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CNN

SHOW: CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL 14:20 pm ET

August 12, 1999; Thursday 2:20 pm Eastern Time

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TYPE: LIVE EVENT

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 687 words

HEADLINE: Clinton: L.A. Shootings are 'Compelling Reason' for Gun Control, Hate
Crimes Legislations

BYLINE: Lou Waters, Wolf Blitzer

HIGHLIGHT:

President Clinton takes an opportunity at the Agriculture Department to speak
once again on what happened at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Los
Angeles on Tuesday. Clinton speaks of community, humanity, and he gets a
thunderous ovation for suggesting that the Congress move on hate crimes
legislation. Clinton aligns himself with Janet Reno's support of gun
registration.

BODY:

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LOU WATERS, CNN ANCHOR: President Clinton at the Agriculture Department
speaking about the Los Angeles shootings.

(JOINED IN PROGRESS)

WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: ... appears that they
were motivated by racial and ethnic hatred. If so, that's the second such
incident we've had in the last couple of weeks, along with the killings that
occurred in the Midwest, which you all remember very well, and another
compelling argument in my judgment for this country to renew its commitment to
our common community, our common humanity, and another compelling argument for



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the passage of the hate crimes legislation and the common sense gun legislation we have recommended.

(APPLAUSE)

So, I know the attorney general spoke about this earlier today, but I wanted to strongly support and associate myself with her comments on this.

Now let me tell you, I am -- I may be the happiest person here today, because I have been a supporter of bioenergy for more than 20 years now. When I was governor, I tried to promote the use of wood waste. We opened a little...

WATERS: All right, the president taking an opportunity at the Agriculture Department to speak once again on what happened at the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Speaking of community and humanity and getting a thunderous ovation for suggesting that the Congress move on hate crimes legislation.

Wolf Blitzer is at the White House.

Wolf, the president has taken every opportunity to comment on this story.

WOLF BLITZER, CNN SR. WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: He has been. Every single day he's been trying to make -- drive home the points that these shootings in Los Angeles should underscore the need for tougher gun legislation, which is now pending in Congress, and also his proposed expansion of the hate crimes legislation; that's also pending in Congress. President Clinton hoping these shootings will spur members in Congress, those who are undecided, perhaps on the fence, to go along and support the tougher gun control legislation that passed the Senate but did not pass the House of Representatives, hoping when the members of Congress return from their summer vacation in September they'll go ahead and support the tougher legislation.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Clinton did say he associates himself with what the attorney general, Janet Reno, said this morning. One of the more controversial things she did say is that she supports **gun registration, registering all guns** in the United States, make sure that **gun owners have their weapons registered**. Mr. Clinton earlier, a few months ago, did indicate he, too, supports that. Vice President Al Gore is on record as supporting that. But all of those leaders recognize that right now they don't have the votes in Congress, necessarily, to even pass what's pending: background checks for gun purchases at **gun shows**, let alone **registering all guns** in the United States as cars, for example, are registered. But it's interesting that Janet Reno says she wants that done eventually, president saying he wants to associate himself with what Janet Reno said earlier in the day. All of this in the aftermath of the Los Angeles Jewish community shootings.

WATERS: And the stumbling block, if any, on the hate crime legislation?

BLITZER: Well, the stumbling block is that there is a hate crimes civil rights law that is part of the law of the land right now includes religion, ethnic origin, nationality. What the president wants to do is expand the civil rights hate crimes law to include gender, sexual orientation, disability and there's a lot of questions out there, a lot of critics say that, for example, sexual orientation is not necessarily -- should not necessarily be included as



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part of an expansion of the hate crimes civil rights law.

WATERS: All right, Wolf Blitzer at the White House.

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CNN

SHOW: CNN INSIDE POLITICS 17:00 pm ET

August 12, 1999; Thursday 5:00 pm Eastern Time

Transcript # 99081200V15

TYPE: SHOW

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 8172 words

HEADLINE: GOP Presidential Candidates Prepare to Face Off in Iowa's Straw Poll;
Bill Bradley Contrasts Himself With Al Gore; Warren Beatty Considers Running for
President

GUESTS: David Yepsen, Ron Brownstein, David Peeler, Lamar Alexander

BYLINE: Judy Woodruff, William Schneider, Bernard Shaw, John King, Patty Davis,
Wolf Blitzer, Charles Zewe, Bruce Morton

HIGHLIGHT:

All nine GOP presidential candidates competing in this Saturday's straw poll are
in Iowa and the anticipation surrounding the unofficial contest is likely to
intensify even more. Dan Quayle's and Lamar Alexander's campaigns may hinge on
what happens there this weekend. Bill Bradley draws distinctions between
himself and Al Gore. Actor Warren Beatty is considering running for president.

BODY:

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LAMAR ALEXANDER (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: ... do a thing for my campaign.
We're going to do very well on Saturday.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

JUDY WOODRUFF, CNN ANCHOR: Do or die? Will the Iowa straw poll be the last



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stand for Dan Quayle and Lamar Alexander? Plus, a Democrat's take on the contest.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BILL BRADLEY (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think it's kind of ridiculous, but, you know, I'm glad it's bringing a lot of money into Iowa. Some of my friends are making money out of this. That's good.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WOODRUFF: Bill Bradley takes time from his Iowa campaigning to sit down with us.

Also ahead:

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM SCHNEIDER, CNN SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST: Warren Beatty for president? It's what they call, here in Hollywood, high concept. Here's the pitch: George McGovern meets Jesse Ventura. Got to love it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BERNARD SHAW, CNN ANCHOR: Bill Schneider on an improbable script that may become reality.

ANNOUNCER: This is INSIDE POLITICS, with Bernard Shaw in Washington and Judy Woodruff in Ames, Iowa.

WOODRUFF: Thanks for joining us.

Well, once George W. Bush arrived in Iowa this evening, all nine GOP presidential candidates competing in this Saturday's straw poll will be here, and the anticipation surrounding this unofficial contest is likely to intensify even more.

Well, that may be particularly true for Dan Quayle and Lamar Alexander whose campaigns may hinge on what happens here this weekend. Even if, as CNN's John King reports, they say otherwise.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JOHN KING, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Lamar Alexander insists he won't be folding after Saturday's straw poll.

ALEXANDER: If I can show I'm ready to be president, and you can show we've got an organization to win the caucus next January, then we'll be right where we want to be.

KING: The straw poll has no official role in the race for the Republican nomination, but the stakes couldn't be higher for struggling candidates like Alexander.



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ALEX CASTELLANO, GOP STRATEGIST: When you hear a candidate say that I'm not dropping out after the Iowa straw poll, it's a little bit like Bill Clinton saying: I did not have sex with that woman. It doesn't necessarily mean what you think it does.

DAN QUAYLE (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'll tell you what, though, the people need today -- they need a tax cut. You're sending too much of your money out there in Washington, and don't let them tell you anything differently.

KING: Former Vice President Dan Quayle is in the same fix as Alexander: in single digits in the polls, short on campaign cash, frustrated with the establishment coronation of Texas Governor George W. Bush.

QUAYLE: I think the Republicans are going to realize they're going to have to select who is ready to be president, not who is going to be ready, perhaps, a year, two years from now. Who is ready today? Who's got the right stuff?

ALEXANDER: I'm Lamar Alexander.

KING: It's especially frustrating for Alexander who has run a textbook Iowa campaign: nearly 70 visits these past three years, to just seven for Bush.

ALEXANDER: You can either vote for the candidate with the most money or vote for the candidate who's been to Iowa the most times and learned the most about the issues.

KING: Alexander was Tennessee governor for two terms, education secretary, and an also-ran in the Republican presidential race last time. He says voters should consider his resume over the campaign riches of Bush and Steve Forbes.

ALEXANDER: My sense is that, over time, the people of Iowa and of America will find it very risky business to nominate and elect a president who is untested. I mean, this is about war and peace and life and death.

KING: Alexander says he's out to prove old-fashioned organizing is a match for big money, and he calls the straw poll a celebration, not a funeral.

(on-camera): But those who finish out of the top tier on Saturday will find it even harder to raise money come Monday. And the field of Republican hopefuls is likely to be a candidate or three smaller by the time the Iowa caucuses roll around in January.

John King, CNN, Des Moines, Iowa.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

SHAW: George W. Bush heads into the straw poll, still holding a commanding lead among Iowans likely to attend next year's GOP presidential caucuses.

The latest Iowa Project 2000 survey shows Bush holding at 37 percent; Steve Forbes is second with 15 percent, a 13-point increase since March, when Forbes was in eighth place. Elizabeth Dole has dropped to third place. Dan Quayle and Pat Buchanan round out the top five.

WOODRUFF: Here in Iowa, Bush and his GOP rivals are relying on armies of



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activists to get straw-poll voters to turn out on Saturday.

CNN's Patty Davis looks at campaign organizations at the grassroots.
(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PATTY DAVIS, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Being a bus captain means selling your candidate.

STEVE CHURCHILL, ALEXANDER CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER: Nice barbecue, we've got Crystal Gayle, we've got Howard Baker coming in.

DAVIS: For longtime Republican activist Steve Churchill, it also means getting 46 people to ride your bus to the straw poll and vote for Lamar Alexander. Churchill says it's about making a difference.

CHURCHILL: We just have such an opportunity. We can do so much more than your average American can. So I just think it's exciting to really able to be front and center.

DAVIS: Twenty-three-year-old Rebekah Brandmeir has never worked on a campaign, never been to a straw poll.

REBEKAH BRANDMEIR, BUSH CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER: Great. I was calling to see if you guys have any questions about this Saturday's straw poll.

DAVIS: Yet this George W. Bush supporter has spent the past five weeks drumming up votes for him in her spare time.

BRANDMEIR: You just feel something about him when you shake his hand, when you talk to him. You just, you know, kind of -- you know when you meet somebody that's so exciting to you around, they kind of give you goosebumps, you just get all excited?

DAVIS: Whether it's their candidate's charisma or the thrill of the campaign that motivates them, the goal is the same. While a candidate delivers the message, these grassroots activists deliver the voters.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, I can get you signed up down here.

DAVIS: They are key to Saturday's straw poll.

Brandmeir has lined up nearly 50 people to drive from all over the state to Ames, including her 18-year-old sister.

LOIS CAIN, STRAW POLL VOTER: Everyone talks about my generation and they don't say a lot of positive things about us anymore, so if we have the opportunity to be involved, why not be involved?

DAVIS: She also convinced her boss, who talked four others into going to the straw poll.

Over at the Dole headquarters, volunteers are gearing up for Saturday.

RACHEL SCHERLE, DOLE CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER: Ever since I was a little girl, I've



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always admired Elizabeth Dole and, actually, when Bob Dole was running, I was -- I always wanted Elizabeth Dole to run instead. I mean, nothing against Bob or anything.

DAVIS: Nothing against Bob, but this volunteer thinks this time she sees a winner.

Patty Davis, CNN, Des Moines.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

SHAW: Now, let's bring in veteran Iowa political reporter David Yepsen of the "Des Moines Register."

David, we know about the top two or three, but what's happened in the very crowded second-tier candidates?

DAVID YEPSEN, DES MOINES REGISTER: Well, that's an interesting race going on down there. Gary Bauer, Alan Keyes, Dan Quayle, Pat Buchanan: there's -- they're fighting a battle among themselves for who's going to be the champion of the social conservatives in this race. So some of these candidates may not have to finish in that top three if they can emerge as the leading champion of the religious right.

SHAW: Who appears best suited to do that -- third or fourth? YEPSEN: Gary Bauer. Well, I think Gary Bauer -- third or fourth, Bernie? Well, I think the conventional view is that Bush and Forbes are fighting it out for first and second, and then you've probably got Elizabeth Dole in a about a third-place position, with Gary Bauer strongly competitive for fourth.

Elizabeth Dole's a bit of a wild card because we don't know whether any of the newcomers that she's attracting to her banner -- the young women who are interested in her candidacy -- are actually going to show up at a straw poll. But I think Mr. Bauer has got a pretty good organization out there to bring his people in.

SHAW: David, what is going on in your state. Is money trumping organization? As John King noted, Lamar Alexander has been in the Hawkeye State at least 70 times over the past three years, and we know from the past set of caucuses, he had quite an organization. What is happening?

YEPSEN: Well, you know, I don't want to sound harsh to Mr. Alexander, but he has been here a lot and a lot of Iowa Republicans have heard him. And at some point, you know, they say they don't like him. It's not a question of spending more time here, it's a question of having said: OK, we've visited Lamar Alexander and we find George W. Bush or Elizabeth Dole or somebody else to be better.

It's a tough verdict, but that's the function of the Iowa caucuses, is to winnow the field of candidates. That process is starting a little bit earlier. I think John King had it right in his piece. There are going to be some of these candidates who -- they may still be in the race after Saturday, but they're going to be walking wounded.

Bernie, what are they going to do? Call up a fund-raiser and say: Hey, I



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just finished fifth in Iowa. Send me \$1,000? That's not going to happen.

SHAW: In Patty Davis's piece, that Bush campaign worker spoke of getting goosebumps when she shook his hands. Is there talk of some kind of backlash because of G.W.'s money being spent there in the state?

YEPSEN: Well, I think there's a little bit of that. I don't think Iowans like anyone insinuating that they can be bought, and I don't think they are. I think just because you've got Crystal Gayle and a free barbecue sandwich to somebody means they're going to vote for you for president. I think these people are activists, they take it very seriously, they care about politics. You have to be motivated about politics to spend the bulk of the day to vote in this thing.

And so, yes, these are the kind of folks who do get goosebumps when they see a presidential candidate. And I have to say, I think Governor Bush's stump style is a lot like President Clinton's: it's very appealing, it's very charismatic, he wades into the crowd, he enjoys meeting people. There's a little electricity around George W. Bush that you don't necessarily find around some of the other candidates. SHAW: And lastly: Is my impression from afar correct, that the Elizabeth Dole campaign is seemingly getting some traction?

YEPSEN: Well, you can read that. We don't know, Bernie. I think she's doing all right. I think she's doing well. She's well- know, she's been here a lot, she's got a respectable organization. The key for her, Bernie, is if she can get those newcomers, if she can get those young women who've been showing up at her rallies and these new people that come out at her events -- if she can get them to Ames, she could do really well.

SHAW: David Yepsen, "Des Moines Register," thanks for joining us.

YEPSEN: Thank you, Bernie.

SHAW: Always a pleasure.

Still ahead here on INSIDE POLITICS:

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

BRADLEY: I've gotten up many years in my life and gone to work everyday and never thought of the federal government. I've just been doing my job to the best of my ability like millions of other Americans.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SHAW: Bill Bradley draws distinctions between himself and Al Gore. His conversation with Judy when we return.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WOODRUFF: Republicans may be center stage here in Iowa, but Democratic presidential candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley also are campaigning in this state this day. I sat down with Bradley this morning for a rare television interview, and started by asking him why he believes he's a better candidate



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than Gore.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BRADLEY: I think you look at your life experience, you look at where you've come from, what you believe, you match that against where the country is, what our opportunities are, what our needs are, where we are in the world, and you conclude that your abilities match this national moment in ways that make you the right person at the right time.

WOODRUFF (on-camera): You talk, among other things, about how your life experiences are different from those of Vice President Gore. But you both really never had to struggle, you did grow up in a small town in Missouri, but you were the son of a banker and went on to an Ivy League college. Shortly after that, you were earning 10 times as much as the average person, playing professional basketball. Isn't this a bit of a superficial argument to make? BRADLEY: I'm not making the argument that I grew up in a log cabin. I'm making the argument that I've had a more varied life experience. I did grow up in that small town. It shaped me in many ways. It is like millions of other small towns in America. So, it's experience that is shared by millions of people. I did have a good education, I don't make any apologies about. I think that's given me an insight on the world and myself and history. That made me a better person, as well as a better politician and leader. I did travel. I did play professional basketball, and traveled with an extraordinary group of human beings for 10 years. In many ways, it was a black world and I saw the country through their eyes day in and day out. And it was a unique kind of preparation. In total, I saw the country whole in that process.

I was lucky and fortunate to be given the trust of New Jersey voters for three times to serve them in the United States Senate, and I do think that's a more varied life experience than the vice president, who spent his life primarily in Washington. I've gotten up many years in my life and gone to work every day and never thought of the federal government. I've just been doing my job to the best of my ability like millions of other Americans.

WOODRUFF: But you also served 18 years in the Senate.

BRADLEY: I did. I think it's the best of all possible worlds. It's a life that's full and rich outside Washington. It's a life with enough experience to know how Washington works.

WOODRUFF: People are very much looking at you, ones who are beginning to pay attention to this presidential contest, they're looking at Al Gore, if they're thinking of voting Democratic, and they're trying to figure out what is different between these two men?

BRADLEY: Well, I think there are some clear issue differences already. And there will be more as the fall develops. Let me just give you three issue differences. I've come out for a much stronger proposal to control guns in this country. What I think is common sense. I've offered a proposal for **registration** of all 65 million **handguns**, to take gun dealers out of neighborhoods -- residential neighborhoods -- to make it a felony for a gun dealer to sell to a third person who then sells to another person, a child or a felon. That's much stronger kind of gun control than the vice president has



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proposed.

On campaign finance reform, I've issued a challenge to all candidates to forswear soft money. And the only candidate who's accepted that challenge has been John McCain on the Republican side. So, if he and I were the nominees, we would eliminate soft money. I've proposed public financing of general elections. And to date, the vice president hasn't accepted that challenge. There's a third difference. Over the last five days, there have been two statements issued by his campaign as to what his view is about federal funding of abortions. I think it's about time he stood up and told us what his position was on federal funding of abortions.

And you know, I think there's also -- it's interesting that his campaign staff said they had to research his record. Well, on issues of reproductive rights for women, my record is clear, it's been the same throughout my public life. So, I think that there are some clear differences on issues. But I ultimately think that, that won't be how people make their mind up. I think they'll make their minds up on the basis of who they trust, which is accumulation, not only of specific issues, but of how they feel about the person, and whether they feel that the person is somebody they're going to trust with their life, with their job, and do they trust that this person has a view of life that is remotely similar to their own. So, I think that we would be very different presidents, and we would have very different presidencies.

WOODRUFF: Are there any restrictions you would favor on abortion?

BRADLEY: No, I support federal funding of abortions and I think a woman should have a right to choose, whether she is a poor woman or a wealthy woman.

WOODRUFF: Let me also ask you a question about gun control. You talk about registration -- everybody who has a gun would have to register that gun?

BRADLEY: Everybody who has a handgun.

WOODRUFF: Who has a handgun. If you're elected president and you're dealing with a Republican Congress -- a Republican-controlled Congress, how in the world do you turn that into reality? I mean, how do you keep this from being something other than cheap talk? I mean, even a number of Democrats don't agree with you on this.

BRADLEY: Well, one sure way that it never happens is never advocate it. What a leader does, is a leader sets a direction, and lays out a policy that he thinks is common sense and that he thinks is the direction this country should go in. The next thing he does is, is he fights for these people who believe like he believes. That's why it is incredibly important that I just not succeed, but that there be a Democratic Congress and a Democratic Senate.

WOODRUFF: You're in Iowa at the time of the Republican Party straw poll. Is there a gimmick to this in any sense, your being here right now?

BRADLEY: No. I'm in Iowa -- I'll be in Iowa next week for four days. August is an important time to begin to build your organization in Iowa, that's what we're doing. We're getting very good results, as you saw this morning, it was a very big turn out. We thought there would be 40 or 50. Two-hundred-and-fifty



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or so showed up today. And that's happening all over. And I think that shows that we're making some progress. It's going to be an uphill battle. Iowa is going to be tough, you know. The vice president is powerful, he's got all the establishment power, and basically what we have are the people. And we just have to mobilize the people. If we do that, we'll do better than people expected.

WOODRUFF: When you say he's got the establishment power, what do you mean?

BRADLEY: Well, I mean he's got the party, he's got a lot of the traditional fund-raisers, he's got, you know, in some cases -- you know, just look at way we arrive, you know? I often come to Iowa on commercial airlines, and he arrives on Air Force 2. It's a little different feel. That allows me to move, allows me to pop into towns, have coffee with people in their homes or do it on a very kind of casual and human basis.

WOODRUFF: Do you wish the Democrats were having a straw poll in Iowa right now?

BRADLEY: No, I don't. I think it's kind of ridiculous, but you know, I'm glad it's bringing a lot of money into Iowa. Some of my friends are making money out of this. That's good.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

WOODRUFF: As we said, both Bradley and Gore are campaigning in Iowa today and tomorrow, and Bradley stressed that in the coming months, his differences with the vice president, he will talk about them more and more.

Still ahead, the president and vice president call for new legislation in the wake of the Los Angeles shooting. The latest from Wolf Blitzer at the White House.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SHAW: Vice President Al Gore is criticizing the GOP and calling for tougher gun-control and hate-crime legislation, this following the shooting at a Jewish community center and the killing of a postal worker in Los Angeles. Gore's comments today echoed those of President Clinton.

Our senior Wolf Blitzer now joins us.

WOLF BLITZER, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Bernie, on almost every day -- in fact, on every day since the Los Angeles shootings, both Vice President Al Gore and President Clinton have spoken out, insisting that the shootings should serve as a wake-up call, urging members of Congress to use the shootings as a springboard to go ahead and pass tougher anti-gun legislation as well as President Clinton's proposed hate crime legislation.

Vice President Gore, out in Iowa today, specifically issued this veiled slap at some of the Republican presidential candidates, saying it really amazes me how some people could pretend that hate crimes are not different from all other crimes. He went on to say, "Hate crimes wound all of America."

And President Clinton used another occasion to speak out in the aftermath of



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the Los Angeles shootings.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: It now appears that they were motivated by racial and ethnic hatred. If so, that's the second such incident we've had in the last couple of weeks and another compelling argument for the passing of the hate crimes legislation and the common sense gun legislation we have recommended.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Earlier in the day, the attorney general, Janet Reno, once again called for **gun registration** in the United States. **President Clinton** a few weeks ago similarly called for **gun registration**, as did Vice **President Al Gore**, although all of them have acknowledged they don't even have the votes rights now for the tougher Senate anti-gun legislation to be enacted once the members of Congress get back from summer recess. So it's unrealistic to assume that they could push through **gun registration** at this point.

Meanwhile, during this hour, **President Clinton** is going to be meeting with about 40 members of the American Jewish community, a meeting that was scheduled about a month or so ago. On the agenda: the Arab-Israeli peace process, but also, in the aftermath of the Los Angeles shootings, hate crimes in the United States. They want the Justice Department to be vigorous in tracking some of these hate groups in the country -- Bernie.

SHAW: Wolf, change of subjects -- the president's legal problems, personally for himself and the first lady, Hillary Rodham **Clinton**. In February, 1998, a new legal defense trust fund was set up. What's the latest on that?

BLITZER: Well, they just released the numbers today for the first six months of this year. Right now the numbers are as such, that since February of '98, this legal expense fund for the president and the first lady has raised \$6.3 million, but the president's legal bills and the first lady's legal bills total \$10.5 million. That means they still need another \$4 million or so, before all of their legal bills are paid up.

The trustees from that fund said today, they hope to be able to pay up all of these legal bills, emanating from Whitewater, the Paula Jones affair, the Monica Lewinsky impeachment process. They hope to pay up all of those legal bills by the time the president leaves office.

SHAW: Wolf Blitzer, with the latest from the White House.

And still ahead on INSIDE POLITICS:

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SCHNEIDER: Ronald Reagan got elected president. Ventura's governor. "Gopher" -- oops, make that Fred Grandy, served in the House, then there's Fred Thompson and Sonny Bono and, oh my God, Jerry Springer is thinking of running for Senate.

(END VIDEO CLIP) SHAW: Bill Schneider ponders the possibility of a Warren Beatty presidential candidacy. Could the actor make a viable bid?



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Plus, fine time in Iowa: a look at who's spending and how much, in the days before the straw poll.

And GOP hopefuls head to the fair, but who will win the straw poll prize?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

SHAW: As Republicans battle it out in Iowa, a new name has crept up in the Democratic presidential race. Actor Warren Beatty, a self-described liberal Democrat, has told the "New York Times" he is considering running.

Bill Schneider joins us now from Los Angeles with his take on a Beatty candidacy -- Bill.

SCHNEIDER: Warren Beatty for president? That's what they call here in Hollywood "high concept." Here's the pitch -- George McGovern meets Jesse Ventura -- got to love it!

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

SCHNEIDER (voice-over): Well, why not? Ronald Reagan got elected president. Ventura's governor. Gopher -- oops, make that Fred Grandy served in the House. Then there's Fred Thompson, Sonny Bono, and oh, my God, Jerry Springer's thinking of running for Senate.

Celebrity counts because it gives you instant name recognition, something ordinary candidates spend a fortune trying to buy. But it doesn't mean people take you seriously, especially if you're a show-business celebrity.

At least Reagan, Ventura and Springer had already been elected to something. Beatty just played a senator in the movies, one who had to have a nervous breakdown before he could run again and tell the truth.

We can get a clue about what's going on from a comment Beatty made last year.

WARREN BEATTY, ACTOR: You know, all the people I've known in all the years I have been in politics, I can't tell you how much I admire their willingness to go into public service, and how much it's contrasted to my selfish pursuits of show business.

SCHNEIDER: Ah-hah. A mid-life crisis. Politics as therapy.

Actually, Beatty has been a serious political player for some time. George McGovern was one once of the first liberals Beatty assigned himself with. He went on to support, among others, Gary Hart. He has passionate views about politics, views he treated semi-seriously in the movie "Bullworth."

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP, "BULLWORTH") BEATTY: What happened was that we all knew that was going to be big news for a while, so we all came down here -- Bush, Clinton, Wilson, all of us -- we got our pictures taken, told you what you wanted to hear, and we pretty much forgot about it.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

SCHNEIDER: Beatty is a rare and endangered species in today's politics, a



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genuine unreconstructed leftist. He won an Academy Award for his movie "Reds," a tribute to the radical left.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

SCHNEIDER: He's thinking about running for president not because it's fashionable, but for precisely the opposite reason: What he believes has become unfashionable.

There's no authentic voice of the left in this campaign. No Jesse Jackson. No Paul Wellstone. Who speaks for the poor and the disadvantaged? Who attacks the power of wealth? Nobody? Very well then Beatty says, I may give it a try -- Bernie.

SHAW: Bill Schneider. thank you.

Joining us now to talk more about a possible Warren Beatty presidential campaign and other political matters, Ron Brownstein of the "Los Angeles Times."

At the beginning of this decade you wrote a book about the Hollywood-Washington nexus. It was called "The Power and the Glitter." You interviewed Beatty extensively for a book. Is he putting his mouth where his money is, and has he been a man of conviction?

RON BROWNSTEIN, "LOS ANGELES TIMES": Well, he has been a man of conviction. And I haven't talked to him in the last few days in this recent episode, but it's important to understand that we've been down this road before more than one time,

In 1974 he was approached to run for governor of California when Ronald Reagan stepped down, and was shown polls that ostensibly had him leading the Democratic field -- in the field that was eventually won by Jerry Brown -- thought about it, went a little bit forward, didn't do it.

Two years later in 1976, supporters of Hubert Humphrey came to Beatty and asked him to be a stand-in for the former vice president in the late stages of the Democratic primaries as a way -- part of the effort to stop Jimmy Carter, as to be an alternative to Jimmy Carter. Beatty again thought about it seriously, went up to the brink in that I think, and didn't do it.

In the end, he decided in both cases that the perquisites and the control that you can have over your life as a celebrity, to dip in and out of the public world, to control the way the media and the public has access to you was too much to give in. So I don't know if he's going to do it or not this time. I do know that he's hesitated in the past, as have most others in the entertainment industry who's thought about this.

SHAW: Might his running, if it were to evolve, be an extension of a movie?

BROWNSTEIN: Well, you know, it's funny, I mean, "Bullworth" certainly provides some of the idea of what a Warren Beatty platform might look like. You know, as Bill's piece pointed out, he has been as intimately involved in presidential politics I think as any celebrity ever, and probably anyone in Hollywood ever.



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The only one I can think of is close is Darryl Zanic's relationship with Wendell Wilkie in the 1940. He was an intimate adviser in the McGovern campaign, and certainly a key player in the Hart campaign. He knows how this works. Something he said to me, Bernie, in the early 1990s was I have no desire to play Don Quixote. And that's -- and maybe that's changed by now, but again, it's not clear to me whether he can get over this line.

SHAW: Well, the man also clearly knows political calculus. If he enters the presidential campaign he's going to undercut Bill Bradley.

BROWNSTEIN: You know, that's what I have been thinking all day as I've been thinking about this. It's not clear how enter thing the presidential race as a liberal voice talking about poverty and campaign finance reform among other issues, could do anything but strengthen Al Gore at this point, who now has to face one challenger raising those issues. If Beatty did get in the race, however viable he might be, he would -- he would inevitably dilute that vote, and that's got to be something he's got to consider.

SHAW: Speaking of Al Gore -- do you sense that he's beginning to take off the gloves when it comes to G.W. Bush and Bill Bradley?

BROWNSTEIN: Well, certainly with Bush. I mean, he has been as explicit in going after Bush on a range of issues, from guns, to hate crimes, to level of children's health insurance. I was down with him in Houston with him this week, and he made a reference to the low level of children who are -- have health insurance in Texas.

I've never seen a candidate during a primary go after a general election candidate as clearly. I interviewed the vice president on Monday. I asked him whether it was a contradiction, as some Democrats have asserted, for Bush to say I will leave no one behind, and also to say I would sign the Republican tax bill.

And he said anyone that would hold those two positions is engaging in an act of self-contradiction. So there's no question there. I think at the same time, he is beginning to -- just as Bradley is -- sharpen their differences with each other.

SHAW: Ron, how much do you suppose on the part of the Gore people and the vice president himself, this is a ploy to get people no longer to see Gore's connection by hip to Bill Clinton? BROWNSTEIN: Well, I think that Al Gore is pursuing a more subtle argument than that. What he talks about, and what he talked about when I interviewed him is an argument that basically says we have to believe we have to do better. That is the essence of America. But to do better, we have to build on the approaches that are already working.

And when you look at the kind of agenda they've laid out, for example, today in Iowa, where he talked about series of measures to close what he calls the "opportunity gap," in almost every case what he's looking to do extend beyond proposals that Clinton has already pushed, but not really to depart in the direction from that.

And I think he's basically making the argument that to move left as Bradley proposes, or to move toward the right as Bush embodies, is to risk the progress



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that have been made. Now, I think, you know, obviously there will obviously be contending voices on that argument, but that is one that I think that he is going to rest lot of his campaign on.

SHAW: Ron Brownstein of the "Los Angeles Times," thank you.

BROWNSTEIN: Thank you, Bernie.

SHAW: And when we return, Judy is going to talk to GOP hopeful Lamar Alexander. Plus, we'll ask David Peeler what Alexander's spending on Iowa TV.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WOODRUFF: As the overwhelming front-runner, George W. Bush could afford to spend part of this day not in Iowa, but in Missouri.

CNN's Charles Zewe has been traveling with the Texas governor.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

CHARLES ZEWE, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Heading into the Iowa straw poll, what even he sees as an important first test of his campaign strength, Texas Governor George Bush swept through rural Missouri, a state he considers a swing state in his presidential bid. He toured a plant bagging wheat headed for Ethiopia under the U.S. government's Food for Peace program. And the GOP front-runner heard farmers tell of the tough times they face because of overproduction and low crop prices. He pledged help.

GOV. GEORGE W. BUSH (R-TX), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in your hearts or a sense of purpose in your lives.

ZEWE: What Americans need, he says, is a tax cut.

BUSH: I think the president ought to cut the taxes.

ZEWE: Bush declared projected surpluses will provide plenty of money to preserve Social Security and Medicare, along with rebuilding the military.

BUSH: So the big question is, do we create more government, or do we give it back to the people who paid the bill in the first place? I say give it back to the people. (applause)

ZEWE: As part of his compassionate conservatism, Bush says he would go further than the Republican tax plan before Congress. He says he would propose cutting tax rates for wage earners making between \$10,000 and \$30,000 a year, while at the same time, preserving benefits for the poor, such as food stamps and family tax credits.

BUSH: Tax policy ought to make it easier for people to go from near poverty to the middle class.

ZEWE: Bush says he expects to win this weekend's straw poll...

BUSH: I'd like to win, and I'm going to give it my best shot.



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ZEWE: But, he adds, he doesn't put much stock in such political beauty contests, pointing out he watched his father's huge lead in pre-election polls plummet and end up losing the election.

(on-camera): Bush campaign officials say they will be disappointed with anything less than a first-place in the straw poll, but they're quick to add their plans are already in place, their strategy ready for the fall, leading into next year's primary season.

Charles Zewe, CNN, Scott City, Missouri.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

SHAW: Republican presidential hopeful Steve Forbes has made it clear he is willing to spend the money to reach Iowa voters.

Joining us now from New York, David Peeler of Competitive Media Reporting.

David, how much has Forbes spent in the last two weeks leading up to the Ames, Iowa straw poll?

DAVID PEELER, COMPETITIVE MEDIA REPORTING: Well, Bernie, we've seen Steve Forbes really accelerate his rate of spending in the last two weeks. If you go back two weeks ago, we saw Steve Forbes spend about \$30,000 in Des Moines television alone. If we look at this week -- and this is a week ending on Wednesday, so we've still got three days to go before the straw poll, he spent another \$30,000. We understand that he's going to have a pretty big guy on the air between now and Saturday.

So he's spending at a very, very good clip for a straw poll.

SHAW: As part of his \$10 million dollar ad campaign, Forbes has produce a number of ads. One set deals with Forbes as a family man, featuring his wife and daughters. The others highlight Forbes' now- famous view of the need for a flat tax.

David, which type of ad is Forbes spending more money on?

PEELER: Well, clearly, Bernie, what we've seen is Steve Forbes spending the bulk of his money, about \$56,000, in that last two week period against what we call the soft issues, the me issues, positioned himself as a family man, and trying to gear himself toward the Republican conservative voter in the Iowa area that'll get out and go to the straw poll.

And you know, for Steve Forbes, the flat tax, the tax issue, that's his bread and butter issue. It's almost a soft issue also for Steve Forbes. He spent a smaller bit of money against that ad, but the bulk of it's been against the positioning ads.

SHAW: The other Republican hopeful spending money on campaign commercials in Iowa right now: Lamar Alexander. David, earlier, you estimated his spending at \$37,000. Does it look like Alexander will spend that much more before -- or that much manufacture the straw poll?



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PEELER: Well, Bernie, I have to admit that after the first week of spending, I was a little nervous with my forecast. Two weeks ago, Lamar Alexander spent about \$7,000 in his first week of ad spending, so I was a little nervous, as I said. But this week he's really accelerated that pace. He's spent up through Wednesday about \$25,000 in Des Moines television. We know he's got a little bit of radio going on, too. So with two days to go, I expect he'll spend probably in excess of the \$37,000 that we predicted.

David Peeler, Competitive Media Reporting. Thanks for joining us. Now Judy...

PEELER: Thank you, Bernie.

SHAW: You're quite welcome.

Now Judy has a guest in Iowa.

WOODRUFF: And joining us now to talk more about his efforts here in Iowa, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, and he joins us from the Iowa state fair grounds in Des Moines. Governor Alexander, you're spending the money. You've spent 78 -- will have spent 78 days in this state. Where is that going to get you? Are you going to come out in the top tier of candidates Saturday?

ALEXANDER: Well, Judy, I'm not sure. It would help.

But one thing I was going to ask you was, how can you have a front-runner when no one has voted yet? I was just listening to your coverage for about the last five minutes, and you keep referring to the "Republican front-runner," and last time I checked, it'll be six more months before anybody in Iowa casts their first vote, so it would help me, and I think the other candidates, maybe the people of this country, if as you present the news, you'd say here are the various candidates, and some of them are spending more than others, some have more experience than others, some have been to Iowa. as I have, 50 or 60 times and learned about the issues, and then we'll let the voters next January make a decision about the front-runner.

WOODRUFF: All right. We'll take that advice.

How well do you think you will do?

ALEXANDER: I'm going to exceed expectations. We're going to have a good solid showing, I believe, Judy, on Saturday, people from every county. I hope that when everyone looks at what we're doing, they'll see, A, we're having a good time, B, I'm ready to be president and, C, that, I have a better caucus organization than any other candidate out here. If that's true, I'll do very well. I can't predict what the others will do. So I don't know exactly what the order will be. But we're hoping to exceed expectations and go on and do our best to win the Iowa caucus in January.

WOODRUFF: Are you definitely in this race, Governor Alexander, no matter what happens Saturday? I mean staying in through January?

ALEXANDER: The race is just starting. And what my goal is, as you know -- I ran before. I did better in New Hampshire than President Reagan, than President



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Bush, than Bob Dole, in first race in New Hampshire. So I'm back again. And I believe that a campaign that's person to person, that goes to 70 counties will prepare me better to be president. And I think the people of Iowa are likely to decide the same thing by January.

So I believe we'll have a good contest, and I...

WOODRUFF: But what does it say about the process, if somebody who will have spent, I think, only 9 days here, which is the number we're told Governor George Bush will have spent -- if he comes in first, having spent that much less time than you, what does that say about the process there?

ALEXANDER: Well, I think it would require all of us to step back and take a look, because if celebrity, and big money and having it reported every day, six months before the race starts, that someone is a front-runner, counts more than going to 63 counties, and meeting special education teachers, and meet with farmers and learning about the issues, then I think we ought to stop and think about process.

And I think what many Iowans are saying is, hey, wait just a minute. We want to have a say in this. We think the race is about raising taxes, lowering taxes, raising farm prices, raising children, not about money.

So if the race is allowed to continue and to proceed, I think you'll see a good-spirited contest among some very good Republican candidates, including Governor Bush, who I think is a strong candidate. And I don't think we know yet how that Iowa caucus will come out.

WOODRUFF: We heard you at the top of our program in a John King report, saying, over time, people will find it very risky business to elect a president who's untested and unproved, referring to Governor Bush? ALEXANDER: Well, it refers to a number of people, and in fact, it refers to all of us in a way, because this is a brand new generation of candidates. We don't have a Richard Nixon. There's no Bob Dole. There's no George Bush in this race. Brand new candidates for the biggest job in the world, so it's very risky business to put one of us in a debate with Albert Gore, who's a very tested...

WOODRUFF: Risky in what sense?

ALEXANDER: Well, risky we might find out in the middle of that debate with Albert Gore that our nominee is not ready to be president. I mean, what do you say in the middle of a debate with Albert Gore? Bring me my pile of money? I think you need to show you're ready to be president. So the purpose of a...

WOODRUFF: Well, that sounds like a clear reference to Governor Bush?

ALEXANDER: It's a clear reference to anyone who's not tested. I am arguing for a contest. I am saying that to say that 15 percent of the money is in and the race is therefore over is wrong, and it's depriving the American people of a full opportunity to compare and contrast each one of us.

So that process begins this weekend. I'm glad everyone is here in Iowa, all the news media. I think it's the beginning of a race, and I am looking forward to this race. And I may be the winner, or I may not be the winner, but I'll



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feel a lot better about it if we test our nominee in a debate among ourselves before we test him in a debate with Al Gore or Bill Bradley.

WOODRUFF: All right. Governor -- the former governor, Lamar Alexander, we thank you very much and we'll be watching you and all the other candidates for the next few days and beyond. Thanks.

ALEXANDER: Thank you very much, Judy.

WOODRUFF: And next -- thank you.

Next on INSIDE POLITICS, a day at the Iowa state fair: was it a picnic for GOP presidential hopefuls gearing up for Saturday's straw poll?

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

WOODRUFF: A look at Iowa now by the numbers. Of the almost 3 million residents, more than 96 percent are white. Unemployment is just over 2.5 percent, and more than 39 percent of Iowans live in rural areas.

Well, more than 10,000 Iowans perhaps will gather here in Ames on Saturday for the GOP presidential straw poll. The campaigns are setting up tents outside the Hilton (ph) Coliseum, where the event will take place in Ames. A number of candidates, meanwhile, spent this day in Des Moines, taking part in another Iowa tradition.

Here's CNN's Bruce Morton.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Blooming onions down here was the winner last year.

BRUCE MORTON, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): It all looks fine at the fair, concessions competing for prizes, the fanciest butter sculpture ever by Norma Lia (ph).

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: She does the cow and then she does some other design as well.

MORTON: It's a pure butter version of the Last Supper. But beneath all the traditions, farmers are itchy, prices are terrible, agro-business is taking over.

GARY BAUER (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm Gary Bauer, and I'm running for president. And I bet no politician has ever done even this much for you.

MORTON: Gary Bauer is pouring ice tea at the Beef Pavilion. He noticed a problem.

BAUER: If I have anything to do with it, we're going to ask the Justice Department to start enforcing the anti-trust laws, so you don't have a handful of companies controlling the food supply in the United States.

MORTON: Lamar Alexander is also here to talk farm crisis.



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ALEXANDER: He could have said to Europe, "You don't buy our beef, we won't buy yours. You don't buy our pork, we won't buy yours."

QUAYLE: Breaded tenderloins. Boy, those things are really good. This reminds me of being back home in Indiana.

MORTON: And Dan Quayle talks farm problems, claiming the Washington establishment doesn't care about the loss of family farms.

QUAYLE: Because the farmer is really hurting, and I hope that you go back with the message that Clinton, Gore and Greenspan got to get off the stick and do something about deflation.

MORTON: The problem is not new.

GEORGE MILLS, POLITICAL ANALYST: When I first came to Iowa, after graduating from college in 1928, we had about 225,000 farms. Now, we've got fewer than 90,000.

MORTON: But it's evident, even amidst the fun of the fair -- stop by the Future Farmers of America and ask.

DAN KEISER, FUTURE FARMER: I hope to. I know we've got -- I'm hoping to take over the family farm. Soon I'm -- right now, I finished my second year in college and I'm majoring in agronomy. So, that's kind of what I've been gearing up to do, farm.

JASON RUNDE, FUTURE FARMER: It seems like a good job now, but the way everything is going, I'm not so sure anymore.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

MORTON: Both of those young men hope to have careers as farmers. Neither one is sure that he's going to be able to. And that's sort of symptomatic of the whole mood at this fair. It's the traditional state fair, lots of food, lots of exhibits, lots of fun, but underneath that there's a sort of anxiousness, a mood of uncertainty, because people in this state really do see the family farm as kind of a vanishing institution -- Judy.

WOODRUFF: So, given that, Bruce, how much real interest are you picking up in this straw poll on Saturday?

MORTON: Well, I think people are interested because they're looking for help, but more than one farmer here has said to me, in effect, the candidates keep running around saying, money for the farmers, federal money, more government money. That's not going to solve it. "What we need," one man said, "is something that will break up these big companies and let an average-sized guy, a family farmer, compete."

WOODRUFF: And presumably none of the candidates is talking about that?

MORTON: Well, you heard Gary Bauer saying, I'd get the Justice Department on it. I don't know how much of that is a recent conversion. That's not an issue that he talked about a couple of weeks ago. I don't know whether it's possible. There's a trend toward bigness in a lot of areas in American life, big discount



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stores, a Target, a Wal-Mart. That's happening here with the big agriculture businesses and I don't know whether a family farmer can compete. He's really going to be swimming upstream.

WOODRUFF: All right. Bruce Morton at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, thanks.

Well, that is all for this edition of INSIDE POLITICS. I'm Judy Woodruff. And we'll be back here tomorrow in Ames, Iowa. Good day, Bernie.

SHAW: Good day, Judy. See you tomorrow. I'm Bernard Shaw in Washington.

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BRIEFERS:

BARRY TOIV, DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY
DAVID J. LEAVY, DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ROOM
WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

MR. TOIV: Good afternoon, everybody. Before we start, just I'd like to pay a little tribute to, well, somebody who's not here at the moment, actually. As you all know, UPI Radio is going to cease existence this week, I believe. And we're all sad about that. And UPI Radio has been part of radio journalism in this country for nearly four decades. And we're all going to miss them. And Don Fulsom (sp), who has been their White House correspondent for quite a while and has been with UPI Radio for almost half of the time they've been in existence, we're going to miss Don, too. We hope he'll return soon. And with that, any -- there's Don.

Q Okay, thank you very much, everybody. I'll -- (applause).

MR. TOIV: Don, we hope you'll be back.

Questions.

Q What about the sale of the Panama Canal?

MR. TOIV: Panama Canal.

David, you want to come right up here and -- ?

MR. LEAVY: The United States is satisfied our interests will be protected after the canal is turned over this December. We have seen no capability on the part of the PRC to disrupt the canal's operations. I'd just mention the so-called Neutrality Act provides a guarantee for the security of the canal, and that a law was passed to implement the Hong Kong-based firms who were in question, and part of that implementing law are provisions that ensure that no vessel -- that the canal will remain open to vessels of all nations.

Q Whose law is that?

MR. LEAVY: Well, my understanding is that Panama's contract with the Hong Kong-based firm, to operate the two ports of the canal, was passed into law January 1997, and that laws contains the provision --

Q A Panamanian law?



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MR. LEAVY: Yeah. It's -- let me check on that, but that's my --

Q And did we have any bid on this?

MR. LEAVY: I think we did --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. LEAVY: -- well, it's two -- they're Hong Kong-based firms. I believe we did bid on that. I believe there actually were some questions about the bidding. But we protested that. And our team has been aware of the issue and looked into it. And as I said earlier, we are satisfied our interests will be protected.

Q Is the U.S. and American vessels, are they guaranteed access and transit through the canal?

MR. LEAVY: Yes, they are. There is the so-called Neutrality Treaty, which provides for the security of the canal, and then the law that governed the contract of these two Hong Kong-based firms have a provision that allows vessels from all nations to pass through.

I would also just note too, that the firms are container shipping firms. And while they have ports on both ends of the canal, they are not the only ones. They don't have a monopoly or -- so --

Q There was another issue raised, and that was intelligence matters. Will this give the PRC an added ability to monitor shipping that goes through the canal?

MR. LEAVY: Well, I don't want to comment specifically on intelligence matters, Alec, though just to say that our national security team has looked into the matter and we are confident that our interests will be protected and guaranteed.

Q Does this company have ties with the Chinese military? MR. LEAVY: I don't know if they have -- I know it's a Hong Kong-based company, but I am not sure what, if any, ties they have to the PLA.

Q Well, when does all this happen now?

MR. LEAVY: Well the transfer, the actual official transfer, I believe, is in early December of this year. There will be a transfer -- a ceremony. I am not sure when the actual company contract goes into effect. But there will be a big ceremony in Panama this December, to actually commemorate the official transfer.

Q (Inaudible) -- actually approved of this?

MR. LEAVY: Well, this was an open commercial contract. U.S. firms bid on it. The Panamanian --

Q They bid too low?

MR. LEAVY: Well, this was several years ago, so I don't have the exact specifics of the bidding process here.

But actually there were some questions just about the transparency of the bidding process. We raised our concerns at the time. But subsequently, our team has looked into it, and we feel that our interests will be protected. And I would just note, too, that we see no capability, on the part of the PRC, which is a heavy user of the canal, to disrupt its operation. So I would caution people not to get too alarmist over this issue.

Q You may think so. But you know, it was very, very important in World War II. It might not be important in the next war. But I cannot understand how we could relinquish all of our interests --

MR. LEAVY: No, that's not -- yeah, Helen, it's not relinquishing our interests at all, in the canal.

Q It's insurance.

MR. LEAVY: There has been a policy of this government for almost two decades now, to transfer authority over the canal, back to the Panamanians. And we have worked closely to ensure that that's done consistent with our interests. And we are confident that it will be.

These are commercial contracts for port container processing. This company does not have a monopoly over that. We have looked into it. We think that --



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Q Well, they control both ends --

MR. LEAVY: It'll control ports on both ends. But they are not the only ports; they are not the only shipping container company. So I think our commercial interests will be able to be protected and won't be a problem.

Q On what do you base your confidence?

MR. LEAVY: Well again, as I said, our team looked into this, analyzed it and made a judgment, and that we are satisfied that our interests will be protected, both in terms of national security and commercial.

(Inaudible.) Q David, you said no capability on the part of the PRC to disrupt. How do you know they have no capability? And can you put this in the context of the question I asked yesterday, the very bellicose statements by the Chinese defense minister, threatening a high-tech war with the United --

MR. LEAVY: Well, I wouldn't link the two here. The issue about the commercial viability of the canal and the transfer has been an issue that we have been dealing with, literally, for years. The Chinese are a major user of the canal, as are we, as are other countries. There is significant legal provisions built into the transfer to make sure that all vessels will be able to transfer in. Again, these companies don't have a monopoly over the port container -- (inaudible).

Q (Inaudible.)

Q How many -- (inaudible) -- do you have here?

MR. LEAVY: Let me check on that. Let me check on that. But the people I checked with today were pretty confident that our interests, again both commercial and security, will be protected here.

Q Are all U.S. soldiers out of the canal zone by the end of the year?

MR. LEAVY: I don't know. We had Howard Air Force Base in Panama, I know that we are closing down. I don't know, Mike, what, if any, U.S. personnel are there. I'll check, though, for you on that as well.

Q Senator Lott said you've given away the farm on this. He wrote a letter to Secretary Cohen. Is Cohen responding to that or --

MR. LEAVY: Well, I -- yeah, I checked -- I'm not aware if the letter has been received. Again, our folks are well aware of this issue. This has literally been something that's been in the works for years; we've looked into it and everyone seems pretty confident that --

Q Well, it seems to me that we have really missed the ball on this because the Panama Canal Commission has been warning and warning the U.S. that this was about to happen. And it seems that we would want to keep our stake in this canal, which we built.

MR. LEAVY: I think our stake in the canal is preserved, Helen. Again, we have legal remedies for the commercial transport. Our national security team feels confident that our security interests are protected. So I don't think that we're losing or damaging any of our interests.

Q What makes you confident about it?

MR. LEAVY: Well, you know, this is an issue that is not -- that comes as no surprise. We've looked closely at it, and our team feels pretty confident.

Q Dave, did the U.S. conclude that the bidding process was fair?

MR. LEAVY: I think there were some concerns back in '97, I believe the actual bidding, that the bidding process wasn't as transparent as we would have liked. We protested that to the Panamanians.

Q And what became of it?

MR. LEAVY: I'm not aware of any actual remedy that was changed, but they -- our protests were noted and -- I mean, the contract went forward to the Hong Kong-based company. So I don't think there's any --

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Q Do you know at what level the U.S. will be represented at the transfer ceremony in December?

MR. LEAVY: No, no, I don't think that decision has been made.

Q David, one more. In 1956, the British and French went to war over the Suez Canal when the Egyptians nationalized it. What's going to happen if it --

MR. LEAVY: Well, I think we're sort of talking past each other a little bit.

Let me just take one or two more on this and then let's move on. Is that this isn't -- the canal is not being nationalized by the PRC. This is a private company that has several contracts to work out of the canal in terms of shipping containers of commercial products. We bid on that contract --

Q How many private companies does the PRC have?

MR. LEAVY: Well, I'm not -- I can't confirm any specific PRC or PLA links to these companies. But let me just say, as I've said many times so far, is that these are private companies; we've got legal remedies, our interests, both commercial and security, will be protected.

Okay, last one on this.

Q On a kind of related issue, there's also this report the PRC is refurbishing a former Soviet listening post in Cuba. Are you at all concerned that the PRC is heightening its presence in the Western Hemisphere somehow?

MR. LEAVY: I'm not aware of that specific report. No one's informed me of any heightened state of alert.

Q No, no. I mean are you concerned that the PRC is moving as a more aggressive presence in the Western Hemisphere?

MR. LEAVY: Not that I'm aware of, no.

Q David, while you're up there, Pakistan -- new flights by the Pakistanis today?

MR. LEAVY: I haven't seen any new reports today. The only new piece on that is that our Assistant Secretary of State, Rick Inderfurth, had talked to the ambassadors of both India and Pakistan yesterday about our concerns, and he raised what both here and at the State Department what we've been saying the last several days about trying to get back to the Lahore dialogue. But I haven't seen any new reports of any action today.

Q I think it was the Pakistani defense minister who said they were going to increase their patrols along the border, airborne patrols.

MR. LEAVY: Well, as I said yesterday, and I believe Jamie (Rubin), over at the State Department said, that there is a 1991 airborne agreement between the two countries that governs the -- excuse me for saying this -- the modalities of air flights around -- I know; I'm going to get criticized for using the "M" word here -- but the modalities of the flights between the two countries along the border, and I think that's the appropriate channel to govern these instances. Actually, while I have the podium, let me just do a little piece of news as well on Russia. Mr. Putin called National Security Adviser Berger this morning. They spoke for about 20 minutes. As you recall, Mr. Putin was Sandy's counterpart in the Kremlin. Mr. Berger expressed appreciation for the good work that the two have done on Kosovo and nonproliferation issues. Mr. Putin reaffirmed Russia's desire to strengthen the overall relationship and cooperation, and expressed that the new government intends to follow the Yeltsin- Clinton agenda that was put forth in Cologne earlier this year, and follow the good work that Prime Minister Stepashin has done.

And finally, Mr. Berger stressed the importance of making progress on a whole range of issues, including arms control, nonproliferation and economics.

Q (Inaudible) -- call?

MR. LEAVY: I believe Sandy called last week to wish congratulations, and Mr.



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Putin returned the call today. So he actually placed the call --

Q The Putin-Gore Commission, would that go forward forthwith, or would that await his confirmation?

MR. LEAVY: Well, I don't think any official business will go forward until his actual confirmation. But I don't know of any plans, specifically, on the Gore Commission?

Q Did they discuss Dagestan?

Q David, how long was the phone call?

MR. LEAVY: About 20 minutes.

No, Dagestan did not come up.

Q Dave, while you are up there, could you explain why Clinton's going in October to Canada?

MR. LEAVY: He is going to Canada, as we put out the other day --

Q Yesterday.

MR. LEAVY: -- yesterday, that's still the other day -- but he put -- (laughter) -- well, it's yesterday -- at the invitation of Prime Minister Chretien to attend a federalism conference outside Montreal. I think the agenda for the rest of the trip is still being put together. But that's the primary focus is a conference on federalism.

Q For what?

Q David -- (inaudible)?

MR. LEAVY: It could be expanded, but nothing to announce right now. Q While you are at it, do you have any details on the New Zealand trip, other than what you put out yesterday on the trip?

MR. LEAVY: No, but we'll try to do a pre-trip briefing for you guys before you leave. It is going to be a little bit awkward because we have the Labor Day; I mean, I think you guys leave the next day or the day after. So we are going to try to cram a briefing in between there, and we'll put out a press schedule at some point.

Q (Inaudible ?) -- meeting with the Chinese prime minister, is that correct?

MR. LEAVY: I have not announcements today on that.

Q I am sorry. On federalism, would that be American federalism or Canadian federalism? (Laughter.)

MR. LEAVY: I think, Mark, they'll probably share their experiences --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. LEAVY: -- (laughs) -- no, no merger. But I don't have too much information on the conference but sharing views on their experiences.

Q Federalism experiences?

MR. LEAVY: Federalism experiences -- (laughter) -- all right.

Q Barry?

Q Anything else?

MR. LEAVY: That's it.

Q No train -- (inaudible)?

MR. LEAVY: The conference is the primary event for the --

MR. : A whole range of bilaterals --

MR. LEAVY: Yeah, I am sure the two leaders will meet in a bilateral context, but the meeting is the official reason for the trip.

Q Barry, can I ask you about the Puerto Ricans that President Clinton --

MR. TOIV: Yeah, sure.

Q -- agreed to commute or remit the sentences of 16 -- (inaudible).

MR. TOIV: Do you have a particular question, or --

Q Well --

Q (Off mike.)

MR. TOIV: Why did he do it?

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Q (Off mike.)

MR. TOIV: No, this has been an issue that has been under discussion in the White House for some time, and the president took this action in a way that recognizes that these individuals committed serious crimes, but that also recognizes that the sentences they received were far out of proportion to the nature of their crimes. And what he has done is to commute their sentences. Some of them would be released on parole now, and others would be affected in different ways. But what he has done is to recognize that -- to recognize the unfairness of the original sentences, but to also apply conditions which first of all require the -- require them individually to renounce violence for any purpose, including political purposes. And they would also be required to keep to the conditions of parole.

Q Is this the beginning of a new series of clemency decisions the president --

MR. TOIV: I'm not aware of any other -- of any other decisions like that that --

Q It's traditional at the end of a second term that the president does these kinds of decisions. You recall George Bush did a bunch of pardons and clemency decisions at the end of his term. Does the president --

MR. TOIV: Did he do those at the end of his term?

Q The very end.

MR. TOIV: The very end, yeah. We're not anywhere near the end.

Q And before they went to jail. (Laughter.)

MR. TOIV: We're not near the end of this term, so --

Q Barry, is it your understanding that some of these individuals have declined the clemency because they wouldn't renounce violence?

MR. TOIV: I'm not sure. I've heard some reports as to -- that they're deciding, you know, whether to accept or not. I don't know if they're going to or not, so that would be their choice, of course.

Q (Off mike.)

MR. TOIV: But I would add that these are individuals who did not -- who were not convicted of any crime involving physical harm to any person. And that's -- and yet some of them were -- received sentences of upwards of 50 years.

Some of them would not have been released for another 25 years or more, in fact, if the president had not acted.

Q Do you know if there was consultation with Puerto Rican officials?

MR. TOIV: I believe there was, yes.

Q While we're on clemency, what about Pollard -- or a pardon -- what's the situation? Is that dormant?

MR. TOIV: Whatever we are -- we -- unchanged. The -- (laughter). I can try and repeat it for you, but -- no, the -- that's -- you know, that's being studied, I believe.

(To staff) Oh, do you want to --? (Returning) Yeah, no final decision has been made.

Q Do you have any kind of a readout on the economic meeting today?

MR. TOIV: It's still going on, as a matter of fact. Still going on.

Q Gene is speaking?

MR. TOIV: Yeah. (Scattered laughter.) Mr. Sperling today is in the second half of his economic briefing.

No, yesterday they -- yesterday was more of an economic review. Today is a little bit more of a budget review as they, you know, review the issues that are -- that we'll be facing in the months ahead when Congress comes back.

Q What do you mean, a "budget review"? A review of what Congress has passed, the appropriations bills? I mean, the president's budget is already out there.

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MR. TOIV: Partly. A review of all the issues that we're facing, that you're all very familiar with.

Yeah?

Q Is this a strategy session for how you'll counter the Republicans' plan to barnstorm on tax cuts this week? MR. TOIV: Well, some of those issues are likely to come up in the meeting.

Q In what fashion?

MR. TOIV: In the discussion. But I don't have any -- I do not have any details on the discussion, nor do I expect to.

Yeah?

Q Do you have any reaction to the rather cool response that Speaker Hastert got yesterday kicking off the barnstorming tour?

MR. TOIV: Hardly a surprise.

Q (Giggles.)

Q And?

MR. TOIV: Well, I'll give you more. Hardly a surprise.

Q Is the president going to Camp David?

MR. TOIV: He is -- yeah, the president is going to go to Camp David tonight, yeah. That's the plan.

Q For how long?

Q Just for the weekend?

MR. TOIV: I believe for the weekend, yeah.

Now, let me -- but let me go back and finish --

Q Alone or guests?

MR. TOIV: -- I shortchanged -- I shortchanged Rick. I shortchanged Rick.

You know, the speaker and other Republicans are -- have a -- you know -- have a PR campaign going to try and sell a tax bill that is distinctly not in the interests of the American people.

And I think they are going to have an awfully hard time selling it.

It's a bloated tax bill that will not allow us to address the challenges facing Medicare and Social Security. It will not allow us to pay down the debt, pay off the debt in 15 years, as the president is proposing. It would not allow us to address the defense, education and other priorities that are facing us.

The president has proposed a tax cut that makes sense, a \$250 billion tax cut. It's directed towards helping Americans save, primarily middle-income Americans.

And we hope that when the Congress comes back, if they want to, they can send that bill up here; it will be vetoed. But whether or not they do, we need to get down to work. And let's do first things first; let's start with Medicare.

Q Do you all have any reaction to Bush saying that he would have signed it in a heartbeat?

MR. TOIV: Yeah, it's very disappointing. Any national leader who would -- or anyone who hopes to be a national leader who would suggest that they would sign a tax bill of this sort, is someone who does not have the best interests of the U.S. economy at heart.

Q Are you going to mount any kind of counteroffensive, other than having the president criticize it here at the White House? I mean, will Cabinet secretaries be talking about it, other Democrats?

MR. TOIV: The tax bill?

Q Any paid advertising? Yes.

MR. TOIV: I am not aware of any paid advertising.

But certainly, the president has been critical of the tax bill, and he will continue to be. And other members of the Cabinet and others know full well -- the members of the Cabinet know, as well as anybody, what the impact of this

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bill would be on the programs in their areas, from education, to defense, to the environment. And so I am sure that they will have some things to say in the coming weeks.

Yeah?

Q The White House has indicated it would be willing to look at some of their proposals, while the other priorities are met, as long as it's in the \$295 (billion), \$300 billion range. But if it's not, if the bulk of that \$250 billion range isn't savings-oriented, wouldn't the administration be concerned if it -- of adverse economic consequences?

MR. TOIV: You know, I am not sure I understood that question, Paula. Could you try it again?

Q Well, if the Republicans were to negotiate a proposal in the \$300 billion range but it's not savings-oriented -- if instead it has other things in the mix -- would the administration still seriously entertain it?

MR. TOIV: Look, the president has made very clear that he is willing to consider other ideas as long as they are within that range, for a total of \$250 (billion) to nearly \$300 billion.

Democrats in the Congress have proposed different ideas.

The vice president has proposed different ideas, including the vice president has also proposed to include U.S.A. accounts as well.

But the president is willing to look at other ideas for how we shape that tax cut. He does believe that it should be primarily aimed at the middle class. But he's willing to listen to different ideas. But before we get there, and I think you'll hear -- I think you'll hear the president make this very clear in the interview that will be broadcast on Nightly Business Report tonight, the president will make very clear that we need to first things first. Don't put the cart before the horse. The president will say we need to do -- we need to focus on Medicare first, and we need to look at the other priorities and then see what we -- what we can do about a tax cut.

Q And you're confident that they can't override a veto?

MR. TOIV: It sure looks that way to me.

Q Does first things first include Social Security? Would that mean that we'll see a White House reform plan on Social Security before a tax cut is --

MR. TOIV: Well, the president has already proposed that we establish a lock box, a true lock box for Social Security so that the trust fund cannot be used for any other purpose. He's also proposed that we take the interest that we save by paying down the debt and apply it to the trust fund and extend the life of the trust fund. That in itself would go a long way toward addressing the Social Security issue.

Q But that's not a reform plan for --

MR. TOIV: No, the president has -- again, has said on a number of occasions that he wants to work with the Congress in a bipartisan way on other reforms that would be necessary.

Q Barry, did you get a chance to ask the president whether he thinks the students of Kansas are well served by evolution being removed from their curriculum?

MR. TOIV: Well, I have not talked to him directly. However, as you know, while we do believe that the federal government has a very important role to play in ensuring that all students have access to the kind of quality education that they deserve, curriculum is a state and local issue, and so we won't have any comment on that specifically.

Nancy.

Q I apologize if this has been asked before, but Janet Reno today suggested that



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state governments and the federal government explore the idea of **gun licensing**. Do you guys have a reaction to that?

MR. TOIV: Well, as you know, the vice **president** has proposed ideas along those lines, and the president has had some positive things to say about the vice president's ideas. The -- right now, we are focused, though, on trying to get through the Congress sensible ideas for limiting access to guns to criminals and to children in order to protect children. And those ideas have been enacted by the Senate, and we are hoping that when they come back in the fall, that the House-Senate conference committee accepts the Senate provisions and that we can -- they can be sent to the president.

The president asked them to work on these issues over the break. He asked the conference committee to stay in town and work on it, he felt it was that important. They apparently did not. However, when they do come back, they'll have another opportunity to go at it, and we hope that they will.

Q So you're saying, Barry, that the White House has no position on whether schools should teach about Charles Darwin and evolution as a science, as a subject of science?

MR. TOIV: It's a curriculum issue.

Q That's it?

MR. TOIV: It's a curriculum issue that -- and curriculum issues are generally left to the state and local authorities, and that's -- so we aren't going to have any comment on that.

Yeah?

Q Well, don't you talk here about, you know, high-tech learning and different types of things that you think should be on the curriculum -- using the Internet and so forth?

Q Tolerance, teaching tolerance?

MR. TOIV: We have supported that, absolutely.

Q So why won't you talk about this subject?

MR. TOIV: Because we feel this is an issue that -- this is a curriculum issue that ought to be -- that is being addressed and ought to be addressed at the state and local level. We don't have anything else to say about it.

Yeah?

Q Any personal contact with -- anymore with the L.A. shooting, any of the victims or families?

MR. TOIV: Not that I'm aware of, Helen.

Q What can you tell us about the meeting with the Jewish leaders and what they're expected to discuss, how many are coming, when this was all arranged and why? MR. TOIV: Yeah. This is -- the president will be meeting with a number of Jewish leaders later today. My guess is that it will be upwards of 30 or so, maybe 40. And this is another one in a series of outreach meetings that he has done with various groups and communities. It was set up about a month ago, is my understanding. And among the issues that they will talk about will be the Middle East. In fact, I believe Sandy Berger and Secretary Albright will both be in the meeting.

We also expect them to discuss the hate crimes issue. And in addition, I suspect that the president will use the opportunity to discuss his broader priorities as well, in terms of the economy, in terms of the budget and other matters.

Q Do you expect the Pollard issue to come up during this meeting?

MR. TOIV: I don't know. I mean --

Q How many leaders will be there?

MR. TOIV: As I said, my guess is somewhere between 30 and 40, but we'll put out



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a list.

After the meeting starts, when we know who is actually here, we'll put out a list.

Q Barry?

MR. TOIV: Yeah, Paula?

Q Let me just to make this clear; if Republicans were to agree "first things first," the White House would not consider as veto bait, as long as it's in the \$300 billion range, any proposals like a capital-gains cut, estate-tax repeal, marriage penalty or some form of across-the-board cut?

MR. TOIV: What I said is, after we do "first things first," do Medicare and address these other issues, the president will be willing to discuss other ideas. I did not say that the president would be prepared to accept, necessarily, any particular ideas.

"Please announce: In-town travel pool should gather now at Briefing Room doors for an escort to the motorcade."

Q Hey, Barry --

MR. TOIV: A sure sign of --

Q -- (inaudible) -- require us to ask: Does the White House --

MR. TOIV: Uh-oh. What did I do? (Laughter.)

Q -- does the White House accept the theory of evolution -- (laughter) -- as a valid scientific principle? (Laughter.)

MR. TOIV: The White House as an institution -- I am not sure if the White House as an institution has addressed that issue. I'll have to check. I'll have to take a vote here. I'll have to take a vote.

Yeah?

Q Hey, Barry, given the trauma the Jewish community has experienced and the president's promise to open his outreach meetings to coverage by the press, wouldn't this be a good session to have at least some kind of coverage of what he is going to tell these Jewish leaders so the community as a whole can know his concern? MR. TOIV: I suspect that people inside the meeting will come out and give you a good idea of what he talked about.

Anything else?

Q (Inaudible) -- on the list?

Q What about --

MR. TOIV: No, they're not.

Q Thank you.

Q Can we just go back to the evolution question just one more time? Doesn't that fly in the face --

MR. TOIV: Aren't you leading this? (Laughter.)

Q -- of the president's efforts to have national testing, standardized testing? Doesn't that conflict with that effort?

MR. TOIV: Well, for what it's worth, the standardized testing that we have proposed has to do with math and education. But beyond that --

Q Math and reading.

MR. TOIV: Math and reading, I mean. I am sorry. Thank you. (Laughter, cross talk.) So I am not sure that that conflicts in any event.

Q Would the basic principle of censoring what is considered by most people a legitimate scientific theory -- does the White House have no comment, no position, on whether local and state school boards should censor that kind of education?

MR. TOIV: Not today we don't. (Laughter.)

Q Maybe later this afternoon?

Q Perhaps your position is evolving.



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REST OF PRESS CORPS: Whooaa!

MR. TOIV: Sorry? I missed that.

Q Your position is evolving. (Laughter.)

MR. TOIV: It's a Darwinian position.

END

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SHOW: FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH BRIT HUME (18:30 ET)

August 12, 1999, Thursday

Transcript # 081204cb.254

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 464 words

HEADLINE: Political Headlines

GUESTS: Steve Centanni

BYLINE: Brit Hume

BODY:

THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE
UPDATED.

HUME: The White House has launched a major push for gun control and hate
crime legislation in the wake of the L.A. shootings, but administration
officials don't always seem to be reading from the same page, as Steve Centanni
reports from the White House.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

STEVE CENTANNI, FOX NEWS (voice-over): Last month in the Midwest, a white
supremacist killed two and wounded 12 others in a racist shooting spree. This
week children came under fire at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles. The
president calls it:



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WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: ... and another compelling argument, in my judgment, for this country to renew its commitment to our common community, our common humanity, and another compelling argument for the passage of the hate crimes legislation.

president has strongly supported them. But on gun control, Attorney General Janet Reno took one step beyond the president's own position.

JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL: I believe we must seriously explore the possibility of requiring the **licensing** of all **handguns**.

CENTANNI: The vice **president** has also embraced the idea of requiring people to prove they know how to use a gun safely before they can own one. But sources say the **president** himself hasn't pushed that concept because of political realities. He knows a **gun licensing** proposal would hit a brick wall in a GOP-led Congress.

stronger penalties for hate crimes may also hit a congressional roadblock. They've been passed in the Senate, but not in the House, and could very well die in Congress committee. House Majority Leader Dick ArmeY explains his opposition by pointing to accused Los Angeles gunman Buford Furrow.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ARMEY (R-TX), MAJORITY LEADER: Under the existing laws, this man should be locked away for a very, very long time. Do we need additional law? No. We need to enforce the existing law.

CENTANNI (on camera): At a White House meeting with Jewish community leaders, the president was expected to promise he'll do everything he can to lobby for gun control and hate crime legislation as soon as Congress gets back to work next month.

At the White House, Steve Centanni, FOX NEWS.

people at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory face disciplinary action quote. FOX NEWS has learned the identities of the three employees are Sig Hecker (ph), described as a very senior Los Angeles lab official; Terry Craig (ph), who failed to find a waiver for searchers of Wen Ho Lee's computer; and a man named Sal Vrooman (ph).

And next up, our senior White House correspondent, Jim Angle, goes one on one with Bill Bradley. Stay tuned.

<18:34>

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: AUGUST 13, 1999



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CBS News Transcripts

SHOW: CBS EVENING NEWS (6:30 PM ET)

July 12, 1999, Monday

TYPE: Newscast

LENGTH: 309 words

HEADLINE: DEMOCRATS INTEND TO MAKE TOUGHER GUN LAWS A DEFINING CAMPAIGN ISSUE

ANCHORS: DAN RATHER

REPORTERS: BILL PLANTE

BODY:

DAN RATHER, anchor:

There is new proof, if any is needed, that Democrats intend to make tougher gun laws, especially handgun laws, a defining election campaign issue up to and including the top of the ticket. CBS' Bill Plante has that story.

BILL PLANTE reporting:

Democrats have identified public outrage at the school shooting tragedies in Littleton, Colorado, and Conyers, Georgia, as an opportunity to make gun control a winning issue. Surrounded by police in Boston, the vice president pushed further on gun control than President Clinton has ever gone. Gore wants to require a photo license for all new handgun owners.

Vice President AL GORE: Unless you obtain a license and pass a background check and pass a gun-safety test, you could not buy a handgun under this law, not in a gun shop, not in a gun show, not on a street corner, not anywhere in America.

PLANTE: Gore compared his gun license proposal to a driver's license. Canada is the only nation with a similar licensing program for gun owners. The vice president also called for a ban on junk guns, often known as Saturday Night Specials.

Former Senator Bill Bradley, Gore's only serious opponent for the nomination, made a similar proposal in 1994. He repeated it in a newspaper article last week and took a swipe at the White House, noting that '85 percent of Americans think handguns should be registered, but the Clinton administration won't propose it.'

Public sentiment makes it easy for Democratic presidential candidates to call for stricter gun control. But the vice president has another problem if he hopes to move in here at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He has to explain why, if gun registration is such good idea, the administration he has served for the



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last seven years never tried get it passed. Dan.

RATHER: Bill Plante at the White House.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: July 13, 1999



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ONE MILLION STRONG . . . working to
keep handguns out of the wrong hands.

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456. 7028

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Joe Sudbay

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Comments:

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Associates, Inc.**

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Mark Penn
Robert Green, Principal

To: Fred Davis, President
Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse Education Fund, Inc.

From: Robert Green, Andrew Claster
Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates

Re: Maryland Handgun Poll

Date: February 9, 2000

Summary – 3 in 4 Maryland voters want personalized and child-proof guns

More than three-fourths of Maryland voters (76%) favor new legislation which would require that all new handguns sold in Maryland are personalized and child-proof. Less than one-quarter (23%) are opposed.

In fact, there is strong support for a wide array of new handgun measures among voters of every type and description, including voters in gun households. Among Maryland voters who have a gun at home, 61% favor new legislation which requires that all new handguns be personalized and child-proof.

Vote decision affected by support for child-proof handguns

This proposed child-proof handgun legislation could have a tremendous impact on Marylanders' next vote for the General Assembly. A 20-point advantage for a Democratic candidate becomes a 42-point advantage if the Democrat supports this proposal and the Republican candidate is opposed. A Republican who supports the proposal has a 22-point advantage against a Democrat who is opposed.

**Table 1
For which candidate would you vote?**

Democrat	44	62	28
Republican	24	20	50

Stop gun raffles

Two-thirds of Maryland voters (66%) want to "stop gun raffles because we need fewer guns in our society, not more." Only 29% say "gun raffles should be permitted because it is one way that groups can raise money for their activities."

Ballistics fingerprinting

More than four-fifths of Maryland voters (82%) favor ballistics fingerprinting of all new guns prior to sale. Only 15% are opposed to this measure. Ballistics fingerprinting is an example of an existing technology which can be employed **immediately** to help the police catch criminals who use guns.

In fact, among Maryland voters who have a gun at home, nearly three-quarters (73%) favor ballistics fingerprinting while one-quarter (26%) are opposed.

Strong support for licensing

More than four-fifths of Maryland voters (85%) favor requiring potential handgun purchasers to obtain a license from the police in order to purchase a handgun with a fingerprint-based background check. Only 15% are opposed.

Among Maryland voters who have a gun at home, three-quarters (75%) favor requiring police licenses with a fingerprint-based background check while one-quarter (24%) are opposed.

Why Maryland voters favor child-proofing, licensing and other handgun measures

Nearly two in three Maryland voters (66%) agree that "more needs to be done to control handguns." Only one-quarter (25%) believe "efforts to control handguns have gone too far."

Nearly three-quarters of Maryland voters (72%) agree that having a handgun in the home increases the chances of somebody, particularly a child, being shot unintentionally.

Licensing handgun purchasers could influence 2000 presidential election in Maryland

Support for licensing could have a huge impact on the 2000 presidential race. If Al Gore supports legislation to require licensing handgun purchasers and George W. Bush is opposed, Gore's 10-point lead widens to a 20-point lead among Maryland voters.

Table 2
For which candidate would you vote?

Democrat Al Gore	47	54
Republican George W. Bush	37	34

Strong support for gun measures

Every gun measure we tested is favored by more than two-thirds of Maryland voters. Indeed, every gun measure is **strongly** favored by a majority of Maryland voters.

Even Maryland voters who have guns at home support **all** of the handgun measures tested – most of the proposals tested are supported by more than 70% of Maryland voters with a gun at home.

Table 3
Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose new legislation to provide the following?

1	Mandatory registration of handguns	74	85/14	74/23
2	Expanding the list of people prohibited from purchasing handguns to include those convicted of violent misdemeanors, such as assault and spousal abuse	73	85/14	87/12
3	Requiring potential handgun purchasers to obtain a license from the police in order to purchase a handgun, with a fingerprint-based background check	72	85/15	75/24
4	Requiring potential handgun owners to pass a handgun safety test before they can purchase one	70	88/11	87/12
5	Mandatory gun-safety training before allowing someone to buy a gun of any type	69	86/13	79/21
6	Requiring ballistics fingerprinting of all new guns prior to sale	60	82/15	73/26
7	Mandatory registration of rifles and shotguns	58	70/29	51/48
8	Require that all new handguns sold in Maryland are personalized and child-proof	54	76/23	61/39
9	Making anyone who illegally sells a handgun financially responsible for any damages caused by the handgun	52	71/27	61/36
10	Imposing taxes on the sale of handguns and ammunition to fund the enforcement of handgun laws	51	69/31	51/48
11	Mandatory gun-safety training for anyone who already owns a handgun	50	76/22	63/36

Methodology

Penn, Schoen & Berland conducted 512 interviews among likely Maryland voters from January 25 to February 3, 2000. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.3% at the 95% confidence level. The findings represent the views of a cross section of Maryland voters as a whole.

All interviews were conducted by Penn, Schoen and Berland's trained telephone interviewers at our central telephone facility in Denver, Colorado, using computer-aided telephone interviewing (CATI) techniques.

police?



Deanne E. Benos
02/04/2000 10:46:24 AM

Record Type: Record

To:
cc:
Subject:

COLORADO --

Tom Mauser
SAFE Colorado

P: 303/563-7233
303/628-3421

Handgun Control supports the gun show bill -- it has been fixed enormously. Mauser is doing the lobbying on it. Brian Maltz, of the Handgun Control California office is lobbying on it.

The gun show bill has passed through the House committee. Now needs to pass through House Appropriations Committee. We were down a vote on Appropriations, so the Governor postponed a vote to lobby for it.

The key is going to be when it goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Both CO Chambers are Republicans. The House leadership is really ugly on guns. The Senate is

Safe storage didn't pass in House Judiciary Committee.

Where is roundup of seven piece of proposal?

Colorado wants to better fund the background checks better.

NBC and CNN might do something about tonite -- ATF is currently

He was part of the Alliance + he kind of took over after Bill - many Kanso - made unbalanced by shooting in 5 states

Gun Dealer

Bob Lockett is propped to ATF, or get used by the

* Want to do something to make sure that used gun intent

Tom Mauser
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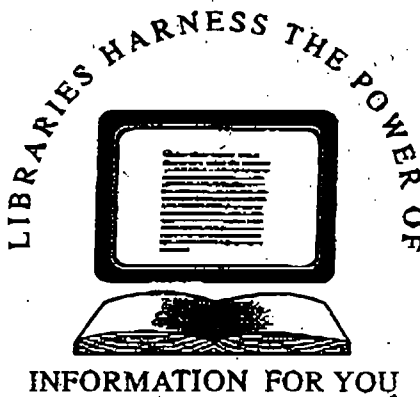
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FROM: Melinda Harroway

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COMMENTS:



LEVEL 1 - 26 OF 60 STORIES

Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

February 2, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 16A

LENGTH: 485 words

HEADLINE: Why gun licensing works

BODY:

Within hours of the State of the Union address last week, President Clinton's call to license firearm owners was attracting all manner of criticism. Among the most common: that licensing is unconstitutional and impractical; that it is prelude to gun registration and an eventual ban on gun ownership; that it won't deter criminals.

Criticism aside for a moment, the idea has merit. Gun owners are responsible for almost as many deaths annually as motorists, and they cause more harm in a day than our 195,000 licensed barbers cause in a decade. In that light, asking would-be gun owners to submit to a background check and demonstrate basic safety skills before getting an ID-style license doesn't seem very radical.

Indeed, when it comes to gun licenses, the soundness of the concept is demonstrated by the feebleness of the opposing critique. Consider the roster of complaints.

* The Constitution. The Second Amendment begins "A well-regulated" That's exactly what today's gun owners are not. Licensing would change that, helping ensure that gun owners know how to keep and handle weapons safely, and providing a way to backcheck gun ownership against such disqualifying traits as felony convictions.

* The system. Critics say licensing would be impossibly expensive and complicated. Yet just such a system is already functioning quite nicely for the nation's 185 million motorists, at no real burden to them. Why would licensing 80 million gun owners be different?

* The slippery slope . Why worry that someday the nation's 200 million guns might be registered like its 130 million cars? Gun advocates say the best way to fight gun-related crime is with better law enforcement. Being able to track individual weapons would be a huge step toward that end. As to a ban: With so many weapons in circulation, the odds are nil.

* The public good. The most obnoxious argument against licensing is that it won't stop criminals. There are many reasons to think that licenses would deter some, as do gun-purchase background checks and waiting periods, which have prevented



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USA TODAY, February 2, 2000

hundreds of thousands of improper **gun** sales. Mandatory safety classes could help weed out emotionally unsuitable applicants. Licenses would make it easier for dealers to know that customers are legitimate.

But this isn't solely about crime anyway. Most firearm-related deaths are either accidents or suicides. Making sure gun owners know how to use and store their weapons safely may not deter criminals from leaving their pistols on the coffee table with the safety off, but it might discourage Uncle George.

Odds are long against Congress agreeing this year on anything as hot as licensing **gun** owners. But the sooner the debate comes down to earth, the sooner it will move forward in some meaningful way. No doubt that's why the **gun** lobby refuses to get real.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 02, 2000

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Copyright 2000 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

February 1, 2000, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 20; Column 6; Editorial Desk

LENGTH: 130 words

HEADLINE: Gun Violence: A Turning Point

BODY:

To the Editor:

Re your Jan. 29 front-page news analysis about President Clinton's proposal to license all new handgun buyers: The school shootings and daily headlines recounting gun violence have struck a chord in this country.

We have reached a turning point; things must change, if not with this Congress, then with a new Congress that listens to the majority of the people. That is why I, along with many other moms, am taking my family to the Million Mom March in Washington on Mother's Day. We will send a strong message to Congress that we demand common-sense gun control to protect our children and that we will vote for what we want.

You can be sure that change is coming, with or without this Congress.

HILARY WENDEL
New York, Jan. 29, 2000

<http://www.nytimes.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 1, 2000



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Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

January 31, 2000, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 14A

LENGTH: 369 words

HEADLINE: Clinton unveils plan to track gun violence by computer

BYLINE: Laurence McQuillan; From staff and wire reports

BODY:

President Clinton plans to unveil today a proposal to spend \$ 30 million on an initiative that includes grants for computerized tracking of gun violence.

The aim is to help law enforcement officials develop strategies to deal with the problem, administration officials said Sunday.

The program, which would be administered the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is included in the budget that Clinton will submit to Congress next week.

Some of the grants also will be aimed at community-based education programs promoting gun safety.

Gun violence is responsible for an estimated 30,000 deaths and 100,000 injuries each year. -- Laurence McQuillan

BUDGET TALKS: Republican and Democratic congressional leaders will meet Tuesday at the White House for talks with President Clinton about what can be accomplished this election year.

Meeting with the president will be House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and their Democratic counterparts, Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri and Sen. Thomas Daschle of South Dakota.

The leaders met once as a group with Clinton last year to discuss the legislative agenda.

The political summit follows Clinton's State of the Union address Thursday, in which he called for \$ 350 billion in tax cuts over 10 years and a series of spending increases for social programs.

Republicans have backed a broader tax reduction plan and questioned some of his spending priorities.

One area for possible cooperation involves the president's "new markets" proposal for revitalizing poor inner-city and rural



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USA TODAY, January 31, 2000

communities through tax breaks and other incentives. Hastert has embraced a similar proposal. -- Laurence McQuillan

SNOWBOUND: President Clinton flew to Washington late Saturday from Zurich, Switzerland, after bad weather forced him to motorcade more than three hours through the Swiss Alps from Davos, where he had attended the World Economic Forum summit.

Clinton arrived in the capital city just as a major winter storm began dumping what was forecast to be 4-8 inches of snow. Another snowstorm closed government offices Tuesday and Wednesday last week.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, B/W, AP; Hastert: Embracing 'new markets' plan

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2000



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LEVEL 1 - 29 OF 60 STORIES

Copyright 2000 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

January 31, 2000, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: EDITORIAL; Pg. A18

LENGTH: 438 words

HEADLINE: The President's Shift on Guns

BODY:

IN EMBRACING VICE President Gore's campaign proposal for handgun licensing, President Clinton has taken the strongest stand on guns of any president yet. While no president or presidential candidate in this year's campaign has endorsed the single most sensible proposal to check the terror of criminal and accidental gunfire--a ban on the manufacture, import and ownership of handguns as well as assault-style weapons--the Gore-to-Clinton initiative is a substantive advance over the baby-step proposals Congress has been toying with. It is also an advance over Mr. Clinton's previous initiatives.

Bill Bradley would go it one better, with a plan to license not only future purchasers but also all handguns, including the arsenal of weapons already in circulation. Still, administration support of at least a more systematic plan to keep tabs on handgun traffic and to require purchasers to pass gun safety courses represents a welcome elevation of the national debate. The president also is calling for development of guns that fire only when held by their owners and for stricter enforcement of laws already on the books.

The NRA's let-all-guns-flow lobbyists already are blasting all the provisions. Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president, says the administration's proposals are "an attempt to reduce individual freedom." The same could be said of drivers' licenses and locks on cars--only nobody with any sense says that.

Under the Clinton plan, states voluntarily would issue photo licenses for gun purchasers. In states choosing not to participate, federally approved gun dealers or a federal entity would be authorized to issue licenses, similar to the way Brady Law background checks are conducted. In any case, licenses would be issued only if an applicant had passed a Brady background check and had shown proof of having completed a certified safety course or exam.

Are these basic protections really that onerous? Why shouldn't handgun purchasers know a little something about how to use weapons safely? And why shouldn't handguns be equipped with the best locks that technology can produce, to reduce this country's horrifying accidental-gun-death rate of children under 15?

Republican leaders in Congress already are pronouncing the proposals dead on arrival. Mr. Clinton himself not so long ago was arguing that there was no use



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The Washington Post, January 31, 2000

in putting forward an idea like this that Congress would not support. But he is right to try; with logic on his side, and mounting casualties as sad corroborating evidence, he is right to demand more than symbolic progress in regulating lethal arms.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2000



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January 31, 2000, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: Gun Safety Initiative Puts Focus on Public Housing; Tracking Violence
With Computers Is Planned

BYLINE: Steven Mufson, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

President Clinton will propose next week a \$ 30 million gun safety initiative aimed at reducing shooting deaths in the nation's public housing projects and surrounding communities, White House officials said yesterday.

With an average of one gun murder taking place every day at the 100 largest public housing authorities, Clinton will propose in his budget for fiscal 2001 to give the money to the Housing and Urban Development Department to use for computerized tracking of gun violence, public education programs, and programs designed to promote such safety measures as lock boxes and child-proof safety latches.

"We haven't done enough in the past," said HUD Secretary Andrew M. Cuomo. "We mandate a safety cap for a jar of aspirin, but no safety cap on a gun. It's ludicrous."

The administration has recently backed a number of programs targeted at reducing gun-related deaths, which number about 30,000 a year nationwide. In November, HUD, which spends about \$ 1 billion a year on security at 3,400 public housing agencies, announced a \$ 15 million program to buy back guns. On Jan. 20, Clinton proposed a \$ 280 million enforcement initiative that would provide money to hire 500 new agents for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and 1,000 new prosecutors.

The latest effort, dubbed the Community Gun Safety and Violence Reduction Initiative, would enable HUD to buy computer tracking and mapping systems. HUD estimates that there are 10,000 gun crimes committed every year in the units managed by the 100 largest public housing agencies. Local law enforcement agencies have used these tools to reduce gun violence in many parts of the nation.

The education and outreach part of the program would stress safe practices through the mass media and the Internet.

HUD would also provide some of the money to local initiatives, such as the



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The Washington Post, January 31, 2000

Gun Stoppers program in Charleston, S.C., that provides money to people who give police information about people carrying guns in public. The community initiative funds could also be used for safe gun storage programs, gun violence telephone hot lines, gun buy-back programs or youth mentoring programs.

"HUD is in the business of rebuilding and strengthening communities and we have thought about that in traditional ways," said Cuomo, who said he owns a shotgun and who went hunting near Syracuse last week. "But one of the key issues is safety and violence."

HUD already has several programs designed to increase safety at public housing units. They include: drug elimination grants; the "one strike and you're out" policy giving housing authorities the power to deny occupancy to residents for alcohol abuse or illegal drug-related activities; youth programs; and incentives for police officers who choose to live in neighborhoods with public housing.

HUD also has threatened to file suit against gun manufacturers if they don't settle suits filed against them by 28 cities, one county and the NAACP, blaming the gun makers for wrongful shooting deaths.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 2000



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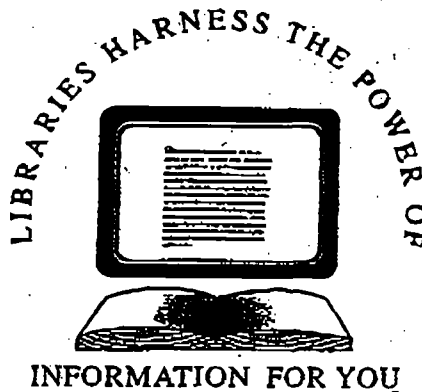
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COMMENTS:



Los Angeles Times February 5, 2000, Saturday,

Federal officials said that they will inspect suspect dealers "to ensure they are in full compliance" with federal firearms regulations. One potential hitch, however, is the limitation on one surprise inspection per year.

"Even if these dealers are in full compliance with the law, ATF inspectors will try to identify improvements in the dealers' procedures that might make them less susceptible to straw purchasers and other traffickers," a federal official said.

About 50 dealers who have kept poor records or failed to cooperate with authorities in tracing guns also will be targeted. They will be ordered to provide the government with firearm transaction records for the last three years and every month in the future.

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 5, 2000



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LEVEL 1 - 19 OF 60 STORIES

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February 4, 2000, Friday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 12; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 1139 words

HEADLINE: Firearms Agency Intensifies Scrutiny of Suspect Dealers

BYLINE: By FOX BUTTERFIELD

BODY:

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is embarking on the most aggressive campaign in its 30-year history to crack down on corrupt gun dealers who help put firearms in the hands of criminals and juveniles, White House and Treasury Department officials said yesterday.

The new enforcement campaign, to be announced by President Clinton at the White House today, will use information developed by the firearms bureau in tracing guns used in crimes. As a byproduct of the tracing, the bureau discovered that just 1.2 percent of federally licensed firearms dealers, 1,020 of them, originally sold 57 percent of the guns used in crimes.

The firearms agency will now intensify its inspections of these suspect dealers, some of whom have not been checked in years. It will also require that some suspect dealers start providing records for the first time of sales of used guns, not just new guns.

The bureau will also require a much fuller and prompter accounting of sales by dealers who claim that many of their guns were stolen or simply disappeared. And it will provide for revoking the licenses of the 31 percent of dealers who say they have not sold any guns in the past year, a possible sign, officials said, that those dealers are actually selling to illegal gun traffickers for a higher price.

"This is a real sea change," said Stuart E. Eizenstat, the deputy secretary of the treasury. "In the lifetime of the A.T.F., this is by far the most aggressive effort it has ever undertaken to deal with suspect dealers."

Under the new program, the firearms bureau will also provide a list, to any manufacturer that asks for it, of that company's guns that have been traced to a crime in the previous year, along with the name of the dealers who sold them.

Gun makers have long contended that they have no way of knowing what happens to their firearms after they leave the factory and so have no way to police their distributors and retailers.



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The New York Times, February 4, 2000

"They will no longer have this little excuse," an administration official said.

In the past, the firearms bureau has been a cautious agency, often under attack by the National Rifle Association and its supporters in Congress, and agents who demonstrated zeal in targeting corrupt dealers were often subject to internal criticism or had their careers truncated, agents say.

The stepped-up enforcement program against suspect dealers presents a challenge to the rifle association and its backers in Congress. Officials of the rifle group have said repeatedly in recent months that the government should enforce existing gun laws rather than adopt new gun-control measures.

And Bruce Reed, the president's adviser for domestic policy, said, "With our actions, we are giving Congress a chance to put its money where its mouth is."

But Bill Powers, the rifle association's director of public affairs, dismissed the announcement of the new plan as a publicity stunt that would do nothing to reduce violent crime. "There is nothing new here," he said, adding that "they already have the authority" to do all the things outlined in the plan.

"It is painfully obvious that Bill Clinton and Al Gore don't like people who sell guns, or who own them either," Mr. Powers said. "When you are not doing anything, hold a press conference."

Mr. Clinton's announcement today is part of a broader effort by the administration to expand its gun-control efforts, Mr. Eizenstat said. Last month, Mr. Clinton said he would ask Congress for 500 more agents for the firearms bureau, which as a result of N.R.A. pressure over the years is no larger today than it was when it was established.

The president is also expected to try to win passage this year of a bill to require background checks on all handguns sold at gun shows, a bill that passed the Senate last year but died in the House.

Mr. Clinton's announcement is to be accompanied by the release of what administration officials said would be the first in an annual series of comprehensive reports on the state of the gun industry. The report shows that about 4.5 million new guns are sold in the United States each year, but that the number of handguns has increased from only 10 percent of all firearms sales in the 1940's to more than 40 percent today. Handguns account for the vast majority of gun deaths each year.

The number of federally licensed dealers surged to 284,117 in 1992 from 161,927 in 1975, largely during the Reagan and Bush administrations, making it harder for the A.T.F. to regulate the gun business, since its own number of agents did not increase, the report said.

But after Mr. Clinton became president, and with tougher criteria to maintain a firearms license, the number dropped to 103,942 in 1999, of which 80,570 are actual gun stores or pawnshops and not people selling from their homes.

But the report found that while 46 percent of the dealers had not sold a gun



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The New York Times, February 4, 2000

in the previous year in 1992, last year 31 percent of all gun stores and pawnshops reported they had not sold a gun in the past 12 months.

"That is too high a number," said an administration official. "These kinds of dealers have the opportunity to buy large numbers of guns at wholesale prices and then sell them in the illicit market at a steep mark up."

Under the new regulations, every three years, when a dealer applies to renew his license, he will have to show how many guns he has sold in the previous three years, and if he is not actively engaged in the business, his application may be denied.

The report also found that in addition to the 1,020 dealers who are responsible for 57 percent of all the crime guns traced by the bureau, there are 450 dealers and pawnbrokers who sold more than 10 guns in 1998 with what the agency calls "a short time to crime," guns that ended up being used in a crime in less than three years from the date of purchase. The average time to crime is six years.

These dealers, who in some cases may also be in the group with a high volume of crime guns, will now be required to report information to the bureau on their sales of used guns. The agency has had great difficulty tracing secondhand guns because while it may know the name of the original dealer and purchaser, the chain is broken after the gun is resold.

"I think these actions are wonderful news and smart law enforcement," said Dr. Garen Wintemute, director of the Violence Research Project at the University of California at Davis and an emergency-medicine physician. "The A.T.F. is using its new information from gun tracing in a very focused way."

"From a prevention standpoint, the good news is that the number of suspect dealers is very limited, so given A.T.F.'s resources, it can concentrate on these few," said Dr. Wintemute, who has helped analyze some of the tracing information.

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LEVEL 1 - 21 OF 60 STORIES

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February 4, 2000, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A11

LENGTH: 473 words

HEADLINE: WASHINGTON IN BRIEF

BODY:

'Crime Gun' Dealers

To Get More Scrutiny

President Clinton plans today to announce tougher scrutiny of about 1,000 licensed firearms dealers who sell a disproportionate number of the guns used in crimes, government sources said.

The new strategy calls for "focused inspections" of such dealers, who make up only a fraction of the nation's 80,000 gun shops, in hopes of reducing gun crime. Even those dealers who comply with federal laws requiring criminal background checks of buyers and other safeguards may be asked to supply additional information about guns, but not buyers, the sources said. A major goal is to prevent "straw purchases" by people who buy guns for felons, who are prohibited from making such purchases.

The new regulations also will call for crackdowns on gun dealers who keep poor records or fail to respond promptly to queries from federal authorities.

Nuclear Waste Measure

Faces a Veto Threat

The Clinton administration repeated its threat yesterday to veto legislation establishing a permanent disposal site for radioactive waste produced by nuclear power plants. The Senate is to take up the legislation next week.

The measure would build a permanent disposal site in Nevada to store 40,000 metric tons of highly radioactive waste now stored at 103 commercial nuclear



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The Washington Post, February 4, 2000

power plants across the country. Until the permanent depository is built inside Yucca Mountain, located about 90 miles from Las Vegas, the legislation would allow the waste to be stored temporarily above ground at the site.

The Energy Department will issue a recommendation by next year on whether Yucca Mountain should be the permanent home for the waste.

The administration opposes the legislation because it would authorize the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, instead of the Environmental Protection Agency, to set maximum radiation standards for a permanent waste site.

'Threatened' Listing

Of Prairie Dog Held Off

The Clinton administration said the black-tailed prairie dog warrants protection as a threatened species but stopped short of imposing restrictions on developers and ranchers while states work on ways to preserve the rodent. A pest to many but a beloved critter to others, the prairie dog will be added to a list of candidates for threatened status under the Endangered Species Act, and its status will be reviewed annually.

But the Fish and Wildlife Service said it is dealing with too many other plants and wildlife that are in more danger to take on protecting the prairie dog. "The black-tailed prairie dog is a very resilient species. It's handled a lot over the years," said Pete Gober, an agency biologist who led a year-long study of the prairie dog. "Hopefully we'll be able to work with those states to avoid the necessity of listing the species."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 04, 2000



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February 2, 2000, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 20; Column 1; Editorial Desk

LENGTH: 311 words

HEADLINE: New Pressure for Gun Control

BODY:

President Clinton has moved the nation's gun control debate an important step forward with his State of the Union proposal for a national system of photo licensing and safety testing for handgun buyers. The proposal puts fresh political pressures on an indifferent Republican Congress, which has yet to approve the more modest gun control measures the administration called for last spring following the Colorado school shootings.

Mr. Clinton's plan -- identical to Vice President Al Gore's campaign proposal -- would essentially treat handgun ownership as seriously as society treats the licensing of drivers. The president could make a good plan even better by requiring not only licensing of buyers but also the registration of all handguns themselves, including the tens of millions now in circulation. That is the course urged by Mr. Gore's Democratic opponent, Bill Bradley.

No one expects this Congress to approve a dramatic overhaul of existing regulations. But the Republicans should at least be willing to hold hearings on the Clinton plan's common-sense provisions. One would require buyers to show that they can handle a weapon safely. Buyers would also have to show that they are aware of their legal responsibility to keep loaded guns away from children. Mr. Clinton has also requested \$280 million to better enforce existing gun laws -- a deft response to complaints from the gun lobby that too little is done to enforce laws already on the books.

Gun control will obviously be an issue in the fall elections. During the State of the Union speech, Republican lawmakers stood up to honor Tom Mauser, who lost his son, Daniel, in the Columbine High School massacre. But not many clapped when Mr. Clinton called for meaningful action to prevent similar tragedies in the future. That sort of duplicity seems unlikely to sit well with voters.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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USA TODAY

February 2, 2000, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 16A

LENGTH: 307 words

HEADLINE: State of the Union address takes good aim

BODY:

I want to applaud President Clinton for his support of gun control in his State of the Union Address Thursday night ("Clinton hails 'new economy,' " News, Friday).

I feel that all gun owners must possess a photo license -- one that will require a person to pass a gun-safety course before owning or possessing a firearm.

The Republicans argue that this law would interfere with Americans' constitutional right to bear arms -- a concern fabricated by the powerful lobbyists working for the National Rifle Association.

How can a license hinder a person's ability to purchase and own a firearm?

The fact that we have to qualify for and possess a driver's license in order to operate a motor vehicle legally has not hindered the law-abiding citizen from driving.

We must have a hunting license and pass a safety course before we can hunt wild game.

Doctors are required to have a medical license.

Lawyers and accountants, too, must be licensed. And they should be accountable for the services they provide.

The president's proposal is an attempt to stop innocent people and innocent children from getting killed by the careless storage or use of firearms.

As a husband and father, I demand it, and I encourage Congress and the Senate to stand behind the president.

Chad Harrison

Johnstown, Ohio

Promises, promises



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USA TODAY, February 2, 2000

As an independent voter for the past 50 years, I've seen it all. But President Clinton's final State of the Union address was a winner.

Clinton promises everything to everyone while attempting to preserve his legacy -- which certainly needs a morality checkup.

I have voted on "both sides of the aisle" during all of my voting years. After all I've seen, I am now grateful for the two-term limitation for our presidents.

Don DeHaan

Scottsdale, Ariz.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 02, 2000

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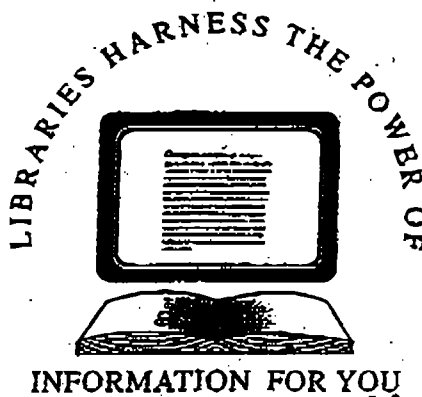
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February 5, 2000 Saturday, CHICAGOLAND FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 8; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 290 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON TARGETS GUNS, CIGARETTES

BYLINE: Associated Press.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

President Clinton opened an election-year fight Friday over guns and cigarettes, proposing to fine the tobacco industry \$3,000 for each teenage smoker and crack down on gun dealers whose weapons wind up in the hands of criminals.

Last year Congress shelved administration measures for a 55-cent-a-pack tax on cigarettes and restrictions on gun-show firearms sales.

Clinton's tobacco initiative was billed as an effort to cut teen smoking in half by making cigarettes more expensive and penalizing the tobacco industry.

The president's budget, to be released Monday, will urge a 25-cent-a-pack tax increase. Clinton also proposes accelerating an already approved 5-cent-a-pack tax increase to take effect on Oct. 1 instead of on Jan. 1, 2002.

Further, Clinton would penalize cigarette-makers \$3,000 each year for every underage smoker if teen smoking is not cut in half by 2004.

White House press secretary Joe Lockhart indicated that Clinton's proposal remained fuzzy on issues such as how to deal with a cigarette-maker trying sincerely to reduce teen smoking.

Clinton also released a federal firearms study that found that about 1 percent of U.S. gun dealers and pawnbrokers sell over 57 percent of the guns used in crimes.

"We're beginning the most aggressive effort ever undertaken to insure responsible behavior by gun dealers," the president said. "Dealers whose guns most frequently wind up in criminals' hand will now be subject to intense scrutiny" by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Guided by the study, the ATF will conduct "focused inspections" on about 1,000 of the 80,570 licensed dealers and pawnbrokers. The targeted dealers are those that have had 10 or more crime guns traced to them in 1999.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH



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February 4, 2000 Friday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 16; ZONE: N; Across the nation.

LENGTH: 166 words

HEADLINE: NEW GUN CAMPAIGN WILL CRACK DOWN ON CORRUPT DEALERS

BYLINE: From Tribune News Services.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is embarking on the most aggressive campaign in its 30-year history to crack down on corrupt gun dealers who help put firearms in the hands of criminals and juveniles, White House and Treasury Department officials said Thursday.

The new enforcement campaign, to be announced Friday by President Clinton, will use data developed by the firearms bureau in tracing guns used in crimes.

As a byproduct of the tracing, the bureau discovered that just 1.2 percent of federally licensed firearms dealers, or 1,020, originally sold 57 percent of the guns used in crimes.

The agency will intensify its inspections of these dealers, some of whom have not been checked in years.

The bureau will provide a list, to any gunmaker asking for it, of that company's weapons traced to a crime in the previous year, with the name of the dealers who sold them.

Gunmakers long have contended they have no way of knowing what happens to their firearms.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 2000

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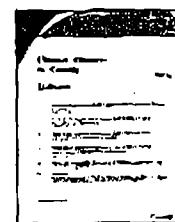
Chronic Diseases in Canada

Français

Firearms Regulation: Canada in the International Context

Wendy Cukier

Volume 19, No 1 - 1998 [Table of Contents](#)



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TABLE 2

International firearms regulations, access and deaths

Country	Licensing of owners?	Registration of all firearms?	Other	Households with firearms	Gun homicide (per million)	Gun suicide (per million)
Japan	Yes	Yes	Prohibits handguns with few exceptions	0.6%	0.3	0.36
Netherlands	Yes	Yes		1.9%	2.7	2.8
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	Prohibits handguns	4.0%	1.3	3.3
Northern Ireland	Yes	Yes		8.4%	35.5	11.8
Germany	Yes	Yes		8.9%	2.1	12.3
Spain	Yes	Yes	Some handguns and rifles are prohibited	13.1%	1.9	5.5
Australia	Yes	All guns in 5 of 8 states until 1997 when national standards began	Banned semi-automatics unless good reason is shown	16.0%	5.6	23.8
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Some rifles are prohibited	16.6%	8.7	24.5
New Zealand	Yes	Handguns only, stopped registering rifles and shotguns in 1983 and have proposed reintroducing it		20.0%	2.2	24.5
France	Yes	Yes, except for selected sporting rifles		22.6%	5.5	49.3
CANADA	Acquisition only, possession starts in 1998	Handguns only, all guns as of 1998	Fully automatic, converted and semi-automatic assault weapons and some handguns are banned	26.0%	6.0	33.5
Switzerland	Acquisition for some	For some firearms		27.2%	4.6	57.4
Norway	Yes	Unknown		32.0%	3.6	38.7
USA	In some states	Handguns in some states	Some weapons in some states	41.0%	62.4	72.3
Finland	Yes	Yes	No prohibitions	50.0%	8.7	57.8

Sources

Rates of households with firearms and firearms deaths for most countries are from the United Nations (UN)

*International Study on Firearm Regulation (revised)*⁷ [tables 2.7, 6.2 and 7.1]. Rates for the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Norway, who did not respond to the UN survey, are from Martin Killias,²¹ who cites 1989 figures from the UN interregional study.

Details regarding legislation are from various sources, including the UN study, as well as Joachim J Savelsberg,²⁴ Wendy Cukler²⁵ and the Department of Justice Canada.²⁶

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Last modified April 14, 1998

Canada

ent types of control strategy that might reduce gun violence. The central concern here is whether and to what extent our distinctive patterns of gun use explain the high death rates from American violence.

The first section of the analysis discusses the way in which the topic and method of this study push firearms to a position of central importance. The second part of the chapter examines what we call global approaches to firearms as a contributing cause to lethal violence. The third section of the chapter sets out a variety of different explanations for why firearms use increases the death rate from violence and surveys what is known about each of those mechanisms. A concluding section talks about issues of causation, in discussions of the relationship between gun use and lethal violence.

Why Guns?

There are two features of the approach of this volume that put special emphasis on gun use: the emphasis on lethal violence and the frequent use of cross-national comparisons. Figure 7.1 shows the special connection between gun use and deadly violence in the United States by comparing the proportion of police-reported gun use in total index felonies, violent

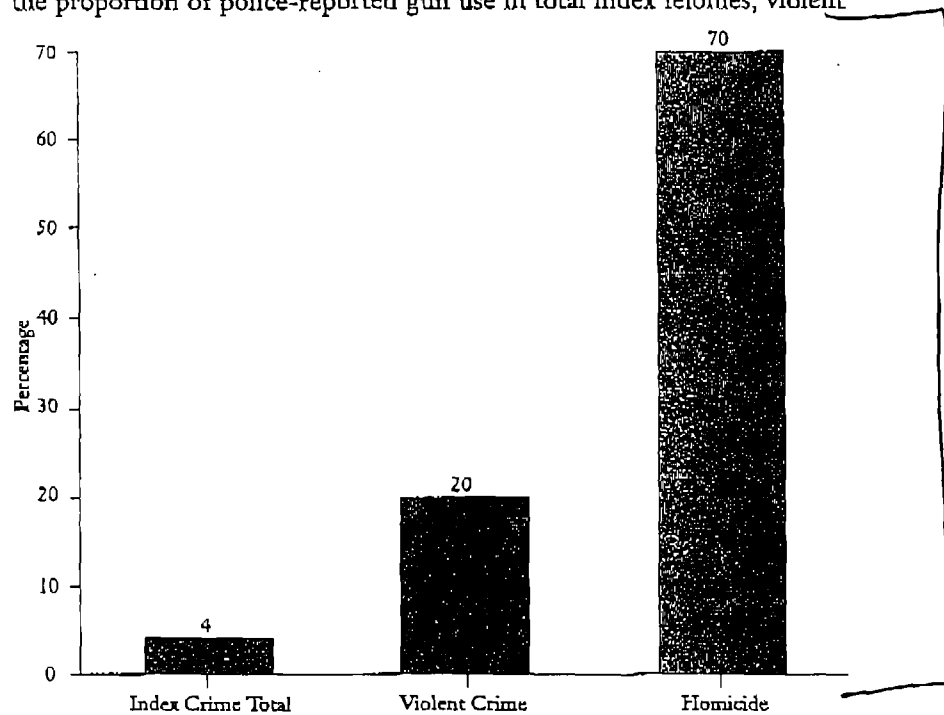


Figure 7.1. The prevalence of firearms use in three crime categories, United States, 1993. Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1993.

Crime is not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America, Zimring & Hawken's Oxford U. Press 1997

felonies in the crime index, and killings resulting from intentional injury.

The estimates presented in the figure probably understate gun use in index and violent felonies recorded because gun use is not reported for forcible rape and cannot be assessed for noncontact property crime. But the conclusions to be drawn from Figure 6.1 are far too robust to be seriously affected by this problem. The 4 percent estimate for the proportion of total index offenses involving guns confirms what the National Rifle Association has been insisting upon for some time: only a very small proportion of all criminal offenses in the United States are known to involve guns. If all crimes are of equally serious concern to citizens and policy makers, the low prevalence of firearms in serious crime would be a significant reason to look for other instrumentalities and approaches when attempting to reduce crime.

What the middle bar shows is that when the crimes analyzed are restricted to those that threaten or inflict bodily injury—homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—the proportion of gun involvement increases fivefold, from 4 to 20 percent. When the subject of the inquiry shifts again to criminal injuries that take life, the prevalence of guns jumps again, this time rising to 70 percent. A shorthand way of communicating the importance of the shift to lethal violence as the focus of inquiry is this: If crime is nominated as the problem, guns are involved in one of every twenty-five cases; if lethal violence is nominated as the problem, then guns are implicated in seven of every ten cases.

The contrast between the one-in-five share of violent felonies committed with guns and the 70 percent gun share for American homicide makes guns appear very much more important when the focus shifts from all violence to lethal violence; this contrast also provides a preliminary basis for concluding that attacks with guns are more dangerous than attacks with other weapons. The 20 percent share of violent crime committed with guns in the United States is significant, but very far from cornering the market. The majority of robberies, rapes, and criminal assaults are committed with personal force, knives, or blunt objects. Even the elimination of all firearms incidents would leave a very high volume of violent offenses. But the 70 percent of all lethal attacks committed with firearms represents a statistical dominance that is difficult to ignore or to minimize. Guns alone account for more than twice as much homicide in the United States as all other means combined.

And the contrasting percentage of gun use for lethal and nonlethal violence also provides circumstantial evidence that guns are far more dangerous than any other instruments when used in violent assaults. If 25 percent of all aggravated assaults produce 70 percent of the lethal outcomes, then that 25 percent of gun attacks are seven times more likely to produce death on the average than the 80 percent of all serious assault that does not involve guns and that cumulatively accounts for only 30 percent of all killings. These are only preliminary indications, because gun attacks may

be the product of other means. B violence category of America

While solely of American let that we have us firearms. No h reports firearm engaging in int nary distinction the developed V United States, a Concluding the homicide exper

One example found in an ess Suicide Story a compare homi Wales and the firearms category out in a table, v

All forms of England and V United States

Type of murder	
All gun ^b	
Handgun ^b	
Nongun ^b	
Total ^c	

^aAnnual average
Wales, 49.55 n

^bFigures for the
weapon was k

^cFigures for Er

Source: Clarke:

be the product of different motives and situations from attacks employing other means. But the dominance of gun cases in the whole of the lethal violence category makes firearms use a necessary first step in the explanation of American lethal violence.

While solely domestic statistics implicate firearms as a dominant cause of American lethal violence, the sort of international statistical comparison that we have used as a primary tool in earlier analysis also calls attention to firearms. No large industrial democracy other than the United States reports firearms as the cause of a majority of its homicides. Thus, scholars engaging in international comparison are confronted with two extraordinary distinctions between homicide in the United States and in the rest of the developed Western world: very much higher rates of homicide in the United States, and a uniquely high percentage of gun use in U.S. violence. Concluding that the elevated gun use is a cause of the distinctively high homicide experience seems natural.

One example of this reasoning from a statistical comparison may be found in an essay by Ronald V. Clarke and Pat Mayhew, "The British Gas Suicide Story and Its Criminological Implications." Clarke and Mayhew compare homicide rates per one million population for England and Wales and the United States for firearms, handguns (also counted in the firearms category), and all means other than firearms. Their results are set out in a table, which is reproduced here as Table 7.1.

All forms of homicide are more frequent in the United States than in England and Wales. Killings by all means other than guns occur in the United States at a rate per million population that is 3.7 times the nongun

Table 7.1

Gun and Nongun Homicides, England and Wales
and the United States, 1980-1984

Type of murder	Homicides		Average annual rate per one million population ^a		England and Wales to United States ratio
	England and Wales	United States	England and Wales	United States	
All gun ^b	213	63,218	.86	54.52	1 to 63.4
Handgun ^b	57	46,553	.23	40.15	1 to 174.6
Nongun ^b	2,416	41,354	9.75	35.67	1 to 3.7
Total ^c	2,629	104,572	10.61	90.19	1 to 8.5

^aAnnual average population for 1980-1984: United States, 231.9 million; England and Wales, 49.55 million.

^bFigures for the United States involved some extrapolation from homicides for which weapon was known.

^cFigures for England and Wales relate to offenses currently recorded as homicide.

Source: Clarke and Mayhew 1988, Table 2, p. 107.

homicide rate reported in England and Wales. But homicides by handguns occur in the United States at a rate per million population that is 175 times as great. This comparison leads the authors to conclude that "there is little doubt that limiting the availability of firearms in the United States would have a substantial effect on homicide and probably also on other violent crime" (Clarke and Mayhew 1988:106).

Even though this conclusion cannot be established solely from population statistics of the sort presented in Table 7.1, the tendency to reach it is inevitable when both the magnitude of gun use and the aggregate death toll differences are that high. The fact that homicide rates with handguns in the United States are 175 times as high as in Great Britain may be only coincidental to the large difference in total homicide rates between the two countries. But few who have studied these international differences are willing to accept the coincidence hypothesis. Instead, those who analyze American violence by first making international comparisons tend to be adamant in their belief that gun use is a major explanation of the elevated death toll from violence. As we have said, it is hard to get them to consider anything else.

And the obvious conclusion about the relationship between firearms and lethal violence in the United States is also the correct one. High levels of gun use in assault and robbery are a very important contributory cause to elevated U.S. death rates from violence. While the magnitude of the difference that can be attributed solely to gun use cannot be determined with precision, as much as half of the difference between American and European homicide rates may be explained by differential resort in the United States to the most lethal of the commonly used instruments of violence.

On Global Comparisons

The type of data featured in Figure 7.1 and in Table 7.1 are global statistical comparisons that show the extent of the overlap between firearms and violence in the United States. We use the phrase "global comparison" to denote efforts to estimate the impact of gun use on the death rate from violence by obtaining a correlation between variations in gun use and variations in homicide rates. Such comparisons do not directly address issues of causation. A further limitation of most global comparative analyses is that they do not directly distinguish what features of firearms use might contribute to elevating death rates from those associated with other types of violent attack. So the global comparative approach should never be the endpoint of any analysis of firearms and violence. Nevertheless, the cautious use of basic comparison can tell us a great deal about the extent to which gun use increases death rates from violence.

One early test of global relationship was reported by Stephen Seitz in 1972 (Seitz 1972). Seitz observed a 0.98 correlation between the firearms

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Firearms and Lethal Violence

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homicide rate in a U.S. state in 1967 and the total rate of homicide experienced in that state, so that a higher-than-average death rate from firearms injury would almost predict a higher-than-average death rate from injury by all means. The interpretation of this relationship was: "[I]t is almost impossible to conclude that the relation between firearms and criminal homicide is merely coincidental" (Seitz 1972:597).

The problem with inferring a causal connection between gun homicide and total homicide from this sort of correlation is that this type of relationship studied by Seitz has been categorized as a "part-whole correlation." Gun homicides constitute the majority of all homicides in the United States. Thus, if a state has a higher-than-average gun homicide rate, the total homicide rate would automatically tend to vary in the same direction as the gun homicide statistics.

The problem can be illustrated by imagining a study of the effect of weight loss strategies that found that those men and women who lost the largest amount of weight from their thighs, legs, and feet during a diet period also tended to lose the largest total amount of body weight. Does this tell us that a priority strategy of a diet regime should be weight reduction in the thighs, legs, and feet? The alternative to concluding that thighs are of special significance in weight reduction is understanding that the bottom half of the body is an important part of the body's weight and for that reason alone persons who lost considerable weight from their legs would have lost more total weight on a diet than those who lost a smaller percentage of their southern extremity poundage. Losing a substantial amount of weight in the legs, far from being an independent variable causing success in a dietary regime, is one of the major effects of having been on a diet.

Is there a way of eliminating the impact that death rates from firearms would have on total homicide rates only because they are such a substantial part of the homicide total? One promising approach would be to measure the influence, not of the number of people killed by guns in any given state, but of the proportionate use of guns rather than other methods of inflicting death. Suppose we compare, for each state, the proportion of fatal attacks using firearms with the total homicide rate for the particular state instead of comparing the rate of gun deaths with the total rate of all deaths, the notorious part-whole correlation. We are now predicting that a high proportionate use of guns will yield a higher-than-average homicide rate while states with lower relative gun use in deadly attacks will also have smaller-than-average total homicide rates. The correlation when we use a percentage homicide variable rather than the gun homicide rate for the fifty states in 1967 is 0.55, suggesting that gun use explains about 30 percent of cross-state variations in homicide in the year that the Seitz analysis was run.

There are a variety of different global comparisons of gun use and death rates that point to gun use as a positive influence on homicide rates.

defined and frequently guarded target, as well as more common "drive-by" shootings where a target may or may not have been preselected, but where the defining characteristic of the attack is shooting at long range. The official records on such killings are not complete. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a total of ninety-seven sniper killing cases between 1990 and 1992, but did not have a code for drive-by shootings. The Los Angeles police estimated about thirty drive-by fatalities in 1991 out of about 1000 cases (no national-level estimates are available).

CAPACITY FOR MULTIPLE ATTACK

Most firearms have the capacity to shoot many separate bullets in a relatively short period of time and with a minimum of physical effort on the part of the shooter. A revolver typically has a six-shot capacity and is easy to reload. Pistols typically carry six to nine rounds and can carry many more. Rifles vary from single-shot weapons to some with very large capacity clips and magazines.

There are two ways in which the capacity for multiple-wound infliction can produce a higher death rate from assault than would occur if more time and effort were required to repeat or intensify an attack. In the first place, several shots can be fired at the same victim producing wounds where the first attempt missed or resulting in multiple wounds that involve a much higher probability of death. In the second place, the multiple-shot capacity of many firearms can mean that more than one victim can be wounded—and put at risk of death—during the same assault.

Very little research has addressed explicitly the impact of a firearm's capacity for multiple attack on the outcome of gun assault. There are a number of different questions to be studied. First, single-victim attacks could be studied to assess whether attacks with guns result in a greater number of woundings than attacks with knives. Second, firearms assaults could be studied to determine whether attacks made with weapons that carry a single load of many bullets produce a higher number of multiple wounds and a higher rate of fatality.

The assault studies conducted in the late 1960s and early 1970s did not show a high proportion of multiple-wound attacks. Indeed, the failure of most shooters to exhaust the capacity of their firearms is cited as strong evidence against the proposition that most gun fatalities were not the result of kill-at-any-cost intentions (Zimring 1972). The more specific study of whether firearms with multiple capacity are more often used to produce multiple wounds has not yet been attempted.

Crude empirical soundings regarding whether guns are more often used in multiple-victim killings are not difficult to conduct in the age of the computer, but an all-fatality sample may be biased. Using data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Reports for the years 1976-1992, we tested the hypothesis that guns would more often be the instrument of attack in assaults that resulted in more than one

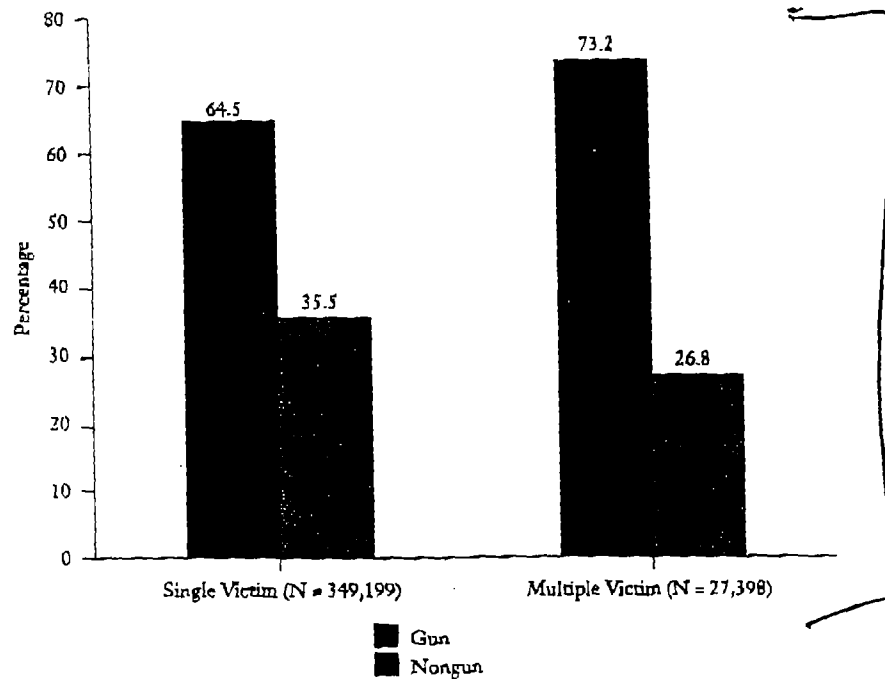


Figure 7.3. Firearms by single or multiple victim (excluding child cases), United States, 1976–1992. Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1994.

fatality than in assaults in which only one victim died. We found a modest but consistent confirmation of the hypothesis. In all seventeen years covered by the data set, the proportion of gun use in multiple-victim killings was higher than in single-victim killings. When cases involving young children are deleted from the analysis, weapons other than guns are used in about one out of every four multiple-victim incidents, as compared with one out of three single-victim killings, as shown by Figure 7.3.

The larger proportion of multiple killings committed with guns probably represents an increase in death rate on top of the differential deadliness effects discussed earlier, but these two effects overlap in a study that considers only multiple killings. A larger proportion of attacks on multiple victims with knives or clubs may result in only one death because other victims survive a knife attack but are killed in a gun attack. The research question is whether gun attacks on multiple victims produces even higher differential deadliness over knife attacks than is found in single-victim assaults. A study of nonfatal as well as fatal attacks might decide this issue, but has not yet been undertaken.

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Appendix 2

Assault in New York City and London

The heterogeneity of assault reported by official statistics is discussed in Chapters 3 and 4. While this requires caution in the interpretation of such statistics, a London-New York City comparison of assault and assaultive homicide may still prove of value.

Table A2.1 begins an analysis of assault in London and New York City with data on London assault and homicide cases by weapon for 1992. The data for Table A2.1 come from assault and homicide incidents broken down by weapon. Excluded are explosives cases, weapons-unknown cases, and a category of cases where a firearm was present but not fired.

The weapons breakdown for London confirms what the national-level data on England suggested about assault in Great Britain: that the official statistics are dominated by attacks with relatively low death rates. Eighty-two percent of all reported assaults involved the use of personal force, and fewer than one in 500 of these attacks causes a death. Still, the assault-to-killing ratio for London, at 192 to 1, is half that for England as a whole, as reported in Chapter 3.

Table A2.2 (see p. 220) presents data on aggravated assault and killings resulting from assault in New York City.

Table A2.1

Fatal and Nonfatal Assaults by Weapon Type, London, 1992

	Total cases	Percentage of all attacks	Percentage of all attacks, excluding personal force	Fatalities	Death rate (%)
Firearms	429	1	6	23	5.4
Knife, sharp instrument	2,391	6	35	68	2.8
Other weapon	4,096	11	59	58	1.4
Personal force	30,403	82	—	45	0.15
Total	37,319	100	100	194	

Not tabulated in this table are cases where no firearm was fired, cases where the weapon was unknown (including one fatality), and forty-three cases where explosives were used (including six fatalities). Source: Data provided by Performance Information Bureau, London Metropolitan Police Service.

Table A2.2

Fatal and Nonfatal Assaults by Weapon Type, New York City, 1992

	Total cases	Percentage of all attacks	Fatalities	Death rate (%)
Firearms	17,034	26	1,702	10.0
Knife, sharp instrument	17,752	27	217	1.2
Other weapon	22,537	34	145	0.6
Personal force	8,358	13	88	1.1
Total	65,681	100	2,152	3.28

Source: New York City Division of Criminal Justice Services, Uniform Crime Reporting Section.

The volume of attacks, the mix of weapons, and the case fatality rates for each weapon type are quite different in New York City and London. How much of the elevenfold difference in death is the result of each of these factors? The number of assaults reported is 76 percent higher in New York City than in London. The independent contribution of this factor might be estimated by asking what volume of homicide would result in New York City if the death rate per 100 reported attacks remained constant, but the volume of assault dropped from 65,681 to 37,319. The number of New York City homicides under this condition would have been 1,223, a homicide total 43 percent under the actual 1992 level, but still more than six times the volume of homicides that occurred in London.

How might one estimate the influence of weapon mix on the death rate from assault in these two cities? One method would be to ask what number of homicides would be expected in New York City if the case fatality rates experienced in New York City for each weapon remained as they were in 1992, but the mix of weapons used in attack was that found in London. For this computation, we take London's percentage distribution of weapons for 1992 and multiply the death rate noted for each weapon and the assault volume in New York City. If knives are involved in 6 percent of London attacks, we multiply 0.06 times the 65,681 New York City attacks to estimate 2,365 knife assaults. Adding all categories give us the data in Table A2.3.

Changing only the weapons distribution of New York City assaults would produce an expected volume of homicides of 743 for 1992, slightly more than one-

Table A2.3

Hypothetical Homicides, New York City

Projected assaults	London percentage	New York City assault volume	Estimated attacks	New York City death rate	Total deaths
Firearms	.012	x 65,681	= 788	.10	79
Knife, sharp instrument	.06	x 65,681	= 2,365	.012	28
Other weapon	.11	x 65,681	= 7,225	.006	43
Personal force	.82	x 65,681	= 53,859	.011	593
Total					743