayor Giuliani pounced on Forbes' pro-gun stand. He said the city has been victimized by an influx of firearms because of lax laws elsewhere in the nation.

Daily News (New York) January 29, 1996, Monday

"There's no justification for protecting weapons that kill the maximum number of people in the minimum amount of time," Giuliani said after a meeting in the Bronx.

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," the multi-millionaire publisher-turned-politician said the ban on 19 types of assault weapons signed into law in 1994 "is not going to cut down sharply the murder rate in America."

He said New York City, by example, has done more to curb homicides through a policy of searching suspects for illegally possessed weapons.

Forbes maintained the gun ban isn't needed to keep weapons such as Uzis and AK-47s off the streets. "No one is favoring AK-47s or Uzis," he said.

But an aide to Rep. Charles Schumer (D-Brooklyn), an author of the assault weapons legislation, said Forbes got it wrong. Semi-automatic versions of both military-style guns specifically were banned by the law.

"This shows that, like the other candidates, Steve Forbes is obviously not above pandering to the gun lobby," Schumer said.

Daily News (New York) January 29, 1996, Monday

Giuliani, who is still neutral in the Republican presidential race, said he "opposes those people who want to roll back the assault-weapons ban." With Forbes' declaration, that now includes all the major GOP candidates.

Forbes also fielded brickbats yesterday from presidential rivals Lamar Alexander and Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), who have seen Forbes rise rapidly from a novelty candidate to No. 2 behind Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) in early primary polls.

On NBC yesterday, Gramm said it would be a disaster for Republicans if Forbes won the nomination which he called "inconceivable" because Americans never will buy his flat-tax plan's call for eliminating tax write-offs for home mortgages and charitable deductions, and making all income on investments tax-free.

Forbes versus President Clinton "would be Richie Rich against Tom Sawyer. There's no way you could possibly win that race," Gramm said.

Alexander, calling on Forbes to release his personal income tax returns, said that if the flat tax proposal is Forbes' main issue, "then shouldn't we know how it cuts his [taxes]?" Forbes refused, calling demands for his returns "a diversion."

Daily News (New York) January 29, 1996, Monday

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 1996

Statement by Mary Jo White, US Attorney for the Southern District of New York on Sept. 16. 1994 at a joint press conference in support of the crime bill with AG Reno, then Gov. Mario Cuomo, former NYC Police Commissioner William Bratton and Cong. Charles Schumer.

" We want to emphasize the vital importance of the Crime Bill and the ban against assault weapons."

Mary Jo White in a speech on May 3, 1996-

She called for "meaningful gun control to stem the surging tide of violence that plagues our country. We have a shamefully high homicide rate in this country--no other country is anywhere near us. And maybe someday someone can explain to me both the resistance to and the movement to repeal the ban on the sale of assault weapons. Weapons designed for the sole and single purpose of killing the most number of people in the shortest period of time."

LEVEL 1 - 5 OF 89 STORIES

Copyright 1996 News World Communications, Inc.
The Washington Times

June 3, 1996, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part A; AMERICA VOTES; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1052 words

HEADLINE: Widow of rail rampage challenges gun-ban foe ;
Republican becomes angry Democrat

SERIES: A weekly series

BYLINE: Liz Trotta; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

A weekly series that examines lesser-known issues and races around the nation that highlight important trends in American politics.

NEW YORK - Carolyn McCarthy, an ordinary Long Island housewife transformed into a grieving widow by the gunfire of a crazed malcontent, is not only a political amateur, but the quintessential grass-roots outsider once so appealing to architects of the Newt Gingrich revolution.

The story of her new life in politics has nothing to do with Mr. Gingrich's agenda, but in many ways it is a reaction against it. Last week, Mrs. McCarthy announced her campaign to unseat Republican freshman Rep. Dan Frisa.

Mrs. McCarthy says she never thought about running for Congress until March 22, when Mr. Frisa voted to repeal the federal ban on 19 types of so-called assault weapons. The vote infuriated Mrs. McCarthy, and she hopes similar sentiments in this suburban Long Island congressional district catapult her into Congress.

For the first time in her life, Mrs. McCarthy, 52, is calling herself a Democrat. It is a case of script stealing that has tweaked the party elders, especially Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato, a fellow Nassau County resident who controls the state's GOP machinery and is backing Mr. Frisa.

The Democrats, meanwhile, are delirious over Mrs. McCarthy's prospects. A sizable array of Democratic handlers, speech writers and consultants have descended, and even President Clinton, through intermediaries, has let it be known he's ready to provide advice and counsel if necessary.

To some, she is the typical liberal Republican driven away by House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia and the "Contract With America."

"I think he's too radical," Mrs. McCarthy said. "He read the American people totally wrong. I've been yelling and screaming for two years that I'm a

McCarthy



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The Washington Times, June 3, 1996

Republican. I didn't want to walk away."

Mrs. McCarthy brings urgency, passion and harrowing realism to the central issue of her campaign - gun control.

Her husband, Dennis, and five other persons were fatally shot by the rampaging Colin Ferguson on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train on Dec. 7, 1993. Her son, Kevin, 28, was shot in the head and, after six operations, still suffers paralysis of his left side and all but two fingers of his right hand.

Mrs. McCarthy may be a woman pulled out of the crowd by misfortune, but she carries the authenticity of suffering that in the past has turned bystanders into powerful political crusaders.

Mr. Frisa professes to be unfazed by his neophyte opponent. And he's a man who knows what it takes to win a tough fight.

Mr. Frisa did not win the endorsement of Nassau County Republicans in 1994 but beat freshman Rep. David A. Levy by 58 votes anyway. He was the only challenger to defeat a Republican incumbent.

Nevertheless, Mr. Frisa sounds like a man on the defensive, explaining and re-explaining his reasons for voting to repeal the assault weapons ban last March, a bill that prohibited the manufacture of assault-type firearms and high-capacity ammunition clips.

"I stood up to get rid of a bad law," Mr. Frisa said.

The congressman sees Mrs. McCarthy as a one-issue candidate with no track record and scoffs at her claim that a private poll shows she can beat him.

"I never, ever took a poll," he said.

In the year since the her husband's murder, Mrs. McCarthy has become a high-profile advocate of gun control. She has kept to a hectic speaking schedule and joined forces with Sarah Brady, wife of former presidential press secretary Jim Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan.

Mrs. McCarthy, a former practical nurse, concedes gun control got her into politics but now also counts as priorities expanded access to health care and stronger environmental protection.

Democrats have arrived with advice, contacts and the ability to raise funds. Among those who have offered their advice and fund-raising prowess are former New York Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, Rep. Charles E. Schumer of Brooklyn, author of the assault-weapons bill, and Emily's List, a powerful fund-raiser for pro-choice Democratic women.

At a mainly black and Hispanic Kiwanis meeting in Hempstead, she is welcomed with the unspoken sympathy that people naturally feel for her.

Republican Gilford Finch, a local developer and gun collector, said he gave up his National Rifle Association membership because of the group's intransigent leadership.



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The Washington Times, June 3, 1996

"An assault weapon is something that a hunter does not use," Mr. Finch said.

Back in her kitchen, which now serves as a command post for her new life as a candidate, Mrs. McCarthy ponders the implications of her choice.

"You know, they're trying to change me already," Mrs. McCarthy said. "They want to change my hair. I said no."

Her son, Kevin, is on his way to the gym for another therapy session to try to regain what he lost that bloody night on the Long Island Rail Road.

"It's been a long haul for Carolyn McCarthy. I just hope they don't try to change me. I am what I am."

****MAP/CHART

NEW YORK'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The district includes Garden City, the civic center of Nassau County, and the "Five Towns" of Lawrence, Inwood, Cedarhurst, Hewlett and Woodmere near John F. Kennedy International Airport.

POPULATION: 580,492

WHITE: 81%

BLACK: 16%

HISPANIC: 7%

ASIAN: 3%

50 PERCENT ARE COLLEGE-EDUCATED

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$50,887

MEDIAN HOUSE VALUE: \$197,000

MEDIAN RENT: \$705 per month

1992 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

Clinton (D): 47 percent

Bush (R): 41 percent

Perot (I): 12 percent

1988 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

Bush (R): 57 percent

Dukakis (D): 43 percent



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The Washington Times, June 3, 1996

1994 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Dan Frisa (R): 50 percent

Philip M. Schiliro (D): 37 percent

David A. Levy (C*): 9 percent

Others: 4 percent

1992 CONGRESSIONAL RACE

David A. Levy (R-C): 50 percent

Philip M. Schiliro (D): 34 percent

Vincent Garbitelli (RTL**): 4 percent

* Conservative Party

** Right to Life Party

Source: Almanac of American Politics

GRAPHIC: Map/Chart, Map Caption) 4th Congressional District; Chart Caption) NEW YORK'S 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, Both By The Washington Times

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: June 3, 1996



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LEVEL 1 - 11 OF 89 STORIES

Copyright 1996, The Commercial Appeal
The Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

May 29, 1996, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 2A

LENGTH: 918 words

HEADLINE: Dahmer's things will be destroyed, not auctioned

BYLINE: Compiled by Cynthia Sutter from these news services: The Associated Press, Los Angeles Times-Washington Post, The New York Times, Reuters and Scripps Howard

DATELINE: MILWAUKEE, Wis.

BODY:

Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer's belongings are headed for the incinerator, not the auction block, parties involved in the case said Tuesday.

A lawyer who represents eight of the 11 families of Dahmer's victims said they had decided in a close vote to accept an offer from a Milwaukee civic group that has pledged \$ 407,225 to buy and destroy Dahmer's belongings rather than allow them to be auctioned.

He said the acceptance was contingent on lawyers for the estate agreeing to a cap of \$ 50,000 on any fee they will charge for their work. That would leave \$ 357,225, a little more than \$ 32,000 for each of the 11 families. He said the three families he does not represent are likely to go along with the agreement.

Dahmer was killed in prison in November 1994 while serving several life terms for killing 17 young men and boys. The items to be destroyed include knives, hypodermic needles and the refrigerator where Dahmer stored victim's body parts.

Shooting victim's widow tries politics

MINEOLA, N.Y. - Carolyn McCarthy, whose husband was killed and son gravely wounded in a commuter train bloodbath in 1993, announced her run for Congress on Tuesday against a Republican who voted to repeal the assault weapons ban.

'I do not pretend to be an expert on policy,' the 52-year-old former nurse said with her partially paralyzed son, Kevin, beside her. 'But I understand what the people of our district want and need and I will fight for those things.

'Since the Long Island Rail Road incident took place in this area, I truly felt (freshman Republican) Dan Frisa would vote to keep the assault weapons ban,' McCarthy said. 'But he didn't. That's when I knew I had to



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do something.' ' Though a lifelong Republican, McCarthy is running as a Democrat.

The district is central-southern Nassau County, where gunman Colin Ferguson killed six people and wounded 19 inside a train car on the Long Island Rail Road on Dec. 7, 1993. Ferguson is serving a life sentence.

Episcopal bishops to fight gay ruling

Charging that the Episcopal Church is beset by moral confusion, 10 conservative bishops vowed Tuesday to take their fight against the ordination of non-celibate gays and the blessing of same-sex unions to the church's highest policy-making body.

However, the 10 prelates left the 2.5 million member denomination in suspense over whether they will appeal a church court acquittal of liberal Bishop Walter C. Righter of heresy charges for ordaining a non-celibate gay man as a deacon in 1990. The court ruled two weeks ago that there is no church doctrine prohibiting such ordinations. The conservatives have until June 15 to file an appeal.

Ruling may narrow police searches

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that appeals courts must conduct a new review of the facts of a case when a defendant claims police improperly searched his car without a warrant.

The 8-1 ruling in a drug possession case enhances the ability of defendants to challenge a conviction before an appeals court based on the argument that police lacked sufficient grounds to stop them and search their possessions without a warrant.

KAL pays victim's family \$ 10 million

LOS ANGELES - Korean Air Lines agreed Tuesday to pay \$ 10 million to the family of a businessman killed in the 1983 downing of a Korean Air Lines jet by the Soviet Union, a lawyer said.

The money goes to the widow, four children and three stepchildren of businessman Chung Yeung Kim, who was among the 269 people killed when KAL Flight 007 strayed into Soviet air space and was shot down on Sept. 1, 1983. Other settlements have ranged from \$ 75,000 to about \$ 6 million. The payment reflects lost financial earnings. Kim owned a South Korean tourist hotel and several companies.

BRIEFLY

-- Monmouth County, N.J., health officials said Tuesday that a broken protective grating over a suction outlet caused 16-year-old Tanya Nickens to be pinned at the bottom of a hot tub, where she drowned. With the grating broken, the victim was held directly against the foot-square opening in the bottom of the pool by more than 24,000 pounds of pressure.

-- Depeche Mode lead singer David Gahan, who survived a suicide attempt last August, was arrested early Tuesday in West Hollywood after overdosing on drugs, authorities said.

-- Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi ended a daring meeting of pro-



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BLUEPRINT FOR ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION

Presented to
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
April 14, 1994



Representing
Policing in
America

Founded in 1985, the Law Enforcement Steering Committee (LESC) is a nonpartisan coalition consisting of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the Major City Chiefs, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National Troopers Coalition, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the Police Foundation. These groups represent over 500,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. The LESC is a model of unprecedented cooperative effort between law enforcement research organizations, police management, and labor, dedicated to the advancement of legislation and policies that will ensure the safety and security of our country's people.

Over the past eight years LESC members have worked diligently on law enforcement issues of mutual concern and have been able to articulate to the White House, the Congress, and the American people our ideas for achieving a safer society. We have expressed our concerns over the increase in violence and crime, the easy access criminals have to weapons, and the need for more support for professional law enforcement.

For too many years, crime control—and legislative means of achieving it—has been undermined by partisan politics and pressure from special interest groups. In the meantime, violence has exploded in our communities, making peace officers' jobs increasingly dangerous and frustrating.

While we fully recognize that anti-crime initiatives in the legislation pending before Congress do not present a panacea for crime, they are a solid beginning toward a comprehensive approach to making our nation's streets safe and secure. The members of the LESC stand firmly behind many major provisions of the legislation, including those that would enhance police presence in the community and that would confine violent criminals until they are no longer a danger to our communities.

Members of the LESC met with congressional and Administration leaders in 1992 in an effort to forge a compromise and enact a comprehensive crime bill. We were very disappointed when that effort failed, and are committed to working with policy makers to ensure this crime bill does not suffer the same fate. This year, the case for strong, effective crime legislation is so compelling that no such effort should be needed. The nation's police and the citizens they are sworn to protect have no doubt that crime is threatening the quality of life in our communities. Nonetheless, the LESC offers its assistance in securing sensible, effective legislation to address what has become the public's number one concern. The LESC feels that the following items are key elements to any package of crime legislation:

- **Funding for 100,000 additional police officers** — There is a broad consensus among the law enforcement community that additional personnel dedicated to community policing will assist some agencies in reducing crime, and is essential in our efforts towards working with the community to take back our streets.

(more)

Steering Committee
Members

Federal Law Enforcement
Officers Association
Fraternal Order of Police

International
Brotherhood of
Police Officers
Major City Chiefs

National Association of
Police Organizations
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Police Foundation



• **Community Policing** – New policing strategies in which police are in close contact with residents of the community and in which the police and residents become partners in solving community problems offer the best hope for improving the quality of life for all citizens we serve. While change will be difficult, it seems that traditional responses alone have not been enough.

• **Funding for more prisons, jails and boot camps** – The current state and local prison systems are overflowing and in serious need of repair. Arrests mean nothing unless we can back them up with the threat of doing jail time, but criminals cannot be kept behind bars if there is no available prison space. Criminals must know that if they commit a crime, they will serve the full sentence. Boot camps are a pragmatic approach to dealing with juvenile, non-violent offenders for whom training and guidance can serve to turn their lives around. Youths can receive education, discipline, and drug treatment through these innovative programs. If law enforcement can deter young people from a life of crime, then American society will be the winner.

• **Protecting our youth** – Children, our most precious resource, have become both the victims and the perpetrators of the violence sweeping this country. One in 25 high school students carry a gun to school and over 30% of students responding to a survey said they have been physically threatened. We need to make every effort to ensure that our schools are crime and gun-free. We must support programs that help all of our children stay crime and drug-free, and that offer opportunities for productive employment and meaningful lives.

→ • **Assault weapons prohibition** – The easy availability of assault weapons wreaks havoc daily on the streets of America. These dangerous weapons, with their rapid rate of fire, ease of handling in close quarters, and military features, are simply not sporting weapons. As long as assault weapons are sold legally, the public and law enforcement will continue to be at great risk.

• **National Commission to Support Law Enforcement** – Comprised of members from all aspects of law enforcement, including management, labor, federal law enforcement agencies, academia, together with Members of Congress, the members of the LESC believe a commission to support law enforcement will be an excellent forum for sharing law enforcement resources and intelligence. A partnership such as this will help ensure that law enforcement at every level has the tools it needs to conduct a coordinated, national approach to fighting crime.

• **Research on issues affecting the cop on the street** – To help effectively address the problems of crime and disorder in the community, the LESC feels that there needs to be a sufficient level of research funding that directly benefits the cop on the street.

The LESC supports a crime bill that encompasses these and other issues contained in the crime bill. The LESC is committed to standing with President Clinton and his Administration in pressing for prompt enactment of such a bill by the Congress.

1001 22nd St., N.W., Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20037

BLUEPRINT FOR ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION

Presented to
PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
April 14, 1994

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Representing
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Police Foundation



• **Community Policing** – New policing strategies in which police are in close contact with residents of the community and in which the police and residents become partners in solving community problems offer the best hope for improving the quality of life for all citizens we serve. While change will be difficult, it seems that traditional responses alone have not been enough.

• **Funding for more prisons, jails and boot camps** – The current state and local prison systems are overflowing and in serious need of repair. Arrests mean nothing unless we can back them up with the threat of doing jail time, but criminals cannot be kept behind bars if there is no available prison space. Criminals must know that if they commit a crime, they will serve the full sentence. Boot camps are a pragmatic approach to dealing with juvenile, non-violent offenders for whom training and guidance can serve to turn their lives around. Youths can receive education, discipline, and drug treatment through these innovative programs. If law enforcement can deter young people from a life of crime, then American society will be the winner.

• **Protecting our youth** – Children, our most precious resource, have become both the victims and the perpetrators of the violence sweeping this country. One in 25 high school students carry a gun to school and over 30% of students responding to a survey said they have been physically threatened. We need to make every effort to ensure that our schools are crime and gun-free. We must support programs that help all of our children stay crime and drug-free, and that offer opportunities for productive employment and meaningful lives.

→ • **Assault weapons prohibition** – The easy availability of assault weapons wreaks havoc daily on the streets of America. These dangerous weapons, with their rapid rate of fire, ease of handling in close quarters, and military features, are simply not sporting weapons. As long as assault weapons are sold legally, the public and law enforcement will continue to be at great risk.

• **National Commission to Support Law Enforcement** – Comprised of members from all aspects of law enforcement, including management, labor, federal law enforcement agencies, academia, together with Members of Congress, the members of the LESC believe a commission to support law enforcement will be an excellent forum for sharing law enforcement resources and intelligence. A partnership such as this will help ensure that law enforcement at every level has the tools it needs to conduct a coordinated, national approach to fighting crime.

• **Research on issues affecting the cop on the street** – To help effectively address the problems of crime and disorder in the community, the LESC feels that there needs to be a sufficient level of research funding that directly benefits the cop on the street.

The LESC supports a crime bill that encompasses these and other issues contained in the crime bill. The LESC is committed to standing with President Clinton and his Administration in pressing for prompt enactment of such a bill by the Congress.

LEVEL 1 - 76 OF 89 STORIES

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November 1, 1994, Tuesday, City Edition

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. 16

LENGTH: 400 words

HEADLINE: WIDOWED BY GUNMAN, WOMAN SUPPORTS CUOMO

BYLINE: By GENE WARNER, News Staff Reporter

BODY:

No ban on assault weapons would have saved the life of her husband, Dennis McCarthy.

Even a limit of 10 bullets in a single clip wouldn't have kept her son, Kevin, from being shot and paralyzed.

But Carolyn McCarthy -- whose husband and son were shot at the beginning of a Dec. 7, 1993, shooting spree on the Long Island Railroad -- won't quit fighting for tougher restrictions on guns.

Mrs. McCarthy, wearing a "Republicans for Cuomo" button, appeared in Buffalo today to chastise Republican gubernatorial candidate George Pataki for opposing a ban on assault weapons.

As a state senator, Pataki voted against an amendment to ban such weapons, Mrs. McCarthy charged.

"I'm a Republican, and I can't understand why Republicans like George Pataki have opposed the ban on assault weapons," Mrs. McCarthy told a late-morning news conference in front of Buffalo Police Headquarters. "What happened to my family should never happen to anyone else."

In last December's shooting rampage, Colin Ferguson of Brooklyn is accused of walking up the aisle of the commuter train and randomly firing at least 30 shots with a semiautomatic pistol, injuring 19 people and killing six.

Limiting a clip to 10 bullets could have saved other victims on that train from being killed or injured, Mrs. McCarthy claimed.

"We're not trying to take away guns for hunting or for sport," she added. "We're trying to take away these killing machines."

Mrs. McCarthy has become one of two crime victims to go on the airwaves in the Cuomo-Pataki race. Carol McAuliff, whose son Thomas was slain in July, has blamed Gov. Cuomo "and his liberal policies" for her son's death.

"I felt she was being used as a victim," Mrs. McCarthy said. "I believe the Pataki camp misled her."



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The Buffalo News, November 1, 1994

GRAPHIC: ROBERT STODDARD, Buffalo News, Carolyn McCarthy talks about supporting Gov. Cuomo and gun control outside Police Headquarters today.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 3, 1994

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LEVEL 1 - 15 OF 27 STORIES

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June 23, 1994, Thursday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 256 words

HEADLINE: ASSAULT GUNS KILL 1 IN 4

BYLINE: By William K. Rashbaum. STAFF WRITER

BODY:

Assault weapons and pistols with large-capacity magazines were involved in as many as 25 percent of the city killings last year in which guns were recovered and positively linked to the crime, according to a state study released yesterday.

Based on information from the New York Police Department ballistics unit, the study by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services found that the majority of those weapons were semiautomatic pistols with magazines that hold 10 or more rounds.

Such weapons - including most of the 9-mm. semiautomatics favored by drug dealers - are defined as assault weapons under Gov. Mario Cuomo's assault weapons ban, which has been passed by the assembly. A less expansive bill is before the Senate.

"This study underscores the importance of state legislation that will ban assault weapons," said Richard Girgenti, DCJS commissioner and Cuomo's top criminal justice adviser.

Even with a possible federal ban, which is pending in Congress, the overwhelming majority of assault weapons arrests are made by local law enforcement.

The study found that firearms were recovered in 271 of the 1,946 homicides in 1993 and that in 169 cases, the guns were positively linked to the killing through ballistics evidence.

Of those weapons, 43 were assault weapons as defined under the pending ban. The legislation defines an assault weapon as any semiautomatic rifle, pistol or shotgun capable of having carrying more than six cartridges for a long gun or ten for a pistol.

TOP STORY

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

- we're looking for a better quote from him.



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LEVEL 1 - 10 OF 27 STORIES

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August 13, 1994, Saturday, Final Edition

SECTION: LOCAL

LENGTH: 840 words

HEADLINE: CUOMO ASSAILS CRIME BILL CRITICS DURING AREA VISIT CALLS DEFEATED
MEASURE AN 'INSULT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT'

BYLINE: By ROBERT J. MCCARTHY, News Political Reporter

BODY:

Surrounded by confiscated assault weapons and Erie County's top cops, Gov. Cuomo rallied to President Clinton's aid Friday by branding Thursday's congressional defeat of the crime bill "an insult to every man and woman in law enforcement."

Cuomo picked Buffalo Police Headquarters to lash out at the crime bill's defeat and called on Congress to reconsider. He watched as Buffalo police officers fired assault weapons into car doors on the firing range and labeled them "instruments designed to kill the largest number of people in the shortest period of time."

"The government of the United States just said we can't ban these weapons," Cuomo told police officials and community activists at Police Headquarters. "What are you talking about? What kind of people are we?"

Facing a tough bid for re-election to a fourth term, the governor has made crime-fighting a centerpiece of his campaign. Along with economic development, he touts his administration's law-enforcement accomplishments at virtually every campaign stop. And he wasted no effort Friday in making support for Clinton's crime bill part of the program.

"I've been given the chance here today to remind you that we've done a fundamentally wrong thing by not passing this bill in Washington," he said. "This is a contradiction of common sense."

"How did it happen?" he continued. "Because we haven't spoken."

He listed his own crime-fighting program, which has included an increase in State Police numbers, and hinted that his Republican opponents are in league with those who voted down the federal crime bill. He continually referred to efforts to control assault weapons thwarted in the Republican State Senate.

"They want to be the leaders of the greatest state in the United States of America, and they start by telling us they won't ban assault weapons," he said. "Forget it. The people won't buy it."

Cuomo said he didn't buy the argument that Clinton's crime bill would prove



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The Buffalo News, August 13, 1994

too costly or ineffective because it directs too much money toward "pork barrel" programs. And when asked about Rep. Bill Paxon's description of the bill as a "social welfare bill disguised as a crime bill," Cuomo said he couldn't disagree more.

"Is that a good reason to allow police people to be killed? Is that a good reason to eliminate the possibility of banning assault weapons?" he asked. "Does he mean other programs that will reach children and give them new inspiration and maybe have them avoid becoming involved with drugs and therefore avoid becoming the kind of people that use assault weapons?"

"I don't think that's pork," he said. "That's beef."

Cuomo was joined at his afternoon session by Erie County District Attorney Kevin M. Dillon, Undersheriff William Payne, state Criminal Justice Director Richard Girgenti, State Police Major Pedro Perez and Buffalo Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske.

Kerlikowske told Cuomo during the firepower demonstration that assault weapons are partially responsible for the city's spiraling homicide rate -- especially among drug dealers and in drive-by shootings.

Kerlikowske quote
"A vote against it was a vote against law enforcement in New York and in this country," said Kerlikowske, who conferred with the president about the bill earlier this week in Washington. "It's important that we move forward and get a crime bill that protects us, including one that bans assault weapons."

Cuomo also appeared at the Buffalo AFL-CIO picnic at Elma Meadows Park in Elma. The annual gathering proved a mecca for virtually every political candidate in Erie County, but the governor spent most of his afternoon working up a sweat on the basketball court with State Sen. Anthony R. Nanula.

Buffalo AFL-CIO President George L. Wessel characterized Cuomo's reception as "tremendous," discounting some of the troubles the governor has encountered recently with public employee unions.

"People here today are really thrilled to see him," Wessel said. "And everyone said the same thing: 'We're with you all the way, Governor.' "

Wessel said Buffalo's labor community will provide phone banks and letter-writing efforts to the Cuomo campaign after Labor Day.

GRAPHIC: BILL WIPPERT, Buffalo News, Gov. Cuomo, second from right, discusses assault weapons with Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: August 14, 1994



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BEFORE

THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 25, 1994

H75 members

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this distinguished panel today and to be able to speak directly on an important issue confronting the law enforcement community and our nation -- the continued proliferation of semi-automatic assault weapons on our streets and their easy availability to the criminal elements in society.

My name is John Pitta. I am the Executive Vice-President of FLEOA, which is the acronym for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. FLEOA represents well over 8,000 Federal law enforcement officers across the nation. More important than our numbers, however, is the nature of our membership. Many of our members are special agents for the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Therefore, they are directly responsible for the enforcement of Federal laws concerning both drugs and guns. As an officer of our unique organization, I take most seriously my responsibility to fairly and vigorously represent our members' views to Congress.

There is no doubt that in too many of our cities and towns a tidal wave of violence threatens the safety of Americans. Increasingly, this battle finds law enforcement -- those sworn to defend society against the criminal elements -- heavily outgunned. The superior firepower now possessed by criminals has already taken a heavy and unnecessary toll on those I represent.

It is estimated that there are currently millions of military-style assault weapons in general circulation. This number does not include the 130-140 million rifles and shotguns, the 60-70 million handguns, or the 233,000 Class III fully automatic weapons

that are out there. The United States has the world's largest arsenal of privately owned firearms. It is unparalleled anywhere else in the world. There is close to one gun for every man, woman and child in this country.

FLEOA does not assert that all of these firearms are being used illegally nor that all semi-automatic firearms are assault weapons. There are many legitimate semi-automatic pistols, shotguns and rifles. But traditional hunting and sporting guns do not have the killing capacity of assault weapons, and that is why drug cartels and the Patrick Purdys of the world use them. Because of their popularity with criminals, they pose a grave and immediate threat to the lives of those sworn to uphold our laws and those we protect. In our view semi-automatic assault weapons such as the AK-47, AR-15, TEC-9 and MAC-10 are a real and present danger to the lives of ordinary citizens and to law enforcement officers. What is shocking is that these weapons, designed specifically for combat, are legally sold with almost no federal restrictions or regulation. In most states, any 18 year old can walk into a gun store, sign a form which no one checks, and walk out with an AK-47 assault rifle.

And criminals do just that. Statistics from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms reveal that although semi-automatic assault weapons comprise only 0.5% of the privately-owned guns in America, they account for 6 to 8% of all firearms traced to criminals during 1988-91.

These weapons have military hardware such as threaded barrels for silencers, folding stocks for concealability and pistol grips designed for spray-firing. Does anyone hunt deer by spray-firing from the hip in the forest? Of course not! A rifle with a pistol grip or an assault pistol is designed to spray-fire the enemy at short ranges in combat situations. Unfortunately, assault weapons are also ideal for urban violence and drive-by shootings. Any so-called "sporting" usage is clearly secondary and must be measured against the very real threat not only to the citizens of this country, but also to the law enforcement personnel who protect them.

The TEC-9 assault pistol is the undisputed favorite of drug traffickers, gang members and violent criminals. Cities across the country confiscate more TEC-9s than any other assault pistol. The prototype for the TEC-9 was originally designed as a submachine gun for the South African government. Now it comes standard with an ammunition magazine holding 36 rounds of 9mm cartridges. It also has a threaded barrel to accept a silencer, and a barrel shroud to cool the barrel during rapid fire. To any real sportsman or collector, this firearm is a piece of junk, yet it is very popular among criminals.

Assault weapons dramatically escalate the firepower of the user. Technical reports document firing rates of these weapons at hundreds of rounds a minute! Larger numbers of these types of weapons are in private hands than ever before and that number is increasing, criminal "private hands" included. Semi-automatic

assault weapons have become the weapon of choice for drug runners, hate groups and the mentally unstable.

Although the Bush Administration in 1989 banned the importation of 43 models of semi-automatic rifles, and President Clinton recently added assault pistols to that list, ATF estimates that 75% of assault weapons in the U.S. are American-made. That is why H.R. 3527 needs to be passed into law.

The Bush Administration's ban had a dramatic impact. Between 1989 and 1990, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime declined by 45% while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained about the same. Murders, assaults, drug crimes and property crimes linked to assault weapons all declined from 1989 to 1990 as a result of the import ban. No one claims that assault weapons legislation will stop all assault weapon crime, but ATF tracing statistics prove that we can dry up the supply of these guns, make them less accessible to drug dealers and homicidal maniacs, and make a significant dent in the violence plaguing America.

Reports of the use of semi-automatic assault weapons are reported more and more frequently in the media nationwide. For example, in 1992, a man armed with a MAC-10 semi-automatic pistol robbed a small bank in Randallstown, Maryland. Two female bank employees were killed, and two others were wounded.

And in Hackensack, New Jersey, six teenagers were arrested for conspiracy to buy illegal weapons from a black market dealer in New York City. The school these youngsters attended was

rated by Redbook magazine as one of the 50 best high schools in the country. The weapons offered to the youths included several assault-type weapons -- TEC-9 pistols, Street Sweepers, MAC-11/9 pistols, and AK-47 rifles.

Federal agents, in cooperative efforts with State and local officers, are working diligently to stem the illegal trafficking of firearms.

In such a joint effort, Federal and local police officers recently raided the Kentucky Courts public housing complex in Washington, D.C. The results of this raid, conducted following the shooting of District of Columbia Police Officer Jason White, included the seizure of six weapons, including an AK-47 assault rifle.

In New York City, Federal agents and City police officers investigating a fatal drive-by shooting on the Brooklyn Bridge in March 1994, disclosed that a Cobray 9-millimeter pistol was the weapon used to kill Aaron Halberstam. Using the firearms tracing capabilities of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), law enforcement officials arrested a drug dealer for illegal firearms trafficking that included one of the weapons used in this hideous crime.

The victims here today provide a very real and human side to the stories of carnage and mayhem created by the widespread availability of semi-automatic assault weapons. In fact, it is this incessant litany of violence and the related deaths and injuries that has numbed the general public to a point that it

seems almost willing to accept gun violence as a permanent fixture in our society.

Last year, four ATF agents were killed and 15 wounded during the ATF raid on the Mt. Carmel Compound near Waco, Texas. David Koresh and his followers were able to stockpile a huge arsenal of 123 AR-15/M-16 type rifles, 44 AK-47 type rifles, two Street Sweepers, two Barrett .50 caliber rifles, and many other long guns and handguns along with grenades and components to illegally modify firearms and create destructive devices. For the most part, this arsenal was bought legally from licensed gun dealers, at flea markets and gun shows. An FBI firearms expert testified that 48 fully automatic weapons were found in the charred ruins of the Branch Davidian compound.

What law-abiding citizen needs a private gun arsenal this large? A sportsman doesn't need hundreds of weapons and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition. This arsenal was created to be used against people, including law enforcement officers. Investigating agents have learned that Mt. Carmel residents received regular indoctrination against law enforcement. Quoting from the Waco affidavit, "[David Koresch] continually predicted a confrontation with law enforcement officials and repeatedly instructed his followers that should this occur, they were to 'resist with arms' and 'be ready to fight and resist.'" It appears Koresh picked weapons with the greatest firepower to use against law enforcement. The four ATF agents were shot with automatic or semi-automatic rifles. They didn't have the slightest chance

against these weapons.

Existing Federal and state laws have proven to be insufficient to adequately protect either law enforcement or the general public from the illegal use of these weapons. That is why I am here to express FLEOA's support for H.R. 3527.

It is against this background of unquestionable facts that law enforcement groups such as FLEOA appeal to Congress to take affirmative, though reasonable, steps to cope with this national problem. FLEOA continues to believe that legislation, such as that offered by Senator Feinstein of California and Congressman Schumer of New York, which targets specific makes of semi-automatic assault weapons favored by drug traffickers, terrorists, and other criminal elements, goes far toward helping to make the job of Federal law enforcement officers safer. While assault weapon laws are not a panacea to the violence that plagues America, they are another important tool needed to help law enforcement.

As to how important the issue of the increased spread of semi-automatic assault weapons is to Federal officers, I think it is safe to say that all of us sometimes wonder about our own mortality. The questions of whether we will see our families again, or in what physical condition we could end up, certainly runs through our minds at one time or another as we go about performing our hazardous jobs over the years. The issue of these weapons may be a political one to some of you on the subcommittee, but it is a "life and death" issue for us every day as we step out

of the front doors of our homes to go to work.

Mr. Chairman, the law enforcement community, and particularly FLEOA, feels very strongly that the proliferation of semi-automatic assault weapons must be addressed by Congress and is a legitimate area of concern in the context of anti-crime legislation. There are slightly more than a million assault weapons in circulation today. Please do not wait until there are 10 million in circulation to address the issue because by then it will be much too late.

FLEOA applauds you for holding this hearing and for continuing to work with law enforcement groups on matters of mutual concern. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

4th CALLER, [Idaho Falls, Idaho]: Hello?

LARRY KING: Hi.

4th CALLER: Hey, Larry, how are you doing?

LARRY KING: Fine.

4th CALLER: Hey, I'd like to ask Mr. & Mrs. Brady if they would welcome a debate between the NRA and themselves over this issue of the assault weapons so that we can properly define assault weapons, you know?

LARRY KING: Do you want to do a whole hour? Do you want to sit down with the NRA?

SARAH BRADY: Oh, we have done hour after hour after hour, with the NRA and I suppose we could do it again. It never seems to get anywhere, because, as he says—now, his issue happens to be definition. It's well defined in this bill.

LARRY KING: There is no doubt in your mind—

SARAH BRADY: Whatsoever—

LARRY KING: —what an assault weapon is?

SARAH BRADY: —no, of what an assault weapon is. And we're not talking about all semi-automatic guns by any means. I mean, a majority of hunting guns are semi-automatic, that is not the problem.

LARRY KING: Is this one of those debates like abortion, where nobody's mind changes? The debate goes on but nobody's mind changes?

SARAH BRADY: Well—probably when you come to the true believers. And I call them the true believers, and they are the ones who really, truly don't want any gun laws whatsoever. And who really don't want to listen to us. I think we're pretty middle of the road.

LARRY KING: Middle of the road?

SARAH BRADY: We know that — Yeah, I mean there are people—

LARRY KING: You're not hardliners?

SARAH BRADY: We're not hardliners. I mean, there are many people who want to ban all guns.

LARRY KING: You don't?

SARAH BRADY: No. Absolutely not. There are others who want to make guns legal for anyone, no matter who you are, and all guns, and all weapons. And we don't believe in either of those sides. We say: we don't want to ban all weapons we want some common sense regulations. We want to keep them out of the wrong hands. The fugitives, the felons, the kids—people who have had just—

LARRY KING: The crazies.

SARAH BRADY: —the crazies. And people who have had a history of domestic abuse, who have been accused of — and convicted — not just accused but convicted of domestic abuse. Those are the people we're trying to keep them out of. We don't want to interfere with this gentleman in Idaho Falls and his gun, as long as he doesn't fall into one of those categories.

LARRY KING: Do you think we're going to see in your lifetime Jim, a ban on most of the weapons you want banned? Do you think you are going to win this fight?

JAMES BRADY: I think so.

LARRY KING: You are—you do think so?

JAMES BRADY: Yes, sir.

LARRY KING: In your heart, too?

JAMES BRADY: Yes, so

LARRY KING: Do you think so, Sarah?

SARAH BRADY: I think we're going to see very good common sense laws. And they are coming along. Already tomorrow, as you may know, I think there will be a final vote in Maryland, which will give Maryland the one gun a month that Virginia already has. I think we will eventually see that nationwide. It's a very effective way of stopping guns going into the illegal market, making guns easily accessible—underground.

LARRY KING: And most police are on your side, aren't they?

SARAH BRADY: Oh, law enforcement—

JAMES BRADY: All of them.

SARAH BRADY: —is just overwhelmingly behind us.

JAMES BRADY: All of them.

LARRY KING: So good seeing you. We will try to set up, we will give the NRA some time and then get you all on together.

SARAH BRADY: Sounds good.

LARRY KING: Do a whole hour. Maybe we can change some minds.

SARAH BRADY: Maybe we can.

LARRY KING: One way or the other.

Jim and Sarah Brady of Handgun Control Inc.

When we come back, big story today, William Bratton, New York police commissioner, since January of '93, one of the best in the country, formerly in Boston, leaving the post. Why? We will find out after these words.

[Commercial break]

William Bratton

LARRY KING: Two years ago, he left Boston to take the job of 58th police commissioner in the history of the City of New York, one of the finest and toughest jobs in the world. In the past two years, as commissioner New York City has experienced the steepest crime drop in its history and yesterday, William Bratton says he's leaving.

Why?

WILLIAM BRATTON, former Police Commissioner, New York City: Well, Larry, several reasons — one personal, that after 26 years of the business that I am going to start taking a look at my financial situation and my family situation and after 26 years and six departments that I'm still floating around without a pension — so there is a personal issue. From the professional side, unfortunately, for almost a year here in New York City, the media has constantly attempted to show that the Mayor and I have been at odds with each other, despite both of our denials at every turn, it's a story that would not go away, and increasingly in recent months has become very debilitating — and was beginning, I think, to have the potential to impact negatively on our ability to work together to keep the crime going down. So—

LARRY KING: So, did you call him and say "I'm going to leave," or did he ask you or what? How did it happen?

WILLIAM BRATTON: There's different versions of what happened. Whether I was pushed —

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JOURNAL GRAPHICS + 2028987686

LARRY KING: What's the correct one?

WILLIAM BRATTON: —or whether I left — I think it was a convergence of both. I think that—

LARRY KING: You were pushed a little?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Both of us were very frustrated at our inability to push the— the media reports aside, and coincidentally, over the last week or so, I got an offer that really I could not turn down. It met all of my needs, allowed me to stay here in New York, to get into a new venture that has potential growth. I will be working for a very large security firm that's going to seek to expand significantly in the years ahead. I'd like the excitement of new challenges and being quite frank with you that after two years in this job, we've had great success, I've been able to tell the story of 38,000 great cops. I get a lot of credit for it, but it's the cops who are doing the job out there.

LARRY KING: All right. Why— why let the media — well, first of all, what began the stories? Was there a certain break? Was there a little— what— where did it begin?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Oh, it began about a year or so ago, that my deputy commissioner of public information, was forced out, he was — resigned. And it was widely felt that the Mayor had pushed him out the door. And—

LARRY KING: And you were angry over that?

WILLIAM BRATTON: And— I— I was disappointed. I had a great deputy commissioner, he's a personal friend. he remains a very close personal friend.

LARRY KING: So there was a rift then?

WILLIAM BRATTON: I think there was a difference of opinion about that particular individual, but both the Mayor and I are professionals and life went on and the second year crime went down 17 percent versus 12 percent in the first year.

LARRY KING: So, are you saying that the media — while there was some cleavage over this incident — the media overplayed it and made it bigger than it was?

WILLIAM BRATTON: I think they made it bigger than it is, bigger than it was. And that's unfortunate because the job was getting done. Crime is down another 9 percent so far this year, we have a goal of 10 percent. And the crime drops, you have to look beyond the percentages, that reality is that in New York there were 1,000 fewer people murdered last year in New York versus 1990, 70,000 some odd fewer cars stolen versus 1990 — and the good news is, in the City of New York, we have found a way to not only reduce crime but to keep it down. I'm an optimist when it comes to crime in the United States. I think that American policing has finally woken up to the reality that we can make a difference and criminologists be damned, there is something that the police can do. And one of the things we can do is we can focus on results, and the results we can focus on is controlling crime and in New York one of the city's in this country that had the toughest reputation for crime, it is now clearly one of the safest city's in America if not the world.

LARRY KING: And you are very pro-handgun control and you're against what the Congress did the other day,

right?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Oh, rabidly against what they did. They are talking out of both sides of their mouths — they want to say they want to support American police and on the other hand they are arming the people that are killing us left and right. We lost two police officers in New York state with two others shot, in just the last week. A New York City police officer, killed by some character on parole armed with two .3 millimeters, with multiple round clips, supposedly banned by the recent legislation. For Congress to even contemplate, let alone act on the idea of once again legalizing these weapons — we believe are about 1 percent of what's in the possession of American citizens, constitute 13 percent of the weapons used to kill American police officers. Congress wake up! American police forces are out there to protect you as well as the rest of the citizens, and this baloney that you keep coming up with, when are you going to wake up? You say you are so close to the American citizenry. Get out and listen to what the 60 percent of them want. And they want gun control and they want it now.

LARRY KING: Since you've done such a good job, and the Mayor has been done in that time, couldn't this have been done — couldn't it have been said, "Look fellas, we had a disagreement over something, but I'm doing a good job as Mayor, he's doing a great job as police commissioner, let's keep it going." I mean, couldn't that have been a better way to resolve this? Granted you need more money and granted there is a nice, private security job, couldn't that— for the benefit of the city couldn't this have been handled better?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Maybe it could have been. But I am also an optimist about the changes that have been made in this organization. We have found a new way to police and it's not just Bill Bratton. It's the New York City police department. It's the organization it's become. When I left the Transit Police in 1992, crime was down 22 percent in that system, now in 1996, and I was gone for three of the last five years, crime is now down 63 percent in that subway system, robberies are down 75 percent, so the systems we put in place in '92 kept the momentum going. I'm comfortable with the systems we developed over the last two years, long after Bill Bratton is gone, crime is going to continue to go down in this city, because the cops know how to police this city. And the good news is, you can transfer what we're doing in New York to any city in America.

LARRY KING: The New York papers said today that the Mayor — you can have an opinion on this — was jealous of all of the good publicity you were getting. Do you buy that?

WILLIAM BRATTON: There is no denying that the New York City police department and myself included, get very publicity, as they should — it's a success story here — but it's a success story that—

LARRY KING: Well, why wouldn't the Mayor be happy over that? He's the Mayor—

WILLIAM BRATTON: He—

LARRY KING: —he gets the eventual credit.

WILLIAM BRATTON: —he personally has not expressed

any dissatisfaction with that. He appointed me. It's the political changes here that have also helped to make this a safer city. The idea that — the appreciation that the police can now go out and enforce things that for 25 years they could not enforce: that we can go out and arrest drug dealers on the street — that we can aggressively attack quality of life crimes, and most importantly, that the police can change behavior. And that's what it's all about, changing behavior. That you don't tolerate graffiti, you don't tolerate squeegee persons, you don't tolerate drinking on the corner. And the good news is, if you change the behaviors of the adults, all those kids watching to see what the adults are doing, that big surge at the end of the decade — change the behavior now of the adults and you will be able to change the behavior of those kids that basically emulate the behavior of the adults that they associate with.

LARRY KING: Bill, did the Mayor ask you to reconsider?

WILLIAM BRATTON: No, he did not.

LARRY KING: Had he asked you to reconsider, would you have reconsidered?

WILLIAM BRATTON: At this time, I don't think I could have. Again, the offer was made that came at the right time for me. It's — it's time to move on. I'm going to stay very active in American law enforcement —

LARRY KING: Meaning?

WILLIAM BRATTON: —the president of the United States has appointed me as one of his representatives to the Crime Commission that is now being formed. The environment I am moving into, the private security field, part of the success of the future of America is going to be improvement in the quality of the security forces in America. And I intend to be a leader in the new company that I am going to, in developing private security to be regarded as highly as their counterparts in the public sector are now regarded. And I think that is doable.

LARRY KING: Do you expect to have any input into the selection of your replacement?

WILLIAM BRATTON: The Mayor and I met yesterday for about an hour and a half, I expressed to him — my — my comments if you will, on the various candidates that he was looking at as of that time. I appreciated that opportunity and my understanding is that he is rapidly moving toward a selection or replacement. And I hope so — the sooner the better. These organizations, you don't want them to leave — to be left out there too long.

LARRY KING: Well, you leave — you leave April 15th. Shouldn't that selection be made before you leave?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Oh, I think every indication is that it will be made long before that.

LARRY KING: Is it going to come from the department?

WILLIAM BRATTON: The selection — we have — we are in great shape in New York. We have tremendous candidates inside the organization. There are candidates outside the organization that have also — one of them is the fire commissioner who is well known to the Mayor, well known in this city and he's had successes of his own. I — I trust that whoever the Mayor will put in will be able to keep the momentum going forward.

LARRY KING: And, as in your case, it might be someone

from the outside, right?

WILLIAM BRATTON: There's the potential. One of the candidates that is talked about is the fire commissioner here in New York City.

LARRY KING: No, I mean, a police chief somewhere else.

WILLIAM BRATTON: No, I believe that the selection is going to be restricted to three or four candidates from within the police department, people who have been part of my team —

LARRY KING: Mm-hm.

WILLIAM BRATTON: —and two candidates have been named from outside the organization.

LARRY KING: So that's — that's a definite. You are not going to get the police chief of Indianapolis?

WILLIAM BRATTON: I don't think that is in the archives. I think the Mayor has confidence in the people that are already here.

LARRY KING: We will be right back with your phone calls for William Bratton, New York City police commissioner since January of 1993. Before that he was in Boston, before that he was in the Traffic Division in New York. He's had an amazing success ratio and now goes into private industry with First Securities.

We will be right back, after these words.

[Commercial break]

LARRY KING: Let's take some calls for one of the best policemen in America, William Bratton of New York: Columbus, Ohio. Hello?

5th CALLER, [Columbus, Ohio]: Hello. Hi, Larry, how are you doing?

LARRY KING: Hi, go ahead.

5th CALLER: Yes, I'd like to know what he thinks of the concealed carry law that's going around the United States, and its positive impact on the country.

WILLIAM BRATTON: Well, first off, I disagree strongly that it's having a positive impact. I am strongly opposed to those concealed gun actions that have occurred in a number of states and am very fearful that, over time, they are going to result in a significant increase in gun violence in this country. Like most American police chiefs, we are opposed to that concept, unfortunately it seems to be a growing one.

LARRY KING: Indianapolis, Indiana. Hello? Hello, Indianapolis, are you there? Do you hear me? Indianapolis, one more chance. Okay, we lost Indianapolis. Are you going to support Mayor Giuliani?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Oh, sure. In terms of the changes that have occurred in the —

LARRY KING: No, I mean, when he runs for reelection.

WILLIAM BRATTON: When I go to the ballot box, I usually keep my opinions to myself —

LARRY KING: Aw, Bill —

WILLIAM BRATTON: —but we'll see.

LARRY KING: —you're not going to endorse him?

WILLIAM BRATTON: We'll — we shall see.

LARRY KING: Is he a good mayor?

WILLIAM BRATTON: He's an excellent mayor. He's an excellent mayor. The changes that have occurred in this

city that— a lot of focus on the crime control, but there are a lot of other good things happening here. A lot of people being returned to work from the welfare rolls. The cleaning up of the city, the sense that there is somebody who is in control. This city has a very different feel than it did a year ago. A very different feel.

LARRY KING: What's — what's the toughest job about running that police force. The single toughest thing about it.

WILLIAM BRATTON: The single toughest thing is dealing with the officers that are shot and injured in the line of duty. Every other aspect of this job I love immensely. It is the greatest job any person could ever hope to have and I've been blessed to, for the last 27 months have it, and it will remain with me for the rest of my life. But the negative is two police funerals in the past week, going to hospitals in the middle of the night too frequently for officers injured all too frequently by the .9 millimeter handgun, by the assault weapon that Congress seems to intent on putting out into the streets in even greater numbers.

LARRY KING: Do we know why, Bill, police officers want to be police officers?

WILLIAM BRATTON: I would think that many of them, like myself, that they come into the business, I came in at age 23, all my life wanting to be one — we came in wanting to do good. We come in wanting to make a difference and that's the — the beauty of the public sector, that where else can the actions of one individual, or a police department affect, in this case, 8 million people; or, in the case of the United States, that the *Time* cover story a few months back, "Finally, We're Winning the War Against Crime." Americans need to be more optimistic about our ability to

deal with crime. We can in fact reduce it, we can control it, we can do a better job than we've done, we've shown it in New York. And I — I intend to speak loud and clear that there needs to be more optimism on this issue. The crime bill that President Clinton was able to get through after so many years of being stalled in Congress, it has made phenomenal changes in this country. We're benefited in New York, by almost \$50 million from that bill. And the good things that emanate from that type of positive action, it resonates throughout the land. These are good times for American law enforcement, we are beginning to make a difference.

LARRY KING: We will be back with our remaining moments with William Bratton who will be missed, the outgoing police commissioner of the City of New York.

Don't go away.

(Commercial break)

LARRY KING: We're back with police commissioner of New York William Bratton, he's given a lot of his life to service like this in other divisions of police work and in Boston. Going to miss it, aren't you?

WILLIAM BRATTON: I'm going to miss it terribly, but with the appointment to the crime commission, the close cooperation between the public and private sector, while I will be out of the public sector, *[unintelligible]* I will be heard from, I am not going away.

LARRY KING: Not quietly into the good night.

WILLIAM BRATTON: No, not at all. Not at all.

LARRY KING: What's — what's First Security Services?

WILLIAM BRATTON: It's a Boston based firm. It's about the 10th, 11th largest in the country, largest in the northeast region. It's a multi-faceted security firm — investigative services, guard services. It's an entity that's rated among the best in its field and is offering me an opportunity to get into that field, be part of an expansion that's contemplated and to be part of a — I think, a very significant change that's going to occur in that industry over the next 10 years. Americans are going to spend billions of dollars in the private sector and the image of the private security sector needs to be enhanced, and as we have been able to enhance it in the public sector, I think the same thing can happen in the private sector.

LARRY KING: You've got to get away from the private eye image, right?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Exactly, that it's — it's much more than that. It's much more sophisticated in today's day and age, and I think you are going to see a lot more reliance on the private security sector.

LARRY KING: Yeah. Did they come to you?

WILLIAM BRATTON: The gentleman that owns the company has been a friend for many, many years, and for a number of years has been attempting to recruit me and finally, the time was right and I am pleased to have been able to accept the offer.

LARRY KING: One other thing, Bill, can we say that on the list that you saw that you discussed with the mayor yesterday, any one of them would be satisfactory with you?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Actually, that is the case. Some more satisfactory than others?

LARRY KING: Is there one standout — you don't have to tell us who — but is there one in your mind that, if they said yes, you would say "Yes, now."

WILLIAM BRATTON: There's several in that group.

LARRY KING: There are several?

WILLIAM BRATTON: And that's the good news for the city.

LARRY KING: Several meaning more than two?

WILLIAM BRATTON: Several meaning two or three.

LARRY KING: Thanks very much, Bill, best of luck.

We will be seeing lots of you.

WILLIAM BRATTON: Okay, I hope so.

LARRY KING: William Bratton, the outgoing police commissioner of New York, resigned yesterday, he will leave April 15th.

Tomorrow night we are up in New York City. Sotheby's is going to be auctioning off a whole bunch of items from the collection of the late Jacqueline Onassis. We're going to see a lot of them. Pierre Salinger is going to be one of our guides. This is tomorrow night in New York.

Friday night, Newt Gingrich will host this program. His guests will be Jack Hannah and a whole bunch of animals from the Columbus Zoo.

Next week, among our guests will be Richard Gere, Robert Shapiro and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

From Washington, this is Larry King. Good night.

Handgun Control Inc.

say the most promising answer and it's very promising because the need for peace is not exclusively an Israeli need. I am convinced that the Arab countries need peace as badly and as immediately as we do. You know, for the first time in Sharm el-Sheik, 13 Arab countries answered the call of President Clinton and came in to denounce terror, to condemn terror after an event, or events that took place in Israel. This is something unprecedented. And I don't think they did it just to keep us happy. They understand that terror and war is a menace to them as much as to us.

LARRY KING: Waterford, Michigan, with the Prime Minister. Hello?

3rd CALLER, [Waterford, Michigan]: Yes, Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to ask you sir, knowing that the Golan Heights is strategically important to the land of Israel, why would this administration give any consideration to turning it over to Syria, after the Israeli's have shed their blood for this land?

SHIMON PERES: Well, the Israeli's have shed their blood not only for the Golan Heights, but for peace as well. You know, we have had so many military victories, but the real victory that we are looking for is not just to have more land, but it's really to enjoy a full peace. Now, we have two questions: would we have just one if we give up the Golan Heights or not, everybody would say "No, don't give up." But we have a second question, "Should we give up the chances of peace with Syria," and then many people in Israel, maybe a majority, would say "Don't do it." So we are not suggesting to give up the land just because we don't want it. But we are suggesting to have a territorial compromise so to obtain a real peace with our northern neighbor. And by doing so having a comprehensive peace all around us.

LARRY KING: Mr. Prime Minister one other thing before we leave us, what— what keeps you going? You've had a long and fruitful life, you've had dedicated service to your country, held many positions. Why— why this— why stay on?

SHIMON PERES: The only reason, really, for me to stay on, is to do a service to the younger generation. You know, at my age, with my experience I want to put aside many of the difficult dilemmas. Take it upon myself, upon my generation, to make the tough decisions, the unpopular decisions and pave the way for a new future. So that our children and grandchildren will not have to go through the same experiences and pains that we went through. I feel myself, as totally serving a young generation.

LARRY KING: Last Friday, here in Washington, House Republicans voted to overturn the ban on assault weapons in the 1994 Crime Bill — that came as a severe blow to Jim and Sarah Brady. They are the — what's your title, Sarah, with Handgun Control Inc.?

SARAH BRADY, Chair, Handgun Control Inc.: I am chair.

LARRY KING: And Jim?

JAMES BRADY, Handgun Control Inc., Board of Directors: I am a member of the Board of Directors.

LARRY KING: And Handgun Control Inc. is out to get effective control of handguns. We have the Brady Bill, etcetera. Were you shocked at the House actions, Sarah?

SARAH BRADY: Well, we actually knew that we didn't have the votes to— to overturn it. I was surprised at the final moment that the Republican leadership would have actually scheduled it. I— I don't think it was probably the smartest thing on earth for them to have done and I—

LARRY KING: Do you think especially after hearing the plea of young Mr. Kennedy?

SARAH BRADY: Well, that was a very dramatic place. And what a shock hearing Solomon, and his—

LARRY KING: Response.

SARAH BRADY: —rebuttal. You know, I think the whole world thought "Oh, poor Mr. Solomon stuck up in northern New York, somewhere, without an assault weapon." You know, we kind of—

JAMES BRADY: "Come and get me."

SARAH BRADY: "Come and get me. Here I am all alone."

LARRY KING: Jim, were you surprised that the Senate the House did what it did?

JAMES BRADY: Well, I was shocked. But at the same time we can count as well as they can count and we knew pretty well where the chips were on this.

LARRY KING: But it's not going to happen is it? The Senate is not going to do it and the president will veto, I mean this is just a—

SARAH BRADY: No. And we— and there were not enough votes in this one to— to override a veto, even if— even if it would pass the Senate. And, of course, we know the president—

JAMES BRADY: Which it's not going to do.

SARAH BRADY: —it's not going to anyway, we really feel pretty confident it wouldn't.

LARRY KING: It's tough, is it not, Jim, taking on the NRA?

JAMES BRADY: They— they are good trans-writers.

LARRY KING: You've learned to respect that?

JAMES BRADY: Yes.

LARRY KING: Have you Sarah?

SARAH BRADY: Yeah. I respect their money. They have a lot of money and they— they really bought this

LARRY KING: In your head, you hope not.

JAMES BRADY: But never say never.

LARRY KING: They don't give up, do they?

SARAH BRADY: We'll fight it.

LARRY KING: This is a tough other side.

SARAH BRADY: Yeah, they don't give up and we will have to fight that side. Well, a shame. When— when gun violence, especially amongst our young kids and amongst

have a lot of money and they— they really bought this freshman Congress.

LARRY KING: And do you think this Congress was in this case was just fulfilling a debt?

SARAH BRADY: I think there are some true believers but yes, I think the Republican leadership was fulfilling a debt. It was a Congress that was paid for, and you know they owed—they owed them.

LARRY KING: In other words, you don't—you don't believe necessarily that Mr. Gingrich is all that—all that in favor of having assault weapons sold on the open market?

SARAH BRADY: Well, he's always voted against us. But I think this was a good example, and I think Jim will agree with me on this, of government at its worst—really special interests being able to say, "Look, we put money into your races, you owe us one, you promised," and both Gingrich and Dole wrote to the NRA early on and promised that there would be a vote. And they were—Gingrich was fulfilling this promise. Is that really what people voted in? Or they thought they were voting in two years ago? I don't think so. I think they wanted change. But I don't think they wanted to vote in government by special interests and by big money.

LARRY KING: Jim, can you figure out why assault weapons would be such a big deal?

JAMES BRADY: Well—

LARRY KING: I mean, they are not your everyday average weapons.

JAMES BRADY: No, but they are showing up in—ATF tell us in 20 percent of crimes that are committed with firearms. They are up 28 percent. So it appears to be the weapon of choice of drug dealers, and people that—that know they are going to have to shoot it out with the police. They're—they're designed to defeat the soft body armor that our law enforcement officers make.

SARAH BRADY: Actually, they were and are still a large percentage of guns with crimes, but it has gone down in this last year and a half, since the last year.

LARRY KING: Since the Brady bill, they've gone down.

SARAH BRADY: Well, and since the ban on assault weapons. Since the ban on assault weapons the number—especially in Chicago, I think it was down by 28 percent.

LARRY KING: Well, then why can't you just say "Let's not make a big deal, they were going through the motions to fulfill a promise to a heavy lobby."

SARAH BRADY: Actually it was all political and I think that's pretty much the case.

LARRY KING: Do you think you are ever going to see assault weapons sold again, Jim?

JAMES BRADY: I hope not.

LARRY KING: You're not sure?

JAMES BRADY: In—in my heart, I'm sure. But—

—in domestic disputes, gun violence is every day.

LARRY KING: The Second Amendment holds no weight with you, Jim?

JAMES BRADY: No, not on this where—

LARRY KING: Second Amendment—

JAMES BRADY: No.

LARRY KING: —the Second Amendment doesn't move you at all?

JAMES BRADY: In one word—fraud.

SARAH BRADY: It is a fraud on the American people. I mean, the courts—time after time after time have upheld gun control measures.

LARRY KING: Of course, with a strict interpretation you could have an atomic bomb.

SARAH BRADY: Exactly. I mean, what are we going to do? Rocket launchers—

LARRY KING: We will be right back with Jim and Sarah Brady, they head the Handgun Control Inc., that organization by the way is listed in your 800 numbers if you would like to help them.

And, when we come back, we will take your phone calls and then we will meet William Bratton the outgoing police commissioner of New York we will get his thoughts on this, too.

Don't go away.

[Commercial break]

LARRY KING: We're back with Jim and Sarah Brady, of Handgun Control Inc., we're going to take some of your phone calls and then William Bratton.

Jim, I'd be remiss in not asking you how you feel. I know that you had a cardiac problem during a dental exam. How's—how are you doing?

JAMES BRADY: Well, I'm staying away from dentists, let's put it that way.

LARRY KING: The dentist caused this. What's—what's the situation?

JAMES BRADY: Well, I don't know, I—I'm not sure what caused it. I think fear may have had something to do with it.

LARRY KING: Sarah, what happened?

SARAH BRADY: Actually, he had a blood infection. A strep infection of the blood, which kind of causes his heart to weaken a little bit but he has no heart damage from it and he's fine.

LARRY KING: So we don't have to worry?

SARAH BRADY: A thinner bear.

LARRY KING: Yeah, he looks good.

SARAH BRADY: And we're happy about this.

JAMES BRADY: A meaner, thinner bear.

LARRY KING: Idaho Falls, Idaho. Hello?

This transcript has not yet been checked against videotape and cannot, for that reason, be guaranteed as to accuracy of speakers and spelling.
(ed)

LARRY KING LIVE Transcript #1706

March 27, 1996

Shimon Peres

LARRY KING: *[voice-over]* He says he kills for his land and his lord, and now Yitzhak Rabin's assassin faces life imprisonment. Today's sentence closes a sad chapter for Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and he will update us on where he country goes from here. Plus, James and Sarah Brady fight against assault weapons, and a successful crime fighter tells us he is leaving the NYPD — Commissioner William Bratton. All next on *Larry King Live*.
ANNOUNCER: Now, live from Washington, here's Larry King.

LARRY KING: We're back in Washington, our first guest tonight is at our bureau in Jerusalem. It is a great pleasure to always welcome to these cameras, the distinguished Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres. Mr. Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, sentenced today to life in prison, and an additional six years for wounding the bodyguard — your comments on that result today?

SHIMON PERES, Prime Minister, Israel: Well, the verdict is pale in comparison with the crime. What this man did to our country, to our political life, to our future, is something of untold damage. And the murder is a murder, it goes against everything that we stand for, as a state, as the Jewish people, and the crime is unforgettable and we will shall never pardon this terrible young man.

LARRY KING: You do not agree with capital punishment, though, do you?

SHIMON PERES: No, I am against capital punishment, because still there can be human error and this is again an unforgivable crime.

LARRY KING: Now, what can you tell us about the peace process? It is on hold, is it not? If so, for how long?

SHIMON PERES: Well, shall I say that we are, in effect, in a transitional period. You know, the old times are still with us, yet they are disappearing. The new period is coming in, yet not complete, so we are suffering from the hatred, the belligerency, the terror of the past, but we are also breeding the hopes and opportunities of an entirely new era. If I can say it in my world, the old Middle East is disappearing, but not yet completely. The new Middle East, is arriving, but not yet fully.

LARRY KING: So, we're in a phase here?

SHIMON PERES: Yes, we have to phase the two of them, to pay the price of the hatred and the terror, and yet not to give up the chances for a new future.

LARRY KING: Can you tell us when you think negotiations will resume with Syria and with Palestine?

SHIMON PERES: With the Palestinians we have to start

to negotiate the permanent settlements at the beginning of May. I imagine that we shall meet that date, though we have three years for the negotiations, and again, I believe that the real negotiations will take place after the elections. We are having the elections by the end of May and I think we shall get a mandate from our people to negotiate and then we shall go on.

LARRY KING: All right—

SHIMON PERES: With the Syrians—

LARRY KING: —with Syria, yes?

SHIMON PERES: —with the Syrians, there is an interruption, because the Syrians must make up their minds in concern with terror. You know, they did not condemn the acts of terror, they did not participate in the Sharm el-Sheik international meeting against terror, they have some headquarters of terroristic organizations in Damascus. And they have to decide either peace and draw all the conclusions or terror and pay the whole cost.

LARRY KING: Are you satisfied, Mr. Prime Minister with the way Mr. Arafat has handled himself during these past couple of months.

SHIMON PERES: Well, shall I say during the last couple of weeks, yes. He has started to take it more seriously than ever before, and now the problem is will he remain constant in his combat against violence and terror that comes from Gaza which is under his jurisdiction?

LARRY KING: Are you saying—

SHIMON PERES: We don't ask— we don't ask Arafat to become the defender of Israel, nor do we ask Arafat to do any favors to Israel but we are demanding that in both areas which are under his control that he will not permit any acts of terror, any exports of terroristic activities.

LARRY KING: Are you confident he will meet that test?

SHIMON PERES: Well, I think he has more than one reason to do so. He won't do it because of us, he has to do it because of himself. If he won't establish himself as the sole authority in Gaza, he is endangering his remaining the sole authority in the eyes of his own people and in the eyes of the rest of the world.

LARRY KING: There are rumors that you are going to deport Palestinians that you believe were involved with Hamas in the attacks. Is that true?

SHIMON PERES: Yes, we have it on our list. Our problem is the following: how to deter a young man, or young people, from committing suicide. We came to the conclusion that the only way to prevent him from doing so, is to make him aware that is family may pay for this act of violence and killing and assassination. So there are two means actually left under our control: one is to destroy the house of the family, the other is to expel members of the family, not elderly people, not women nor children, and not innocent members of the family. But if there are in the family, members who helped him, supported him or encouraged him, we may expel them. We have a problem because we cannot do it against the law, and it is now under the legal consideration of our experts.

LARRY KING: More in a minute, with the Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, and then we will meet Jim and Sarah Brady and their reaction to that Congressional vote

next week about attack weaponry; and then William Bratton, who announced yesterday, that he is resigning as police commissioner of the City of New York. Newt Gingrich will host this show on Friday night with some very surprising guests. And one week from tonight, back from her trip, the guest will be First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

We will be right back.

[Commercial break]

LARRY KING: We're back with the Prime Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, at our studios at our Jerusalem location. Mr. Prime Minister the elections are coming May 29th?

SHIMON PERES: Right.

LARRY KING: It looked like you were way ahead, now it is regarded as close. Do you think it is going to be very close?

SHIMON PERES: Yes, I think the country or the people are rather divided almost equally. But this time we are going to have a double vote—

LARRY KING: What do you mean?

SHIMON PERES: —and then the Prime Minister of Israel will be elected in direct elections for the first time in our history. And then there will be a vote for a different parties.

LARRY KING: So you are going to run like they do in the United States, then?

SHIMON PERES: Yes, but we shall not have a president. It shall be sort of having sort of a presidential system and partly a parliamentary system, it's quite complicated.

LARRY KING: Is that— is that idea better for you to run head to head with Mr. Netanyahu?

SHIMON PERES: Well, I would like to have a larger sort of reform, namely, that the members of the Parliament would also be elected in districts and not just on a national list.

LARRY KING: Do you expect to win?

SHIMON PERES: Yes.

LARRY KING: Would you— would you agree that the Hamas attacks, and the like, and the other recent occurrences have hurt you badly?

SHIMON PERES: Yes, I agree.

LARRY KING: How do you overcome it?

SHIMON PERES: And for that— and for that reason I wouldn't suggest that the Hamas will decide our elections. I hope our people will do so.

LARRY KING: But they could couldn't they?

SHIMON PERES: You see— Yes, they certainly have an effect. But this, too, is not a simple story. Because if the people in Israel would be asked what will happen if we should have an explosion during the electoral period of time, many of them would say 'Well, then you will lose completely the elections'. And then look, we have had one, two, three, four explosions — one after another. Very painful, very complicated. And the nation was shocked with the many people that were killed and wounded. In spite of this, I still have an edge, in the public—in the polls, and that shows also that the Hamas has— has a limited way of affecting our elections. The people are stronger than the

bombs.

LARRY KING: Do you think the Hamas wants the election of Mr. Netanyahu?

SHIMON PERES: Well, it will be unfair, whatever question— whichever answer I shall I provide. I do believe that the Hamas is very much interested to stop the peace process, to topple down the government that is for it. I don't think they were for Netanyahu, but they were clearly against peace.

LARRY KING: Are you certain that Mr. Netanyahu will turn that page back or that maybe he won't?

SHIMON PERES: Well, I am a little bit worried about their announced policy of settlements. I do believe if more settlements should be put on the West Bank this may either bring an end or at least interrupt the peace process.

LARRY KING: We will take a break and when we come back we are going to take some phone calls for Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and then we are going to meet the Brady's, Jim and Sarah, and then William Bratton the outgoing police commissioner of the City of New York.

This is *Larry King Live*, back in Washington. Tomorrow night we head to New York where Sotheby's very soon now, will be auctioning off all of Jackie Onassis' private things and there are going to be many of them, and we're going to show you many of them tomorrow night in New York.

We will be right back.

[Commercial break]

LARRY KING: You're watching the world's only life talk presentation that includes phone calls, no better example of it than to have the Prime Minister of Israel as our guest and the caller from Manchester, England. Hello?

1st CALLER, [Manchester, England]: Yes, good morning, Prime Minister Peres.

SHIMON PERES: Good morning.

1st CALLER: Recently, within the last few days there has been coverage, media coverage of the terrorists involving nuclear and biological weapons and you have also stated that towards the end of this century there could be an 'us or them situation.' Would you like to elaborate on this and hopefully what solutions you have for this problem on a worldwide scale.

SHIMON PERES: Well, you know, we have this fundamentalist movement which is an extreme religious undertaking, and they use terror, and death and lies for terror, if they want to, to spread their evil moods. Well, that is not new in history. There were many evil movements before this. But this is the first time that this sort of a movement can acquire a nuclear capacity and that can really become a real catastrophe. At the head of this movement you have Iran, the Iranian government and maybe before the end of this century they can get hold of a nuclear capacity. Imagine for example would Hitler have had a nuclear capacity, what a catastrophe it could have been for the rest of us. And I think we have to do whatever we can to prevent this marriage between such a militant movement with this terrible weapon.

LARRY KING: Buffalo, New York. Hello?

2nd CALLER, [Buffalo, New York]: Hello, Larry.

we've used
these assault
weapons stats.

Any better
ones?

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

IS THE BAN WORKING?

Yes. On September 14, 1994, domestic gun manufacturers stopped production of semi-automatic assault weapons and ammunition clips holding more than ten rounds. Imports of assault weapons not already banned by Presidents Bush and Clinton were also halted.

While assault weapons and ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds produced prior to September 14, 1994 can still be sold, the price of those "grandfathered" weapons has risen dramatically. The wholesale price of assault rifles has nearly tripled; retail prices in some instances are now over \$2,000. Assault pistol prices have nearly doubled and the prices of several popular ammunition clips have quadrupled.

WILL THE BAN REDUCE THE USE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS IN CRIME?

Yes. In 1989, after President Bush stopped the importation of assault rifles, the number of imported assault rifles traced to crime dropped by 45 percent the following year. Given a chance to work, the ban on the domestic production of assault weapons will have a similar impact. As more and more assault weapons are confiscated from crime scenes and the price of replacement weapons soars, fewer and fewer criminals and juveniles will access to these deadly killing machines. And, in fact, there are signs that the use of assault weapons in crime is declining.

Gun traces are one of the best measures of gun usage in crime. About one out of ten guns used in crime are traced by police. During the late 1980's, assault weapons accounted for about 8-10 percent of all guns traced by law enforcement, even though assault weapons accounted for only about 1 percent of the guns in private hands.

The number of assault weapon traces initiated in the first eight months of 1995 dropped from 1994 levels. There were 510--18.4 percent--fewer assault weapons traced to crime in the first eight months of 1995 than were traced during the same period in 1994. According to tracing information collected by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), assault weapon traces, as a percentage of all gun traces, fell for the second year in a row, from 5.0 percent in 1994 to 4.3 percent in 1995.

In addition to the national tracing data, the decline in assault weapon usage is also showing up in the number of weapons being recovered by police. The City of Chicago seized 127 assault weapons in the first six months of this year, a decline in absolute numbers of 48.6 percent from the first six months of 1994 and a decline of 28.6 percent as a percentage of all recoveries. In Maryland, which passed a ban on assault pistols last year, a study by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence found that the number of assault pistols recovered by police in the first six months of 1995 fell by 48 percent from the first six months of 1994.

Despite these encouraging trends, assault weapons still pose a major danger to Americans, particularly law enforcement officers. A recent study by Handgun Control, Inc. analyzed 122 fatal law enforcement shootings between January 1, 1994 and September 30, 1995. The study found that at least 13 percent of the officers were shot with assault weapons. Of the 93 cases where the gun could actually be identified assault weapons accounted for an even higher percentage--17.4 percent--of fatal shootings. In another 18.5 percent of the shootings where the gun was identified, the gun contained a large capacity magazine of more than 10 rounds. As one leading law enforcement executive put it, the weapons banned by the 1994 law are nothing more than "cop killer guns."

DOES THE NEW LAW BAN ALL SEMI-AUTOMATIC GUNS?

No. Only semi-automatic guns with multiple assault weapon features are banned. Traditional guns designed for use in hunting and recreational activities are not affected.

HOW MANY ASSAULT WEAPONS ARE BANNED UNDER THE NEW LAW?

The exact number of weapons which will be banned from further manufacture under the assault weapons provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which just passed the Senate and House of Representatives, is not known. The bill bans, by name, the manufacture of 19 different weapons:

- * Norinco, Mitchell, and Poly Technologies Avtomat Kalashnikovs (all models);
- * Action Arms Israeli Military Industries UZI and Galil;
- * Beretta Ar70 (SC-70);
- * Colt AR-15;
- * Fabrique National FN/FAL, FN/LAR, and FNC;
- * SWD M-10; M-11; M-11/9, and M-12;
- * Steyr AUG;
- * INTRATEC TEC-9, TEC-DC9, AND TEC-22;
- * revolving cylinder shotguns such as (or similar to) the Street Sweeper and Striker 12.

The bill also bans "copies" or "duplicates" of any of those weapons. Prior to the 1994 ban, several copies of these 19 guns were being manufactured. The failure to include a ban of these "copies" or "duplicates" would have opened the door for widespread evasion of the ban.

The 1994 law also prohibits manufacturers from producing firearms with more than one of the following assault weapon features:

RIFLES

Folding/Telescoping Stock
Protruding Pistol Grip
Bayonet Mount
Threaded Muzzle or Flash Suppressor
Grenade Launcher

PISTOLS

Magazine Outside Grip
Threaded Muzzle
Barrel Shroud
Unloaded Weight of 50 ounces or more
Semi-Automatic Version of a Fully Automatic Weapon

SHOTGUNS

Folding/Telescoping Stock
Protruding Pistol Grip
Detachable Magazine Capacity
Fixed Magazine Capacity Greater than 5 Rounds

DOES THE LAW REQUIRE THE CONFISCATION OF ASSAULT WEAPONS THAT WERE LAWFULLY POSSESSED PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENACTMENT?

No. The law bans the future manufacture and importation of assault weapons--existing weapons are grandfathered. Assault weapons lawfully possessed prior to the bill's effective date may be retained, sold or transferred to anyone who is legally entitled to own a firearm.

DO GRANDFATHERED WEAPONS HAVE TO BE REGISTERED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?

No. There is no requirement that grandfathered weapons be registered. Nor are there any record keeping requirements.

ALTHOUGH AIMED AT RESTRICTING ASSAULT WEAPONS, DOES THIS LAW AFFECT TRADITIONAL HUNTING RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS?

No. The definition of assault weapon is tightly drawn. Only weapons with multiple assault weapon features are banned. To alleviate concerns that hunting weapons somehow might be affected, the law provides specific protection to 670 hunting rifles and shotguns that are presently being manufactured. The list, however, is not exhaustive. A gun does not have to be on the list in order to be protected. Again, the only weapons that are prohibited are those with multiple assault weapon features.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN AUTOMATIC AND A SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPON?

An automatic weapon (machine gun) will continue to fire as long as the trigger is depressed (or until the ammunition magazine is emptied). A semi-automatic weapon will fire one round and instantly load the next round with each pull of the trigger. This means that a semi-automatic fires a little more slowly than an automatic, but not much more slowly. When San Jose police test-fired an UZI, a 30-round magazine was emptied in slightly less than two seconds on full automatic while the same magazine was emptied in just five seconds on semi-automatic. The manufacture of machine guns (fully automatic firearms) was halted in 1986, but semi-automatic versions of those same guns are still being produced.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH SEMI-AUTOMATIC HUNTING RIFLES FROM SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS?

Sporting rifles and assault weapons are two distinct classes of firearms. While semi-automatic hunting rifles are designed to be fired from the shoulder and depend upon the accuracy of a precisely aimed projectile, semi-automatic assault weapons are designed to maximize lethal effects through a rapid rate of fire. Assault weapons are designed to be spray-fired from the hip, and because of their design, a shooter can maintain control of the weapon even while firing many rounds in rapid succession.

Because assault weapons were designed for military purposes, assault weapons are equipped with "combat hardware," such as silencers, folding stocks and bayonets, which are not found on sporting guns. While opponents of the new law restricting semi-automatic assault weapons argued that such weapons only "look scary," there is a good reason why these features on assault weapons should frighten the public. Assault weapons are commonly equipped with some or all of the following combat hardware:

- * Large-capacity ammunition magazine, enabling the shooter to continuously fire dozens of rounds without reloading. Standard hunting rifles are equipped with no more than 3 or 4-shot magazines.
- * Folding stock on a rifle or shotgun, which sacrifices accuracy for advantages such as concealability and mobility in close combat.
- * Pistol grip on a rifle or shotgun, which facilitates firing from the hip, allowing the shooter to spray-fire the weapon. A pistol grip also helps stabilize the firearm during rapid fire.
- * Barrel shroud which is designed to cool the barrel so the firearm can shoot many rounds in rapid succession without overheating. It also allows the shooter to grasp the barrel area, without incurring serious burns, during rapid fire.
- * Threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor, which serves no useful sporting purpose. The flash suppressor allows the shooter to remain concealed when shooting at night, an advantage in combat but unnecessary for hunting or sporting purposes. In addition, the flash suppressor is useful in preventing barrel climb during rapid fire, helping the shooter maintain control of the firearm.
- * Threaded barrel designed to accommodate a silencer, which is useful to assassins but has no purpose for sportsmen.
- * Barrel mount designed to accommodate a bayonet, which obviously serves no sporting purpose.

THE GUN LOBBY SAYS THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPON.

The gun industry itself says differently. In 1986, Gun Digest, considered by many to be the Bible of the gun industry, first published a book entitled, The Gun Digest Book of Assault Weapons. Here is what they had to say about a few of the weapons they test-fired for their second edition:

"The Cobray M11/Nine bears a striking resemblance to the Ingram M11 submachine gun, because it is basically the same gun. Current manufacture is made in semi-auto."

"[The Spectre], now being produced by F.I.E., is a semi-automatic clone of the Spectre submachine gun that is being manufactured in Italy. . . .If you can't have the steak, you can still have the sizzle."

WHAT TYPE OF GUN WAS USED IN THE STOCKTON SCHOOLYARD MASSACRE?

On January 17, 1989, Patrick Purdy killed 5 small children, and wounded 29 others and 1 teacher at the Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, California, using a semi-automatic version of the AK-47 assault rifle imported from the People's Republic of China. That weapon had been purchased from a gun dealer in Oregon and was equipped with a 75-round "drum" magazine. Purdy shot 106 rounds in less than 2 minutes.

WHAT TYPE OF GUN WAS USED IN THE SAN FRANCISCO PETTIT & MARTIN SHOOTINGS?

On July 1, 1993, gunman Gian Luigi Ferri killed 8 people and wounded 6 others at the San Francisco law offices of Pettit & Martin, using two TEC-DC9 assault pistols with 50-round magazines. These weapons had been purchased from a gun dealer in Las Vegas, Nevada.

WHAT TYPE OF GUN WAS USED IN THE CIA SHOOTINGS?

On January 25, 1993, Pakistani national Mir Aimal Kansi allegedly killed 2 CIA employees and wounded 3 others with a Chinese-made semi-automatic AK-47 assault rifle equipped with a 30-round magazine, purchased from a Northern Virginia gun store.

WHAT TYPE OF GUNS WERE USED BY THE BRANCH-DAVIDIAN CULT IN WACO?

On February 28, 1993, while attempting to serve federal search and arrest warrants at the Branch-Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, 4 ATF special agents were killed and 16 others were wounded with an arsenal of assault weapons. According to a federal affidavit, the cult had at least the following assault weapons: 123 AR-15s, 44 AK-47s, 2 Barrett .50 calibers, 2 Street Sweepers, an unknown number of MAC-10 and MAC-11s, 20 100-round drum magazines, and 260 large-capacity banana clips. The weapons were bought legally from gun dealers and at gun shows.

HOW MANY SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS ARE THERE IN THE U.S.?

There are between one and two million semi-automatic assault weapons currently in circulation. At least 167,849 were imported into the United States in 1986-87.

WHAT ACTION DID THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION TAKE ON IMPORTED ASSAULT WEAPONS?

Under the 1968 Gun Control Act, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is empowered to prevent the importation of guns which are not "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." In 1989, President Bush permanently banned the importation of 43 types of semi-automatic assault weapons which were determined not to have a sporting purpose.

WHY BAN THE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF ASSAULT WEAPONS NOT PRESENTLY PRODUCED IN THIS COUNTRY?

If we do not prohibit domestic production, American manufacturers will copy the design of previously imported assault weapons. After ATF outlawed the importation of a South African riot-control shotgun called the Striker-12 in 1986, American manufacturers subsequently marketed copies of the Striker-12, boasting that it was barred from importation. The same thing occurred with the USAS-12 assault shotgun, previously made in South Korea.

DO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SUPPORT THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS?

Every major national law enforcement organization in the country supports a ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

WHY WAS THE BAN STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY POLICE?

While there is no reporting requirement on assault weapon incidents, police across America reported that semi-automatic assault weapons had become the "weapons of choice" for drug traffickers, street gangs and paramilitary extremist groups. A 1991 survey of 835 inmates in four states by Joseph Sheley and James D. Wright found that 35% of the inmates reported owning a "military style automatic or semi-automatic rifle," and 53% of gang affiliated inmates reported owning a "military style" weapon. ATF data reveals that although semi-automatic assault weapons comprise less than 1% of the privately-owned guns in America, they accounted for 8.4% of all firearms traced to crime during 1988-91. During 1986-91, 20,526 assault weapons were traced to crimes, and of those, 1,349 were specifically traced to murders in the United States and 4,031 were linked to drug traffickers. Since only about 10% of all gun crimes result in firearms traces, assault weapons were probably used in ten times as many crimes as these.

DOES THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS AFFECT THE USE OF THESE WEAPONS BY THE MILITARY OR POLICE?

No. Assault weapons may be legally produced for use by law enforcement agencies or the military.

DOES THE LAW BAN THE MANUFACTURE OR HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES FOR CIVILIAN USE?

Yes. After the date of enactment, manufacturers are prohibited from producing for civilian use magazines or ammunition feeding devices capable of holding more than ten rounds. Manufacturers may continue to produce high capacity magazines for use by the military or law enforcement, but such magazines must have an identifying serial number.

DOES THE LAW BAN THE POSSESSION OF HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES PRODUCED PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENACTMENT?

No. High-capacity magazines made before the date of enactment may be lawfully possessed, sold or transferred.

WHO HAS THE BURDEN OF PROVING THAT A HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE WAS NOT PRODUCED PRIOR TO THE DATE OF ENACTMENT?

In cases where an individual is charged with the illegal possession of a high-capacity magazine produced after the date of enactment, the government must prove that the magazine was produced after the date of enactment.

**President Clinton will fight to protect the assault weapons ban
March 21, 1996**

"It would be deeply wrong for Congress to repeal this assault weapons ban and take the side of the Washington gun lobby over the interests of the law-enforcement people of this country and the law-abiding citizens of this country."

- President Clinton, March 21, 1996

Choose kids and cops over the Washington gun lobby. Too many police officers have lost their lives outgunned by violent criminals armed with assault weapons. Too many children have been killed by violent criminals spraying a rain of bullets from assault weapons. The bottom line is simple: Will America stand with the police officers who risk their lives for us, or will we cave in to the pressure tactics of the Washington gun lobby?

The assault weapons ban is working. The assault weapons ban is taking 19 deadly assault weapons and their copies off our streets. Before the ban, the number of assault weapons involved in crimes was rising steadily. But in just the first year since the ban took effect, the number of assault weapons traced to crimes has dropped eighteen percent. (ATF)

Make no mistake about it: these are weapons of war. Assault weapons are the weapons of choice for gang leaders and drug dealers. They are designed for one reason only: close-quarter, rapid-fire killing.

Protects the rights of hunters and sportsmen. The assault weapons ban explicitly protects the rights of hunters and target shooters to enjoy their sport. For the first time ever, the ban specifically exempts over 650 hunting and recreational guns. No law-abiding hunter will have his gun taken away.

America's police officers asked for the assault weapons ban. Every single major law enforcement organization in the country fought for the ban, including:

- National Association of Police Organizations
- Fraternal Order of Police
- International Union of Police Associations
- National Sheriffs Association
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Narcotic Officers Associations Coalition
- International Brotherhood of Police Officers
- Major Cities Chiefs
- Police Foundation

As long as Bill Clinton is President, the assault weapons ban will be the law of the land. The President calls on the Republican Congressional leadership to reconsider their decision to vote on a repeal. The President has vowed to veto any bill that repeals the assault weapons ban.

WHITE HOUSE

MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS SAFER

"At last we have begun to find a way to reduce crime, forming community partnerships with local police forces to catch criminals and prevent crime. This strategy, called community policing, is clearly working. Violent crime is coming down all across America... Let's stick with a strategy that is working, and keep the crime rate coming down."

President Clinton
State of the Union Address
January 23, 1996

Over the past three years, the Clinton Administration has made tremendous progress in bringing crime and drug abuse under control. The violent crime and murder rates across the country are falling, thousands of criminals have been prevented from buying guns, and more police are on the street. We must continue to move forward. For while overall crime rates are decreasing, we are witnessing more crime committed by juveniles. President Clinton is committed to stopping any attempts to roll back the progress we have made in reducing crime and will continue in his efforts to put more cops on the street and take guns, drugs, and gangs off the streets.

A RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Broke six years of Congressional gridlock by signing the **toughest and smartest Crime Bill** ever with bipartisan support and endorsements from every major law enforcement organization. This historic legislation:
 - Created the **COPS** program, which is putting **100,000 new community police officers** in cities, towns, and rural areas.
 - Banned **19 of the deadliest assault weapons** and their copies, but specifically protected more than 650 legitimate sporting weapons.
 - Provided the **death penalty for drug kingpins, murderers of law enforcement officers** and nearly 60 additional categories of violent felons.
 - Increased penalties for **sex offenders** and imposed a registration requirement for violent sexual offenders.
 - Included the **Violence Against Women Act**; the first national effort to reduce violence against women ever. The Act tripled funding for **battered women's shelters**, and has already provided **\$26 million in state grants** to bolster law enforcement, prosecution and victims services.
 - Created a nationwide **24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline** that provides immediate crisis intervention, counseling and referrals.
 - Targeted career violent offenders with a **"Three Strikes and You're Out"** policy that keeps them behind bars for life.
 - Provided **\$7.9 billion in funding for more prison cells** to help states ensure that violent offenders serve their full sentences.
 - Created the **Community Schools Program**, which promotes constructive alternatives for young people after school, in the evening, on weekends and during the summer to prevent involvement in and the victimization by crime.

This is what
we currently
cite.

**Department of Treasury
Felons Denied Access to Handguns by Brady Law
March 1994 - December 1995**

**Prepared by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
January 18, 1996**

The FBI's criminal history database, the Interstate Identification Index (also known as "III"), provides an accounting of the number of queries of the database made by law enforcement authorities in connection with handgun transactions.

During the period 3/1/94 through 12/31/94 there were approximately 1,489,852 queries made in Brady states¹. The average number of positive responses for the period was 10% or a total of 148,710 "hits" that indicated a potential denial of access to handguns. Historical data available to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at that time indicated that 2.5% of the total queries² would result in disabling hits, or a total of 37,246 denied purchases.

Based on information provided to the FBI by State and local agencies, during the period 1/1/95 through 12/31/95, there were approximately 1,656,755 firearms queries made in Brady states. The average number of positive responses for the period was 16% or a total of 263,480 "hits" that indicated a potential denial of access to handguns. The various states with firearms purchaser screening programs now indicate that 1-2% of total queries³ will result in disabling hits, or a total of 24,851 individuals denied access to handguns. (This figure uses the conservative estimate of 1.5%).

Data has not been captured to detail each of the various types of disabilities. However, based on the February 28, 1995, study One-Year Progress Report: Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, prepared by the Department of Treasury, we can make certain estimates. In that study of 30 reporting law enforcement jurisdictions, it was determined that 6,121 persons were barred from obtaining handguns due to Federal disabilities. Of that number, 4,365 (or 71.3%) were convicted felons.

Using this data, we can state that:

- From March 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994, 26,556 felons were denied access to handguns by Brady. 10,473 persons were denied for other Federal disabilities.
- From January 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995, 17,718 felons were denied access to handguns by Brady. 6,988 persons were denied for other Federal disabilities.
- This is a total of 44,274 felons denied access to handguns by Brady checks since March 1, 1994. 17,461 persons were denied for other Federal disabilities.

¹At the time of the study captioned above, there were 27 states covered by the Brady law. Other states had qualified as alternate states. As of 12/31/95 there were 25 Brady states. North Carolina and Georgia became Brady-alternate states in December, 1995. (Information regarding firearms queries provided by FBI).

²The 2.5% rate was based on hits that ultimately resulted in Federal firearms disabilities. This figure is based on actual experience of states that had recently implemented firearms background screening programs. After those programs had been in place for a period of time, states experience a 1-2% denial rate.

ADDENDUM

During the period 3/1/94 to 12/31/94, there were a total of 3,627,727 firearms transaction queries made of the 'III' Criminal Database. This includes ALL states - both Brady and non-Brady. Using the 2.5% rate of handgun purchasers who would ultimately be disqualified from receiving a firearm under Federal law (the percentage appropriate to that period of time), we can project:

- 90,963 persons would be denied access to a handgun as a result of the background checks during that period.
- 64,664 persons so denied are projected to be convicted felons (using percentage data from the One-Year Progress Report on the percentage of felons denied).

During the period 1/1/95 to 12/31/95, there were 4,040,867 queries made of the 'III' Criminal Database. This again included all states - both Brady and non-Brady. Using the 1-2% rate of handgun purchasers who would ultimately be disqualified from receiving a firearm under Federal law (the percentage most accurate after firearms purchaser background screening programs have been operating for a length of time), we can project:

- 60,613 persons would be denied access to a handgun as a result of the background checks during that period.
- 43,217 persons so denied are projected to be convicted felons (using percentage data from the One-Year Progress Report on the percentage of felons denied).

During the period of March 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995, a projected total of 107,881 felons were denied access to handguns as a result of criminal background checks conducted by ALL states on potential handgun purchasers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

TREASURY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 1996

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**ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY, RUBIN AND RENO HAIL BRADY ACT'S SUCCESS
LIMITING ILLEGAL HANDGUN SALES AND FIGHTING CRIME**
More than 60,000 Felons, Fugitives and Others Denied Handguns

Two years after the Brady Act took effect, Attorney General Janet Reno and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said that it was working the way it should and warned against any efforts to repeal it.

The Treasury Department estimates that the Act has stopped more than 60,000 felons, fugitives and other prohibited purchasers from buying handguns over the counter during the last two years.

The Act and other crime-fighting measures, say Rubin and Reno, helped reduce national violent crime rates by four percent in 1994 and another 5 percent in the first half of 1995. Firearms were used in six percent fewer assaults in 1994 than in 1993.

When signed into law by President Clinton in November 1993, the Brady Act -- named for Jim Brady, the former press secretary to President Ronald Reagan seriously injured in a 1981 assassination attempt -- established a waiting period of up to five business days, affording local law enforcement authorities a chance to determine if sales are prohibited by law.

"Each month the Brady Act is preventing nearly 2,500 criminals from buying guns while permitting law-abiding citizens to do so," said Rubin. "Gun dealers and their customers have now had time to adjust to the simple Brady background form as a necessary means of denying guns to criminally dangerous individuals."

Reno added, "Brady law checks are also helping local police identify and arrest gun-buying criminals, often on other serious charges. The Brady checks have helped law enforcement arrest murderers, drug dealers, wife-beaters and other criminals."

Brady Act Success

Just this month, for example, a Brady check helped the Wichita County Sheriff stop a



handgun sale to a man who had battered and threatened to kill his ex-wife and children. He was under a restraining order.

Another Brady check in October 1995 helped ATF agents apprehend a convicted murderer as he tried to buy three handguns in Dekalb County, Georgia. Before the Brady Act, he had purchased at least eight other guns without being challenged. He has since been convicted of violating federal firearms laws and awaits a prison sentence of up to ten years.

And last April, a Brady check helped ATF agents and local police apprehend a convicted heroin dealer and fugitive trying to buy a gun in Blair County, Pennsylvania. Prior to Brady, he had purchased at least seven other guns without challenge and traded them to support his crack cocaine addiction. He is now serving two years in prison on various charges.

Other leading law enforcement officials also expressed their support for the Act.

"It is clear on this second anniversary of the Brady Act that the waiting period has prevented thousands of criminals from obtaining firearms and has saved lives," said Gilbert G. Gallegos, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). "Members of the FOP continue to be impressed with the cooperation between the ATF and local law enforcement in implementing the Brady Act."

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) President David Walchak noted, "The IACP strongly pushed for Congress to pass legislation allowing for a five-day waiting period to conduct thorough background checks on all prospective handgun purchasers. The IACP continues to strongly support the Brady Act."

Reno also pointed to the Act's other benefits. "The Brady Act has been a catalyst for improvements in automating the nation's criminal history records, helping prepare for 21st century crime fighting. In the last two years the Justice Department has made more than \$130 million available to states and worked with localities to help them automate their criminal history records -- improvements that will also help track sex offenders, domestic abusers and child molesters, and help child-care facilities and nursing homes screen potential employees."

How It Works

Federal law prohibits possession of a handgun by a variety of persons: convicted felons, fugitives from justice, persons under indictment, persons subject to restraining orders for alleged domestic violence, illegal drug users, persons who have been adjudicated "mentally defective" or committed to mental institutions, persons who have renounced their U.S. citizenship, persons dishonorably discharged from the military, illegal aliens and, generally, persons under 18 years of age.

The Brady Act requires prospective handgun purchasers to complete a background form that is forwarded to the chief law enforcement officer (CLEO) where the applicant resides. Law enforcement then has up to five business days to check the applicant's record and advise the gun dealer as to whether or not the purchase is legal. However, a CLEO can approve a legal gun sale in fewer than five business days. And if the dealer receives no response by law enforcement in five days, a sale can go forward.

FIREARMS TRACED FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER THROUGH
SEPTEMBER FOR YEARS 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995.

<u>TIME PERIOD</u>	<u>Total Firearms Traced</u>	<u>Banned Type Assault Weapons Traced</u>
9/92 - 9/93	51,614	3,328 (6.4%*)
9/93 - 9/94	76,763	4,269 (5.5%*)
9/94 - 9/95	80,455	3,504 (4.3%*)

18% drop in
AW
traced

*** PERCENTAGES ARE OF THE TOTAL FIREARMS TRACED

Important Points about the COPS Program

- ♦ As of July 10, 1996, over 44,000 officers, serving 87% of the American public, had been authorized by COPS. Furthermore, the COPS Office has outstanding requests from more than 4,000 law enforcement agencies for over 20,000 additional community policing officers.
- ♦ COPS funds small towns and rural areas; half of all COPS funding goes to agencies serving jurisdictions of under 150,000.
- ♦ COPS is non-bureaucratic and provides streamlined application processes, allowing the funding to quickly flow directly to police, sheriffs, and state police agencies.
- ♦ COPS has funded not only the hiring of officers, but also the purchase of equipment and technology, the hiring of civilians, and the payment of overtime. COPS has provided training to thousands of grantees through the Community Policing Consortium, U.S. Attorney Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees, and grants directly to police departments, universities and non-profit organizations with expertise in community policing.

In addition, COPS has already announced targeted programs such as the COPS Youth Firearms Violence Initiative, the COPS Anti-Gang Initiative, and the COPS Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence grant program. The COPS Office recently announced the Problem-Solving Partnerships grant program, an innovative community policing program (ICOP) that will provide policing agencies and community-based entities with a unique opportunity to work together to identify and analyze persistent crime and disorder problems.

- ♦ The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 was drafted with a extensive input from the law enforcement community. Law enforcement officers across the country -- chiefs, sheriffs, line officers and deputies -- as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, support the COPS Program.

CLINTON-DOLE CONTRASTS

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Clinton Signs Assault Weapons Ban

- On September 13, 1994, President Clinton signed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which bans the manufacture of 19 military-style assault weapons. *and then copies.*
[1994 CO Almanac, p. 273] *Protect 650 hunting rifles and importation*

Assault Weapons Ban Effective

- The ban has worked, reducing the number of assault weapons traced to crimes by 18.4% in the first eight months of 1995. [Handgun Control Inc., 2/96 (citing BATF figures)]

Police Support Assault Weapons Ban

- Police officers support the assault weapons ban.
 - Gilbert Gallegos, President, Fraternal Order of Police: "On behalf of the 270,000 members of the Fraternal Order of the Police, I urge all members of Congress to vote to uphold the assault weapons ban." [FOP Letter, 3/21/96]
 - Robert T. Scully, Executive Director, National Association of Police Organizations: "...I would like to express our strong opposition to any repeal of the assault weapons ban. As rank and file cops, our members walk the streets daily to protect the peace and they know only too well the threat that these cop-killer guns pose....[A] battlefield weapon holding dozens of rounds is the gun of choice of the drug dealer, gang member and terrorist." [NAPO letter, 3/21/96]
 - Kenneth T. Lyons, President, International Brotherhood of Police Officers: "The police officers represented by the IBPO know first hand that repeal of the assault weapon ban will not make our streets safer....[G]etting these guns off the streets is a matter of life and death." [IBPO press release, 3/21/96]

BOB DOLE

Dole Voted Against Assault Weapons Ban

- On August 25, 1994, Dole voted against passage of the Clinton Crime bill, which included the ban on 19 types of assault weapons. [1994 Congressional Quarterly, p. 50-S, vote #295, 8/25/94]

Dole Opposes Inclusion of Assault Weapons Ban in Crime Bill

- On November 9, 1993, Dole offered a motion to kill an amendment that included the assault weapons ban in the 1993 Crime Bill. [1993 CO Almanac, p. 47-S, vote #365, 11/9/93]

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- Later, on November 17, 1993, Dole voted against the amendment that added the assault weapons ban to the bill. [1993 CO Almanac, p. 48-S, vote #375, 11/17/93]

Dole Pledges Repeal of Ban As Priority

- In a letter to the NRA and their chief lobbyist, Dole pledged to repeal the ban on assault weapons: "Repealing the ill-conceived gun ban passed as part of President Clinton's crime bill last year is one of my legislative priorities....I hope to have a bill on the President's desk by this summer." [Dole letter to NRA Executive Director Tanya Metaksa, 3/10/95]
- Dole: "President Clinton has said he will oppose repealing this measure, an indication of one of our many differences." [Dole letter to NRA Executive Director Tanya Metaksa, 3/10/95]

NRA Confident That Dole Will Repeal Assault Weapons Ban

- After Dole offered "oblique" remarks on his assault weapons position, claiming to have "moved beyond the debate...over banning assault weapons," the NRA's chief lobbyist, Tanya Metaksa, reassured NRA-TV viewers that Dole would keep his 1995 promise. [NYT, 7/10/96]

Metaksa: "In 1997, a President Dole would then have the option of signing or vetoing [repeal of the assault weapons ban]. I don't see him vetoing it. I see him signing it." [NRA lobbyist Tanya Metaksa, on National Empowerment Television's "NRA-TV," 7/9/96]

Dole On the Assault Weapons Ban

- Dole has called the assault weapons ban "ill-conceived," and referred to gun control as "a completely ineffective approach" to fighting crime. [NYT, 3/18/95]
- "The assault weapon thing sounds good, but in reality, it doesn't work." [Meet the Press, 4/16/95]
- "...it hasn't been effective. it hasn't worked, the assault weapon ban." [Imus in the Morning, 7/11/96]
- "...when I'm president of the United States...I'll tell the Congress, 'Let's move ahead. Don't worry about the assault weapon ban. It doesn't mean anything'." [Imus in the Morning, 7/11/96]

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CLINTON-DOLE CONTRASTS

THE BRADY BILL

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Clinton Signs Brady Bill

- On November 30, 1993, President Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which implemented a five-day waiting period so that background checks can be conducted before an individual may purchase a handgun. [1993 CQ Almanac, p. 300]

Since enacted *felonies, felons and others*
 In 1995, an estimate 60,613 persons were denied access to a handgun as a result of background checks. [BATF Report, 1/18/96]

Of the 60,613 persons denied handguns in 1995, 43,217 were projected to be convicted felons. [BATF Report, 1/18/96]

- Police support Brady Bill quotes

raises questions just say over 60,000

BOB DOLE

1993: Dole Filibustered, Voted Against Brady Bill

- On November 20, 1993, Dole voted against passage of the Brady Bill. [1993 CQ Almanac, p. 302; p. 51-S, vote # 394]
- Upon voting against final passage, Dole stated: "We lost one." [Houston Chronicle, 11/25/93]
- Dole had also led a GOP filibuster of the Brady Bill, voting twice against cloture, despite the fact that the bill represented a compromise measure that he helped draft. [1993 CQ Almanac, p. 302; votes #387, #390, 11/19/93, p. 50-S]

Dole Successfully Blocked Brady Bill for Years Before Clinton Signed It

- Over several years, Bob Dole tried numerous times to kill the Brady Bill:
 - in 1992, Dole voted twice against ending a Republican filibuster of an Omnibus Crime Bill that included Brady Bill provisions (HR 3371), thereby killing the Brady Bill for that year [1992 CQ Almanac, vote #53, 3/19/92, p. 8-S; vote #262, 10/2/92, p. 34-S; p. 311-313]
 - in 1991, Dole voted to continue a filibuster of a crime bill that contained Brady Bill provisions. [1991 CQ Almanac, p. 262-273; p. 36-S, vote #278, 11/27/91]

Dole on the Brady Bill

- "I think the Brady bill...it can't be implemented, it's totally symbolic." [Meet the Press, 1/2/94]

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- "...will [the Brady bill] make much difference? Probably not." [CBS Evening News, 11/27/93]
- "...to be politically correct, you've got to talk about the guns, ban the guns, ban the guns. ban the guns. My view is, there are several other issues that ought to be addressed." [Meet the Press, 1/2/94]

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CLINTON-DOLE CONTRASTS

100,000 COPS ON THE BEAT

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Clinton COPS Program Puts 100,000 Police on Street

- On September 13, 1994, President Clinton signed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (VCCA), which authorized funding for 100,000 more police on the streets through the COPS initiative (Community Oriented Policing Services). [U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services]
- ~~VCCA authorizes \$8.8 billion over six years for grants to police departments and sheriff's offices to add 100,000 community policing officers to the beat.~~ *paying for it by reducing size of beat* [U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services]
- As of June 1996, the Administration has awarded grants to add more than 44,000 additional police officers and sheriff's deputies to our nation's streets, and ~~at least~~ *more than* 19,000 are already on the beat with more officers graduating from training academies each week. [U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 7/96]

Law Enforcement Supports COPS Program

- Dewey R. Stokes, National President, Fraternal Order of Police: "We strongly support you in your resolve to fight...any diversion of funding earmarked for the hiring of 100,000 police officers. We are prepared to work with you to the fullest extent of our ability to prevent this cynical reversal of vital public safety legislation." [Letter to President Clinton, 2/6/95]
- Victor Oboyski, National President, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association: "The COPS program is working, it is putting more police officers in our communities....If Congress is truly serious about fighting crime, hiring more cops is the most direct way of accomplishing that goal." [Letter to Attorney General Reno, 2/10/95]
- Robert B. Kliesmet, International President, International Union of Police Associations: "...this 100,000 COPS initiative not only makes our communities safer through community policing efforts; it also makes the job of street police safer because of the interactions of police and their communities." [Letter to President Clinton, 2/10/95]

BOB DOLE

Dole Filibusters, Votes Against 100,000 Cops

- After leading a GOP filibuster and threatening to kill the bill, Dole voted, on August 25, 1994, against the Clinton Crime Bill, which included grants to put 100,000 new cops on the beat. [Los Angeles Times, 8/24/94; 1994 CQ Almanac, p. 50-S, vote # 293-295]

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Dole Votes to Eliminate COPS Program

- On December 7, 1995, Dole voted for the GOP's Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations conference report which eliminated the COPS program, and substituted a block grant that would not guarantee a single new police officer. [Congressional Quarterly, 12/9/95, p. 3747; p. 3768, vote # 591, 12/7/95; President's Veto Message on HR 2076]

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