

FOIA MARKER

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Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19944

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Radio Address - Gun Shows 2/6/99 [1]

Stack:

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Row:

91

Section:

6

Shelf:

9

Position:

2



SUNTUM M @ A1
02/05/99 05:46:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: EMBARGOED TRANSCRIPT: Radio Address

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed For Release
Until 10:06 A.M. EST
Saturday, February 6, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Six years ago, I determined Washington had to get off the sidelines and join the front lines in the fight against crime. I committed my administration to recovering our streets from violence; to reclaiming our neighborhoods as safe havens for families. Since then, we've pursued a new strategy of law enforcement based not on tough talk, but on tougher penalties, better prevention, and the substantial, visible presence of community police.

This strategy is showing remarkable results. Since 1993, crime rates in America have fallen to the lowest point in a quarter-century. Property crime is down. Violent crime has dropped 20 percent in the last six years. The murder rate is the lowest in 30 years. Americans can take pride in streets that are safer, but mostly they can take comfort in lives that are more secure.

There are many reasons that crime is in a sharp decline. Chief among them is our growing ability to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Gun-related crime is on the wane, and it's no wonder. According to a recent report by the Justice Department, the background checks we required in the Brady law have put a stop to nearly a quarter-million handgun purchases. Thanks to Brady, we turn away more than 200 felons a day, sending them home empty-handed

instead of well-armed. And now that the Insta-Check system is in effect, we can conduct these checks in even less time. Retail gun stores, sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers -- they're all working to keep guns out of the hands of felons and fugitives.

But there's a loophole in the law, and criminals know how to exploit it. They go to gun shows. Last year, there were more than 4,400 gun shows all across America. I come from a state where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. I know they're the first place where many parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely.

But at the same time, at too many gun shows, criminals are buying guns with no questions asked. That's because the law permits some sellers -- one-quarter to one-half of the vendors at a typical gun show -- to skip the background checks required by Brady. That is a significant loophole. It's wide enough that criminals reach right through it, grabbing, collectively, thousands of firearms that disappear without a trace.

Last fall, I asked the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General to report on the problem and to come up with solutions. I now have their report. It is sensible and sobering. It shows conclusively that gun shows are a forum for gun traffickers, a cash-and-carry convenience store for weapons

used to maim and kill.

We must close this loophole. America cannot allow its gun shows to become illegal arms bazaars, where lawbreakers shop side-by-side with the law-abiding. That's why I strongly support the recommendations of Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno. We should extend Brady checks and gun-tracing records to any and all open markets where large numbers of firearms are sold. And we should vigorously and fairly enforce the rules. The gun lobby may not want to hear this, but clearly it's the right thing to do.

No background check, no gun. No exceptions.

To toughen enforcement of the existing law, my balanced budget includes new funds to hire more than 100 agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. These agents will help arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and will shut down illegal purchases of firearms. My budget also increases funding for firearms prosecutions, and expands our successful efforts to keep guns out of the hands of violent youth.

In these efforts, I am thankful for the leadership of Senator Lautenberg, and Congressman Blagojevich, who will introduce legislation to make this gun show policy the law of the

land. I'm joined today by Senator Lautenberg, along with Senator Dick Durbin from Illinois, and Congresswoman Julia Carson from Indiana, as well as Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder. I thank them all for their support.

I'm looking forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months, so that together we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st century.

Thanks for listening.

END

Message Sent To: _____

Final 02/04/99 7:30pm

Jeff Shesol

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

RADIO ADDRESS ON GUN SHOWS

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 6, 1999

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We must close this loophole. America cannot allow its gun shows to become illegal arms bazaars, where law-breakers shop side-by-side with the law-abiding. That is why I strongly support the recommendations of Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno. We should extend Brady checks and gun tracing records to any and all open markets where large numbers of firearms are sold. And we should vigorously and fairly enforce the rules. No background check, no gun, no exceptions.

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These agents will help arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and will shut down illegal purchases of firearms. My budget also increases funding for firearms prosecutions, and expands our successful efforts to keep guns out of the hands of violent youth. In these efforts, I am thankful for the leadership of Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Blagojevich [bla-GOYA-vitch], who will introduce legislation to make this gun show policy the law of the land.

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Final 02/04/99 6:30pm

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Draft 02/04/99 2:30pm
Jeff Shesol

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Retail gun stores, sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers -- they are all working to keep guns out of the hands of felons and fugitives. But there is a loophole in the law, and criminals know how to exploit it: They go to gun shows. Last year, there were more than 4,400 gun shows across America. I come from a state where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. I know they are the first place where many parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely.

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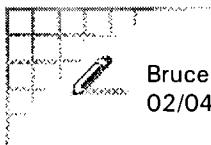
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I look forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months. Together, we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and, in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st Century. Thanks for listening.



Bruce N. Reed
02/04/99 03:54:21 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: radio address on gun shows -- draft 2/4 2:30pm -- comments to Jeff Shesol 6-2796 by 5:30pm



This looks very good. My only suggestion would be to make sure you have a prolonged soundbite in one place. I would suggest moving the phrase "make this the law of the land: No background check, no gun, no exceptions" to the end of the previous paragraph, so that it's about what we're doing, not part of a tribute to the sponsors (where it couldn't be quoted).

Thanks -- good work.

But at the same time, and at too many gun shows, criminals are gaining guns with no questions asked. That's because the law permits some dealers -- one quarter to one half of the vendors at a typical gun show -- to skip the background checks required by Brady. That is a dangerous loophole. It is wide enough that criminals reach right through it, grabbing, collectively, thousands of firearms that disappear without a trace -- until they are used in to commit a crime of many kinds.

walking away with
being
obtaining
securities (?)

to report on the problem + come up w/ solns.

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after the report
was supposed
to give
solutions
your talk
about
findings
of fact

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violent
[all youth?]

Draft 02/04/99 2:30pm
Jeff Shesol

Nov 30

118

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31
31
6
69 = 235

Leanne 65574
Joe 65568
Begala

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON GUN SHOWS
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 6, 1999**

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Jeffrey A. Shesol
02/04/99 02:16:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: radio

Draft 02/04/99 2:10pm

Jeff Shesol

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I look forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months. Together, we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and, in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st Century. Thanks for listening.

Draft 02/04/99 2:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON GUN SHOWS
THE WHITE HOUSE
February 6, 1999**

Good morning. Six years ago, I determined that Washington had to get off the sidelines and join the frontlines in the fight against crime. I committed my administration to recovering our streets from violence, to reclaiming our neighborhoods as safe havens for families. Since then, we have pursued a new strategy of law enforcement based not on tough talk but on tougher penalties, better prevention, and the substantial, visible presence of community police.

Our strategy is showing remarkable results. Since 1993, crime rates in America are the lowest in a quarter century. Property crime is down; violent crime has dropped 20 percent in the last six years; and the murder rate is the lowest in 30 years. Americans can take pride in streets that are safer; but, mostly, they can take comfort in lives that are more secure.

There are many reasons that crime is on a sharp decline. Chief among them is our ability to keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Since I signed the Brady law more than five years ago, gun trafficking and gun-related crime have been on the wane. And it is no wonder: according to a recent report by the Justice Department, the background checks required by Brady have put a stop to [nearly a quarter million] handgun purchases. We are turning away [118] felons a day, sending them home empty-handed instead of well armed. And the Insta-Check system that took effect last November will allow us to conduct twice as many checks -- in even less time.

Retail gun stores, sporting goods stores, licensed gun dealers -- they are all working to keep guns out of the hands of felons and fugitives. But there is a loophole in the law, and criminals know how to exploit it. They ~~simply~~^a go to gun shows. Last year, there were more than 4,400 gun shows across America. I come from a state where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. I know they are the first place where many parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely.

But at the same time, and at too many gun shows, criminals are gaining guns with no questions asked. That's because the law permits some dealers -- one quarter to one half of the vendors at a typical gun show -- to skip the background checks required by Brady. That is a dangerous loophole. It is ~~big enough and wide enough~~^{that} that criminals reach right through it, grabbing, collectively, thousands of firearms and disappearing without a trace ^{until they are used in crimes of many kinds.} and their

Last fall, I asked the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury -- who join me here today -- to find a way to close this loophole. I now have their report and their

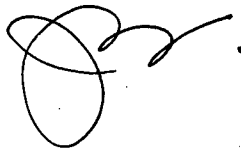
is sound and sensible.
recommendations. Their study shows conclusively that gun shows are a forum for gun traffickers -- a cash-and-carry convenience store for weapons used to maim and to kill.

This practice must stop. America cannot allow its gun shows to become illegal arms bazaars, where law-breakers shop side-by-side with the law-abiding. That is why I strongly support the recommendations of Attorney General Reno and Secretary Rubin. We should extend Brady checks and gun tracing records to any and all open markets where large numbers of firearms are sold. And we should vigorously and fairly enforce the rules. I believe this should be the law of the land: No background check; no gun, no exceptions.

To toughen enforcement of the existing law, my balanced budget includes new funds to hire new agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. These agents will support investigations at gun shows, arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, and shut down illegal attempts to buy firearms. My budget also increases the funding for firearms prosecutions, and expands our successful efforts to keep guns out of the hands of youth. In these efforts, I am thankful for the leadership of Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Blagojevich [bla-GOYA-vitch], men of great dedication who also join me here today. *step*

I look forward to working with members of both parties in the coming months. Together, we can strengthen the laws that serve us so well, and, in doing so, build a stronger America for the 21st Century. Thanks for listening.

LB
BLAG
OJE
VICH



Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP
cc: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
Subject: as promised

I noticed that this includes language on the budget request. Let us know if you have any questions.

Leanne

Crime -- Gun Shows: In response to your 11/6/98 directive, the Treasury and Justice Departments are ready to submit a joint report to you with their recommendations on gun shows. The report will be released as part of next week's radio address. The report indicates that there were over 4,400 gun shows advertised in 1998, most of which were promoted by about 175 firearm collector organizations and individuals. While federally-licensed firearms dealers (FFLs) comprise 50 to 75 percent of the vendors at most gun shows -- and are required by the Brady Act to conduct background checks on prospective purchasers -- non-FFL vendors are under no legal obligation to conduct a background check or keep records on their sales, making it impossible for law enforcement to trace firearms they sell which are later recovered at crime scenes.

The scope of the prob.

The report confirms that gun shows provide a forum for illegal firearms sales and trafficking, and serve as a source for firearms later used in crimes. In compiling the report, Treasury and Justice reviewed 314 gun show-related investigations involving more than 54,000 firearms. The investigations span a wide range of federal firearms violations, including straw purchases, transactions by FFLs without Brady checks, and the sale of kits to modify semiautomatic firearms into automatic firearms. Over 46 percent of the gun show-related investigations involved felons buying or selling firearms. In more than a third of the investigations, the firearms involved were known to have been used in subsequent crimes, including homicide, assault, robbery, and drug offenses. Many of the investigations involve numerous firearms: more than a third involved over 50 firearms and about one-tenth involved over 250 firearms.

shows a source for criminals

In order to close the gun show "loophole", Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno's key recommendations include:

(1) **Broadly defining "gun shows"**, to cover not only traditional gun shows but also flea markets and other similar venues where firearms are sold.

any open mktg where firearms are sold

(2) **Requiring gun show promoters to register with ATF.** Promoters would be required to provide the time and location of every gun show, a list of vendors (both FFLs and non-FFLs), ensure that all vendors are given information about their legal obligations, and require vendors to acknowledge receipt of it. Failure to fulfill these obligations could result in revocation or suspension of registration or civil or criminal penalties.

*** (3) **Requiring Brady background checks on all firearms transferred at gun shows.** All firearms would be transferred by, or with the assistance of an FFL. Thus, FFLs would conduct a Brady checks and retain records for all sales by a non-FFL.

(4) **Reporting information to the ATF's National Tracing Center (NTC) on firearms sold at gun**

shows. This would require FFLs to submit certain information (e.g., manufacturer, serial number) on all firearms transferred at gun shows to ATF's NTC and retain such information to assist in future firearms trace requests by law enforcement.

(5) **Developing an educational campaign**, in conjunction with the firearms industry, to encourage all firearms owners to take steps to ensure that firearms do not fall into the hands of prohibited persons such as criminals or juveniles.

In addition, the Departments are continuing to review the definition of "engaged in the business" of selling firearms to make future legislative and regulatory recommendations. The Gun Control Act requires that those who seek to "engage in the business" of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in firearms must obtain a Federal firearms license. Engaging in the business without a license was involved in more than half of the 314 investigations reviewed by Treasury and Justice.

The report also recommends committing more resources to combat illegal firearms sales at gun shows. During the radio address, you will announce that your FY 2000 budget includes \$24 million in new funds to hire over 160 additional ATF agents to bolster firearms enforcement. The new agents will be used to support investigations at gun shows, the arrest of violent criminals and gun traffickers, illegal attempts to buy firearms, and to expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative from 27 to 37 cities. The budget also includes an additional \$5 million for U.S. Attorneys to increase firearms prosecutions.

★
annual
- budget
provisions

Gun Shows

- The gun show report and recommendations are part of our ongoing effort to find smarter and tougher ways to reduce illegal access to firearms by criminals and minors.
- Desperate criminals will commit crimes to obtain guns. But there should be effective gun market rules and enforcement policies that stop criminals and minors from buying guns on the legal market, make it harder to buy guns illegally, and punish illegal firearms possessors.
- The Brady Act background checks have been successful in preventing felons and other prohibited persons from buying firearms from Federal firearms licensees (FFLs). And record keeping requirements imposed on Federally licensed gun sellers allow law enforcement agencies to trace guns used in crime and investigate illegal trafficking from Federal firearms licensees.
- But gun shows leave a major loophole in the regulation of firearms sales. Gun shows provide a large market where criminals can and do shop for firearms anonymously.
- The current law regulates only the conduct of Federally licensed dealers who offer firearms for sale at gun shows. Current Federal law does not regulate gun shows or gun show promoters. **Unlicensed sellers sell side by side with Federally licensed sellers.** Nonlicensees may transfer firearms at a gun show without observing the background check and record keeping requirements imposed upon licensees.
- **Unlicensed sellers have no way of knowing whether they are selling to a violent felon or someone who intends to illegally traffic guns on the streets to juveniles or gangs. And when an unlicensed vendor sells a gun to a felon or gun trafficker, there is no way for law enforcement to use transaction records to investigate the source of the illegal supply.**
- **This situations fosters criminal transactions that put guns in the hands of felons and minors.** It also can be unfair to sellers who obtain Federal licenses, pay Federal licensing fees, perform the Brady background checks, and keep records that assist law enforcement officials in tracing crime guns.
- The problem of crime associated with gun shows is real and significant. **ATF's survey of recent investigations indicated a wide range of criminal activity associated with gun shows, including transferring firearms to persons prohibited from possession of firearms. Felons and minors have been able to purchase firearms at gun shows. In more than a third of the investigations, the firearms involved were known to have been used in subsequent crimes. These crimes included drug offenses, felons in possession of a firearm, assault, robbery, burglary, and homicide.**
- It only takes a few individuals to transfer large numbers of firearms into dangerous hands. The investigations involved over 54,000 firearms. More than a third involving over 50

firearms.

- 
- The recommendations in the report are simple and fair -- to extend Brady checks and gun tracing records to all retail gun show sales, as well as venues such as flea markets where large numbers of firearms are sold, and to vigorously and fairly enforce the rules.
 - Unlicensed persons who buy or sell a single firearm outside a gun show from another unlicensed person are not affected by the recommendations in the Report.
 - By building upon existing systems, the recommendations help achieve our common goals of preventing sales to prohibited persons and assisting law enforcement to trace crime guns. This represents another step by Treasury and ATF to crack down on the illegal firearms market supplying criminals, juveniles and gun traffickers. The recommendations will help break the chain of illegal gun supply and move farther toward the goal of effectively denying criminals and juveniles illegal access to firearms.

President Clinton Helping to Prevent Illegal Firearms Sales
November 7, 1998

In his radio address to the nation, President Clinton will direct the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney General to recommend, within 60 days, what actions the Administration can take to ensure that firearms sold at gun shows are not exempt from Brady background checks or other federal gun laws.

Closing the Gun Show Loophole

- **Deterring illegal gun sales at gun shows.** Every year, about 5 million people attend an estimated 5,000 gun shows that take place in convention centers, school gyms, and on fairgrounds across the country. And while most people who buy and sell guns at gun shows are law-abiding citizens, a dangerous trend is emerging. Under current law, firearms can be -- and an untold number are -- bought and sold at these shows without background checks or records being kept. This loophole makes gun shows prime targets for criminals and gun traffickers, and often thwarts needed law enforcement efforts to trace firearms used in crimes.
- **Following Florida's lead.** This week, Florida voters overwhelmingly passed a statewide ballot initiative requiring sellers at gun shows to adhere to the same standards as properly licensed gun dealers. Specifically, the initiative allows counties to require criminal history background checks and minimum waiting periods prior to firearms sales at gun shows and on other public property. In his radio address, the President will call on the Treasury Secretary and the Attorney General to recommend to him, within 60 days, the appropriate actions to take to close this loophole on the national level.

Strengthening the Brady Law

- **Final Brady provisions taking effect.** After nearly 5 years of working with law enforcement agencies, last week the Attorney General certified that the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is set to take effect on November 30, 1998, as required by the Brady Law. The NICS will allow law enforcement officials access to a more inclusive set of records than is now available -- including information on criminal aliens, drug users, and persons subject to domestic violence restraining orders. Under the NICS, federally-licensed gun dealers will be required to call a state point-of-contact or FBI representative through an 800 number, and relay a prospective gun purchaser's information. For the vast majority of cases, the sale will be approved within minutes. Where there are discrepancies, the FBI will have up to 3 days to clarify a record, and approve or deny the gun sale.
- **Millions more firearms sales to be covered.** As of November 30th, the Brady Law will be strengthened in 2 additional ways: (1) purchases of all firearms, not just handguns, will be subject to Brady background checks; and (2) pawnshop redemptions, which are 4 times as likely to involve a prohibited purchaser, will be subject to background checks for the first time. Overall, it is estimated that the number of background checks conducted nationally will increase from about 4 million to between 10 and 12 million.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Highfill, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

November 7, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week the American people sent a clear message to Washington that we must put politics aside and take real action on the real challenges facing our nation: saving Social Security for the 21st century, passing a patients' bill of rights, strengthening our schools by finishing the job of hiring 100,000 teachers and passing my plan to build or modernize 5,000 schools across our country.

Over the past six years, we have taken real action to address another important challenge: making our communities safe for our families. For too long it seemed that rising crime was a frightening fact of life in America. In too many communities children could not play on the street or walk to school in safety, older Americans locked themselves in their homes with fear, and gangs armed with illegal guns boldly roamed our streets and schools.

Background

I took office determined to change this, committed to a comprehensive anti-crime strategy based on more community policing, tougher penalties, and better prevention. Today our strategy is showing remarkable results. We're ahead of schedule and under budget in meeting our goal of putting 100,000 police on the street. And all across America, crime rates have fallen to a 25-year low, respect for the law is on the rise, families are beginning to feel safe in their communities again.

*Success of
our strategy*

Keeping guns out of the hands of criminals has been at the center of our strategy, and an essential part of our success. Since I signed the Brady Law, after a big debate in Congress which was led in the House of Representatives by now Senator-elect Charles Schumer of New York, background checks have put a stop to nearly a quarter of a million handgun purchases by fugitives or felons. Law enforcement officers from around the country have told us that fewer guns on the street have made a huge difference in the lives of families they serve.

*Key: keeping
guns from
criminals
- Brady*

At the end of this month, we will make the Brady Law even stronger. For the first time ever, we will require background checks for the purchase of any firearm, whether purchased from a licensed gun deal or a pawn shop. But under this new Insta-Check system, as it's called, we'll be able to run nearly twice as many background checks, and most of them in just a matter of minutes.

*Insta-check
system
strengthens
Brady*

We've spent five years working with state and local law enforcement to put this system in place, but when it comes to our families' safety, we must take another important step. Every year, an untold number of firearms are bought and sold at an estimated 5,000 gun shows around our country. I come from a state where these shows are very popular. I have visited and enjoyed them over the years. They're often the first place parents teach their children how to handle firearms safely. I know most gun dealers and owners are dedicated to promoting safe and legal gun use.

*gun
shows*

- good aspects

But at too many gun shows, a different, dangerous trend is emerging. Because the law permits some firearms to be sold without background checks, some of these gun shows have become illegal arms bazaars for criminals and gun traffickers looking to buy and sell guns on a cash-and-carry, no-questions-asked basis.

*But there's
abuse of
gun laws*

On Tuesday, the people of Florida voted overwhelmingly to put a stop to these tainted transactions and make it harder for criminals to buy firearms. Under the new Florida law, communities now can take action to require background checks for the public sale of all guns. I believe this should be the law of the land: No background check, no gun, no exceptions.

*no check,
no gun
shd be
rule*

Therefore, I am directing Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno to report back to me in 60 days with a plan to close the loophole in the law and prohibit any gun sale without a background check. We didn't fight as hard as we did to pass the Brady Law only to let a handful of unscrupulous gun dealers disrespect the law, undermine our progress, put the safety of our families at risk. With this action, we are one step closer to shutting them down.

Directive

I look forward to working together with members of both parties in the new Congress to meet this challenge and all our challenges to build a safer and stronger America for the 21st century.

Thanks for listening.

END

NATIONAL ALLIANCE of STOCKING GUN DEALERS

BOARD MEMBER: WAIN ROBERTS
5400 PARK BLVD. PINELLAS PARK, FL. 33781

January 20, 1999

The Honorable Rod R. Blagojevich
United States House of Representatives
331 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blagojevich:

On behalf of the 8,000 members of the National Alliance of Stocking Gun Dealers, we are writing to commend you on your efforts to deter criminal activity at Gun Shows and to endorse your "Gun Show Safety and Accountability Act" (HR 109). As the first bill of its kind, the legislation takes the right approach to stopping "widespread abuses at these shows".

While it is uncommon for our organization to endorse legislation that would place any new regulations upon the sale of guns, we view the case of gun shows as an exception. For too many years, criminal abuses at gun shows have gone unchecked. While gun shows clearly offer a good opportunity for our members, along with legitimate sportsmen and other enthusiasts to buy, sell or trade firearms, these well intentioned, and usually well-organized events, many of our members have growing concerns that laws originally designed to accommodate private person-to-person sales are instead being exploited by criminals. The Gun Shows are clearly accountable for almost 33% of crime guns and this needs to be stopped.

We are endorsing this bill because we want to make clear that persons attending gun shows to skirt laws and acquire guns for criminal use are unwelcomed patrons of these events, and diminish their purpose and quality for their legitimate sportsmen, collectors and enthusiasts that attend them. As your legislation creates no new requirements or regulations that don't already exist for law-abiding gun owners, we find it to be a reasonable and necessary change to existing laws and full endorse it. Please inform us if there is anything our members can do to ensure it's successful passage in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,

Wain Roberts

Wain Roberts
National Alliance of Stocking Gun Dealers

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Highfill, Arkansas)

For Immediate Release

November 6, 1998

November 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Preventing Firearms Sales to Prohibited
Purchasers

Since 1993, my Administration has worked hand-in-hand with State and local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve to rid our neighborhoods of gangs, guns, and drugs -- and by doing so to reduce crime and the fear of crime throughout the country. Our strategy is working. Through the historic Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, we have given communities the tools and resources they need to help drive down the crime rate to its lowest point in a generation. Keeping guns out of the hands of criminals through the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act's background checks has also been a key part of this strategy. Over the past 5 years, Brady background checks have helped prevent a quarter of a million handgun sales to felons, fugitives, domestic violence abusers, and other prohibited purchasers -- saving countless lives and preventing needless injuries.

On November 30, 1998, the permanent provisions of the Brady Law will take effect, and the Department of Justice will implement the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The NICS will allow law enforcement officials access to a more inclusive set of records than is now available and will -- for the first time -- extend the Brady Law's background check requirement to long guns and firearms transfers at pawnshops. Under the NICS, the overall number of background checks conducted before the purchase of a firearm will increase from an estimated 4 million annually to as many as 12 million.

We can, however, take additional steps to strengthen the Brady Law and help keep our streets safe from gun-carrying criminals. Under current law, firearms can be -- and an untold number are -- bought and sold entirely without background checks, at the estimated 5,000 private gun shows that take place across the country. This loophole makes gun shows prime targets for criminals and gun traffickers, and we have good reason to believe that firearms sold in this way have been used in serious crimes. In addition, the failure to maintain records at gun shows often thwarts needed law enforcement efforts to trace firearms. Just days ago, Florida voters overwhelmingly passed a ballot initiative designed to facilitate background checks at gun shows. It is now time for the Federal Government to take appropriate action, on a national basis, to close this loophole in the law.

Therefore, I request that, within 60 days, you recommend to me what actions our Administration can take -- including proposed legislation -- to ensure that firearms sales at gun shows are not exempt from Brady background checks or other provisions of our Federal gun laws.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

Gun Shows Radio Address
Questions and Answers
November 7, 1998

Gun Shows

Q: How many guns are sold at gun shows?

A: Since gun shows are largely unregulated and gun show dealers are not required to keep records of sales -- the ATF cannot estimate the number of firearms sold. The National Association of Arms Shows estimates that there are more than 100 gun shows every weekend (5,200 shows annually), more than 5 million people attend these shows, and they generate billions of dollars in sales.

Q. Who sells guns at gun shows? Why are they essentially unregulated?

A. Gun shows are events where private citizens as well as federally-licensed gun dealers can buy and sell firearms and related paraphernalia. These shows are held in auditoriums, fairgrounds, school gyms, and other outlets in almost every state, and generally on weekends.

In 1986, a law was passed which enabled federally-licensed gun dealers to sell firearms at gun shows for the first time. Licensed dealers are required to conduct background checks and keep other appropriate records for firearms sold at gun shows. However, the same law permitted "hobbyists" (individuals without federal firearms licenses) to sell their personal collections at gun shows without similar requirements. The result was to expand the opportunities for private citizens to buy and sell firearms at gun shows-- and raise the threshold for what constitutes being engaged in the business of selling firearms which requires a license.

Q. How do you know that guns purchased at gun shows are used in crimes?

A. While guns sold at gun shows are difficult, if not impossible to trace, ATF has conducted numerous investigations where firearms have been obtained by criminals at gun shows. A Justice Department survey of prison inmates indicated that only 30 percent of the guns they used in crimes were purchased at gun stores -- the remaining 70 percent were obtained in secondary gun markets, like gun shows. In addition, there is a wide range of anecdotal evidence indicating that criminals, juveniles, and other prohibited purchasers are obtaining their guns at gun shows and using them to commit crimes.

Q. Do you support specific legislation, such as the bill introduced by Representative Blagojevich, which essentially imposes the same requirements on nonlicensed gun show participants as on federally licensed gun dealers?

A. Today's directive calls on the Secretary and Attorney General to develop recommendations to ensure that juveniles and criminals cannot exploit gun shows to arm themselves. They certainly will be looking at legislative proposals as part of this review. Until we receive their recommendations in the next 60 days, it would be premature to announce that we will be supporting any specific legislation at this time.

Brady/NICS

Q: Last week, didn't the Justice Department express some concern over the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) being able to handle all of the background checks during the holiday season -- which are big months for gun sales?

A: We do not have any reason to believe that the FBI will be unable to handle the workload during the busy holiday season. While there are significantly more guns sold during the October - December time period, the NICS is being prepared to handle the full load. The FBI has been training over 500 people, everything is on schedule, and they are confident that they can handle demands placed on the system.

Q: How will background checks under the NICS be paid for? Didn't Congress pass a prohibition on passing the cost of the check along to the consumer?

A: The Senate passed a provision which would have prohibited the FBI from charging the same fee for pre-gun purchase background checks, as it does for other background checks, such as those for child care and elder care workers. The Administration strongly opposed that provision, particularly since no source of funding was identified to pay for these essential background checks.

The final budget agreement provides over \$40 million to the FBI to fund background checks for firearms sales for the first year of NICS. However, states may still charge fees for background checks which they conduct themselves. Under our partnership with States, 26 states have agreed to conduct at least some of the Brady law's background checks under NICS. When States perform the checks, they have access to more state records -- such as mental health and many restraining orders -- than the FBI.

Citation	Rank(R)	Database	Mode
7/8/98 NIGHTLINE (No Page)	R 1 OF 1	NIGHTLINE	Page
7/8/98 Nightline (Pg. Unavail. Online)			
7/8/98 WL 5373087			

Nightline

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Wednesday, July 8, 1998

NEWS

GUNS FOR SALE THERE'S NO PAPERWORK OR WAITING FOR LEGAL GUNS
TED KOPPEL

ANNOUNCER: July 8, 1998.

TED KOPPEL, ABC News: (voice-over) While the President speaks out against gun violence in Washington...

Pres. BILL CLINTON: As parents, public officials, citizens, we simply cannot allow easy access to weapons that kill.

TED KOPPEL: (voice-over) Every weekend around the country thousands of guns, from assault rifles to .9 millimeter pistols, are sold at 100 gun shows, no questions asked.

SELLER: Personal collection. There's no waiting period. It's yours today.

TED KOPPEL: (voice-over) Tonight, guns for sale, no waiting, no paperwork and it's all perfectly legal.

ANNOUNCER: From ABC News, this is Nightline. Reporting from Washington, Ted Koppel.

TED KOPPEL: This is a story about a loophole. As you probably know, the Brady handgun law, which became effective back in February of 1994, requires licensed gun dealers to perform a presale background check. Federal law also makes it illegal for a dealer to sell a handgun to a juvenile or a forgive from justice or anyone who's been indicted or convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year in prison. The law is also designed to keep illegal aliens or anyone convicted of domestic violence or someone who's been formerly judged to be mentally defective from buying a handgun.

The Department of Justice estimates that last year there were 2.6 million applications for handgun purchases and that about 69,000 of those sales were blocked because the would be buyer was in one of the above categories. It's a big number but more than 97 percent of those applying to buy a handgun last year were legally free to do so.

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What about the other 69,000 would be buyers? Technically there is nothing to keep any one of those people from buying the gun of their choice without any paperwork or background check. Every year in this country there are at least a couple of thousand gun shows. That's the role I was referring to. Nightline wanted to see how easily firearms could be purchased at gun shows, so a week and a half ago we sent a camera crew with a hidden camera to film one. It was a modest show, organized by a local gun club in Kentucky. Our crew had no problems buying firearms with no questions asked. It was all perfectly legal.

SELLER: Can I help you with something?

1st BUYER: I was just looking at an automatic, a small automatic.

SELLER: Pick 'em up and help yourself. That's a .25 Baretta, that's a .22, nine by eighteen, .380, I mean .32, .380, .22. it's a pretty good selection of all those out there.

1st BUYER:.25 automatic.

SELLER: You went and picked a good one. Nice little guns there. Personal collection. No waiting period. It's yours today.

1st BUYER: You like this one?

SELLER: Well, are you wantin' this for personal protection? Something to stick in your purse or lay on the nightstand?

1st BUYER: Maybe.

1st BUYER: Maybe.

2nd BUYER: Maybe.

SELLER: I don't know, I can't tell you much about that one right there. I can tell you a whole lot about this. I know the boy that had that one. He, he carried that one. Right here, you can see the wear marks on that. He carried part time in the pocket and the rest of the time carried it in a holster. Right there, that's what that is. Now there's a .22. it'll shoot a whole lot cheaper than that. That gun is just as deadly as that one. If I was just buying it just to have a automatic small caliber pistol, for the money difference I'd say "ching". You can do whatever you want, you know, you look definitely 21 to me.

Yes, sir, help yourself! I will give you a box of shells for it. That's the best I can do.

1st BUYER: Awesome. Awesome. You got anything to carry it in?

SELLER: No.

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1st BUYER: A paper sack?

SELLER: Oh yeah! We'll get you a bag. There. Drop them in your pocket. There's your pistol. Gonna be \$135.

1st BUYER: Fifty, 100, 20, 30, 40.

SELLER: Thank you for the tip!

1st BUYER: Hold on a second! Another box of shells? No, no. They're worth, no they're not worth quite that much.

SELLER: Thank you, sir.

1st BUYER: Thank you.

TED KOPPEL: In 1994, the Uniform Crime Bill outlawed the manufacture and possession of assault weapons with features such as collapsible stocks, magazines with a capacity over 10 shells and flash suppressors. Those already in private hands were grandfathered, that is, if you already had it, it was legal. Today, if you want to buy an assault weapon, gun shows are known as the place to get them.

SELLER: These are sort of AR-15s?

2nd BUYER: Yes.

SELLER: Wow.

3rd BUYER: Everybody needs one of them. ~~Keep the pirates off of you!~~

SELLER: Just to say you have one! What does something like that run?

2nd BUYER: I get about eight and a half on that one there. Back in '94 they was up to \$2,000 apiece -- \$1,500 to \$2,000

SELLER: Why was that?

2nd BUYER: Back when that Brady Bill was just getting in. These are the pre-ban. The older ones you can have a bayonet on 'em and you can put a collapsible stock on 'em. SELLER

But the new ones you can't.

2nd BUYER: Yeah, you can't do that to the new ones. You can buy -- I know he's got a collapsible stock. He wants \$95 for it.

SELLER: For just the stock?

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2nd BUYER: Yeah, just the collapsible stock. As a matter of fact, he's the guy who built this gun here.

LLER: How many does the clip hold?

2nd BUYER: You can get anywhere from 10, 20, and 30. Thirty round clips for it. I got these, 40 rounds, \$40 for 300. They call it a "battle pack". I guess you can go out and bury 'em in the yard or walk through the damn water in 'em and, you know, you don't get 'em wet.

SELLER: Right. You got to fill out paperwork and all that stuff, though.

2nd BUYER: Not on these. I mean, cause I'm not a dealer, you know, that's just by personal guns.

TED KOPPEL: The next gun collector had 14 handguns and numerous rifles for sale. He also showed two other handguns for inspection upon request. When he couldn't provide ammunition for the .9 millimeter semi-automatic pistol he sold our cameraman, another man from a nearby table stepped in to help.

BUYER: Are these your guns?

GUN SELLER: Yeah. They're my own personal guns, yeah.

BUYER: What are you asking for this one?

GUN SELLER: \$250.

BUYER: \$250. How much you asking for this?

GUN SELLER: I think \$165.

BUYER: \$165.

GUN SELLER: My buddy over there's got one of those for \$175. I'm just trying to undercut him!

BUYER: Your buddy?

GUN SELLER: We just do things like that.

BUYER: OK! \$225 cash and carry?

GUN SELLER: I can't do it. I appreciate it. It's real slow, but I just can't. I just can't do it. You want it for \$240? Maybe I'll come down. I'll let you do it for \$240.

BUYER: \$240.

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GUN SELLER: He was going to give me that whole \$10, wasn't he? Hey, I'll tell you what, I haven't sold much today, and I got a couple of
I'm looking at.

AMMO SELLER: Sir, I got, I got some of the "Hydra-Shoks". \$10 a box. Come in box of 20.

BUYER: Where at? Where you at?

AMMO SELLER: That's what I use in mine.

BUYER: How much for a box?

AMMO SELLER: \$10.

BUYER: I'll take one. You pretty much hit the show circuit all the time in Kentucky, Indiana?

AMMO SELLER: Yeah. I'm just selling what's got a little protrusion in there. These are not real good target rounds. This is used in case -- for house protection.

BUYER: In case you need...

AMMO SELLER: Yeah.

BUYER: Now, do you have a store somewhere, or do you just...

AMMO SELLER: No, this is all my private stuff I'm trying to sell. Why not

BUYER: Oh, OK.

AMMO SELLER: They're not going to be producing these now.

BUYER: They're not?

AMMO SELLER: They're going to start taking them off the market.

BUYER: How's come?

AMMO SELLER: Well, they're too dangerous to have out, for people to have, in a month or two. So expect to see a lot of ammunition come off the market.

GENE MARLIN: (ph) I think the .9 millimeter automatic handgun in most any make is probably one of the more popular tools that criminals use. I think they're using it for the hot round. I think they're using it for the volume of fire that's available from it. So that's generally what we're seeing.

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TED KOPPEL: (voice-over) Gene Marlin is the director of the Illinois State Police. It estimates that 25 percent of illegally trafficked firearms used in crimes originate at gun shows.

GENE MARLIN: Legitimate honest people that are responsible and accountable for what they do have an avenue to buy weapons and as many weapons, I might add, as they want. But people who aren't eligible, who choose to do things that are less than honorable, if you will, and who don't meet the criteria for weapons shouldn't have those and I think the gun show atmosphere now is very conducive to allowing them to do just that, to purchase weapons without much of a check on who you are and what's going on. And I think that's one of the advantages of extending Brady to that.

TED KOPPEL: Should the government close the loophole allowing private collectors to bypass federal laws at gun shows? Two views when we come back.

(Commercial Break)

TED KOPPEL: We invited the National Association of Arms Shows to send a representative for tonight's broadcast. They declined. Joining us from our Denver bureau, Dave Kopel is the research director for the Independence Institute, a group that researches criminal justice and gun control issues. And from our Chicago bureau, Congressman Rod Blagojevich, who has proposed legislation to make private citizens comply with the Brady Bill, as gun dealers must.

And let me ask you, Mr. Kopel why not have at least private citizens participate in these gun shows participate, because as you can see as we have shown, there are clearly a great many purchases that are made there and it's quite clear that there is no paperwork at all so anybody can buy a gun.

DAVE KOPEL, Independence Institute: (Denver) Gun shows are not an important source of criminal supply for guns, despite what some folks might claim. The National Institute of Justice, that's part of the United States Department of Justice, recently did a study that found less than two percent of criminals had gotten their last gun at a gun show and even that would include people who got their gun at a gun show from a licensed dealer. A previous National Institute of Justice study found less than one percent. We ought to treat guns like cars and we say that if you're in the business of selling automobiles, then you need to get a license to be a car dealer. If you're just a car collector who sells a few cars a year, you don't need to get a license. The same principle ought to apply to guns.

TED KOPPEL: The principle may be sound, the analogy seems a little bit flawed. There are no laws that require a dealer, beyond the fact that

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someone has to have a license to drive and has to be of age, there are no laws that preclude an automobile dealer from selling a car to anyone who walks in the door and who has the necessary money. There are, however, laws that prevent gun dealers from selling guns to any number of people, all of whom I enumerated at the beginning of this program.

DAVE KOPEL: And those laws also, by the way, apply to private transfers. You can't as a private citizen lawfully transfer a firearm to someone who you know has a felony record or any other federal ineligibility. But of course there's, with automobiles, there's nothing to prevent a guy whose license has been revoked for drunk driving or vehicular homicide from answering a want ad in the newspaper and buying a car no questions asked. You see...

TED KOPPEL: And the same thing would be true if he went to a car dealer. That's why I say it's a bad analogy. The analogy doesn't work. But let me turn to Congressman Blagojevich for a moment and find out from you if, indeed, the number is as small as Mr. Kopel says it is, one percent, two percent of crimes committed, why go to the trouble? I mean it is a lot of extra paperwork.

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH, (D), Illinois: (Chicago) Well, first of all, let me clarify a misconception, Ted. My legislation does not impose a requirement on those who trade in guns, private citizens who want to sell guns in gun shows that they necessarily have to get a license. In fact, my legislation only puts the onus on the promoter of the gun show, the promoters who are, who have, are in the business of putting together these gun shows and these flea markets and they would be required to have to make sure that background checks and record keeping is done by the individual sellers at the respective gun shows. But the burden is not on an unlicensed or a law abiding citizen who wants to trade or sell guns in gun shows. It would be placed on a gun promoter...

TED KOPPEL: No, but well hold on. It seems to me you're saying two different things. On the one hand you're saying it's the promoters who have to go to the trouble but they have to go to the trouble of making sure that the individual people who are trading guns on the floor...

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: That's right.

TED KOPPEL: -- carry out the background check.

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: That's correct.

TED KOPPEL: How is an individual supposed to do that?

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: Well, that's going to be left to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and pursuant to discussions with the gun show promoters with regard to how they'll implement that. But we're asking them to do essentially what we require of gun stores in the

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retail market and sporting goods stores. I mean when you go to a gun dealer that has a license in a sporting goods store, the sales clerks that are there are required to do background checks and are required to determine whether or not a person who wants to buy a firearm can legally do so and we're simply saying that at gun shows we apply the exact same rules to them as are required for those in the retail business and in sporting goods stores.

TED KOPPEL: And Mr. Kopel, what's wrong with that?

DAVE KOPEL: Partly because his bill goes far beyond gun shows. It applies any time there's 50 people with firearms...

TED KOPPEL: No, just stick with the gun shows for a moment. What's wrong with requiring the promoters of gun shows that they simply put the customers through the same kind of a background check that a gun dealer would do?

DAVE KOPEL: If you say that there's a, that a guy who sells his private collection of five firearms at a gun show is going to be in the same category as a sporting goods store where they sell 3,000 guns a year then the next logical step is to say well, let's make that apply to, we're going to, we might as well outlaw classified ads for newspapers because the criminal...

TED KOPPEL: Except as we saw in the video at the top of this program, these guys are sitting there behind tables and there are 10, 15, 20, 30 guns there and there is absolutely no check on whether these guns, these could be guns that they purchased, you know, a half an hour before they came to the gun show or they may be part of a private collection. Who's gun now?

DAVE KOPEL: Well, and this gets exactly to the point that we need to enforce the existing laws. Sections 921 and 923 of the United States Code Volume 18 say that if you're in the business of being a firearms dealer, and that could certainly include selling 10 guns a week at 50 gun shows a year, you need to have a federal firearms license. That's the existing law. We need to, maybe need to enforce that for some people who aren't obeying it, but you shouldn't crack down on other guys who are just little collectors because the law about the big guys isn't being enforced.

TED KOPPEL: Actually, you raise an interesting question when it comes to enforcement and I'm going to take a short break and then when we come back I'd like to hear you explain how that particular law is to be enforced. More with our guests in a moment.

(Commercial Break)

TED KOPPEL: And we're back once again with Congressman Rod Blagojevich
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and Dave Kopel of the Independence Institute. Mr. Kopel, you were just going to explain to me how one enforces at a gun show who is a dealer and who is not.

VE KOPEL: Oh, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms sends undercover agents into gun shows all the time. One of the main things they've been doing ever since the BATF was created back in the late 1960s is to track particular guys who don't have federal licenses from show to show and if the BATF undercover agent believes this guy is engaged in the pattern of being a firearms dealer, then they prosecute him for selling firearms without a license, which is a major federal felony. Each separate firearms sales is a separate violation. We've already got the law.

TED KOPPEL: Congressman Blagojevich, why is that a problem then, if the ATF can do that that simply, what constitutes being a dealer or not being a dealer? In other words, if someone shows up with 50 handguns and long guns, that doesn't automatically make him a dealer. Maybe he's been collecting for a long time. But I guess if he shows up at, what, 10 shows in a row during the same thing somebody starts to get suspicious. Is that how it works?

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: Well, that's the whole point of trying to have some sort of criterion that we can use across-the-board. Presently, Ted, at these gun shows there's no way of knowing, you know, who is coming to sell guns or who are coming to buy guns. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols actually went to a gun show in Oklahoma and were selling large numbers of guns that they stole from a gun collector in Arkansas at a gun show and there was nobody who knew that they were doing that they used the proceeds of those guns for some of their further, some their other activities.

David Koresh went to gun shows routinely and stockpiled Waco with a lot of the guns that they were able to get from gun shows.

DAVE KOPEL: David Koresh was, one of the people in his compound was a licensed dealer.

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: And the fact of the matter is, Mr. Kopel, the fact of the matter is that he's able to do that because he wasn't able to get that many guns or the kinds of guns like assault weapons and assault rifles through sporting goods stores or through retail gun store outlets.

TED KOPPEL: Is there room for a compromise here, Mr. Kopel? In other words, if we could find a way of protecting the genuine collector and separating him out from the kind of folks who show up five, 10, 15 times a year at gun shows and who are at least semi-professionals when it comes to buying and selling guns, would that be acceptable to you?

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DAVE KOPEL: The existing law already reflects that compromise. It says if you're in the business, you need a federal license. But we also ought to take into account...

D KOPPEL: No, but I mean if someone says look, I'm not in the business; I'm a collector but, you know, one of the ways that I collect is I get rid of some of the guns that I've got and that gives me the money so I can buy others.

DAVE KOPEL: And that's objectively determined by the facts of the case. Yeah, if you've got a collection of 50 guns and you sell 10 guns a year, that's probably a good claim. On the other hand, if you're turning over 300 guns a year, it's a little bit harder to make a claim as a collector and that's what courts and judges and juries are for is to separate the sheep from the goats.

TED KOPPEL: Is it numerically defined, congressman? Is there a way that you can just arbitrarily say this guy is clearly a collector and this man is not?

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: There isn't a way except to say that my bill, for example, does not apply to antique guns or any gun that was a musket or anything that was made before 1898 pursuant to the Gun Control Law of 1968. A lot of guns have already been exempted by the Brady Bill. So those aren't covered. And my bill says that a gun show is defined as the sale of 50 or more guns. So individual collectors who want to do it between themselves are not even impacted by this.

TED KOPPEL: We're down to our last minute Mr. Kopel, but doesn't it make sense to you that if you had a criminal record and you wanted to buy a gun and you knew that you were going to be subjected to a background check if you went to a licensed gun store that you would be much better off going to a gun show where there is no kind of check at all at the moment?

DAVE KOPEL: I think you've got to look at the federal research from the National Institute of Justice. They show that gun stores are a much larger source of the supply of criminal guns than are gun shows and the black market of stolen guns, guns traded among criminals and so forth, is overwhelmingly larger than either of those. What we ought to do, the real loophole is the fact that the federal government won't enforce the existing gun laws. They say they stop 69,000 people from buying guns. That's something of an exaggeration, as the Wall Street Journal showed. But whatever number they stop, they've only prosecuted seven of them. If you've got all these criminals caught while they're trying to buy a gun illegally and you only prosecute seven, that's the loophole that puts 'em back on the street where they can go get a gun from the black market.

TED KOPPEL: Congressman, you've got about 15 seconds.

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Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: Well, a tool for law enforcement is to be able to trace guns, find out where the guns came from that are ultimately found in crime scenes and then get a handle on where these guns are coming from. One of the growing areas where guns that are being used in crimes are coming from our gun shows and the Illinois state police suggested that 25 percent of their guns that they confiscated in illegal gun trafficking came precisely from that source. This is a growing problem and a burgeoning black market for criminals who want to get guns and asking for reasonable regulations that we require of law abiding gun stores and retail outlets is, in my judgment, a very reasonable thing to do and something that's time, whose time has come.

TED KOPPEL: And that'll have to be the last word. Congressman Blagojevich, Mr. Kopel, thank you both very much.

Rep. ROD BLAGOJEVICH: Thank you, Ted.

TED KOPPEL: I'll be back in a moment.

(Commercial Break)

TED KOPPEL: Tomorrow on Good Morning America, special envoy Richard Holbrooke, just back from Kosovo.

That's our report for tonight. I'm Ted Koppel in central Florida. For all of us here at ABC News, good night.

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----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

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Sarah Brady Joins President Clinton in Urging an End to the Gun Show Loophole

(Washington, D.C.) On behalf of Handgun Control, Inc., Sarah Brady today commended President Clinton for his continued leadership in the prevention of gun violence and joined him in calling for federal action to close the gun show loophole that allows criminals to readily buy guns from unlicensed dealers at gun shows.

"The past five years," Mrs. Brady said, "have demonstrated the importance of observing waiting periods and doing background checks at gun stores, but we now need to extend the Brady law to include all gun sales occurring at gun shows and flea markets. In state after state, criminals can now walk into a weekend gun show and buy a gun with no questions asked from an unlicensed dealer that is selling from his or her 'private collection.' That's an open invitation to criminals."

"The issue is not the gun shows themselves," Mrs. Brady emphasized, "It's the unregulated sales that take place at many of these gun shows. Some states, like California and Maryland, regulate these kinds of flea market sales, but the vast majority do not. And in many communities, these unregulated gun show sales are taking place in taxpayer-financed facilities, like convention centers."

"Fortunately," Mrs. Brady continued, "cities and counties are now fighting to close the gun show loophole in their communities and Florida is now leading the way."

This past Tuesday, voters in Florida overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment, Revision 12, that gives counties the authority to require a waiting period and a background check in connection with all gun sales occurring at gun shows and other public venues. The measure, which was supported by a broad coalition of mayors, prosecutors and police chiefs, received 72 percent of the vote despite strong opposition from the gun lobby. Several Florida counties are now expected to pass local ordinances regulating gun show sales. Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County, a leader in the fight for Revision 12, has already unveiled a draft ordinance.

"What's really frightening," Mrs. Brady said, "are the kinds of criminals that are using gun shows to buy and sell guns: cop killers, professional gun traffickers, serial killers, mass murderers, cult leaders, domestic terrorists, escaped convicts and career criminals are all taking advantage of the gun show loophole."

Last month, Handgun Control, Inc., released a special report on the "Dirty Dozen of Gun Shows," indicating that a large number of notorious criminals have bought and/or sold guns at gun shows including David Koresh, Timothy McVeigh, Gian Luigi Ferri (who killed 8 people and wounded 6 at a California law firm in 1993) and Hank Earl Carr, a career criminal in Florida who earlier this year shot and killed three police officers and his four-year old son before killing himself.

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Handgun Control, Inc., chaired by Sarah Brady, is the nation's largest citizens' gun control lobbying organization. Based in Washington, DC, HCI works to enact stronger federal, state and local gun control laws, but does not seek to ban handguns. Founded in 1974, HCI has more than 400,000 members nationwide and works with local groups around the country to enact and protect reasonable gun control laws. More information about HCI and its affiliated organization, the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, can be found on our website at www.handguncontrol.org.

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