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Fax

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Fax: 202-456-2887	Pages: 6
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ELIOT SPITZER

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STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ELIOT SPITZER
Attorney General

TO: NEGOTIATING TEAM (Blumenthal, Hahn, Hennehan, Langford, Renna, Seto)

FR: ELIOT SPITZER

The attached information from Robert Delfay confirms the meeting set for 2:00AM on Friday, January 21, in the Senate Board Room at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

We are also set for Thursday, January 13, from 11:00AM - 1:00PM in Bruce Reed's office in D.C.



National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

FUNTLACK ARCADE OFFICE CENTER • 11 MILL HILL ROAD • HARTFORD, CT 06105-0001 • 860-486-1000 • 860-486-1001
WEB SITE www.nssf.org • EMAIL: info@nssf.org

ROBERT T. DELRAY
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

January 3, 2000

Attorney General Elliot Spitzer
State of New York
Office of Attorney General
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271-0932

Fax: 212/416-8942

Subject: January 21 Meeting

Dear Attorney General Spitzer:

Faxed herewith is a copy of a notice to the Industry Monitor Committee confirming our meeting on January 21.

Perhaps you could forward a copy to your committee representatives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Robert T. Delray
President and Chief Executive Officer

RTD:dp

Attachments



National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

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WEB SITE www.nssf.org • EMAIL info@nssf.org

ROBERT T. DELFAY
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF CONSULTING COUNCIL

January 3, 2000

TO: Committee to Respond to Monitor Related Requests
(Cohen, Colclough, Sanetti, Steger, Zukha)

FROM: Bob Delfay

SUBJECT: JANUARY 21 MEETING

As discussed during our Firearms Litigation Support Committee meeting in Washington on December 14, we proposed a meeting date of Friday, January 21, 2000 for the first joint meeting of our Monitor Committee and the Monitor Committee designated by New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer. I am pleased to announce that Mr. Spitzer's office has advised us that this is an acceptable meeting date.

We hope your schedule will allow you to attend this meeting which will convene at 9:00 a.m. in the Senate Board Room at Caesars Palace, 3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South (map faxed herewith.) We anticipate that the meeting will adjourn by approximately 2:00 p.m. allowing travel later in the afternoon.

Thank you. *BD*

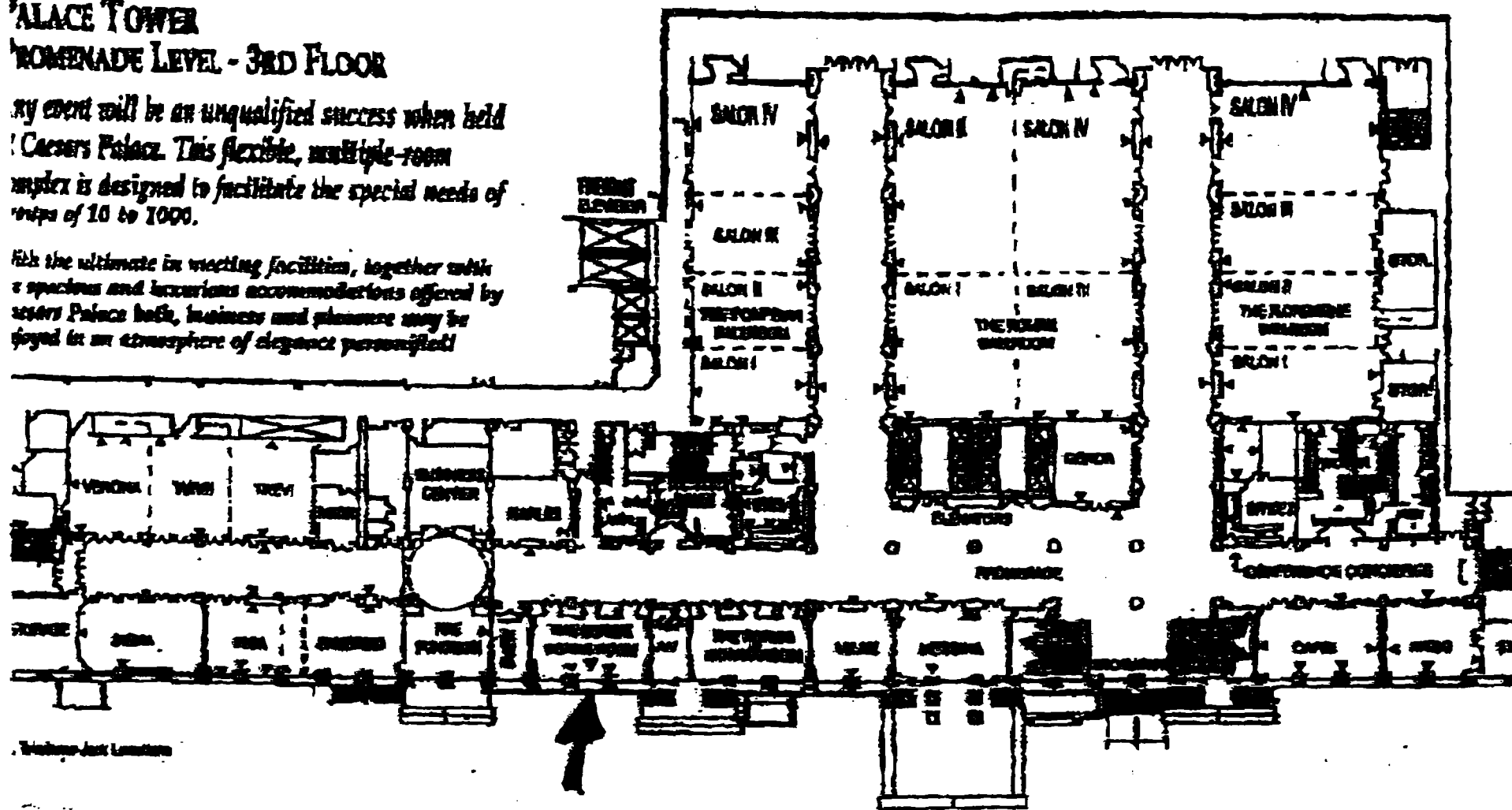
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cc: Elliot Spitzer
Mayoral Relations Committee

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Article 18

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

**Boom Times:
Industry Under Siege,
Threats of Regulation
-- And a Surge in Sales**

**It's the Economics of Guns,
Where Bad News Is Good
For Mr. Santizo's Clips**

'Just a Box With a Spring'

By Paul M. Barrett

06/08/1999

The Wall Street Journal

Page A1

(Copyright (c) 1999, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.)

SANTA FE SPRINGS, Calif. -- The **gun industry** is under attack in the courts and legislatures. Its foes, in the wake of grotesque school shootings, sense a rare opportunity to curb America's **gun** culture.

But for Carlos Santizo, who manufactures ammunition clips for pistols and rifles, business has never been better.

Wholesalers from around the country are calling Mr. Santizo's U.S.A. Magazines Inc. here in suburban Los Angeles, pleading that he fill stacks of back orders. Three 35-person shifts are working around the clock in his small factory. "It's absolutely crazy," the entrepreneur says. For 1999, he predicts a 50% jump over last year's \$10 million in sales.

It is much the same in the rest of the **gun industry**. Tiny Beretta "pocket pistols," powerful Colt assault rifles, ammunition, **gun** safes -- they are all flying off the shelves. The main reason is fear of new proposals to stiffen federal **gun**-control laws, combined with a wave of municipal lawsuits that could force far broader limits on **industry** practices.

In a striking example of unintended consequences, the **gun** market historically booms whenever consumers perceive a threat that regulations will make it harder to obtain firearms or their accoutrements.

Store owners also report that year 2000 paranoia that guns will be needed for personal protection is accelerating this year's rush, with many customers buying more guns -- or their first -- as well as ammunition and magazines. (Also known as clips, magazines are rectangular steel boxes containing bullets, which are inserted into the handle of a pistol or the body of a rifle; a spring pushes the bullets up into the **gun**.)

At Koscielski's Guns, Ammo & Surplus, a retailer in Minneapolis, sales exploded by 112%, to \$89,000, for the first five months of this year, compared with the same period in 1998, according to proprietor Mark Koscielski. Wade Gaughran, owner of Wade's Eastside **Gun** Shop in Bellevue, Wash., reports a stampede of first-time buyers, including executives from high-tech companies "who want high-end guns." Given how competitive his **industry** is, Mr. Gaughran says, "right now, the threat of **gun** -control legislation is the thing that's making the difference for a lot of guys."

Mr. Santizo, 38 years old, who broke into the magazine business 12 years ago as a ponytailed upstart, personifies the current boom: He has built the largest American-based company in his niche market by capitalizing on consumer fear of regulation. The muscular son of a Guatemalan immigrant family of modest means, Mr. Santizo today drives a spacious white BMW, lives with his wife and three small children in an \$800,000 Huntington Beach, Calif., home, and enjoys Las Vegas gambling jaunts with his buddies. For a lot of his success, he says, "I have to thank Sarah Brady," the **gun** -control activist.

His strategy of turning anxiety over **gun** curbs to his advantage has made him a particular target of antigun advocates' wrath. But he escaped liability in one closely watched court case in 1996, and hasn't been named as a defendant in the current profusion of municipal suits.

Mr. Santizo learned his business as a young clerk at a hardware store that had a **gun** counter -- a retail combination rare today but once common. Working at the store in his hometown of Bell, adjacent to south-central Los Angeles, he observed the sharply increasing popularity in the 1980s of semiautomatic pistols, which replaced revolvers as the handgun of choice for police, civilians and criminals.

Revolvers generally accommodate six bullets, which are inserted individually into a revolving cylinder. Semiautomatic pistols use magazines, which can contain more bullets, allowing the user to fire more rounds before reloading.

Mr. Santizo recalls noticing that customers who wanted extra magazines lacked much variety to choose from. The alternatives were expensive clips sold by **gun** manufacturers, called "original-equipment," or cheaper "aftermarket" products that were available for only a few models of guns. "There was room," he says, for someone to offer a wide variety of aftermarket magazines at low prices.

Another opportunity was the growing popularity of military-style assault rifles and pistols, which characteristically accommodate high-capacity clips. Although assault weapons, such as Navegar Inc.'s TEC-9, were gaining notoriety as crime guns, Mr. Santizo says he saw nothing wrong with making clips for them.

"You tell me what the law is, I will follow it and leave law enforcement to do their job," he says.

But he has his limits. When a customer walked into the hardware store in 1985 and ordered more than 100 AK-47 assault rifles, Mr. Santizo blew the whistle. He agreed to wear a surveillance wire for federal agents, who staked out the store to arrest the local businessman who was serving as a "straw buyer" for a group allegedly planning to export the guns. Mr. Santizo testified as a prosecution witness in federal court, and at least three men were imprisoned for illegal gunrunning. "Those AKs weren't going to be used for anything good," he says.

While still working at the store, he began making magazines in his father's garage, bending thin steel with rudimentary tools and assembling parts he bought from machine shops. In 1987, he started U.S.A. Magazines with \$2,000 in savings and one employee. To focus on his new business, he reluctantly gave up gigs as a professional skateboarder and as lead singer of a Van Halen-style rock band that played in L.A. clubs.

The magazine- **industry** leader was then, and still is, Mec-Gar SRL, an Italian manufacturer that makes clips mostly for **gun** companies, law enforcement, and the military. With the aftermarket

splintered among small shops, Mr. Santizo exploited relationships with wholesalers he had cultivated while working as a salesman.

"Carlos stuck out," says Martin Arnstein, chief executive of Interstate Arms Corp., a wholesaler in Northridge, Calif., that serves dealers nationally and was the first to carry U.S.A. Magazines products. With his hair and dark complexion, "he didn't look like other people in the business," which is overwhelmingly white. But Mr. Santizo also stood out because of his polite manner, eagerness to learn, and, above all, his low prices, Mr. Arnstein says.

Using today's prices to illustrate, the wholesaler explains that a 10-round magazine sold by Smith & Wesson Corp. might retail for \$27 to \$29, while a U.S.A. Magazines knockoff could go for as little as \$9.95. "No one would say his are as good as Smith & Wesson," Mr. Arnstein says, "but that's a low price."

Despite persistent concerns about quality, U.S.A. Magazines grew steadily. Fueling demand in the late 1980s was the **gun**-control movement's drive to ban assault weapons, which were linked to drug gangs. "Whenever you tell **gun** owners that they might not be able to have a certain **gun**, they will run right out and buy another one, and they'll want some extra magazines to go with it," says Robert Ricker, executive director of the American Shooting Sports Council, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

After a year in business, U.S.A. Magazines employed 15 workers and had moved from the Santizo garage to a small factory east of L.A.

The antiassault weapons effort gained momentum in 1989, when a man armed with an AK-47 sprayed a Stockton, Calif., schoolyard, killing five children. In reaction, California and other states banned certain assault weapons, and the federal government prohibited the importation of some, as well.

For Mr. Santizo, business exploded, because people were afraid big clips along with assault weapons themselves would become impossible to obtain. By 1990, he employed 25 people at a facility in Santa Fe Springs. **Gun** control, he says, "really helped me get off the ground."

In 1994, he got another boost, with the approval of a federal ban on the domestic manufacture of certain assault weapons and of clips holding more than 10 rounds. Anticipating the new law, Mr. Santizo hurriedly built a huge stockpile of high-capacity clips. A loophole in the ban allowed the sale and possession of high-capacity guns and magazines already in existence at the time of enactment.

As a result, millions of guns that can accommodate high-capacity clips are still in circulation -- both assault weapons and more conventional models. The limited stock of high-capacity magazines is in heavy demand, with prices running at roughly twice pre-ban levels. A U.S.A. Magazines 55-round AK-47 clip today retails for \$39.95; an 18-round Glock pistol clip for \$32.95.

The fact that manufacturers are making more guns that accommodate smaller clips is also a boon to Mr. Santizo. **Gun** makers typically include a clip with a new pistol. A customer who in years past might have bought an extra 18-round clip with his Glock, for a total of 36 rounds, today has to buy three extra clips to match that firepower.

The ban, in practice, has made "the magazine makers rich, because they sell more," says Mr. Koscielski, the Minneapolis dealer. Indeed, U.S.A. Magazines doubled its work force in 1994, to 50, and has now grown to more than 100 employees. "Thanks to Bill Clinton," Mr. Santizo declared in a 1995 ad in Shooting **Industry** magazine, "we now produce a full line of politically correct 10-round" magazines.

The company's immaculate factory churns out magazines for almost every major model of **gun**. Once Mr. Santizo imitated original-equipment clips by eyeball estimates; today, his engineers use computer-scanners and other high-tech gadgets to produce knockoffs that are within two-thousandths of an inch of the originals. (Most **gun**-magazine designs aren't patented because the technology is so basic and so widely disseminated.)

It is a source of frustration to Mr. Santizo, who has clipped his ponytail, that, despite his success, some people think of him primarily as a purveyor of high-capacity magazines of dubious quality. "Those are the hecklers, the tiny minority," he says. He points out proudly that his company, acting as a subcontractor, is currently tooling up to make tens of thousands of special five-round clips for the U.S. military. And, in another sign of acceptance by the **industry**, U.S.A. Magazines lately has supplied its wares directly to at least two large **gun** manufacturers: Colt's Manufacturing Co. and a unit of Brazil's Forjas Taurus SA. (Mr. Santizo won't discuss these relationships for fear of irritating corporate customers.)

Early on, he acknowledges, his products were inferior and jammed too often. But today, he says, they are as good as anyone's.

Some dealers remain skeptical. "He's a nice guy, but I don't use his magazines because the bad-apple rate is too high," says Bob Kahn, who owns two dealerships and a wholesale business in California. Bernie Esguerra, owner of Bernie's Sports Center in Norcross, Ga., complains about malfunctioning high-capacity clips he ordered from Mr. Santizo years ago but says newer U.S.A. Magazines products are working and selling.

As for the taint of assault weapons and big magazines that go with them, Mr. Santizo says high-capacity clips are a small and shrinking part of his business. But his marketing emphasizes these lines. His Web site, for example, prominently advertises his stock of pre-ban high-capacity merchandise for the AK-47 and TEC-9. And an ad in the June issue of Handgunner magazine notes that the company has a "good supply" of these high-capacity magazines.

U.S.A. Magazines is the one clip maker known to all **gun** foes. "In 1994, Congress declared that this product was against public policy," Dennis Henigan, legal director for Handgun Control Inc. in Washington, says of the high-capacity clips. "This is a manufacturer who is acting in complete defiance of that public policy." Mr. Santizo's response: "I follow the law," and, in any event, magazines don't kill people; people do.

Antigun forces went after Mr. Santizo once but failed. In 1993, a disgruntled client of a San Francisco law firm used a pair of TEC-9s equipped with U.S.A. Magazines clips to kill eight people at the firm. Represented by Mr. Henigan, victims' families sued Mr. Santizo's company, as well as the **gun**'s maker, Navegar Inc. of Miami. The trial judge dismissed U.S.A. Magazines from the case in 1996, saying that it couldn't be held liable for the criminal use of its legally marketed products; the case against Navegar was thrown out in 1997 on similar grounds.

When Mr. Henigan and other lawyers planned the municipal suits against **gun** manufacturers and distributors that began last fall and now involve about 20 cities and counties, they left out magazine makers. "The **gun** is more obviously the cause of the problem," says Mr. Henigan. To many people, he adds, a clip "is just a box with a spring."

Mr. Santizo would be affected by pending legislative proposals, but hardly deterred. A bill moving toward passage in the California legislature would ban the sale of any high-capacity magazines in the state. Mr. Santizo says he would just have to move his big clips out of state and sell them from there. A provision recently approved by the U.S. Senate that would ban importation of high-capacity magazines actually could help him by reducing foreign competition. And as in the past, the current controversy has been pumping up sales.

Acting through the American Shooting Sports Council, however, Mr. Santizo and other **industry** figures have responded to the school shootings, the calls for legislative action and the lawsuits by proposing modest reforms. They have backed instituting background checks for all sales at **gun** shows, for instance, and raising the minimum age for handgun possession to 21 from 18. In light of heightened interest in child safety, U.S.A. Magazines will soon start manufacturing an innovative **gun** lock for semiautomatic pistols.

Mr. Santizo says that he is also amending his own marketing. After an article in The Wall Street Journal last December mentioned one of his ads hawking 10-round magazines -- "Any better, and they would be illegal," the ad boasted -- he says he decided to stop running the slogan. "I was being too cute," he says.

His ads still refer to the 10-round legal limit, though. One in the June issue of Handgunner magazine promotes clips for a Sturm, Ruger & Co. pistol, urging consumers, "Take your Ruger P90 to the limit."

Philip Connors contributed to this article.



Carlos Santizo

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Article 1

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Loaded Words:

**A Dealer Breaks Rank,
Blaming Gun Makers:
'Let the Chips Fall'**

**New Rules Could Lift Image
Of Industry -- and Limit
Mr. Lockett's Rivals**

Article Causes Nervous Buzz

By Paul M. Barrett

06/22/1999

The Wall Street Journal

Page A1

(Copyright (c) 1999, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.)

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. -- **Gun** dealer Robert Lockett is considered dangerous by his own **industry**.

The veteran proprietor of The Second Amendment **gun** shop in this Kansas City suburb argues that **gun** manufacturers could -- and should -- police **gun** sales more vigilantly. Mr. Lockett says as much in a forthcoming column in an influential **industry** trade magazine. The article, scathing in tone, links lax manufacturer practices to the sale at **gun** shows of weapons that later turn up in crimes.

"I get down and dirty about things the manufacturers don't want to talk about," Mr. Lockett says in an interview. "I tell the truth, and let the chips fall."

This is remarkable stuff coming from an **industry** insider. Strikingly, the dealer's assertions strongly support arguments in lawsuits filed against **gun** manufacturers and wholesalers first in a trailblazing **gun**-liability suit in Brooklyn, N.Y., and now by 23 municipalities. Many of those suits blame "negligent distribution" for the huge flow of handguns into the black market.

When told of Mr. Lockett, lawyers representing some of the cities and counties in the suits say they see the dealer as a potential witness. "We want to speak to this gentleman right away," says Daniel Abel, a New Orleans lawyer helping represent that city and four others. "As soon as I find out his address, I'll be on the plane."

Indeed, **gun** dealers may turn out to be a significant weakness in the **industry**'s defenses. Motivated by economics, sometimes combined with safety and ethical concerns, many established **gun**-store owners favor greater **industry** regulation. List-price retailers tend to favor a crackdown by manufacturers and government on **gun** shows and fly-by-night dealers as a way of improving the **industry**'s image and -- not incidentally -- limiting low-price competition.

Robert Taborden, a former retailer in suburban Chicago, has agreed to cooperate with the city in its suit against the **industry**, in exchange for the city's dropping its damage claims against him. Mr. Taborden is willing to testify that **gun** manufacturers "know or should have known" that a healthy fraction of the firearms distributed to suburban retailers would in fact be bought for illegal use in Chicago, which has an ordinance effectively banning guns, says his attorney, Stanley Jakala.

Not surprisingly, **gun**-company executives and lawyers aren't pleased over the prospect of either the Lockett article or of dealers' possible testimony. They have been anxiously buzzing in recent days about the column-scheduled to be published next month in Shooting Sports Retailer magazine-copies of which have already been circulating in the **industry**. While the article has yet to run, the Lockett controversy was promoted on the magazine's Web site yesterday.

Publicly, **gun** executives question Mr. Lockett's motives and suggest he doesn't know what he is talking about. Privately, the tenor is different. "This guy could very definitely be a problem," says one senior **industry** official. "He has credibility."

A wooden plaque near a shotgun display in Mr. Lockett's store commemorates that he was named 1993 Dealer of the Year by the National Alliance of Stocking **Gun** Dealers. He "knows more about retailing firearms than anyone I've met," says Bob Rogers, Shooting Sports Retailer's editor. Mr. Rogers compares the July column to "lighting a flame to a gas can" and worries that it may alienate advertisers. But despite the collapse last week of a **gun**-control bill in the House of Representatives, the **industry** needs a wake-up call, he says. Municipal lawsuits "remain a threat that has to be confronted."

As for Mr. Lockett himself, it is hard to figure out just what he is up to. The term whistleblower comes to mind, but he isn't the standard **industry** defector.

Standing behind a pistol-filled glass display case in his no-frills shop, he portrays himself as a pro-**gun** loyalist who wants only to clean up his **industry**, not see it pummeled in court. He says that if called to testify, he could outsmart antigun lawyers by arguing that, even if the **industry** had been negligent in its distribution practices, "guns don't jump up and kill people; someone has to pull the trigger."

"People have told me," he says, "that I should have been an attorney myself."

Though Mr. Lockett clearly enjoys verbal fencing, antigun lawyers predict that they would be able to elicit damning testimony about the **industry**, while excluding as irrelevant his opinions on the legitimacy of the **gun**-liability suits.

A powerfully built 51-year-old Vietnam veteran and Naval Reserve commander, Mr. Lockett is a competitive shooter and hunter who 18 years ago quit a corporate auditing job to get into the **gun** business. He wears a coat and tie every day, drives a red Maserati and prides himself on his financial acumen. His store has annual sales of about \$1 million a year. He trades stocks online from a computer near the ammunition department. He disdains dealers in T-shirts who can't read a balance sheet. "**Gun** hobbyists," he calls them.

He has little use for firearm manufacturers, either. For years he has written searing trade-magazine columns, assailing what he sees as the many examples of manufacturer incompetence. Not coincidentally, most of these purported failings -- such as the marketing of guns through discount mass-retailers and the widespread publication of wholesale prices -- have hurt list-price **gun**-store owners like Mr. Lockett.

Wain Roberts, a Pinellas Park, Fla., dealer who serves on the board of directors of the National Alliance of Stocking **Gun** Dealers, a trade association, says that while Mr. Lockett's style is viewed as brash, "a lot of what he says makes sense -- not all of it, but a lot." For example, Mr. Roberts says that many dealers favor greater restrictions on **gun** shows, which have lower overhead and generally make

weapons available at lower prices.

Even though the **gun** business is vulnerable in court right now, Mr. Lockett says he welcomes the chance to inform a broader audience about how his **industry** has hurt itself by refusing to take more responsibility for the distribution of its deadly products. "This thing can be fixed," he says, "but the manufacturers are putting their heads in the sand."

Gun makers typically sell their wares to wholesalers who resell them to retailers. Manufacturers maintain that once firearms leave the factory, they can't keep track of where the guns go.

Mr. Lockett counters that **gun** manufacturers could establish direct franchise relationships with dealers that would include tough restrictions on how and to whom guns could be sold. Manufacturers could demand monthly sales reports from retailers on where each **gun** was in the distribution chain, Mr. Lockett says. This, he adds, would discourage dealers from selling firearms at **gun** shows, which are gatherings similar to flea markets where buyers may obtain guns from unlicensed sellers without undergoing background checks or filling out government paperwork.

All four of the guns used in the Columbine High School massacre were legally obtained at **gun** shows -- an example, according to law-enforcement officials, of how the shows have become a major source of guns used in crime.

Just recently, Mr. Lockett writes in his forthcoming column, two teenagers came to his store, looking for ammunition magazines for a pair of new Glock pistols they said they had bought the day before at a nearby **gun** show. The boys were obviously younger than 21, the legal age for buying handguns, Mr. Lockett writes. The youngsters brazenly volunteered that there had been "no background check, no wait, no questions," he writes.

Mr. Lockett, who turned away the teenagers, blames Glock. The company, he says, "knows what's going on and should be taking steps to control who is selling those guns."

Glock disagrees. "I don't know how we would have known about that sort of thing," says Paul Jannuzzo, general counsel of the U.S. unit of Austria's Glock GmbH, which is a defendant in the municipal suits. Mr. Jannuzzo says that Glock sponsors a program in which dealers receive promotional benefits in exchange for agreeing to obey all government sales regulations, among other rules. In addition, he says, Glock employs a retired U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent who covertly looks for suspicious sales of the company's weapons at **gun** shows. "We're doing a lot" to check illegal activity, Mr. Jannuzzo says.

Mr. Lockett's proposal is more radical: Each manufacturer should choose only a few hundred official franchisees, each of whom would have an exclusive sales territory. The franchisees could be banned from selling at **gun** shows or selling more than two or three guns at a time to a customer, among other restrictions. Price competition would be reduced, and the much smaller cadre of retailers could be closely supervised.

"Those are certainly lofty goals," says Ed Shultz, the chief executive of Smith & Wesson Corp., a unit of Britain's Tomkins PLC and another defendant in the municipal suits. "But to literally go out and police these actions would be a phenomenal effort. It's not possible."

Of the roughly 17,000 retail- **gun** -store owners in the country, Smith & Wesson has signed up about 3,000 who promise to follow its code of conduct, Mr. Shultz says. "But it would be impossible to get out on a weekly or monthly basis to observe what they're doing and check up on them." That is the job of federal and local authorities, he adds.

Jeffrey Reh, general counsel of the U.S. unit of Italy's Beretta SpA, also a defendant in the municipal suits, accuses Mr. Lockett of "using the threat of litigation" to propose "anticompetitive solutions." In any event, "we deal with distributors, not dealers," the Beretta lawyer adds. "What he's talking about just isn't within our realm of responsibility."

**The Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia***"Helping People Help Themselves"***(404) 892-4700****Via Fax and Hard Copy**

January 5, 2000

RENÉE LEWIS GLOVER
Executive Director

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta, Georgia (AHA) owns and operates approximately 10,000 public housing assisted units in Atlanta and administers approximately 10,000 Section 8 vouchers. Our mission is to provide excellent affordable housing for the betterment of our community. While Atlanta has enjoyed a dramatic decrease in crime over the past several years under the leadership of President Bill Clinton and Mayor Bill Campbell, too many of the neighborhoods in which AHA's communities are located continue to be plagued by significant gun-related crime, violence and safety issues. AHA spends millions of dollars each year on providing private security services to our communities. The ubiquity of guns in our society, including our communities, also creates enormous safety concerns for families. As a society, we all bear the repercussions of guns falling into the hands of children too young to understand the consequence of their actions. Far too many victims of gun violence are innocent children and bystanders who happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The AHA has been following with great interest the Clinton Administration's effort to hold the firearms industry accountable for the cost of gun violence. We fully support the Clinton Administration's effort to try to facilitate settlement of the litigation against the gun industry to change the way firearms are designed and sold across the country. We truly hope that the litigation can be resolved quickly in order to prevent further loss of human life. Improving the safety of guns is simply good policy.

We unequivocally support the Clinton Administration's position on this issue. Furthermore, given the importance of this issue, the AHA would be willing to support the Administration's strategies to reach a meaningful and successful compromise regarding gun safety, including, if necessary and appropriate, to participate in class-action litigation against the offending parties.

Sincerely,


Renée Lewis Glover
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Bill Campbell, Mayor, City of Atlanta