

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Press Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Mike McCurry

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 11102

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Assault Weapons Ban

Stack:

S

Row:

94

Section:

3

Shelf:

10

Position:

1

Assault Weapons

3/21/96

UNITED STATES SENATE
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
March 10, 1995

Mrs. Tanya Metaksa
Executive Director
National Rifle Association
Institute for Legislative Action
11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, Va 22030

Dear Tanya:

I appreciate you stopping by last week for a discussion of firearms issues in the 104th Congress. The long-standing trust and support of those who value their right to keep and bear arms has been one of my strongest assets throughout my public service. I appreciate your advice and counsel on issues of mutual concern.

In my view, vigorous protection of the individual freedoms secured by the Bill of Rights -- including the Second Amendment -- is crucial to our nation's future. It should go without saying that as long as I am Senate Majority Leader, I will continue to do everything within my power to prevent passage of anti-Second Amendment legislation in the Senate.

Repealing the ill-conceived gun ban passed as part of President Clinton's crime bill last year is one of my legislative priorities. The Senate will debate this issue in the near future, and I hope to have a bill on the President's desk by this summer. President Clinton has said he will oppose repealing this measure, an indication of one of our many differences. I voted against the gun ban in 1994, and I will vote to repeal it in 1995.

Experience, and I might add common sense, has taught me that because criminals don't obey the law, gun control will only limit those who do. It may be old fashioned, but keeping criminals behind bars still seems the most effective approach in fighting crime. Gun control is a completely ineffective approach to the lack of safety and security in our communities. Disarming law-abiding citizens only places them at the mercy of those who break the law.

Again, I enjoyed our visit and look forward to continuing to work with you and the membership of the National Rifle Association on the concerns we share.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE

==+==

This information is presented as a service to the Internet community by the NRA/ILA.

Information can also be obtained by connecting to the NRA-ILA GUN-TALK BBS at (703) 934-2121.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACT SHEET: THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS

WHEN IT BECAME LAW: September 13, 1994, as part of President Clinton's Violent Crime Control Act.

HOW IT WORKS: The law bans the manufacture of 19 military-style assault weapons, assault weapons with specific combat features, "copy-cat" models, and certain high-capacity ammunition magazines of more than ten rounds. The law also protects the rights of hunters by specifically exempting more than 650 types of hunting and sporting weapons by name.

HOW IT IS SAVING LIVES: After the ban took effect, the number of assault weapons traced to crimes dropped a full 18 percent - even though they had been steadily rising before the ban was enacted.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ASSAULT WEAPONS TRACED TO CRIME</u>
9/92-9/93	3,328
9/93-9/94	4,269 (28% INCREASE)
(9/94 -- BAN GOES INTO EFFECT)	
9/94-9/95	3,504 (18% DECREASE) *

[Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms]

1/3rd of police
officers killed by
illegal assault
weapons

HOW A SIMILAR BAN WORKED IN THE PAST: One year after the Bush Administration banned the importation of certain assault weapons, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime fell by 45 percent (even as while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same). [Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms]

THE WEAPONS OF CHOICE FOR CRIMINALS: Although assault weapons account for only one percent of privately-owned firearms in this country, they are eight times more likely to be used in crime than other guns. [Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms]

THE THREAT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: More than one-third of all police who were killed by guns between January 1, 1994 and September 30, 1995 were killed by illegal assault weapons. Just last year, at least 11 police officers were killed by assault weapons. [Source: National Law Enforcement Monument Officers Fund, Handgun Control Inc.] *

###

March 21, 1996

(202) 514-2008

We released to WH Press -

LT
ASSAULT
WEAPONS
3/21/96

SEPT 194



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996

AG
(202) 616-2777
TDD (202) 514-1888

AG RENO STATEMENT ON REPEAL OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

As Congress attempts to repeal the assault weapons ban, AG Reno made the following statement at a press availability:

"When I came to Washington three years ago, one of the first things I did was to sit down with America's law enforcement leaders and ask them what their priorities were.

"Without hesitating, they told me what assault weapons are doing to their communities and how rank and file police have come to fear criminals with these killing machines -- and how frustrated they were that special interests are preventing them from taking effective action.

"Assault weapons have become the weapons of choice for violent criminals, drug dealers, gangs and dangerous maniacs everywhere. They have been used on schoolyards, at airports, in bank lobbies, on trains, in traffic, and in front of the White House. They have no legitimate sporting purpose, and you won't find them in a duck blind or at the Olympics. And more than one-third of all police officers who are killed by guns are killed by illegal assault weapons.

"But then in 1994, with the support of President Clinton, every major police organization and an overwhelming majority of the American people, Congress enacted an historic ban on the manufacture of assault weapons. Without a doubt, the assault weapons ban is saving lives. For in just one year after the ban became law, the number of assault weapons traced to crime dropped 18 percent.

"The assault weapons ban has worked, and it is unconscionable to think that special interests in Congress should or could roll it back now. The price of going back is too high -- even though the ban is working, nine police officers lost their lives last year to these killing machines.

"This is a contest between the special interests and the public interest. That's an easy choice: we are standing up for the American people -- and President Clinton will veto any repeal attempt of this ban as it exists today."

###

Q/A -- ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Q: What proof do you have that the assault weapons ban is working?

A: After steadily rising until the ban took effect, the number of assault weapons traced to crimes dropped a full 18 percent in the year after the ban took effect.

This is consistent with the Bush Administration's experience banning the importation of certain assault weapons. One year after that ban the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime fell by 45 percent -- even as while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same.

Q: How many prosecutions have there been?

A: We don't have a current breakdown, but the bill is about keeping weapons off the street. Prosecutors often prefer to charge defendants on other charges -- like the case of Francisco Doran, who used an assault rifle to fire at the White House.

Q: Isn't this a lot of excitement about a very small share of all guns and of all crimes?

A: Although these weapons account for only one percent of privately-owned firearms in this country, they represent eight percent of the guns traced to criminal activities.

Q: What exactly is banned?

A: The law bans the manufacture of 19 military-style assault weapons, assault weapons with specific combat features, "copy-cat" models, and certain high-capacity ammunition magazines of more than ten rounds. The law also protects the rights of hunters by specifically exempting more than 650 types of hunting and sporting weapons by name.

Q: What about the bill's "Armed Violent Criminals Initiative" requiring new task forces, requiring the designation of an Assistant U.S. Attorney in each district to handle gun cases, and other steps to fight gun violence?

A: I'm afraid that they haven't checked on what we are doing lately -- the Attorney General announced her Anti-Violent Crime Initiative two years ago doing just those types of things, and it is having an effect. What we need along side that is an assault weapons ban that will also save lives.

WASHINGTON
GUN LOBBY

Law Enforcement Organizations that Support a Ban on Assault Weapons

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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

750 First Street, N.E., Suite 1020 • Washington, D.C. 20002-4241

(202) 842-4420 • (800) 322-NAPO • (202) 842-4396 FAX

President

THOMAS J. SCOTTO

President, Detectives' Endowment Association of New York City
New York, NY

Executive Vice President

ERNEST W. GEORGE

President, Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association
West Palm Beach, FL

Recording Secretary

O. J. HOLT

President, Central

Chapter, PORAC

San Jose, CA

Treasurer

WILLIAM BIRDSEYE

Police Officers Association of Michigan

Sergeant-at-Arms

MARTIN McKEAN

Executive Secretary,

Ohio PBA

Caree, OH

Executive Secretary

B. D. "BUO" STONE

Past President PORAC

Berkeley, CA

March 21, 1996

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
United States House of Representatives
232 H-Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Gingrich:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) representing over 185,000 sworn law enforcement officers from 3,500 police unions and associations throughout the country, 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 on our nation's streets. Criminals often opt for superior firepower when confronting well-armed law enforcement officers. That's why a battlefield weapon holding dozens of rounds is the gun of choice for the drug dealer, gang member and terrorist. Why does Congress want to make law enforcement's job more difficult by allowing thugs easier access to these dangerous weapons?

NAPO delegates have voted unanimously in support of the assault weapons prohibition since day one. We have worked long and hard to enact the ban into law and we will continue to ensure it remains so.

With many serious issues facing our nation, we simply do not understand why arming the country to the teeth with cop-killer guns is a priority of this Congress. Let there be no doubt, a vote for repeal of assault weapons ban is a vote against law enforcement.

I strongly urge you to support law enforcement by opposing this ill-conceived repeal of the assault weapon ban, a critical public safety measure. Law enforcement simply cannot afford more cop-killer guns on our streets.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Scully
Executive Director

c.c. The Honorable Richard Arney, The Honorable Richard Gephardt, The Honorable David Bonior.

Executive Director

ROBERT T. SCULLY

General Counsel

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

Legislative Consultants

JULES BERNSTEIN

LINDA UPSETT

THE LAW

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The assault weapons ban prohibits the manufacture of 19 specific military-style assault weapons and others with specific combat features, "copy-cat" models, and certain high-capacity ammunition magazines. Since its effective date of September 13, 1994, the ban has kept countless military-style weapons off America's streets and is now also generating criminal prosecutions.

The assault weapons ban is an invaluable tool in deterring the manufacture and proliferation of combat-style firearms that are designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible.