

GUN STRATEGY

I. MESSAGE

- The centerpiece of this Administration's gun strategy has been "keeping guns out of the wrong hands" – the hands of those that will commit crimes with them as well as the hands of those, such as children, who don't know how to use them properly or are more prone to having accidents with them.
- The leading argument against this philosophy, championed by the NRA, has been that new laws aren't necessary and that existing laws should be better enforced to truly reduce gun crime. The Enforcement Strategy the President called for in March 1999 and the new dialogue on industry reform generated by the gun lawsuits provide the Administration an opportunity to turn the tables on the enforcement debate.
- Now more than ever it is clear that law enforcement needs more tools to adequately "enforce" our gun laws and protect public safety: They need stronger, airtight gun laws without loopholes; more resources at the national, state and local levels; and every member of the community to do their part to eradicate the problem – and that means that the gun industry must do their part along with parents, children, police, prosecutors and educators.

II. BIG ISSUES/BIG QUESTIONS

(1) HUD Lawsuit

- How aggressively are we going after the industry? Will we plan "attack" events, or stay quiet while negotiations are underway? How does this impact our overall gun strategy?
- What will we put on the table in the settlement negotiations? How does our increase in firearms enforcement budget impact our offering?
- Should we rope in the dealers?
- What can ATF do with regulations to bring about industry reform outside the legislative or settlement process? (i.e. obliterated serial numbers, etc.)

(2) Licensing/Registration Questions

- Do we want to do licensing, or will the Vice President want to pursue it? Is a budget increase needed, or would legislation only be required to get it researched and implemented?
- If we do licensing, we should also do some form of registration component? How far should we take a registration component?
- Do we face criticism for not embracing a full-fledged registration program? Are across-the-board background checks enough?

(3) Industry Regulation Questions

- Do we want to embrace full industry regulation, similar to CPSC regulation of other products? Would Treasury enforce it?
- Do we want to pursue a large regulatory bill or merely components?

(4) Enforcement

- National Instant Notification?
- How to handle the local/federal issue?

III. BUILDING OUR CASE -- POTENTIAL EVENTS

Suggested Events:

- | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---------------|
| (1) | Release ATF/DOJ Enforcement Strategy
(Announce Enforcement Budget?) | -- | Early January |
| (2) | Release ATF Gun Trafficking Report
(Build case for HUD lawsuit.) | -- | Mid-January |
| (3) | State of the Union
(Gun enforcement, Industry Reform Bill,
Gun Safety piece, Reentry.) | -- | Late January |
| (4) | Release ATF Firearms Commerce Report
(maybe include "Bryco's America?") | -- | February |
| (5) | Announce Industry Reform Bill
(Industry must do its part to reduce
gun violence.) | -- | April |
| (6) | Enforcement Event
(maybe include NIN?) | -- | May |

GUN STRATEGY MEETING

December 14, 1999

I. GUN LAWSUIT NEGOTIATIONS

- Meeting with the Mayors
- Upcoming meetings
- Proposed reforms -- impact on legislation and message

- Expanded Commerce Report -
cost estimate on reforms,

- Dealers?

II. ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE

- Estimated completion date
- Timing of event
- 93 plans
- Link to State of the Union: Budget vs. legislative angle on event
- Potential blueprint for year-long gun strategy

(Handgun control has similar report)

III. OUTSTANDING LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS

- Hill meeting Thursday and interest in gun legislation
- Message on Youth Crime Gun Enforcement Act, i.e. Gun Shows, One gun per month, Brady Waiting Period, Under 21 Handgun
- Licensing

Budget and/or legislative approach

Cost estimate

- Registration or alternatives

"No background check, No gun"

Database of all firearms serial numbers

- Industry Regulation

CPSC vs. Treasury authority

- concerns about conflict between
bill + negotiations? conflict?

- leverage bill against settlement
(like lawsuit)

- do agreements set liability standards
for non-participating companies?

IV. UPCOMING EVENT IDEAS

Proposed Timeline:

- Enforcement Directive Release
- ATF Gun Trafficking Report (complete?)
- State of the Union
- ATF Firearms Commerce Report
- Industry Reform Bill Unveiling
- Enforcement Event

Early-mid January

mid-January (?)

January 27, 2000

February

March

April (YCGT)

V. NEXT STEPS

① Heb -

- Anyone want help with Tracing data.

- Get names to ATF of those in need of assistance. / Police must request

- Remedies lists - BY TUESDAY COIB. (Neddy morn)

~~Get ATF memo. Was it all in the chart given by ATF/DOJ~~

② 10 a.m. meeting.

③ Licensing -

Bea -

Next step -

• All sales through FPL's

• Licensing follow that item.

- Costs \$

- increased # of background checks.

Susan -

Memo

④

Assault Weapons -

- raise to NFA status.

⑤ Invest more in personalized guns. (~~100?~~) my opinion.

- Bruce says "yes."

- Ask about role of Fed's

- what about Treasury ^{in this.} report on safety.

⑥

Leanne A. Shimabukuro

12/15/99 01:25:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP@EOP, Cathy R. Mays/OPD/EOP@EOP, Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP

Subject: For 2:00pm meeting

Here is an initial dump for the 2:00pm meeting of things we could potentially announce over the next 3 to 6 months. We kept open the issue of whether/how we would announce new legislation.

Our gun message should continue to focus on "keeping guns out of the wrong hands" -- from criminals who intend to use them to commit crimes, children who are prone to accidents, or individuals who simply don't know how to use them safely. Gun violence is a complex problem that requires everyone to play a role in its reduction -- that includes law enforcement, parents, schools, prosecutors and the gun industry.

Available deliverables in near term:

1. **Gun violence reduction strategy.** (early to mid-January) This is the response to the President's directive from earlier this year that was designed to provide a buffer in the enforcement debate. In response to the directive, all 93 U.S. Attorneys worked with ATF Special Agents in Charge and the local communities to develop gun violence strategies. (that serves as a deliverable item). The report will also lay the groundwork for current and new legislative/budget proposals: more resources at the state/federal level, stronger gun laws, industry accountability, prevention and local partnerships. It will turn the tables on the enforcement debate by showing that enforcement is more than prosecution, it is giving police tools to prevent crime -- and the industry plays a crucial role. The strategy could be rolled out with FY 2001 budget highlights for firearms enforcement.

2. **Gun trafficking report.** (mid-January) This is a Treasury/ATF report based on ATF trafficking investigations. This report will present strong evidence that illegal gun trafficking is a serious public safety problem that must be addressed through aggressive enforcement. It will provide an analysis of distribution channels and how criminals utilize loopholes in our existing laws, such as gun shows, to obtain firearms. It will help lay groundwork for reforms to the gun industry.

3. **State of the Union.** (January 27th) The President could: (1) highlight ongoing need for existing legislative priorities (e.g., gun shows); (2) set marker for broader legislative or policy proposals, such as expanded background checks for all gun sales and licensing; and (3) emphasize firearms enforcement budget proposal.

4. **Gun commerce report.** (late February) This report will take a comprehensive look at the firearms industry and firearms production. It will also provide statistics on the small percentage of gun dealers who account for most crime guns. The report will provide an opportunity to stress the importance of industry self-regulation to prevent guns from slipping into the criminal market. The report could potentially be coupled with the announcement of new Treasury-proposed firearms regulations. [Note: Treasury won't say what these proposed regs are at this time.] "Direct ATF to use authority to impose new regulations."

5. **Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) report.** (April/May) This will be the third annual report of the YCGII program that will show gun trafficking patterns with a special emphasis on youth and the types of guns used in crimes in participating cities. The President could announce the 12 new cities

MSO - - SACS Release,
- Shot show,
- Pressure on
JJ Conference:
- NICS Report
- Trafficking
Report
- U.S. Conference
of Mayors
Ding
- Product Development

he has proposed to include in the program in his FY 2001 request.

Other ideas:

1. NICS One-Year Anniversary report/National Instant Notification Program Announcement.

(With DOJ's help, this could probably be out as early as late February) The President could release the first annual report on the NICS system. This will provide a detailed analysis of operations including of the categories of persons prevented from purchasing firearms (similar to the six month report released in September). The President could also highlight a new proposal, the National Instant Notification (NIN) System to ensure notification of state/local law enforcement when prohibited persons, such as felons, have illegally attempted to buy firearms.

(GUN SHOW backup - no background checks here)

2. Procurement Executive Order. The President could issue an Executive Order directing the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a code of conduct for all federal firearms contractors. There are still several issues to be resolved on this before we can proceed on the order.

3. Police Gun Resale Event. The President could join with national law enforcement organizations to condemn the practice of reselling used police guns and confiscated crime guns on the civilian market. The law enforcement organizations could issue a joint statement encouraging their members to end the practice, and the President could highlight funding in his budget to provide federal assistance to local authorities to achieve this goal.

paycom.
ASK BR about HRP

(Auctions, background checks) - GADSDEN Study - PERF

4. Mother's Day: Million Moms March. (May) Depending on how this march is shaping up, the President could potentially be involved in the march and emphasize his efforts legislatively and in the budget to improve gun safety and to promote safe storage.

5. DOJ/ATF PSA Campaigns. Currently, DOJ/ATF have a small amount of money in their FY 2000 budgets that would allow them to begin PSA campaigns and other outreach efforts on gun safety and safe storage. Depending on when they are ready, the President could do an event to help launch these initiatives and highlight potential budget requests.

last grant \$500,000.

TECH. - 4 other companies aside Colt grants (?)
- NAMES

- Eisenstat - Bullet "tracers"? Is this NIBIN?

Podesta - FOIA - Prosecutions (Answer has questions)

- DOD Program -

Sh 1/6 - "H" Delfay - NSSF Meeting

November 2, 1999

TO: Eric

FR: Leanne/Deanne

RE: Firearms Licensing and Registration

I. GUN LICENSING

A. What is gun licensing?

Under a national firearms licensing system, no one would be permitted to purchase a firearm without a license. Congress would establish minimum standards for a licensing system, which would be implemented by the states. Proposed requirements for obtaining a license include: successful completion of a firearms safety course, background check and fingerprint identification, concrete proof of residency (two forms of ID) and a minimum age requirement of 21 (*Federal law prohibits licensed firearms dealers to sell handguns to anyone under 21 -- but doesn't extend the requirement to unlicensed gun sellers.*) Similar to a driver's license, the firearms license would be renewed regularly (bi-annually, e.g.) and would contain a photo ID and other identifying data, including address and date of birth. It may also include information on weapons owned.

A national firearms licensing system would improve both personal and public safety. It would curb accidental firearms deaths and injuries because more gun owners would be educated on how to safely use and store their firearms. It would also help curb illegal purchases of firearms on the secondary market. Since background checks are not required for private gun sales, the presentation of a license prior to the completion of any sale would add a convenient new safety layer to transactions by unlicensed sellers. Licensing, however, should never replace background checks as the primary means of checking an individual's most current restricted status because the license would only be updated on an annual basis. Also, the success of the system would rely on speedy, efficient revocation of licenses by the proper authorities (e.g. upon arrest or conviction). Otherwise, a restricted person, in the absence of a background check, could use an invalid license to obtain firearms from an unwitting private seller.

B. What legislative proposals exist on gun licensing?

Vice President Al Gore has proposed the creation of a nationally mandated, state-run system of photo licensing for all potential handgun purchasers that requires background checks and passage of a gun safety course. In Congress, Rep. Nadler introduced a licensing bill and Senator Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Marty Meehan plan to introduce a licensing/registration bill.

C. States with licensing laws: CN, HI, IL, IA, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, NJ, NY & NC.

D. What is the Administration's position on gun licensing?

The President has frequently stated that the Vice President's gun licensing proposal is a "good idea" that he supports, and compares cars to guns on this issue. However, the Administration has not otherwise taken a position or offered a proposal on licensing.

II. GUN REGISTRATION

A. What is gun registration?

Gun registration allows for speedier and more reliable tracing of guns used in crime by requiring the centralization (national or state-by-state) of records of the sale or transfer of ownership of a specific handgun. It would allow law enforcement to trace crime guns as quickly as they would an automobile license plate by simply plugging serial numbers into a database of firearms. Currently, it takes hours or even weeks before a crime gun can be traced back to its owner. A complex gun tracing system relies upon sales records kept by licensed firearms dealers. Under Federal law, these records cannot be centralized and must stay in the possession of the licensee. Thus, the paper trail is lost on a gun when these records are inaccurate, stored improperly or when the gun is subsequently resold on the secondary market by unlicensed persons who do not have to keep records. A registration system would eliminate these problems. It would also help law enforcement to detect illegal gun traffickers through the sales database.

Gun registration involves a combination of one or more the following elements: (1) requiring handgun owners to register all of their handguns with the designated law enforcement authority; (2) mandating that all gun sales/transfers go through licensed dealers (this means background checks for private sales) and requiring them to forward sales records to the designated law enforcement authority for registration; or (3) requiring dealers to forward the records on new sales of firearms to the designated law enforcement authority for registration.

B. What legislative proposals exist on gun registration?

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Marty Meehan plan to introduce a registration/licensing bill.

C. Which states already have registration laws?

- (1) Washington, D.C., Hawaii and Louisiana require all firearms to be registered.
- (2) 21 states have varying registration for firearms sales only (something short of requiring all require all gun owners to register firearms in their possession): AL, AK, CA, CO, CN, DE, IL, IN, MD, MA, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VT, WA & WY.

D. What is the Administration's position on gun registration?

The President has frequently stated that registration is "good idea," and that guns should be licensed like cars. The administration has not otherwise taken a formal position or put forward a proposal on registration.