

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs and DOBs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Jose Cerda
OA/Box Number: 17182

FOLDER TITLE:

Uzi/Galil Directive [1]

2016-0931-S

rc2349

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Jose

Final packet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1998

MODIFIED ASSAULT WEAPONS EVENT

DATE:	April 6, 1998
LOCATION:	Rose Garden
BRIEFING:	10:15 a.m, Oval Office
EVENT:	10:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
FROM:	Bruce Reed and Rahm Emanuel

I. PURPOSE

To announce that the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines (or LCMM rifles) are generally not importable. This decision will affect over 50 kinds of modified assault weapons, and may prevent the importation of up to 1.5 million guns under current permits or pending permit applications.

II. BACKGROUND

You will speak to approximately 50 individuals from the law enforcement, gun control, and victims communities, as well as Members of Congress, on the importation of modified semiautomatic assault rifles.

In your November 15, 1997 radio address to the nation you announced that the Treasury Department was temporarily suspending the importation of certain modified assault weapons to review whether these weapons should be allowed to come into the country. Tomorrow, Secretary Rubin will recommend that most of the weapons studied be generally banned from importation.

Under the 1968 Gun Control Act, the Treasury Department has an obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are generally not importable. LCMMs are magazines that contain more than 10 rounds of ammunition; they were prohibited by the 1994 Crime Act.

Since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Administrations of both parties have repeatedly invoked this authority to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are brought into the country. In 1968, the Act was used to ban the importation of Saturday Night Specials and other small and inexpensive handguns; in 1984 and 1986, it was used to ban the importation of the Striker-12 and USAS-12 riot control shotguns; in 1989, it was used to ban the importation of 43 semiautomatic assault rifles; and in 1993, its authority was invoked to propose a ban on the importation of certain assault pistols, though the 1994 Crime Act made this executive action unnecessary.

The more than 50 models of firearms affected by the announcement on Monday are modified versions of military assault weapons that were banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or by the Crime Act of 1994. Most of these models are based on the AK 47 assault rifle, but some are variants of the Uzi, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, and SIG SG550.

Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants

Bruce Reed

Rahm Emanuel

Secretary Rubin

Attorney General Reno

Under Secretary Ray Kelly

Karen Popp

Jose Cerda

Event Participants

The President

The Vice President

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Attorney General

15 local law enforcement officers

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

10:15 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT are briefed in the Oval Office.

10:35 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT greet law enforcement officers in the Oval Office.

10:45 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT are announced into the Rose Garden accompanied by Secretary Rubin, the Attorney General, and law enforcement officers.

PROGRAM BEGINS

The VICE PRESIDENT gives welcoming remarks and introduces Attorney General Reno.

Attorney General Reno gives remarks and introduces Secretary Rubin.

Secretary Rubin gives remarks and introduces THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

11:15 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by Jeff Shesol.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

The final Treasury report will be available on Monday morning.

Banning the Importation of Modified Assault Weapons

April 6, 1998

Announcement: Today, in response to a previously issued memorandum, the President announced that the Treasury Department has concluded that more than 50 kinds of modified assault weapons are generally not importable because they accept large capacity military magazines. Up to 1.5 million rifles whose importation had been temporarily suspended may be affected this decision.

- On November 15, 1997, in his radio address to the nation, President Clinton announced that the Treasury Department would temporarily suspend the importation of certain modified assault weapons to review whether these weapons should be allowed to enter the country. Today, the Secretary of the Treasury informed the President that most of the weapons studied should be generally banned from importation.
- Under current law (the 1968 Gun Control Act), the Treasury Department has the obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are generally not importable.
- Since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Administrations of both parties have repeatedly invoked this authority to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are brought into the country. In 1968, the Act was used to ban the importation of Saturday Night Specials and other small and inexpensive handguns; in 1984 and 1986, it was used to ban the importation of the Striker-12 and USAS-12 riot control shotguns; in 1989, it was used to ban the importation of 43 semiautomatic assault rifles; and in 1993, its authority was invoked to propose a ban on the importation of certain assault pistols, though the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 made this executive action unnecessary.
- The more than 50 models of firearms affected by today's decision are modified versions of military assault weapons that were banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or by the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. Most of these models are based on the AK 47 assault rifle, but some are variants of the Uzi, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, and SIG SG550.
- Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

Treasury Department Determination on
Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles

Q. What action did the Secretary of the Treasury take?

A. Secretary Rubin announced after an extensive review that *certain modified semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines* ("LCMM rifles") do not meet the legal standard for importation into the United States -- they do not meet the "sporting purposes test."

Q. What is the sporting purposes test?

A. Weapons generally are not importable into the United States. However, there is an exception for weapons which the Secretary determines are of a type that is "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." (This is one of four exceptions: sporting purposes; curios and relics; scientific research; your own weapon.)

Q. What weapons are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The weapons covered are modified semiautomatic assault rifles whose original configuration failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. These rifles have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, and are all based on one of the following *military assault rifle designs*: AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 and 93, SIG SG550, and Uzi.

Q. What is a large capacity military magazine (LCMM)?

A. For the purposes of this study, the term refers to a magazine that has the ability to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition and that was originally designed and produced for an AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 or 93, SIG SG550, or Uzi military assault weapon.

Q. How many rifles are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The Secretary's decision covers approximately 59 different models of rifles. Presently there are *applications to import approximately 1 million* of the affected rifles and *outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 of the rifles*. We cannot tell how many of these rifles actually will be kept out of the United States because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not take final action on individual applications and permits involving these rifles until affected importers have had the *opportunity to respond and present additional information and arguments*.

Q. Why did the Secretary decide to bar these rifles from importation?

A. The Treasury Department's study found that the *ability to accept a large capacity military magazine was a military/combat feature*, not a sporting feature and that rifles with this ability are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Q. Are you saying that no one uses these rifles for sporting purposes?

A. No. The fact that a rifle is used for a sporting purpose does not necessarily mean that it is *generally recognized as particularly suitable* for hunting or organized competitive target shooting.

Q. Will keeping these weapons out reduce crime?

A. As a part of Treasury's study, we looked at cases and trace request data, which indicated that these rifles are attractive to criminals. While it is impossible to predict crime rates, keeping these rifles out of the country will *reduce access to rifles that have the ability to expend large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading.*

1.5 million rifles have a potential impact on the market for LCMM rifles. Since 1995, approximately 107,500 have been imported. At a minimum, keeping 1.5 million LCMM rifles out of the United States could keep prices for this type of weapon from dropping.

Q. How many of these rifles have already entered the United States since 1989?

A. Since 1991, approximately 425,000 of these rifles have been imported into the United States.

Q. These weapons were being imported as of 1991. Why didn't you act before?

A. The 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices affected our evaluation of these rifles. This ban sent a strong signal that firearms with the ability to expel large amounts of ammunition quickly are not sporting. Moreover, the 1994 embargo on the importation of firearms from China drastically reduced the importation of these rifles into the United States. Only recently did these rifles again begin to come into the country in significant numbers.

Q. Are semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines produced in the United States?

A. Yes. For example, the Ruger Mini 14, the M1A, and several models based on the Colt AR-15. (Production of Colt AR-15 units was 29,000 in 1996.)

Q. Does this mean there is a different standard for domestic production of semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines?

A. The sporting purposes test set forth in *the law only applies to the importation of firearms.* Therefore, the Secretary does not have authority to stop the domestic production of weapons that do not meet the sporting purposes test.

Q. What is the difference between what the Treasury Department concluded in 1989 and what the Secretary decided today?

A. In 1989, after the shooting of five schoolchildren at Stockton, California by a gunman with a semiautomatic copy of an AK47, ATF banned the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles containing *military features* such as folding stocks, bayonet lugs, and grenade launchers.

The rifles which are the subject of the present study did not exist in 1989. Therefore the 1989 study and the present study involved different rifles.

Although the present study affirms the basic findings of the 1989 study that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable, it goes further to hold that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be added to the list of disqualifying military features* identified in the 1989 report.

Q. Why wasn't the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine found to be a disqualifying feature in 1989?

A. It wasn't until 1994 that Congress decided that large capacity magazines represented a crime threat. The 1994 Crime Act banned the manufacturing, possession, and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices -- magazines holding more than 10 rounds.

Q. What was the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban on the Treasury's decision?

A. Both the 1994 law and its legislative history demonstrate that Congress recognized that ammunition capacity is a factor in determining whether a firearm is a sporting firearm. For example, large capacity ammunition feeding devices (magazines with more than 10 rounds) were banned, and rifles and shotguns with small ammunition capacities were exempted from the assault weapons ban. The House Report specifically states that the ability to accept a large capacity magazine "serve[d] specific, combat-functional ends."

Q. Was one of these rifles used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. No. It appears that all the firearms used in the shooting were domestically manufactured.

Q. Were rifles that accept large capacity magazines used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. Were large capacity magazines used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. Will this decision affect the importation of M1 Carbines?

A. Generally, M1 Carbines are not importable due to State Department controls on the importation of surplus U.S. military firearms. They are "curio and relic" firearms under the Gun Control Act, and the sporting purposes test does not apply to them. Some would like to see more M1 Carbines imported into this country. The Administration strongly opposes these efforts.

Q. Does this decision cover SKS rifles?

A. No. These rifles do not accept large capacity military magazines. (An SKS is not based on a machine gun design and was primarily designed for a fixed 10 round magazine.)

Q. Does this decision cover the importation of all semiautomatic rifles that can accept large capacity magazines?

A. No. The decision only applies to *the specific rifles that were the subject of the Study* that have the ability to accept large capacity *military* magazines. ATF will continue to make decisions regarding the importability of other firearms on a case by case basis. Generally, traditional sporting rifles that are imported were not designed to accept large capacity military magazines.

Q. Have you determined that any of the firearms you studied are importable?

A. Yes. One of the firearms we studied, the VEPR caliber .308 - an AK47 variant - does not have the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine. Therefore it is not an LCMM rifle and is importable into the United States.

Q. How many VEPRs are involved?

A. At this time, there are permits allowing importation of 25,000 .308 caliber VEPRs. One importer has two permits covering 20,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, and 500 of these are now held in a bonded warehouse. Another importer has a permit covering 5,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, none of which have been imported.

Q. Are there changes that can be made to the LCMM rifles to make them importable?

A. They would have to be redesigned to no longer accept large capacity military magazines. However, a redesigned firearm that can accept a large capacity military magazine with only minor adjustments would still be considered an LCMM rifle and would not be importable.

Q. How can a person know if a firearm that they wish to import meets the "sporting purposes test?"

A. A person may file an application to "conditionally" import a firearm into the United States and ATF will examine the firearm to determine whether it is importable.

Q. Wasn't this a political decision determined from day one, and the Study is meaningless?

A. Absolutely not. The Treasury Study was a thorough and honest look at all aspects of the issue as it has developed since 1989. The Study contains summaries of the actual information collected so that everyone can evaluate the information for themselves.

Q. Won't this permit guns that look and operate just like these to come into the country?

A. Yes, however they will not accept large capacity military magazines from which you can expel large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading. This is a step forward.

Q. Isn't it true that even if large capacity magazines are banned it only takes seconds to re-load a fresh 10 round magazine?

A. Congress has recognized that large capacity military magazines are different and more threatening. We agree.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 5, 1998

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Under the 1968 Gun Control Act, the Treasury Department has an obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are generally not importable. LCMMs are magazines that contain more than 10 rounds of ammunition; they were prohibited by the 1994 Crime Act.

Since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Administrations of both parties have repeatedly invoked this authority to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are brought into the country. In 1968, the Act was used to ban the importation of Saturday Night Specials and other small and inexpensive handguns; in 1984 and 1986, it was used to ban the importation of the Striker-12 and USAS-12 riot control shotguns; in 1989, it was used to ban the importation of 43 semiautomatic assault rifles; and in 1993, its authority was invoked to propose a ban on the importation of certain assault pistols, though the 1994 Crime Act made this executive action unnecessary.

The more than 50 models of firearms affected by the announcement on Monday are modified versions of military assault weapons that were banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or by the Crime Act of 1994. Most of these models are based on the AK 47 assault rifle, but some are variants of the Uzi, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, and SIG SG550.

Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants

Bruce Reed
Rahm Emanuel
Secretary Rubin
Attorney General Reno
Under Secretary Ray Kelly
Karen Popp
Jose Cerda

Event Participants

The President
The Vice President
The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
15 local law enforcement officers

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April 6, 1998

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- On November 15, 1997, in his radio address to the nation, President Clinton announced that the Treasury Department would temporarily suspend the importation of certain modified assault weapons to review whether these weapons should be allowed to enter the country. Today, the Secretary of the Treasury informed the President that most of the weapons studied should be generally banned from importation.
- Under current law (the 1968 Gun Control Act), the Treasury Department has the obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are generally not importable.
- Since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Administrations of both parties have repeatedly invoked this authority to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are brought into the country. In 1968, the Act was used to ban the importation of Saturday Night Specials and other small and inexpensive handguns; in 1984 and 1986, it was used to ban the importation of the Striker-12 and USAS-12 riot control shotguns; in 1989, it was used to ban the importation of 43 semiautomatic assault rifles; and in 1993, its authority was invoked to propose a ban on the importation of certain assault pistols, though the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 made this executive action unnecessary.
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- Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

Banning the Importation of Modified Assault Weapons

April 6, 1998

Announcement: Today, in response to a previously issued directive, the President announced that the Treasury Department had completed its review of more than 50 specific modified assault weapons, and determined that those rifles that accept large capacity military magazines (LCMM rifles) are not importable. This decision will affect up to 1.5 million rifles.

- On November 15, 1997, in his radio address to the nation, President Clinton announced that the Treasury Department was temporarily suspending the importation of certain modified assault weapons to review whether or not these weapons complied with current law. Today, the Secretary of the Treasury informed the President that most of the weapons studied should be permanently banned from importation.
- Under current law (the 1968 Gun Control Act), the Treasury Department has the obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are not importable.
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- The more than 50 firearms impacted by today's decision are modified versions of military assault weapons that were previously banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban and which are capable of accepting LCMMs with more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Most of these weapons are models based on the AK 47 assault rifle, but also included are variants of the Uzi, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, and SIG SG550.
- Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
(ENFORCEMENT)

Phone: (202) 622-0300

Fax: (202) 622-7301

Date:

Page 1 of _

TO: Jose Cerda
Leanne Shimahukuro

FAX: 456 7028

FROM: SG

SUBJECT: Q & A =

MESSAGE: most recent version
5:05 Sunday

Treasury Department Determination on
Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles

Q. What action did the Secretary of the Treasury take?

A. Secretary Rubin announced after an extensive review that *certain modified semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines* ("LCMM rifles") do not meet the legal standard for importation into the United States -- they do not meet the "sporting purposes test."

Q. What is the sporting purposes test?

A. Weapons generally are not importable into the United States. However, there is an exception for weapons which the Secretary determines are of a type that is "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." (This is one of four exceptions: sporting purposes; curios and relics; scientific research; your own weapon.)

Q. What weapons are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The weapons covered are modified semiautomatic assault rifles whose original configuration failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. These rifles have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, and are all based on one of the following five *military assault rifle designs*: AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 and 93, SIG SG550, and Uzi.

Q. What is a large capacity military magazine (LCMM)?

A. For the purposes of this study, the term refers to a *military magazine that has the ability to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition and that was originally designed and produced for an AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 or 93, SIG SG550, or Uzi military assault weapon.*

Q. How many rifles are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The Secretary's decision covers approximately 59 different models of rifles. Presently there are *applications to import approximately 1 million* of the affected rifles and *outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 of the rifles.* We cannot tell how many of these rifles actually will be kept out of the United States because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not take final action on individual applications and permits involving these rifles until affected importers have had the *opportunity to respond and present additional information and arguments.*

Q. Why did the Secretary decide to bar these rifles from importation?

A. The Treasury Department's study found that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine was a military/combat feature*, not a sporting feature and that rifles with this ability are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Q. Are you saying that no one uses these rifles for sporting purposes?

A. No. The fact that a rifle is used for a sporting purpose does not necessarily mean that it is *generally recognized as particularly suitable* for hunting or organized competitive target shooting.

Q. Will keeping these weapons out reduce crime?

A. As a part of Treasury's study, we looked at cases and trace request data, which indicated that these rifles are attractive to criminals. While it is impossible to predict crime rates, keeping these rifles out of the country will *reduce access to rifles that have the ability to expend large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading.*

1.5 million rifles have a potential impact on the market for LCMM rifles. Since 1995, approximately 107,500 have been imported. At a minimum, keeping 1.5 million LCMM rifles out of the United States could keep prices for this type of weapon from dropping.

This is the type of case that involves these weapons:

A convicted felon in North Philadelphia uses a straw purchaser to buy at least 55 rifles including a number of MAK90s. He trafficks them in high crime areas. In one case, he sells them from a parking lot of an elementary school.

A man armed with an AKS 762 rifles and two other guns drives to his previous place of employment in Orange California and opens fire on former coworkers, killing four and injuring three, including a police officer.

An Oakland police officer assists a fellow officer with a vehicle stop. As the first officer searches the rear compartment of the vehicle, a nearby resident uses a Norinco model NMH 90 to shoot the 32 year old officer in the back. The officer later died from the wound.

Q. How many of these rifles have already entered the United States since 1989?

A. Since 1991, approximately 425,000 of these rifles have been imported into the U.S.

Q. These weapons were being imported as of 1991. Why didn't you act before?

A. The 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices affected our evaluation of these rifles. This ban sent a strong signal that firearms with the ability to expel large amounts of ammunition quickly are not sporting. Moreover, the 1994 embargo on the importation of firearms from China drastically reduced the importation of these rifles into the United States. Only recently did these rifles again begin to come into the country in significant numbers.

Q. Are semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines produced in the United States?

A. Yes. For example, the Ruger Mini 14, the M1A, and several models based on the Colt AR-15. (Production of Colt AR-15 units was 29,000 in 1996.)

Q. Does this mean there is a different standard for domestic production of semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines?

A. The sporting purposes test set forth in *the law only applies to the importation of firearms*. Therefore, the Secretary does not have authority to stop the domestic production of weapons that do not meet the sporting purposes test.

Q. What is the difference between what the Treasury Department concluded in 1989 and what the Secretary decided today?

A. In 1989, after the shooting of five schoolchildren at Stockton, California by a gunman with a semiautomatic copy of an AK47, ATF banned the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles containing *military features* such as folding stocks, bayonet lugs, and grenade launchers. The rifles which are the subject of the present study did not exist in 1989. Therefore the 1989 study and the present study involved different rifles.

Although the present study affirms the basic findings of the 1989 study that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable, it goes further to hold that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be added to the list of disqualifying military features* identified in the 1989 report.

Q. Why wasn't the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine found to be a disqualifying feature in 1989?

A. It wasn't until 1994 that Congress decided that large capacity magazines represented a crime threat. The 1994 Crime Act banned the manufacturing, possession, and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices -- magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Had the Administration prohibited the importation of LCMM rifles in 1989, domestic manufacturers could simply have manufactured large capacity military magazines to fit the modified rifles.

Q. What was the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban on the Treasury's decision?

A. Both the 1994 law and its legislative history demonstrate that Congress recognized that ammunition capacity is a factor in determining whether a firearm is a sporting firearm. For example, large capacity ammunition feeding devices (magazines with more than 10 rounds) were banned, and rifles and shotguns with small ammunition capacities were exempted from the assault weapons ban. The House Report specifically states that the ability to accept a large capacity magazine "serve[d] specific, combat-functional ends."

Q. Was one of these rifles used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. No. It appears that all the firearms used in the shooting were domestically manufactured.

Q. Were rifles that accept large capacity magazines used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. Were large capacity magazines used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. Will this decision affect the importation of M1 Carbines?

A. Generally, M1 Carbines are not importable due to State Department controls on the importation of surplus U.S. military firearms. They are "curio and relic" firearms under the Gun Control Act, and the sporting purposes test does not apply to them. Some would like to see more M1 Carbines imported into this country. The Administration strongly opposes these efforts.

Q. Does this decision cover SKS rifles?

A. No. These rifles do not accept large capacity military magazines. (An SKS is not based on a machine gun design and was primarily designed for a fixed 10 round magazine.)

Q. Does this decision cover the importation of all semiautomatic rifles that can accept large capacity magazines?

A. No. The decision only applies to *the specific rifles that were the subject of the Study* that have the ability to accept large capacity *military* magazines. ATF will continue to make decisions regarding the importation of other firearms on a case by case basis. Generally, traditional sporting rifles that are imported were not designed to accept large capacity military magazines.

Q. Have you determined that any of the firearms you studied are importable?

A. Yes. One of the firearms we studied, the VEPR caliber .308 - an AK47 variant - does not have the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine. Therefore it is not an LCMM rifle and is importable into the United States.

Q. How many VEPRs are involved?

A. At this time, there are permits for importation of 25,000 .308 caliber VEPRs. One importer has two permits covering 20,000 .308 caliber VEPRs; 500 of these are now held in a bonded warehouse. Another importer has a permit covering 5,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, none of which have been imported.

Q. Are there changes that can be made to the LCMM rifles to make them importable?

A. They would have to be redesigned to no longer accept large capacity military magazines. However, a redesigned firearm that can accept a large capacity military magazine with only minor adjustments would still be considered an LCMM rifle and would not be importable.

Q. How can a person know if a firearm that they wish to import meets the "sporting purposes test?"

A. A person may file an application to "conditionally" import a firearm into the United States and ATF will examine the firearm to determine whether it is importable.

Q. Wasn't this a political decision determined from day one, and the Study is meaningless?

A. Absolutely not. The Treasury Study was a thorough and honest look at all aspects of the issue as it has developed since 1989. Surveys were sent to 1,779 hunting guides, 58 editors of hunting and shooting magazines, 55 organized competitive shooting groups, 50 state game commissions. Letters seeking information were sent to 8 industry members and trade associations, 23 law enforcement agencies and organizations and 26 police departments, and 24 interest and information groups. Two experts were hired to analyze crime information. The Study contains summaries of the actual information collected so that everyone can evaluate the information for themselves.

Q. Won't this permit guns that look and operate just like these to come into the U.S.?

A. Yes, however they will not accept large capacity military magazines from which you can expel large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading. This is a step forward.

Q. Isn't it true that even if large capacity magazines are banned it only takes seconds to re-load a fresh 10 round magazine?

A. Congress has recognized that large capacity military magazines are different and more threatening. We agree.

Q. How important is this in the context of the Administration's gun initiatives?

A. The Administration is committed to keeping guns away from criminals and stopping juveniles' illegal access to guns. The Brady checks keep felons from buying guns at federally licensed gun dealers. Our enforcement initiatives like the Youth Handgun Safety Act, the Safe and Gun Free Schools programs, the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, and the safety lock agreement, are focused on keeping kids from gaining illegal access to guns. The assault weapons ban and this decision are reducing the supply of weapons that have no legitimate sporting use and are attractive to criminals.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
(ENFORCEMENT)

Phone: (202) 622-0300

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Date:

Page 1 of _

TO: Jose Cerda
Leanne Shernakimura

FAX: 456-7028

FROM: Spinnburg

SUBJECT: Assaults

MESSAGE: Revised O & A
see crime anecdotes
last p

Treasury Department Determination on
Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles

Q. What action did the Secretary of the Treasury take?

A. Secretary Rubin announced after an extensive review that *certain modified semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines* ("LCMM rifles") do not meet the legal standard for importation into the United States -- they do not meet the "sporting purposes test."

Q. What is the sporting purposes test?

A. Weapons generally are not importable into the United States. However, there is an exception for weapons which the Secretary determines are of a type that is "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." (This is one of four exceptions: sporting purposes; curios and relics; scientific research; your own weapon.)

Q. What weapons are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The weapons covered are modified semiautomatic assault rifles whose original configuration failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. These rifles have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, and are all based on one of the following five *military assault rifle designs*: AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 and 93, SIG SG550, and Uzi.

Q. What is a large capacity military magazine (LCMM)?

A. For the purposes of this study, the term refers to a *military magazine that has the ability to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition and that was originally designed and produced for an AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 or 93, SIG SG550, or Uzi military assault weapon.*

Q. How many rifles are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The Secretary's decision covers approximately 59 different models of rifles. Presently there are *applications to import approximately 1 million* of the affected rifles and *outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 of the rifles*. We cannot tell how many of these rifles actually will be kept out of the United States because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not take final action on individual applications and permits involving these rifles until affected importers have had the *opportunity to respond and present additional information and arguments*.

Q. Why did the Secretary decide to bar these rifles from importation?

A. The Treasury Department's study found that the *ability to accept a large capacity military magazine was a military/combat feature*, not a sporting feature and that rifles with this ability are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Q. Are you saying that no one uses these rifles for sporting purposes?

A. No. The fact that a rifle is used for a sporting purpose does not necessarily mean that it is *generally recognized as particularly suitable* for hunting or organized competitive target shooting.

Q. Will keeping these weapons out reduce crime?

A. As a part of Treasury's study, we looked at cases and trace request data, which indicated that these rifles are attractive to criminals. While it is impossible to predict crime rates, keeping these rifles out of the country will *reduce access to rifles that have the ability to expend large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading.*

1.5 million rifles have a potential impact on the market for LCMM rifles. Since 1995, approximately 107,500 have been imported. At a minimum, keeping 1.5 million LCMM rifles out of the United States could keep prices for this type of weapon from dropping.

This is the type of case that involves these weapons:

A convicted felon in North Philadelphia uses a straw purchaser to buy at least 55 rifles including a number of MAK90s. He trafficks them in high crime areas. In one case, he sells them from a parking lot of an elementary school.

A man armed with an AKS 762 rifles and two other guns drives to his previous place of employment in Orange California and opens fire on former coworkers, killing four and injuring three, including a police officer.

An Oakland police officer assists a fellow officer with a vehicle stop. As the first officer searches the rear compartment of the vehicle, a nearby resident uses a Norinco model NMH 90 to shoot the 32 year old officer in the back. The officer later died from the wound.

Q. How many of these rifles have already entered the United States since 1989?

A. Since 1991, approximately 425,000 of these rifles have been imported into the U.S.

Q. These weapons were being imported as of 1991. Why didn't you act before?

A. The 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices affected our evaluation of these rifles. This ban sent a strong signal that firearms with the ability to expel large amounts of ammunition quickly are not sporting. Moreover, the 1994 embargo on the importation of firearms from China drastically reduced the importation of these rifles into the United States. Only recently did these rifles again begin to come into the country in significant numbers.

Q. Are semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines produced in the United States?

A. Yes. For example, the Ruger Mini 14, the M1A, and several models based on the Colt AR-15. (Production of Colt AR-15 units was 29,000 in 1996.)

Q. Does this mean there is a different standard for domestic production of semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines?

A. The sporting purposes test set forth in *the law only applies to the importation of firearms*. Therefore, the Secretary does not have authority to stop the domestic production of weapons that do not meet the sporting purposes test.

Q. What is the difference between what the Treasury Department concluded in 1989 and what the Secretary decided today?

A. In 1989, after the shooting of five schoolchildren at Stockton, California by a gunman with a semiautomatic copy of an AK47, ATF banned the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles containing *military features* such as folding stocks, bayonet lugs, and grenade launchers. The rifles which are the subject of the present study did not exist in 1989. Therefore the 1989 study and the present study involved different rifles.

Although the present study affirms the basic findings of the 1989 study that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable, it goes further to hold that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be added to the list of disqualifying military features* identified in the 1989 report.

Q. Why wasn't the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine found to be a disqualifying feature in 1989?

A. It wasn't until 1994 that Congress decided that large capacity magazines represented a crime threat. The 1994 Crime Act banned the manufacturing, possession, and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices -- magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Had the Administration prohibited the importation of LCMM rifles in 1989, domestic manufacturers could simply have manufactured large capacity military magazines to fit the modified rifles.

Q. What was the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban on the Treasury's decision?

A. Both the 1994 law and its legislative history demonstrate that Congress recognized that ammunition capacity is a factor in determining whether a firearm is a sporting firearm. For example, large capacity ammunition feeding devices (magazines with more than 10 rounds) were banned, and rifles and shotguns with small ammunition capacities were exempted from the assault weapons ban. The House Report specifically states that the ability to accept a large capacity magazine "serve[d] specific, combat-functional ends."

Q. Was one of these rifles used in the Jonesboro shooting?

A. No. It appears that all the firearms used in the shooting were domestically manufactured.

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Q. Does this decision cover the importation of all semiautomatic rifles that can accept large capacity magazines?

A. No. The decision only applies to *the specific rifles that were the subject of the Study* that have the ability to accept large capacity *military* magazines. ATF will continue to make decisions regarding the importation of other firearms on a case by case basis. Generally, traditional sporting rifles that are imported were not designed to accept large capacity military magazines.

Q. Have you determined that any of the firearms you studied are importable?

A. Yes. One of the firearms we studied, the VEPR caliber .308 - an AK47 variant - does not have the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine. Therefore it is not an LCMM rifle and is importable into the United States.

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A. At this time, there are permits for importation of 25,000 .308 caliber VEPRs. One importer has two permits covering 20,000 .308 caliber VEPRs; 500 of these are now held in a bonded warehouse. Another importer has a permit covering 5,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, none of

which have been imported.

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Q. How can a person know if a firearm that they wish to import meets the “sporting purposes test?”

A. A person may file an application to “conditionally” import a firearm into the United States and ATF will examine the firearm to determine whether it is importable.

Q. Wasn’t this a political decision determined from day one, and the Study is meaningless?

A. Absolutely not. The Treasury Study was a thorough and honest look at all aspects of the issue as it has developed since 1989. The Study contains summaries of the actual information collected so that everyone can evaluate the information for themselves.

Q. Won’t this permit guns that look and operate just like these to come into the country?

A. Yes, however they will not accept large capacity military magazines from which you can expel large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading. This is a step forward.

Q. Isn’t it true that even if large capacity magazines are banned it only takes seconds to re-load a fresh 10 round magazine?

A. Congress has recognized that large capacity military magazines are different and more threatening. We agree.

Q. How important is this in the context of the Administration’s gun initiatives?

A. The Administration is committed to keeping guns away from criminals and stopping juveniles’ illegal access to guns. The Brady checks keep felons from buying guns at federally licensed gun dealers. Our enforcement initiatives like the Youth Handgun Safety Act, the Safe and Gun Free Schools program, the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, and the safety lock agreement, are focused on keeping kids from wanting and gaining illegal access to guns. The assault weapons ban and this step are reducing the supply of weapons that have no legitimate sporting use and are attractive to criminals.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

SUBJECT: Importation of Modified Semiautomatic
Assault-Type Rifles

The Gun Control Act of 1968 restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, the Department of the Treasury (the Department) conducted a review of existing criteria for applying the statutory test based on changing patterns of gun use. As a result of that review, 43 assault-type rifles were specifically banned from importation. However, manufacturers have modified many of those weapons banned in 1989 to remove certain military features without changing their essential operational mechanism. Examples of such weapons are the Galil and the Uzi.

In recent weeks Members of Congress have strongly urged that it is again necessary to review the manner in which the Department is applying the sporting purposes test, in order to ensure that the agency's practice is consistent with the statute and current patterns of gun use. A letter signed by 30 Senators strongly urged that modified assault-type weapons are not properly importable under the statute and that I should use my authority to suspend temporarily their importation while the Department conducts an intensive, expedited review. A recent letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein emphasized again that weapons of this type are designed not for sporting purposes but for the commission of crime. In addition, 34 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that he intervene to stop all sales of Galils and Uzis into the United States. These concerns have caused the Government of Israel to announce a temporary moratorium on the exportation of Galils and Uzis so that the United States can review the importability of these weapons under the Gun Control Act.

The number of weapons at issue underscores the potential threat to the public health and safety that necessitates immediate action. Firearms importers have obtained permits to import nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles. In addition, there are pending before the Department applications to import more than 1 million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than 1 million today.

My Administration is committed to enforcing the statutory restrictions on importation of firearms that do not meet the sporting purposes test. It is necessary that we ensure that the statute is being correctly applied and that the current use of these modified weapons is consistent with the statute's criteria for importability. This review should be conducted at once on an expedited basis. The review is directed to weapons such as the Uzi and Galil that failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. The results of this review should be applied to all pending and future applications.

The existence of outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles threatens to defeat the purpose of the expedited review unless, as in 1989, the Department temporarily suspends such permits. Importers typically obtain authorization to import firearms in far greater numbers than are actually imported into the United States. However, gun importers could effectively negate the impact of any Department determination by simply importing weapons to the maximum amount allowed by their permits. The public health and safety require that the only firearms allowed into the United States are those that meet the criteria of the statute.

Accordingly, as we discussed, you will:

- 1) Conduct an immediate expedited review not to exceed 120 days in length to determine whether modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles are properly importable under the statutory sporting purposes test. The results of this review will govern action on pending and future applications for import permits, which shall not be acted upon until the completion of this review.

2) Suspend outstanding permits for importation of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles for the duration of the 120-day review period. The temporary suspension does not constitute a permanent revocation of any license. Permits will be revoked only if and to the extent that you determine that a particular weapon does not satisfy the statutory test for importation, and only after an affected importer has an opportunity to make its case to the Department.

William J. Cristen

Treasury Department Determination on
Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles

Q. What action did the Secretary of the Treasury take?

A. Secretary Rubin announced after an extensive review that *certain modified semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines* ("LCMM rifles") do not meet the legal standard for importation into the United States -- they do not meet the "sporting purposes test."

Q. What is the sporting purposes test?

A. Weapons generally are not importable into the United States. However, there is an exception for weapons which the Secretary determines are of a type that is "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." (This is one of four exceptions: sporting purposes; curios and relics; scientific research; your own weapon.)

Q. What weapons are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The weapons covered are modified semiautomatic assault rifles whose original configuration failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. These rifles have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, and are all based on one of the following *military assault rifle designs*: AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 and 93, SIG SG550, and Uzi.

Q. What is a large capacity military magazine (LCMM)?

A. For the purposes of this study, the term refers to a magazine that has the ability to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition and that was originally designed and produced for an AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 or 93, SIG SG550, or Uzi military assault weapon.

Q. How many rifles are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The Secretary's decision covers approximately 59 different models of rifles. Presently there are *applications to import approximately 1 million* of the affected rifles and *outstanding permits for nearly 600,000* of the rifles. We cannot tell how many of these rifles actually will be kept out of the United States because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not take final action on individual applications and permits involving these rifles until affected importers have had the *opportunity to respond and present additional information and arguments*.

Q. Why did the Secretary decide to bar these rifles from importation?

A. The Treasury Department's study found that the *ability to accept a large capacity military magazine was a military/combat feature*, not a sporting feature and that rifles with this ability are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Q. Are you saying that no one uses these rifles for sporting purposes?

A. No. The fact that a rifle is used for a sporting purpose does not necessarily mean that it is *generally recognized as particularly suitable* for hunting or organized competitive target shooting.

Q. Will keeping these weapons out reduce crime?

A. As a part of Treasury's study, we looked at cases and trace request data, which indicated that these rifles are attractive to criminals. While it is impossible to predict crime rates, keeping these rifles out of the country will *reduce access to rifles that have the ability to expend large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading.*

1.5 million rifles have a potential impact on the market for LCMM rifles. Since 1995, approximately 107,500 have been imported. At a minimum, keeping 1.5 million LCMM rifles out of the United States could keep prices for this type of weapon from dropping.

Q. How many of these rifles have already entered the United States since 1989?

A. Since 1991, approximately 425,000 of these rifles have been imported into the United States.

Q. These weapons were being imported as of 1991. Why didn't you act before?

A. The 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices affected our evaluation of these rifles. This ban sent a strong signal that firearms with the ability to expel large amounts of ammunition quickly are not sporting. Moreover, the 1994 embargo on the importation of firearms from China drastically reduced the importation of these rifles into the United States. Only recently did these rifles again begin to come into the country in significant numbers.

Q. Are semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines produced in the United States?

A. Yes. For example, the Ruger Mini 14, the M1A, and several models based on the Colt AR-15. (Production of Colt AR-15 units was 29,000 in 1996.)

Q. Does this mean there is a different standard for domestic production of semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines?

A. The sporting purposes test set forth in *the law only applies to the importation of firearms.* Therefore, the Secretary does not have authority to stop the domestic production of weapons that do not meet the sporting purposes test.

Q. What is the difference between what the Treasury Department concluded in 1989 and what the Secretary decided today?

A. In 1989, after the shooting of five schoolchildren at Stockton, California by a gunman with a semiautomatic copy of an AK47, ATF banned the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles containing *military features* such as folding stocks, bayonet lugs, and grenade launchers.

The rifles which are the subject of the present study did not exist in 1989. Therefore the 1989 study and the present study involved different rifles.

Although the present study affirms the basic findings of the 1989 study that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable, it goes further to hold that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be added to the list of disqualifying military features* identified in the 1989 report.

Q. Why wasn't the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine found to be a disqualifying feature in 1989?

A. It wasn't until 1994 that Congress decided that large capacity magazines represented a crime threat. The 1994 Crime Act banned the manufacturing, possession, and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices -- magazines holding more than 10 rounds.

Q. What was the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban on the Treasury's decision?

A. Both the 1994 law and its legislative history demonstrate that Congress recognized that ammunition capacity is a factor in determining whether a firearm is a sporting firearm. For example, large capacity ammunition feeding devices (magazines with more than 10 rounds) were banned, and rifles and shotguns with small ammunition capacities were exempted from the assault weapons ban. The House Report specifically states that the ability to accept a large capacity magazine "serve[d] specific, combat-functional ends."

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Q. Does this decision cover the importation of all semiautomatic rifles that can accept large capacity magazines?

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Q. Have you determined that any of the firearms you studied are importable?

A. Yes. One of the firearms we studied, the VEPR caliber .308 - an AK47 variant - does not have the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine. Therefore it is not an LCMM rifle and is importable into the United States.

Q. How many VEPRs are involved?

A. At this time, there are permits allowing importation of 25,000 .308 caliber VEPRs. One importer has two permits covering 20,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, and 500 of these are now held in a bonded warehouse. Another importer has a permit covering 5,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, none of which have been imported.

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A. Yes, however they will not accept large capacity military magazines from which you can expel large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading. This is a step forward.

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ORIGINAL

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

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The Gun Control Act of 1968 restricts the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, the Department of the Treasury (the Department) conducted a review of existing criteria for applying the statutory test based on changing patterns of gun use. As a result of that review, 43 assault-type rifles were specifically banned from importation. However, manufacturers have modified many of those weapons banned in 1989 to remove certain military features without changing their essential operational mechanism. Examples of such weapons are the Galil and the Uzi.

In recent weeks Members of Congress have strongly urged that it is again necessary to review the manner in which the Department is applying the sporting purposes test, in order to ensure that the agency's practice is consistent with the statute and current patterns of gun use. A letter signed by 30 Senators strongly urged that modified assault-type weapons are not properly importable under the statute and that I should use my authority to suspend temporarily their importation while the Department conducts an intensive, expedited review. A recent letter from Senator Dianne Feinstein emphasized again that weapons of this type are designed not for sporting purposes but for the commission of crime. In addition, 34 Members of the House of Representatives signed a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu requesting that he intervene to stop all sales of Galils and Uzis into the United States. These concerns have caused the Government of Israel to announce a temporary moratorium on the exportation of Galils and Uzis so that the United States can review the importability of these weapons under the Gun Control Act.

The number of weapons at issue underscores the potential threat to the public health and safety that necessitates immediate action. Firearms importers have obtained permits to import nearly 600,000 modified assault-type rifles. In addition, there are pending before the Department applications to import more than 1 million additional such weapons. The number of rifles covered by outstanding permits is comparable to that which existed in 1989 when the Bush Administration temporarily suspended import permits for assault-type rifles. The number of weapons for which permits for importation are being sought through pending applications is approximately 10 times greater than in 1989. The number of such firearms for which import applications have been filed has skyrocketed from 10,000 on October 9, 1997, to more than 1 million today.

My Administration is committed to enforcing the statutory restrictions on importation of firearms that do not meet the sporting purposes test. It is necessary that we ensure that the statute is being correctly applied and that the current use of these modified weapons is consistent with the statute's criteria for importability. This review should be conducted at once on an expedited basis. The review is directed to weapons such as the Uzi and Galil that failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. The results of this review should be applied to all pending and future applications.

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Accordingly, as we discussed, you will:

- 1) Conduct an immediate expedited review not to exceed 120 days in length to determine whether modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles are properly importable under the statutory sporting purposes test. The results of this review will govern action on pending and future applications for import permits, which shall not be acted upon until the completion of this review.

2) Suspend outstanding permits for importation of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles for the duration of the 120-day review period. The temporary suspension does not constitute a permanent revocation of any license. Permits will be revoked only if and to the extent that you determine that a particular weapon does not satisfy the statutory test for importation, and only after an affected importer has an opportunity to make its case to the Department.

William J. Clinton

TREASURY



NEWS

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:45 A.M. EST
April 6, 1998

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
(202) 622-2960

TREASURY PROHIBITS IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT RIFLES

New Prohibition Applies to Rifles that Accept Large Capacity Military Magazines

Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin announced today a prohibition on the importation of modified, semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines.

Today's announcement follows a comprehensive review of the importation of approximately 59 modified, semiautomatic assault rifles conducted by Treasury and its Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The review was directed by President Clinton and Secretary Rubin last November, and stemmed from concerns that many new, dangerous semiautomatic weapons had been developed in the nearly 10 years since the last review.

"President Clinton and this Administration are committed to rigorous enforcement of laws designed to keep dangerous weapons off our streets," said Rubin. "With this decision, we can further reduce the flow of weapons that have no legitimate use in our society."

Under the 1968 Gun Control Act, the Treasury Department is required to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes."

In 1989, the "sporting purposes" provision led ATF to ban the importation of several semiautomatic versions of assault weapons possessing military features such as bayonet mounts, pistol grips, night sights and grenade launchers. After the 1989 prohibition, certain semiautomatic assault rifles that had failed the sporting purposes test were modified to remove all military features except the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine (LCMM) that holds more than 10 rounds. The LCMM rifles are models based on AK-47, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, Uzi and SIG SG550 military assault rifles.

This review concluded that the original prohibition is correct and that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable. This review further concluded that firearms with the ability to accept a large capacity magazine designed and produced for a military assault weapon should be banned. The review draws support from Congress and the Administration's 1994 decision to ban large capacity military magazines on the grounds that they served "combat-functional ends" and were attractive to criminals.

RR-2347

“We have no desire to take guns away from hunters, or other legitimate users. We do, however, want to protect Americans from the violence that can result from these semiautomatic weapons,” said Rubin.

Up to 1.6 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified of this decision in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

The Study on the Sporting Suitability of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles is available through the Treasury Public Affairs Office at (202) 622-2960 or via the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov after 12:00 p.m. EDT Monday, April 6.

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
(*ENFORCEMENT*)

Phone: (202) 622-0300

Fax: (202) 622-7301

Date: 4/6/98

Page 1 of 6

TO:

Leanne Shimabukuro

(202) 546-5574

FAX:

202.456.7028

FROM:

Douglas James
U.S. Treasury Dept
202.622.1451 tel
202.622.1452 fax

SUBJECT: Q's & A's

MESSAGE: Per your conversation with Susan Ginsburg, attached is a revised set of Questions and Answers for today's event.

202 622 1452 P.02/05

TREASURY DEPT.

**Treasury Department Determination on
Importation of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles**

Q. What action did the Secretary of the Treasury take?

A. Secretary Rubin announced after an extensive review that *certain modified semiautomatic assault rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines* ("LCMM rifles") do not meet the legal standard for importation into the United States -- they do not meet the "sporting purposes test."

Q. What is the sporting purposes test?

A. Weapons generally are not importable into the United States. However, there is an exception for weapons which the Secretary determines are of a type that is "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." (This is one of four exceptions: sporting purposes; curios and relics; scientific research; your own weapon.)

Q. What weapons are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The weapons covered are modified semiautomatic assault rifles whose original configuration failed to meet the sporting purposes test in 1989, but were later found importable when certain military features were removed. These rifles have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, and are all based on one of the following five *military assault rifle designs*: AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 and 93, SIG SG550, and Uzi.

Q. What is a large capacity military magazine (LCMM)?

A. For the purposes of this study, the term refers to a *military magazine that has the ability to accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition and that was originally designed and produced for an AK47, FN-FAL, HK91 or 93, SIG SG550, or Uzi military assault weapon.*

Q. How many rifles are covered by the Secretary's decision?

A. The Secretary's decision covers approximately 59 different models of rifles. Presently there are *applications to import approximately 1 million* of the affected rifles and *outstanding permits for nearly 600,000 of the rifles.* We cannot tell how many of these rifles actually will be kept out of the United States because the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will not take final action on individual applications and permits involving these rifles until affected importers have had the *opportunity to respond and present additional information and arguments.*

Q. Why did the Secretary decide to bar these rifles from importation?

A. The Treasury Department's study found that the *ability to accept a large capacity military magazine was a military/combat feature*, not a sporting feature and that rifles with this ability are not generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Q. **How many of these rifles have already entered the United States since 1989?**

A. Since 1991, approximately 425,000 of these rifles have been imported into the U.S.

Q. **These weapons were being imported as of 1991. Why didn't you act before?**

A. The 1994 ban on semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices affected our evaluation of these rifles. This ban sent a strong signal that firearms with the ability to expel large amounts of ammunition quickly are not sporting. Moreover, the 1994 embargo on the importation of firearms from China drastically reduced the importation of these rifles into the United States. Only recently did these rifles again begin to come into the country in significant numbers.

Q. **Are semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines produced in the United States?**

A. Yes. For example, the Ruger Mini 14, the M1A, and several models based on the Colt AR-15. (Production of Colt AR-15 units was 29,000 in 1996.)

Q. **Does this mean there is a different standard for domestic production of semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines?**

A. The sporting purposes test set forth in *the law only applies to the importation of firearms*. Therefore, the Secretary does not have authority to stop the domestic production of weapons that do not meet the sporting purposes test.

Q. **What is the difference between what the Treasury Department concluded in 1989 and what the Secretary decided today?**

A. In 1989, after the shooting of five schoolchildren at Stockton, California by a gunman with a semiautomatic copy of an AK47, ATF banned the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles containing *military features* such as folding stocks, bayonet lugs, and grenade launchers. The rifles which are the subject of the present study did not exist in 1989. Therefore the 1989 study and the present study involved different rifles.

Although the present study affirms the basic findings of the 1989 study that military-style semiautomatic rifles are not importable, it goes further to hold that *the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be added to the list of disqualifying military features* identified in the 1989 report.

Q. **Why wasn't the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine found to be a disqualifying feature in 1989?**

A. It wasn't until 1994 that Congress decided that large capacity magazines represented a crime threat. The 1994 Crime Act banned the manufacturing, possession, and transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices — magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Had the Administration prohibited the importation of LCMF rifles in 1989, domestic manufacturers could simply have manufactured large capacity military magazines to fit the modified rifles.

Q. **What was the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban on the Treasury's decision?**

A. Both the 1994 law and its legislative history demonstrate that Congress recognized that ammunition capacity is a factor in determining whether a firearm is a sporting firearm. For example, large capacity ammunition feeding devices (magazines with more than 10 rounds) were banned, and rifles and shotguns with small ammunition capacities were exempted from the assault weapons ban. The House Report specifically states that the ability to accept a large capacity magazine "serve[d] specific, combat-functional ends."

Q. **Was one of these rifles used in the Jonesboro shooting?**

A. No. It appears that all the firearms used in the shooting were domestically manufactured.

Q. **Were *rifles that accept large capacity magazines* used in the Jonesboro shooting?**

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. **Were *large capacity magazines* used in the Jonesboro shooting?**

A. This is an open criminal investigation and I therefore cannot comment.

Q. **Will this decision affect the importation of M1 Carbines?**

A. Generally, M1 Carbines are not importable due to State Department controls on the importation of surplus U.S. military firearms. They are "curio and relic" firearms under the Gun Control Act, and the sporting purposes test does not apply to them. Some would like to see more M1 Carbines imported into this country. The Administration strongly opposes these efforts.

Q. **Does this decision cover SKS rifles?**

A. No. These rifles do not accept large capacity military magazines. (An SKS is not based on a machine gun design and was primarily designed for a fixed 10 round magazine.)

Q. **Does this decision cover the importation of all semiautomatic rifles that can accept large capacity magazines?**

A. No. The decision only applies to *the specific rifles that were the subject of the Study* that have the ability to accept large capacity *military* magazines. ATF will continue to make decisions regarding the importation of other firearms on a case by case basis. Generally, traditional sporting rifles that are imported were not designed to accept large capacity military magazines.

Q. **Have you determined that any of the firearms you studied are importable?**

A. Ycs. One of the firearms we studied, the VEPR caliber .308 - an AK47 variant - does not have the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine. Therefore it is not an LCMM rifle and is importable into the United States.

Q. **How many VEPRs are involved?**

A. At this time, there are permits for importation of 25,000 .308 caliber VEPRs. One importer has two permits covering 20,000 .308 caliber VEPRs; 500 of these are now held in a bonded warehouse. Another importer has a permit covering 5,000 .308 caliber VEPRs, none of which have been imported.

Q. **Are there changes that can be made to the LCMM rifles to make them importable?**

A. They would have to be redesigned to no longer accept large capacity military magazines. However, a redesigned firearm that can accept a large capacity military magazine with only minor adjustments would still be considered an LCMM rifle and would not be importable.

Q. **How can a person know if a firearm that they wish to import meets the "sporting purposes test?"**

A. A person may file an application to "conditionally" import a firearm into the United States and ATF will examine the firearm to determine whether it is importable.

Q. **Wasn't this a political decision determined from day one, and the Study is meaningless?**

A. Absolutely not. The Treasury Study was a thorough and honest look at all aspects of the issue as it has developed since 1989. Surveys were sent to 1,779 hunting guides, 58 editors of hunting and shooting magazines, 55 organized competitive shooting groups, 50 state game commissions. Letters seeking information were sent to 8 industry members and trade associations, 23 law enforcement agencies and organizations and 26 police departments, and 24 interest and information groups. Two experts were hired to analyze crime information. The Study contains summaries of the actual information collected so that everyone can evaluate the information for themselves.

Q. **Won't this permit guns that look and operate just like these to come into the U.S.?**

A. Yes, however they will not accept large capacity military magazines from which you can expel large amounts of ammunition quickly without manually reloading. This is a step forward.

Q. **Isn't it true that even if large capacity magazines are banned it only takes seconds to re-load a fresh 10 round magazine?**

A. Congress has recognized that large capacity military magazines are different and more threatening. We agree.

Q. **How important is this in the context of the Administration's gun initiatives?**

A. The Administration is committed to keeping guns away from criminals and stopping juveniles' illegal access to guns. Today's decision reenforces many other Administration initiatives -- Brady Checks, the Youth Handgun Safety Act, the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative -- which are focused on keeping kids and criminals from gaining illegal access to guns.

Mr. Cerda -
Cortland
State University of New York College at Cortland



*I understand
you cover this issue*

Robert J. Spitzer, Ph.D.
Distinguished Service Professor *area -*
Political Science Department

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OPINION/ESSAYS

Assault Weapons Ban

An opportunistic political gesture following Jonesboro has merit

By Robert J. Spitzer

CRITICS of President Clinton's decision last week to permanently ban the import of 58 types of military-style assault weapons dismiss it as a meaningless political gesture that won't effect crime and that deprives shooting enthusiasts of guns no different from hunting rifles. Worse, they claim, the Jonesboro, Ark. school massacre was committed using weapons unaffected by Clinton's ban, so his announcement coming so soon after the tragedy is nothing more than political opportunism.

To be sure, assault weapons sales constitute only about 1 percent of America's 200 million gun arsenal. But an Urban Institute study found that such weapons accounted for 8 percent of guns at crime scenes over a seven-year period. The Violence Policy Center reports that 1 in 10 law-enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 1995 died from an assault weapon. So-called "sporterized" assault weapons (changed slightly to legalize their import) were used in almost 1,200 crimes in 1995 and 1996.

Currently available assault

weapons fire a round with each pull of the trigger - no different from a typical hunting rifle. So why the fuss? The answer lies in design. The differences between hunting and assault rifles, dismissed as "cosmetic," are central to assault weapons' purpose. Unlike hunting rifles, assault weapons are shorter, lighter weight, have pistol grips or thumbhole stocks, folding barrels, barrel shrouds, bayonet mountings, threaded barrels, and can accept magazines holding more than 10 bullets. All of these features are combat-related. The lighter weight, compact design, and pistol grips give the ability to "spray fire" - often from the hip.

Indeed, the companies that produce such weapons market them for these very capabilities. No self-respecting hunter bags a deer by laying down a field of fire. The government has every interest in restricting such weapons.

The fatal gunfire that killed five and wounded 11 in Jonesboro, Ark. came mostly from an M-1 carbine replica and a Remington .30-06 hunting rifle. Neither weapon is considered an assault rifle, but public outrage over the massacre has undoubtedly fu-

eled support for Clinton's import ban, even though consideration of the ban began last fall.

If the timing of Clinton's decision is opportunistic, it is nevertheless justifiable on its merits. Legitimate hunting weapons, specifically protected in the 1994 federal ban on certain assault weapons, deserve protection, as does the hunting and sporting tradition. Excessive firepower in the wrong hands does not.

Clinton correctly asserts that assault weapons, for which no sporting use exists, pose an unnecessary and unjustifiable threat to the public.

Renaming the Israeli Uzi "sporter" mocks those who use legitimate weapons for legitimate purposes. The common theme uniting the import ban and the Jonesboro massacre is legitimate guns in legitimate hands. This objective should be the mutual goal of government and gun users.

■ Robert J. Spitzer is a political science professor at the State University of New York, Cortland. The second edition of his book, "The Politics of Gun Control," will be published this fall by Chatham House.

Needed: a Hero for Gun Bill

The California Assembly soon will have another chance to prove that it would rather save lives than nurse petty grudges. The deciding issue is assault guns—specifically a bill by Assemblyman Don Perata (D-Alameda) that laudably bans such weapons on a generic basis, rather than model by model as in the weak law that was partly struck down by the courts.

In what was to be the final vote on the measure last week, the bill went down by a single vote when two Southern California Democrats—Dick Floyd of Wilmington and Edward Vincent of Inglewood—shockingly withheld their votes, despite previously having voted for the bill. Floyd's decision seems to be based wholly on a political snit with Perata. Vincent is dithering for reasons not entirely clear. But if Vincent and Floyd, along with unshakably pro-gun Democrats Joe Baca of Rialto and Roderick Wright of Los Angeles,

deserve condemnation, so does the Republican Party. Kudos to the two Republicans who voted for the Perata measure—Steven T. Kuykendall of Rancho Palos Verdes and Jim Cunneen of San Jose. As for the rest, including the whole Orange County Assembly delegation, all the nit-picking in the world over the size of potentially banned gun magazines and the shape of potentially banned handgrips cannot justify allowing more of these lethal, non-sporting weapons on our streets. And where is the governor? One kind word from Pete Wilson and surely GOP votes would magically appear.

Settling personal scores has long held a high priority in Sacramento. But at what price? Just how many kids have to die before shame sets in at the state Capitol? Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles) said Friday he hopes to get one more supporter sewed up, call another vote and send the ban to Wilson's desk. Who will step up and be the hero?

Silvestre Reyes

An Ally in the War on Drugs

Finding fault with Mexico is a no-win strategy.

I live on our nation's border with Mexico. I have firsthand knowledge and experience of our nation's "war on drugs." I spent more than 26 years of my life on the front line of that "war" as a Border Patrol agent, enforcing our nation's immigration and narcotics laws. For 11 of those years, I was the Border Patrol sector chief in McAllen, Tex., and El Paso.

The most important lesson I learned while working on the border is that to be successful in our fight against drug trafficking, we must help Mexico reform its police apparatus as well as its legal and judicial systems. If the United States and Mexico are to stop drug smuggling, we must cooperate and work in an environment of mutual understanding. Because about 60 percent of the cocaine on the streets of the United States passes through Mexico, its cooperation is vital to any counter-drug effort. Merely criticizing Mexico achieves nothing.

The United States consumes more than \$5 billion a year in illegal drugs. We should own up to our responsibility and stop trying to blame others. Indeed, a recent survey found that 46 percent of Americans believe that Americans are responsible for the problem of illegal drugs in the United States. Interestingly, 50 percent of those same Americans believe that certification should be made tougher. They believe that we as a country are responsible for creating the demand,

but we need to punish foreign nations for our problem. We should not continue to use the certification process as a forum to vent the frustrations we as a nation feel about the devastating impact of drugs on our communities.

The Mexican government bristles at the annual certification process, viewing it as an affront to their nation and an infringement on their sovereignty. The Mexican ambassador to the United States, Jesus Reyes-Heroles, refers to the certification process as "the most stressful period each year in the relationship between the two nations. This stress does not, in our view, enhance the cooperation essential to defeat this mutual scourge."

Our nation shares a 2,000-mile border with Mexico, but we along the border share more than that with our neighbors to the south. Not only have our economies long been interdependent, but our cultures also are tied by more than 400 years of history.

Since the implementation of NAFTA in 1993, communities on both sides of the border have become an integral part of the hemispheric trade success of North America with Latin America. American exports to Mexico increased by 126 percent from 1990 to 1996. The trade pact not only makes economic sense, it is also a logical evolution of international trade and commerce. It is a vibrant success story in the making, but it

can be jeopardized by the process of certification and the contentious issues associated with it each year.

Mexico's efforts in this "war on drugs" are notable and should not be overlooked. In the past year, Mexico has enacted money-laundering legislation and created new investigative units to help root out official corruption. The Mexicans also have begun to rebuild their anti-drug institutions under the leadership of Attorney General Jorge Madrazo.

The Mexican government also has improved its efforts relating to extradition and has signed a bilateral extradition protocol. Mexico City already has approved the extradition of 27 fugitives from U.S. justice. Of the 27, 13 fugitives were extradited (seven for drug crimes) while the remaining 14 have appealed their extraditions.

We must continue to build on this kind of progress. The United States policy of judging the drug-fighting efforts of other countries is counterproductive and must be changed if we are to have any real impact on international drug trafficking. We must develop a process in which we engage our partners through cooperation rather than confrontation.

The writer, a Democrat, is a U.S. representative from Texas.

Draft 4/6 8:25 a.m.; 3 minutes
Remarks Prepared for Delivery
Modified Semiautomatic Weapons Event
Secretary Robert Rubin
April 6, 1998

**Thank you, Janet. It's a pleasure to join
you, Vice President Gore, and the President
as we announce new steps to help make our
communities safer from firearms violence.**

**Since taking office, one of President
Clinton's highest priorities has been to work
to make our streets and communities safer,**

and, as the Attorney General has noted on many occasions, considerable progress has been made on this score, as evidenced by the reduction in violent crimes over the past five years. A key element of the President's strategy to fight crime has been his actions to make it harder for criminals to get guns, particularly semiautomatic assault weapons. We at Treasury are proud to be heavily involved in this effort through the enforcement of the federal firearms laws by

HPK-06-1598 10-03 U.F.D. 202 JUL 1991 11:04:00

**the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and
Firearms.**

**As part of its responsibilities, in 1989
ATF prohibited the importation into the
United States of a series of semiautomatic
assault rifles, which had specified military
features, because these weapons were not
sporting weapons.**

The 1989 decision, along with the 1994

Assault Weapons Ban, have made it harder for criminals to obtain semiautomatic assault weapons. However -- so long as the other militarized features were removed -- neither measure prevented rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines, which fire large numbers of bullets in a very short time frame without reloading, from entering our country.

Today, we are taking steps to stop the

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flow of these deadly, rapid firing weapons by prohibiting the importation of the designated semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines.

Our decision today stems from a comprehensive review conducted by the Department and ATF. This review was a result of concerns, including those raised by several members of Congress, that nearly ten years had passed since the last

comprehensive review, and that during this time, dangerous new rifles had been developed.

This decision will in no way affect the importation of true sporting firearms. This will prevent dangerous weapons that are attractive to criminals from being brought into this country.

Before concluding, let me just say that the

people at Treasury and ATF who worked on this report did a thoughtful and highly professional job. More broadly, the men and women of ATF do a very good job every day - - often in dangerous circumstances -- to make our streets safer for all of us.

The decision we are announcing today is just one step in an ongoing effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and make our nation safer. Again, we have no desire to

**take guns away from hunters, or other
legitimate users. We do want to protect
Americans from the violence that can result
from these semiautomatic weapons.**

**And now I'd like to introduce our leader
in this effort, the President of the United
States.**

Banning the Importation of Modified Assault Weapons

April 6, 1998

Announcement: Today, in response to a previously issued memorandum, the President announced that the Treasury Department has concluded that more than 50 kinds of modified assault weapons are generally not importable because they accept large capacity military magazines. Up to 1.5 million rifles whose importation had been temporarily suspended may be affected this decision.

- On November 15, 1997, in his radio address to the nation, President Clinton announced that the Treasury Department would temporarily suspend the importation of certain modified assault weapons to review whether these weapons should be allowed to enter the country. Today, the Secretary of the Treasury informed the President that most of the weapons studied should be generally banned from importation.
- Under current law (the 1968 Gun Control Act), the Treasury Department has the obligation to restrict the importation of firearms unless they are determined to be "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." After taking several months to review the weapons in question, the Treasury Department has concluded that modified semiautomatic assault rifles that accept large capacity military magazines -- or LCMM rifles -- do not meet the sporting purposes test and are generally not importable.
- Since passage of the 1968 Gun Control Act, Administrations of both parties have repeatedly invoked this authority to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are brought into the country. In 1968, the Act was used to ban the importation of Saturday Night Specials and other small and inexpensive handguns; in 1984 and 1986, it was used to ban the importation of the Striker-12 and USAS-12 riot control shotguns; in 1989, it was used to ban the importation of 43 semiautomatic assault rifles; and in 1993, its authority was invoked to propose a ban on the importation of certain assault pistols, though the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 made this executive action unnecessary.
- The more than 50 models of firearms affected by today's decision are modified versions of military assault weapons that were banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 or by the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. Most of these models are based on the AK 47 assault rifle, but some are variants of the Uzi, FN-FAL, HK 91 and 93, and SIG SG550.
- Up to 1.5 million firearms whose importation had been suspended during the review may be affected by this decision. Importers will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs and DOBs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (4 pages)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Jose Cerda
OA/Box Number: 17182

FOLDER TITLE:

Uzi/Galil Directive [1]

2016-0931-S
rc2349

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Police Officers for April 6th Crime Event

Baltimore County Police Department:

Col. Bernard J. Gerst

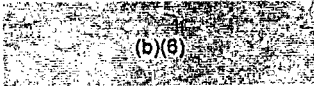


[001]

Major Dennis M. Robinson

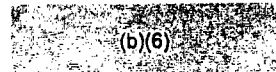


Director Mark Spurrier (not in uniform, not on stage, but in meet and greet)



Baltimore Police Department:

Col. Robert L. Smith



Officer Lavina Davis

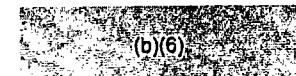


Prince George's County Police Department:

Lt. Peter A. White

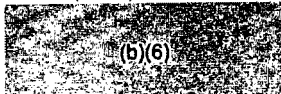


Sgt. Dean M. Jones



Arlington County Police Department:

Deputy Chief Gregory Brewer



**Police Officers for April 6th Crime Event
(Continued)**

Acting Deputy Chief
Michael Foretone

(b)(6)

Acting Deputy Chief
Thomas M. Panther

(b)(6)

Chief Edward A. Flynn (may be in uniform, but should be in meet and greet)

(b)(6)

Montgomery County Police Department:

Sgt. Thomas E. Lester

(b)(6)

William H. Lanham

(b)(6)

Douglas L. McFee, Jr.

(b)(6)

Diane McCarthy

(b)(6)

Ronald G. Smith

(b)(6)

Colleen M. Schmidt

(b)(6)

NB: Also, Richard Gallo -- who's already on the invitation list and is an officer from Rhode Island -- may be in uniform and should be in meet and greet.

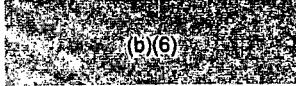
Police Officers for April 6th Crime Event

Baltimore County Police Department:

Col. Bernard J. Gerst



Major Dennis M. Robinson



Director Mark Spurrier (not in uniform, not on stage, but in meet and greet)

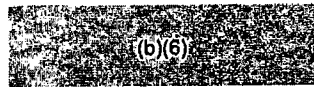


Baltimore Police Department:

Col. Robert L. Smith



Officer Lavina Davis



Prince George's County Police Department:

Lt. Peter A. White

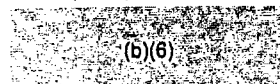


Sgt. Dean M. Jones



Arlington County Police Department:

Deputy Chief Gregory Brewer



**Police Officers for April 6th Crime Event
(Continued)**

Acting Deputy Chief
Michael Foretone



Acting Deputy Chief
Thomas M. Panther



Chief Edward A. Flynn (may be in uniform, but should be in meet and greet)



Montgomery County Police Department:

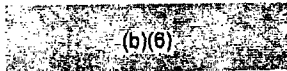
Sgt. Thomas E. Lester



William H. Lanham



Douglas L. McFee, Jr.



Diane McCarthy



Ronald G. Smith



Colleen M. Schmidt



NB: Also, Richard Gallo -- who's already on the invitation list and is an officer from Rhode Island -- may be in uniform and should be in meet and greet.



**International Association of
Chiefs of Police**

515 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2357
Phone: 703/836-6767; 1-800/THE IACP
Fax: 703/836-4543
Cable Address: IACPOLICE
Web address: www.theiacp.org

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Bobby D. Moody
Chief of Police
Marietta, GA

Immediate Past President
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Chief of Police
Frankfort, IL

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**Deputy Executive Director/
Chief of Staff**
Eugene R. Cromartie
Alexandria, VA

April 8, 1998

260431

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the over 16,000 members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, I would like to express our strong support for your recent executive order permanently banning the importation of 58 assault weapons. The streets of America will be safer and numerous precious lives will undoubtedly be saved as a result of this action.

Since 1992, the IACP has been on record as supporting initiatives to advance strict regulatory policies toward assault weapons. The IACP believes that these weapons serve no lawful or sporting purpose and are the favored weapons of narcotics traffickers and other violent criminals. Further, the IACP believes that the lives of the federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, as well as the lives of the general public, are greatly endangered by the proliferation of these deadly weapons.

The IACP thanks you for your unyielding dedication to making America safer. If the IACP can be of any assistance in your continued efforts, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,


Bobby D. Moody
President

105th Annual
International Association
of Chiefs of Police Conference
October 17-22, 1998
Salt Lake City, UT

APR 11 1998

EW -

Please copy this for Rahim,
Bruce, Elena + Leanne.
Return original to us.

DONE for

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 1998

**The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515**

IN RE: Appropriations Amendment on Imported Firearms

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We have carefully monitored the Administration's suspension of imports for foreign made semiautomatic rifles announced in a presidential "directive" on November 14, 1997. We are extremely troubled by the Administration's actions to halt the importation of legally importable firearms by unilaterally bypassing the Congress and manipulating the "sporting purposes" test in the Gun Control Act, Section 925(d)(3) of Title 18, United States Code. The Administration's own words raise concerns: "We are taking the law (the Gun Control Act) and bending it as far as it can to capture a whole new class of guns," White House official Jose Corda, Los Angeles Times, 10/22/97.

Thus far, the Administration's actions have caused unfair economic hardship on many legitimate businesses through the Administration's unlawful actions to eliminate firearms that the law allows to be owned, manufactured and possessed in our Nation. Congress set the parameters of the law, and should still do so in the future.

There is reason to believe that the Administration will release the results of the Department of the Treasury's study, and take adverse administrative action on this matter while Congress is in recess. If so, an immediate response is necessary. With the limited number of legislative vehicles, we urge your support for the enclosed appropriations amendment which could be attached to a supplemental appropriations bill or another appropriate vehicle as soon as possible.

The amendment will simply preserve the status quo by returning the law to the way it was interpreted before October 22, 1997. This amendment is vitally needed as an emergency measure to prevent the Clinton Administration from usurping Congress' power and changing Congressional policy by bending the law to enact new gun bans.

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
April 3, 1998
Page 2

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

T. Hadd

Charles W. Stankovic
Bobich

Newt
John T. ...
Quinn

Carroll
Mr. ...
Ken Burton

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
April 3, 1998
Page 3

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ST An
Steve Whitford
Ed
Bob Inglis
Nick
Tom Taint
Ben Hunt

Chris Cannon
John Cannon
Ben Davis
Ted Steickland
Chip Pick
Ray Blank
Randall

John Peterson

Jerry Morse

Richard Paulo

San Hytkanov

Jim Swenson

Robert Alcott

Linda Smith

Virgil Boone

Phil English

Jim Barcia
Jan K. Hume
Bill Redmond
Don Yang

Wes Watkins
Jimmy Hwang
Ben C. Shuster
Art Sano

LOIS CAPPS
220 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA1118 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0522
(202) 225-3801**Congress of the United States**
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0522

April 15, 1998

KEEP THE BAN ON MODIFIED ASSAULT WEAPONS

Dear Colleague,

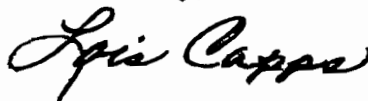
Last week the President took the bold step of banning the import of "modified" assault weapons into this country. I am currently circulating a bi-partisan letter (on reverse) which commends the President for taking this action, and pledges the support of all who sign it to oppose any legislative efforts to overturn the President's action.

The "modified" weapons affected by the President's action are really just assault weapons that have been cosmetically altered. These guns still have the capacity to hold ten or more rounds of ammunition and cause carnage on our streets. A recent BATF study indicates that since 1991, 425,000 such weapons have been imported into the U.S. from at least 17 different countries.

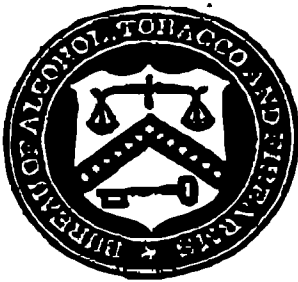
Currently there is a letter circulating to Speaker Gingrich, urging his support of an amendment to block the President's ban. I respect my colleagues who have signed this letter and I share their support of legitimate sporting activities. However, I strongly disagree with their position on importing assault weapons. Please join us in the fight to keep these dangerous firearms off of our streets. Let's support the President's directive and defeat any legislative effort to overturn it.

If you would like to sign this letter, please contact Clare Dowling at 5-3601.

Sincerely,


LOIS CAPPS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

co-signers: Lantos, Pelosi, Manton, Morella, Schumer, McCarthy, Shays, Berman, Campbell, Gejdenson, Miller, G., Stark, Harman, Markey, Stokes, Blumenauer, Farr, McDermott, Olver, Davis, D., Towns, McGovern, Weygand, Millender-McDonald, Ackerman, Maloney, C., Velazquez, Tauscher, Roybal-Allard, Brown, G., DeLauro, Gutierrez, Filner, Barrett, T., Lofgren, Engel, Johnson, E.B.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Office of Public Information

ATF News Summary

Friday, April 10, 1998

CNN Interactive 4/10/98

Israeli firm to make Uzi-style weapons in U.S.

10 April 1998

Web posted at: 00:21 GST, New York time (20:21 GMT)

JERUSALEM, April 9 (Reuters) - Israel Military Industries Ltd (IMI) said on Thursday it intends to manufacture in the United States weapons modelled on its Uzi gun to get around opposition in Washington to their import.

A spokesman for the state-owned firm said IMI was discussing a deal with American gun manufacturer O.F. Mossberg & Sons to build the weapon together.

"There is an intention to manufacture them in the United States," the spokesman said.

IMI received permission from U.S. authorities last year to market semi-automatic versions of the Uzi and Galil assault rifle in the United States but protests by U.S. senators have prompted the Israeli government to freeze any sales.

A group of 30 senators expressed concern the guns, banned for import since 1986, would fall into the wrong hands and be used in crimes against civilians and policemen.

IMI worked for more than a year with O.F. Mossberg & Sons to modify the Uzi - used in many Israeli army units - to meet restrictions of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The remodelled guns can fire only a single round with each squeeze of the trigger. U.S. laws aimed at cutting violent crime ban the import of automatic weapons that can empty a magazine in a rapid burst of fire.

Clinton blocks import of warlike rifles

58 weapons fail to get exemption; NRA sounds off

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Clinton blocked the import of 1.6 million military-style rifles yesterday, saying Americans do not need an Uzi or AK-47 for hunting deer or skeet shooting.

"These are military weapons, weapons of war," Mr. Clinton said.

The order bars 58 high-powered, foreign-made guns with large-capacity magazines after a finding that they failed to meet an exemption to U.S. gun laws as a sporting rifle. Most of the affected guns were variations of the AK-47 and Uzi semiautomatic weapons.

"They were never meant for a day in the country, and they are certainly not meant for a night on the streets," Mr. Clinton said in a Rose Garden ceremony.

The National Rifle Association immediately promised a bid to overturn Mr. Clinton's ban in Congress. "We believe the people who have responsibility for writing gun laws are the Congress, not the president," said Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's main lobbyist.

Mrs. Metaksa dismissed yesterday's order as "nothing more than cosmetics," saying prohibiting these guns would do little to stop crime. "These are not the guns of choice of criminals," she said. "They weren't in 1994 and they're even less so in 1998."

White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said the announcement was made "within the context of a nation that is still grieving" from the schoolyard killings in Jonesboro, Ark. However, none of the weapons involved in that incident would be affected by the new ban, because they were made in the United States, not imported.

Mr. Clinton's Rose Garden appearance opened a week that the administration hopes will give the president a burst of momentum following the dismissal of Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit last week and Mr. Clinton's successful

Africa trip. With Congress out of town, Mr. Clinton will be alone in the spotlight.

The action against imported rifles was set in motion last November when Mr. Clinton ordered a review of imports of semiautomatic weapons. Members of Congress and others had expressed concern that the weapons, with slight modifications, were essentially the same as semiautomatic assault-style rifles banned in a 1989 decision by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms during the Bush administration.

Mr. Clinton said foreign gun makers were making "minor cosmetic modifications" to skirt the law. To those manufacturers, he said, "You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making your minor changes. But we're

going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar the wrong way."

Gun-control advocates in Congress applauded the president's new gun ban.

"These guns are the tools of gang members, grievance killers and those who go up against police," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat. "They do not belong on our streets and President Clinton is right to keep them out of our country."

Rep. Charles Schumer, New York Democrat, who sponsored a 1994 ban on 19 specific weapons and dozens of others with similar characteristics, said he would introduce a resolution in Congress supporting Mr. Clinton's action to thwart an attempt to overturn it.

"We can't let a bunch of gun extremists put lives in jeopardy," Mr.

Schumer said.

Mr. Clinton's order follows a Treasury Department review of 59 weapons, done in consultation with state game and law enforcement agencies, hunting guides, and publications and groups devoted to hunting and shooting. Only one weapon, the .308-caliber Vepr, was considered acceptable for continued import.

Firearms importers had permits to ship in nearly 600,000 altered guns, and applications were pending for 1 million more. The administration's action prevents the sale of those weapons.

"Many importers are going to be out in the street," said Mrs. Metaksa of the NRA. "You can't return these firearms to the place you bought them like you return a shirt to Macy's."

The Washington Post

DATE: 4-7-98

PAGE: A-11

"Lawyers Want Wiretaps Thrown Out In Spy Case"

By BROOKE A. MASTERS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Wiretap evidence against a District couple accused of spying should be thrown out because federal agents exceeded their authority when they listened to the wife making play dates for her children and talking to her father about his health problems, lawyers for the accused spies told a federal judge yesterday.

Lawyers for Theresa Marie Squillacote, 40, and Kurt Alan Stand, 43, also said at the hearing in Alexandria that the FBI didn't have enough evidence to justify bugging their clients, because neither was spying for a foreign power when the FBI began its taping in 1996.

Squillacote, Stand and their college friend James Michael Clark, 50, have been held without bond since October on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. The government alleges that they passed documents to East Germany before it ceased to exist in 1989 and that they later sought to work for Russia and South Africa. Squillacote and Stand also have been charged with attempted espionage in connection with an FBI sting.

"There's no proof until [the FBI] did their sting that either Terry or Kurt ever provided a single classified document to anyone," said Lawrence S. Robbins, who represents Squillacote.

All three defendants are scheduled for trial July 10, and each could face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Stand's and Squillacote's lawyers are seeking to have the evidence from 550 days of wiretapping thrown out, which would damage the government's case.

Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the FBI can get a secret warrant to bug homes, phones and offices if the bureau has evidence that someone is an agent of a foreign power or actively helping a foreign agent. But law enforcement officials must get the court's reauthorization every 45 days and must limit their surveillance to avoid intruding on people's privacy, defense lawyers said.

Robbins said that the FBI taping failed to prove that his client was a spy and that the wiretaps shouldn't have been reauthorized. "It was a total bust," Robbins said.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy I. Bellows told U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton that the FBI had more than enough evidence to justify bugging the three defendants and that agents fast-forwarded through tapes of irrelevant conversations.

Hilton did not say at the hearing when he will rule on the defense request.

A 'Right' to Bear 50 Assault Weapons?

By Lucian K. Truscott 4th

Growing up as an Army brat in the 1950's and 60's, I could have been a poster boy for the National Rifle Association. When I was 12, I started competing in N.R.A.-sponsored shooting contests every Saturday morning. When I was 13, I was given my first single-shot 16-gauge shotgun as a Christmas present and started going hunting with my father and brother in the forests surrounding the Army posts and small rural towns where we lived.

At 18, I went to West Point and qualified as an expert marksman on the M-14 rifle, M-16 rifle and .45-caliber pistol. Later, in the Army, I taught classes in the safe use of those and many other weapons.

I've got no objections to owning guns. What bothers me is how the culture of guns has changed. When I was young, guns were expensive. Our neighbors owned only one or two guns, and they were only used for hunting. Now many gun owners collect assault rifles that have no practical use other than to kill people.

President Clinton announced yesterday that he plans to ban the import of 58 types of military assault weapons permanently. In his remarks yesterday he said foreign gun makers were making minor cosmetic modifications on guns to skirt the law, and that's what prompted his decision.

I support the ban, but it's questionable how much of an effect his action will have. A recent tour of gun-culture sites on the Internet and a perusal of 10 gun magazines revealed

that the country is already flooded with legal sniper rifles and military-style submachine guns, along with the information and technology necessary to convert them to be fully automatic.

It's not abnormal today for individual gun owners to have 50 or more guns — the approximate number of weapons an entire infantry platoon would carry. These gun fanatics are not veterans or interested in joining the military or even a local paramilitary group. Instead, they prefer to play-act roles in a fantasy military and spend weekends at "practical shooting" courses, a term which en-

Kids used to stalk game. Now they shoot targets of human silhouettes.

tered the national lexicon when it was reported that one of the children charged in the Jonesboro killings attended such courses with his father.

"Practical shooting" may not sound that different from going to a shooting range and hitting bull's-eye targets. But I've been to a "practical shooting" course in Louisiana, and it's far more disturbing. You walk through the shooting range as human-silhouette targets pop up. You fire at the silhouettes, knocking down and "killing" the targets as you go, an exercise eerily similar to one I went through in the Army. Practical? It's practical only as military training to kill human beings.

Now children wear camouflage outfits to school, and men in combat-style fatigues and boots walk around Wal-Mart looking as if they were just

back from patrol in Bosnia. At a wedding I attended recently in a rural area of the South, I saw at least one young man wearing a camouflage shirt.

For reasons that escape me entirely, an entire subculture has developed around sniper rifles. A gun enthusiast of my acquaintance proudly constructed his own sniper rifle from a separate barrel, trigger assembly, bolt action and stock. He uses the word "sniper" in his E-mail address. A recent issue of *Guns & Ammo* magazine has a long feature on a sniper rifle, the Kel-Tec Sub-9 folding carbine, which informs readers that a test-firing of the Sub-9 produced a result "good enough for a head shot at 100 yards and quite good enough (if you get the bullet drop right) for a body shot at 150-plus yards."

Who steals your car or breaks into your house from 100 to 150 yards away? The only possible explanation for the celebration of high-powered sniper weapons and night scopes and camouflage fatigues is fantasy fulfillment for gun fanatics. This stuff isn't "practical," it's deadly.

Shooting rifles at bull's-eyes in competition can be loads of fun. Going hunting after rabbits with a shotgun can be challenging. Other weapons are useful for self-defense. I still own two guns: a small-caliber revolver my wife used to carry when we lived in a bad neighborhood in New Orleans, and a .357 Magnum revolver I picked up at a gun show for \$85. I once carried it into a housing project to recover our stolen car.

But today guns don't need to have a purpose — they are a way of life in and of themselves. And the N.R.A. defends that idea every time it insists that people have a right to own an assault weapon.

When the N.R.A. spends millions of dollars to lobby against laws that stipulate mandatory gun-safety courses or that create a system to license guns the same way we li-

cense cars, it is encouraging an irresponsible gun culture that supplants responsible gun ownership.

When you get in the Army, you spend a week on weapons safety procedures and learn to assemble, disassemble and clean your weapon, often blindfolded and in a dark room. You carry your weapon everywhere. You eat with it by your side, and you sleep with it. Then, and only then, does a team of expert marksmen take you to a supervised firing range and teach you how to shoot it.

Compare the Army's training with laws in states like Arkansas, where it's legal for a 10-year-old to own a semiautomatic assault weapon without a moment of safety instruction, training in how to shoot it or adult supervision.

The N.R.A. is determined to preserve these "rights," and will no doubt challenge the President's proposed ban on many imported assault weapons, with the usual argument that it will lead to a ban on all guns. What the N.R.A. actually accomplishes is making sniper rifles, submachine guns and the \$89 Russian Army rifle I recently saw advertised here in California by a sporting goods chain as freely available as a common shotgun. It's insanity for military-style assault weapons to be cheaper and more easily obtainable than an American-made hunting rifle.

Right now, there may be laws against converting semiautomatic assault weapons into fully automatic ones. But they're doing nothing to deter the gun nuts who sell that technology on the Internet. For President Clinton's ban to be meaningful, it needs to be backed up by laws with real teeth: long prison terms for people who violate the laws we have, for those who take gun culture fantasy and turn it into fully automatic reality. □

JOSEPH PERKINS

The Clinton administration made a sop to the loud and often acerbic AIDS lobby five years ago when it created the President's Advisory Council on AIDS. Now that pandering has come back to bite them.

A few weeks ago, the council embarrassed the Clintonites by going public with a unanimous expression of no confidence in the administration's commitment to fight AIDS. Now the council is calling for the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, who has refused, so far, to bestow her blessing on controversial needle-exchange programs.

A congressional moratorium on federal funding of needle exchanges expired on March 31. That means communities throughout the country will be free to use federal health money to pass out clean needles to junkies if Miss Shalala certifies that such programs help stop the AIDS virus without increasing drug use.

The AIDS lobby, unconcerned about the nation's drug epidemic, insists needle exchange has no effect whatsoever on drug use. "The science is indisputable," claims Dr. Scott Hill, chairman of the president's AIDS council.

Apparently, Dr. Hill is unfamiliar with a 1997 study published in the respected American Journal of Epidemiology. It found that junkies who participated in Montreal needle-exchange programs were more than twice as likely to contract the AIDS

Delusive needle exchange notions

virus as those who didn't participate.

Robert Maginnis, a senior policy adviser with the Washington-based Family Research Council, also cites the experience of Vancouver, British Columbia, which boasts North America's largest needle-exchange program. Since 1994, a recent study found, the incidence of AIDS transmission among intravenous drug users has rapidly increased in Vancouver, rather than decreased.

So, clearly, the efficacy of needle-exchange programs is far from indisputable. And even if Dr. Hill and other needle-exchange advocates trot out their own studies to "prove" that needle exchange "works," there remain profound moral and legal questions about passing out clean hypodermics and syringes to drug addicts.

Indeed, it hardly seems moral, not to mention rational, to deliver a pitiable soul from one form of death — AIDS — only to deliver him to

another — drugs. It's like government saying it's all right to pump your veins full of poison as long as you don't pass along the AIDS virus.

Also, if the federal government sanctions needle exchange, allowing tax dollars to be used to dispense free needles, it will effectively decriminalize intravenous drug use. For one of the conditions of needle-exchange programs is that the junkie who turns in a dirty needle — which he or she has used to shoot up with cocaine, heroin or LSD — may not be arrested.

That's why the director of the White House Office of Drug Policy

Control, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, so strenuously opposes needle exchange. "As public servants, citizens and parents, we owe our children an unambiguous 'no use' message," he recently declared. "And if they should become ensnared by drugs, we must offer them a way out, not a means to continue addictive behavior."

So how, then, to staunch the

spread of AIDS through intravenous drug use, if not by needle-exchange programs? Simple. By attacking the real root of the problem, which is illegal drug use. This is best accomplished not by giving junkies clean needles, which only aids and abets their deadly habit, but by getting them into drug treatment programs.

Mr. Maginnis, of the Family Research Council, cites a 1996 study of a Chicago treatment program that found that risky behavior by intravenous drug users could be significantly curbed without handing out needles. By providing health care, counseling, food and housing, the dangerous sharing of needles was reduced 85 percent among participants.

This is the approach Miss Shalala ought to embrace. It accomplishes the equally important public-health goals of treating hard-core drug abuse, while also slowing the spread of the AIDS virus among a high-risk cohort.

It may happen that the health and human services secretary bows to the political pressure of the president's AIDS council and certifies that needle-exchange programs do not increase illegal drug use. In that case, drug czar Gen. McCaffrey ought to resign in conscientious objection.

Joseph Perkins is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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DATE: 4-7-98

PAGE: 11-A

Today's debate: Gun safety

Licensing can protect kids

OUR VIEW Buying a gun doesn't confer responsibility. The law needs to impose it.

If national averages are holding steady, more than 160 children — about 14 every day — have been shot to death in the two weeks since the Jonesboro massacre. Tens of thousands more have been exposed to, tempted by or threatened with loaded firearms. Jonesboro drowned out the routine hammering of guns-and-kids horror stories. But even a fast review can turn up frightful stories of local mayhem.

In North Carolina, for instance, a 13-year-old girl shot herself to death in a school restroom. In Texas, a 13-year-old was arraigned on manslaughter for shooting an 8-year-old. In California, a student upset with his report card took a shot at his school principal. In Ohio, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Nebraska and Indiana, children as young as 4 were caught carrying loaded guns to schools.

Everybody knows what happened in Jonesboro. Two children bushwhacked and murdered four schoolmates and a teacher. The event has sparked a national discussion over kids and violence. The Clinton administration is hosting a conference.

But the truth about kids and violence lies beneath the malevolent warp of Jonesboro in the daily rat-a-tat of less flamboyant terrors. An accidental death in Oregon or Illinois may seem mundane and workaday against a care-

fully staged ambush in Arkansas. But in a way, the single death is more ghastly because it is more preventable.

Take Florida. In 1989, the state adopted a child access prevention law that required gun owners to keep their guns locked or locked up. There are no direct figures on compliance, but unintentional shootings fell 50% the first year. Those findings were amplified by a 1997 report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that similar safe-storage laws adopted by 14 other states since Florida have cut unintentional deaths among children 23%.

More generally, the daily toll of dead and terrorized children constitutes a powerful reason to rethink our overall approach to firearms. President Clinton's decision Monday to ban the import of 58 assault-style weapons is timely. But the core problem is that we treat guns the way we treat over-the-counter medicines when we should be treating them the way we treat cars. Mandatory licensing and registration of firearms and shooters (with restrictive licenses for children) might not have saved the day in Jonesboro but surely would have saved some of the other children who died that day and since. And some adults, too.

Guns are not just self-defense appliances and sporting toys. They kill more than 5,200 children a year. The death rate for those under 14 in the U.S. is almost 12 times higher than in 25 other industrial nations combined. Plainly, gun privileges do not automatically translate into responsible gun ownership. That's something the law must impose.



DATE: 4-7-98
PAGE: 11-A

Laws nibble at freedom

OPPOSING VIEW Law-abiding citizens suffer while criminals go free.

By Wayne R. LaPierre Jr.

Here again in the wake of a tragedy, politicians in Washington, D.C., give speeches and point fingers — but do nothing to prevent future tragedies.

To American gun owners, it's an all-too-familiar story.

The media misrepresent the issue. President Clinton steps up to call for another anti-gun law, the drumbeat continues against the Second Amendment, and what's the end result? More laws, more restrictions against honest, law-abiding gun owners and no net effect on crime.

The story is repeated again and again. Attorney General Janet Reno brags about 180,000 gun buyers denied under the Brady law. Yet to date only seven have been prosecuted, and just three have been jailed.

What about the other 179,993 who remain untouched while all other Americans pay the price with their freedom?

What about all the other existing laws against criminals misusing firearms that are ignored the same way?

Under the Clinton administration, prosecutions of felons in possession of firearms are down a disgraceful 50%. Four years ago, Congress made it a crime for any adult to illegally transfer a handgun to a juvenile — yet the Justice Department has bothered to enforce the law only nine times.

If politicians don't have the guts or the will to enforce existing laws against criminals with guns, why don't they just come out and admit what they really want? Why don't they stop this piecemeal prohibition, and simply come before Congress and say exactly what kinds of guns are allowed, where you can keep them, and how many you can own?

Why is it no surprise to Americans every time politicians step forward with another law banning another gun, or another restriction forcing gun owners to jump through progressively smaller hoops?

We've seen it time and again. And we'll see it again in the future. In response to some tragedy, the president will deliver speeches and bang his fist against the podium, and another chunk of our freedom will be lost for no good reason. Criminals won't pay the price. Tragedies won't be prevented. But our freedom will be lost. And that's the genuine crime.

Wayne R. LaPierre Jr. is executive vice president of the National Rifle Association.

When in doubt, blame the guns

When President Clinton signed an "assault weapons" ban into law in 1994, critics said he was making a distinction based on politics rather than firepower. Real assault weapons — machine guns — had been severely restricted for decades. The weapons on Mr. Clinton's list simply looked bad because they had nasty but cosmetic features such as bayonet lugs. Meanwhile, guns that lacked the nasty features — but had the same rate of fire and the same firepower — remained legal.

What's a gun manufacturer to do? Remove the bayonet lugs, of course. So back this week came Mr. Clinton to announce that if the manufacturers were going to abide by the 1994 rules (darn them), he would have to change the rules. "You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want," he said at White House ceremony Monday, "and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way." (Coming from an administration that was caught shaking down Buddhist monks and impoverished Indian tribes during the last campaign, Mr. Clinton might want to spare everyone the pious lectures on greed.)

Mr. Clinton has therefore issued an executive order banning the importation of weapons that had complied with the 1994 law. Importers had already obtained permits to ship in some 600,000 guns altered to satisfy the law, and some 20,000 had already entered the country.

Where it will all end is hard to say because the administration seems to be addicted to gun control. As White House official Jose Cerda told the Los Angeles Times last October, "We are taking the law and bending it as far as we can to capture a whole new class of guns."

The backdrop for all this gun grabbing is, of course, the horrible shooting in Jonesboro, Ark., in which two young boys are said to have shot four schoolchildren and a teacher and wounded many more. Anyone who failed to make the connection between Mr. Clinton's executive order and Jonesboro got a not-so-subtle reminder when he said, "There are still far too many children in harm's way," and so on.

But there really isn't any connection between the shooting and the order. Police say the Jonesboro killers did their dirty work with an ordinary, perfectly legal hunting rifle. Media slurs on "southern gun culture" notwithstanding, their parents didn't exactly leave guns lying around where trigger-happy young hands could easily get them either. The boys reportedly tried to get into one of the family's gun safes with a blow torch and a hammer. When that failed, one of them got the family van (driving illegally) and drove to a grandparent's farm, where they had to break into the basement of a house to get what they wanted. This was hardly a drive-by shooting.

Mr. Clinton says there are too many guns in the hands of too many criminals. But criminals, almost by definition, ignore executive orders banning politically incorrect weapons. Law-abiding citizens do obey them, denying themselves at the least, favored hunting weapons and predator controls, and at most, weapons of self-defense.

The president need not worry about such things. He has the luxury of round-the-clock guards. But most Americans can't take such things for granted. Least of all can they afford to subscribe to the theory that by limiting the importation of ugly-looking weapons, they can control crime in Jonesboro or anywhere else.

Justice Waits in Murder of Nuns

It is hardly a surprise. Four soldiers who were jailed for the notorious rape and murder of American nuns in El Salvador in 1980 now say they acted on orders from high superiors. A 1993 United Nations Truth Commission report had alleged a high-level cover-up, and there was suspicion from the beginning that the soldiers hadn't acted independently.

But back in 1980, the new Reagan administration was backing the Salvadoran government against left-wing insurgents. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig testified to Congress that the four victims, who worked with poor peasants, were perhaps shot because they appeared to be running a military roadblock. The State Department's official report pretty much exonerated the Salvadoran high command.

Now, armed with the soldiers' new statements and other evidence obtained by the non-profit New York-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights on behalf of the victims' families, the United States should finally and fully

get to the bottom of the incident. One reason is that the two men named in both the U.N. report and by the soldiers, Col. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, a former director of El Salvador's national guard, and Gen. Guillermo Garcia, minister of defense at the time of the killings, now reside in the United States. Their legal residency could be in question if they are found to have lied about their past.

It is not clear how the troops who carried out the killings would have known the names of top-level commanders who issued such orders. For that and other reasons, the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, the FBI, the State Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service need to independently reexamine the case.

Maura Clarke, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford and Dorothy Kaze—three nuns and a Catholic lay worker—did not stand a chance on the night of Dec. 2, 1980. Knowledge of the truth would go a long way toward healing the wounds inflicted by these murders.

A New Squeeze on Gun Imports

"You do not need an Uzi to go deer hunting," President Clinton said yesterday in announcing a permanent ban on the importation of 58 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. That principle should have been recognized years ago. Mr. Clinton's directive will at last close a loophole that has allowed foreign gun dealers to infiltrate the legal barrier against imports of assault weapons.

The 1968 Gun Control Act generally prohibits firearm imports, unless they are "particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." In 1989, President Bush banned imports of 43 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. Most had military features like grenade launchers, bayonet mounts, pistol grips, night sights and the ability to accept large detachable magazines, which allow a shooter to fire multiple rounds without reloading.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took the position that a weapon with any of these features other than the detachable magazine could not meet the "sporting purposes" test and would therefore be banned. Foreign gun manufacturers quickly altered their products to meet these guidelines. But since detachable magazines, including those that hold more than 10 rounds, were still

allowed, the modified weapons could still include them. Since 1991, 425,000 modified assault weapons have been allowed into this country — even as Congress was approving legislation to ban the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 types of assault weapons.

Last November the Treasury Department temporarily suspended the imports and began a review of the sporting-purposes test as it applied to 59 models of assault weapons that were getting past the import ban. The review found that large-capacity magazines did not serve any sporting purpose like hunting or target shooting. To no one's surprise, the review also found that the large-capacity magazines were very popular among criminals.

The order will prevent 1.6 million assault weapons that have already received import permits or are awaiting approval from entering this country. Mr. Clinton is to be commended for this decision, and for ignoring the contemptible arguments of the gun lobby, which is complaining that profits for gun importers will now be reduced. But there are still nearly 200 million weapons out there, many of them in the wrong hands. The fight for meaningful gun control is far from over.

Gun Ban: a Step for Life

President Clinton's action Monday to ban the importation of 58 types of assault-style rifles means that as many as 1.6 million of these murderous weapons will not enter the United States this year and countless others will be barred in future years, assuming the ban survives expected challenges in Congress or the courts. Regardless of what the National Rifle Assn. may claim, this step means lives will be saved.

The president made permanent a suspension ordered last November so Treasury experts could study imported arms modified to be classified as sporting weapons. As such they would have eluded a 1989 Bush administration ban on semiautomatic assault rifles. Of 59 types studied under the presidential suspension, only one was deemed to fit the definition of a sporting weapon.

An estimated 600,000 weapons already approved for importation were held up pending the study. Requests for an additional 1 million weapons piled up while the study was underway. Now, none will enter the country.

The NRA insists that Clinton's action is cosmetic and that these guns are not the criminals' weapon of choice. But imagine, 1.6 million more semiautomatic assault rifles than we already

have in our homes and streets. Just think how many of these would have found their way into the hands of criminals, terrorists or disturbed people bent on exacting revenge for some perceived wrong. Or consider how many accidental deaths of men, women and children might have been caused by the careless handling of these weapons, no matter how well-intentioned their owners.

Just think how many of these weapons would have found their way into the hands of criminals, terrorists or disturbed people bent on exacting revenge for some perceived wrong.

Assault rifles with large-capacity military-style magazines—many of them variations on the Uzi and the AK-47—were not designed to hunt game. They were designed to kill people.

Considerable credit goes to Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who has been the vanguard of weapons control in

the Senate. Clinton's decision should serve as an example to wavering Assembly members in the California Legislature facing a decision on AB 23, put forward by Assemblyman Don Perata (D-Alameda) to overhaul California's assault weapons law.

The president's action Monday makes this country a slightly more civilized place. Think of the deaths and wounds not caused, the funerals not held, the grief not expended. Now, the California Legislature's support of AB 23 could be another decision for life.

CLINTON TO IMPOSE A BAN ON 58 TYPES OF IMPORTED GUNS

FRESH BLOW TO THE N.R.A.

Assault Weapons Fail to Meet
Exemption for Sport Use,
Treasury Review Finds

A By JOHN M. BRODER

WASHINGTON, April 5 — The Clinton Administration plans to announce on Monday that it will permanently ban imports of 58 types of military-style assault weapons, blocking the entry of more than a million high-powered guns into the United States, White House officials said today.

The action follows a 120-day review of import permit applications for foreign-made guns to determine whether the weapons meet an exemption to United States gun laws allowing weapons that can be used for sport.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, part of the Treasury Department, found that the 58 assault-type guns to be banned cannot be classified as sporting weapons and therefore are banned under a 1968 gun-control law.

Although the review has been under way for months, and the White House announcement has been scheduled for several weeks, President Clinton wanted to underscore the Government action in the wake of the schoolyard killings in Jonesboro, Ark., which occurred while he was touring Africa.

Aides said the President was angered and heartsick at the deaths by gunfire of four children and a teacher in his home state and wanted to make a meaningful public statement on gun violence soon after his return from Africa. The weapons used in the Jonesboro shootings, however, were handguns and hunting rifles that would not be subject to the new action.

The National Rifle Association and a trade group representing weapons importers assailed the proposed Presidential decree as a further encroachment on the rights of gun owners. They promised to seek relief in Congress and in the courts. Some anti-gun groups, for their part, said the decree would not go far enough.

"We're not happy," said Tanya Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the rifle association. "He's done exactly what he said he would do — bend the law as far as he could to ban as many guns as he could. These guns were modified to meet the criteria of his own gun ban and now he says the criteria are not good enough and he is modifying them."

Ms. Metaksa said thousands of weapons had already been imported and paid for and had been stored in United States Customs warehouses

Continued From Page A1

awaiting the Treasury Department's ruling.

"Hundreds of importers will be completely out of pocket," she said. "You can't return a firearm the way you can return a shirt to Macy's."

Mark J. Barnes, a lawyer representing the Firearms Importers Roundtable Trade Group, an association of about a dozen weapons importers, called Mr. Clinton's action "an abuse of Presidential authority" that circumvents earlier laws. Mr. Barnes said that importers would go to Congress to limit the President's power to declare certain guns illegal.

Mr. Barnes also said his group might mount a court challenge to Monday's directive on statutory or Congressional grounds.

Mr. Clinton plans to announce the import ban at a morning ceremony in the Rose Garden accompanied by Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, Attorney General Janet Reno, gun-control advocates and representatives of law-enforcement agencies, officials said.

"This is building on his record of passing the Brady Bill and the assault weapons ban of 1994," said Rahm Emanuel, senior adviser to the President. "This is a piece of the Administration's overall, comprehensive anti-crime strategy."

The Brady Bill, named for President Ronald Reagan's press secretary, James Brady, who was grievously wounded in the assassination attempt on Mr. Reagan in 1981, imposes a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases. The law took effect in February 1994.

Among the weapons to be banned are various models of the AK-47, Uzi, FN/FAL, HK-91 and HK-93 and the Sig-550. All use large-capacity magazines capable of loading and firing in quick succession, according to a fact sheet published by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. One of the 59 guns under review will apparently be approved for import.

The rifles had been banned by the Bush Administration in 1989 and again under Mr. Clinton's assault weapons ban of 1994. But foreign manufacturers modified the weapons slightly to avoid the ban and

applied for hundreds of thousands of import permits before Mr. Clinton imposed a temporary ban in November, pending the 120-day review.

Applications for modified assault-weapon imports skyrocketed last fall in anticipation of the Administration's move to ban them. On Oct. 9, 1997, there were permits pending for 10,000 such weapons. By mid-November, the backlog had jumped to more than a million.

Federal law allows gun dealers to appeal import restrictions for particular weapons, and it is expected that some versions of the banned guns

ultimately will find their way legally into the country.

Some gun-control advocates criticized the Administration's planned action on that basis, saying that the Government should move to ban military-style weapons as a class.

"We have been urging the Administration to write a rule that can be applied to any assault-type gun, to keep out so-called sporterized weapons," said Kristen Rand, director of Federal policy at the anti-gun Violence Policy Center in Washington.

She was referring to assault weapons that have been slightly modified

in appearance to try to meet the sporting weapon exemption of the import law. For example, some manufacturers have removed the clip used to attach a bayonet to the gun.

"The A.T.F. is taking a gun-by-gun approach, asking whether it can be used for sporting purposes," Ms. Rand said. "Unless there is a rule that can guide all future decisions on weapons, we don't think it's going to work."

Mr. Clinton frequently cites passage of the Brady Bill and the 1994 assault weapons ban as signal achievements of his Administration. The assault weapons law applies to the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 types of assault weapons. It also bans the domestic

manufacture and sale of semiautomatic weapons with certain military characteristics, such as a pistol grip that allows the user to shoot rapidly from the hip.

In 1989, President George Bush banned imports of AK-47's and other semiautomatic assault rifles after a gunman opened fire with an AK-47 on a crowded schoolyard in Stockton, Calif., killing five children. After a three-month review, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms banned the import of 43 types of weapons, including AK-47's.

But manufacturers later altered the design and appearance of many of the banned weapons, leading the Government to take the action that will be announced on Monday.

The New York Times

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1993

President Making Gun Import Ban Permanent

Order Will Cover Assault Weapons

By ROBERTO SURO
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton has decided to permanently ban a practice that has allowed the importation of popular semiautomatic assault weapons such as the AK-47 and the Uzi, closing what he regards as a major loophole in the nation's gun control laws, administration officials said.

As many as 1.6 million rifles for which permits are pending or already have been issued would be blocked from entering the country by the executive order Clinton is scheduled to announce at a White House ceremony today, the officials said.

The president will declare that 59 models of military-style rifles previously certified for import because they had been modified to be used for sporting purposes will now fall under laws and regulations banning assault weapons.

Although the measure has been widely anticipated since Clinton imposed a temporary ban on the modified rifles in November, both administration officials and opponents of the ban depicted it as the most rigorous gun control measure Clinton has imposed by executive action.

"The issue has been studied and considered, and now the president is moving forward to ensure that these deadly weapons do not end up on our streets," said a senior White House official.

"No firearms in America are protected now that the president himself is deciding which guns will be banned regardless of what laws Congress has passed," said Tanya Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association.

Major restrictions on the importation of foreign-made assault weapons were first imposed in 1989 after a schoolyard shooting in Stockton, Calif. In 1994, Congress enacted a broader prohibition on

the manufacture, sale and possession of most assault weapons that included a ban on the production of large-capacity magazines that can hold 10 or more rounds of ammunition.

Foreign gun manufacturers responded by creating modified versions of the prohibited weapons that did not include military-style features such as flash suppressors, pistol grips and folding stocks that would cause them to be categorized as unlawful assault rifles.

Weapons dealers imported the modified rifles under a provision of a 1968 gun control law that allows foreign-made rifles to be sold here only if they are clearly meant to be used for hunting, target practice or other sporting purposes. Since 1991, more than 425,000 of these modified rifles have been imported, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

At the prompting of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Clinton suspended the import of the modified rifles last November and asked the ATF to determine whether the guns were being used for legitimate sports.

The president signaled his point of view in his weekly radio address Nov. 15, saying, "As effective as the assault weapons ban has been, we know that some foreign gun manufacturers are getting around the ban by making minor modifications to their weapons that amount to nothing more than cosmetic surgery."

The ATF contacted hunting guides and firing ranges to determine the sporting uses of the guns and convened technical experts to examine the weapons. According to a senior official at the Treasury Department, which oversees the ATF, the study concluded that the 59 models of modified guns that will be subject to the new import ban do not fall into the sporting category primarily because they can accept large-capacity magazines.

The gun-by-gun approach taken by the administration has drawn criticism from advocates of more aggressive action such as the Violence Policy Center, which favors a comprehensive rule that treats assault weapons overall as a specific class of firearm.

In a newsletter last week, the NRA warned that the new ban on imports "demonstrates once again that no matter what they say, the goal of Bill Clinton and his minions in Congress is a complete and total gun ban."

The Washington Post

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1998

Clinton Says He Feels 'Freer' to Focus on Duties

By PETER BAKER
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton said in an interview released yesterday that the judge's decision to dismiss the Paula Jones case was in the national interest and will liberate him to focus attention on important issues such as tobacco, education and Social Security.

"I feel now that I'm freer to keep doing what I'm supposed to be doing," he said. "It removes whatever obstacle this case would have been to my giving everything to this job for the next two years. Every hour, every minute I spend diverted on these questions is dis-serving the American people."

In an interview in this week's issue of Time magazine, Clinton said the ruling by U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright "exposed the raw political nature" of the long-running sexual harassment case and he again denied that he made unwelcome advances to either Jones or former aide Kathleen E. Willey. The president declined to accept any responsibility for his troubles and refused to talk about the criminal investigation by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr.

Still, the comments were the most extended public reaction offered by Clinton since Wright threw out the case last Wednesday. The judge concluded that even if he did make a lewd proposition in a Little Rock hotel suite in 1991, as Jones charged, such "boorish and offensive" conduct would not constitute sexual harassment under the law.

While in private, when he heard the news during his trip to Africa, Clinton happily chewed on a cigar and banged a drum, the president stuck to the more sedate public response favored by his advisers in the magazine interview, conducted on Air Force One on his flight back to Washington Thursday. White House officials believe the major reason Clinton has prospered in public opinion polls is that he has given the appearance of staying focused on substantive policy issues despite the cacophony of the political and legal threats surrounding him.

That Clinton chose Time to deliver that message came as no surprise to White House observers. Clinton and the White House have been furious at the magazine's main competitor, Newsweek, for its aggressive coverage of the Jones case, and have signaled they intended to retaliate.

Yet even as Clinton again stayed quiet on the details of the allegations against him, some of his former advisers publicly pressed him to finally address the unanswered questions involved in Starr's investigation of perjury and obstruction of justice connected to former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

"I personally believe that now is a golden moment for the president," his former senior adviser, George Stephanopoulos, said on ABC's "This Week." "He should come forward now, do the press

conference, say whatever happened with Monica Lewinsky. Nothing would do more to neutralize Ken Starr."

But Stephanopoulos has despaired that his former boss will do so. Asked the chances of Clinton following his advice, Stephanopoulos acknowledged, "About zero."

Instead, White House officials and allies were more interested in claiming vindication as they fanned out to the Sunday talk shows. White House communications director Ann F. Lewis said the Jones case trivialized sexual harassment and agreed that Clinton's alleged conduct would not qualify under as such law.

If Jones's allegations were true, "I would consider it bumptious," Lewis said on "Fox News Sunday." "But the key for me would also be whether or not it was ever repeated or whether it was continued."

Later on the program, House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.) decried that assessment. "I do believe after looking at all that's going on that this president could very well be a sexual predator," he said. "They are now redefining sexual harassment to the point that now I can grab a woman's breast as long as she doesn't say no. I have to back off if she says no and it's okay. I think that's just really sad."

During his Time interview, Clinton acknowledged the Wright rul-

ing did not absolve him of the core of Jones's complaint—that he dropped his pants and asked for oral sex while he was Arkansas governor and she was a state work-

er. Going to trial, he said, would have provided the opportunity to dispute that charge.

"If I were just a private citizen, Joe Six-Pack, I would have mixed feelings about not getting a chance to disprove these allegations in court," he said. "After having been through what I've been through, I would have wanted to put all my evidence before 12 of my fellow citizens. But I don't have mixed feelings as president, because having the case dismissed and putting this behind us is plainly in the best interest of the country."

As for Willey, who testified under oath that Clinton kissed and groped her against her will in the Oval Office suite in 1993, Clinton said, "The evidence there is also compelling that her story isn't true."

The president declined to respond when asked whether he bore responsibility for putting himself in situations that "seem reckless" and offered no comment on Starr. But he was willing to chastise the Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously last year that the Jones case could go ahead despite Clinton's plea for a delay until after he leaves office.

"The court said this case would have no impact on the presidency except that I would play a little less golf or something," Clinton said. "I've done my best to make that come true, to think about it as little as I could. . . . But now we see why for over 200 years no one had any idea the president should be subject to a civil suit and believed that the chances were that if one was filed it would have an overwhelming political aspect to it."

The Washington Post

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INSIDE SPORTS

PITCHERS HAVE A FIELD DAY SUNDAY 1C

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CAN TIGER DO IT AGAIN? PREVIEW OF THE MASTERS 1, 3C

USA TODAY

NO. 1 FIRST IN DAILY READERS

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EUROPEAN FUNDS SOAR IN MONTHLY REPORT

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MONDAY

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NEWSLINE

ASIA STOCKS: Asian stocks fell in early trading, but investors are looking for signs of recovery efforts. 1B.

ARKANSAS SHOOTING: Two boys accused in schoolyard shooting deaths of four students and teacher begin journey through juvenile justice system. 3A.

Honoring educators

USA TODAY launches a new competition to honor the nation's great teachers. 1D.

FBI LAB: Nearly a year after report raised possibility of faulty work at FBI lab, no case has been overturned. 3A.

WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL: Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, left, has been mired for more than two months regarding her relationship with President Clinton. Journalists are jockeying to be the first to interview her. 1D.

GRIZZLIES: Controversy clouds U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-endorsed plan to reintroduce grizzly bears to West's Bitterroot Mountains. 4A.

TODAY'S DEBATE: Protecting privacy in USA TODAY's opinion, "Laws protect credit and video-rental records, but not medical ones." 11A.

► "Sensing public outrage, some in Congress are eager to pass legislation — not to protect patients but because without something posing as a privacy bill, billions of dollars in managed-care systems could be threatened by ugly stories about privacy," says A.G. Breitenstein. 11A.

MONEY: Beware bogus banks on the Internet. 1B.

► Auto sales are down almost 3% this year. 1B.

► AirTran turning around what was once Valujet. 1B.

SPORTS: Bulls blaze to 12th straight win. NBA. 1, 8, 9C.

► New Jersey skates past Phoenix 3-2. NHL. 1, 12C.

LIFE: Collection of the Rev. Martin Luther King's sermons goes on sale in bookstores today. 1D.

► Lollapalooza concert tour on hiatus. 1D.

COMING TUESDAY

Hockey diversity

Willie O'Ree was first black NHL player, in '57. Now, he's looking for others to fill his skates.

Cystic fibrosis

New gene research is offering hope for the development of drugs to treat cystic fibrosis.

Written by John O. Buckley

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USA SNAPSHOTS®

A look at statistics that shape the nation

Upbeat in the West

Westerners are more satisfied with their lives than the average American. Percentage "delighted" or "pleased" with these aspects of life:

	West	USA
Personal life	47%	38%
Security of job	41%	33%
Personal debt	30%	24%
Household income	28%	20%
Health-care costs	27%	19%
Housing cost/value	23%	17%
Tax burden	9%	6%

The nation's largest business lobbying group is establishing a new offshoot, the Institute for Legal Reform, to wage a long-term public relations, lobbying and political battle.

"We're going to play hardball," says chamber President Thomas Donohue.

The chamber says lawsuits claiming injuries or other losses of consumers and busi-

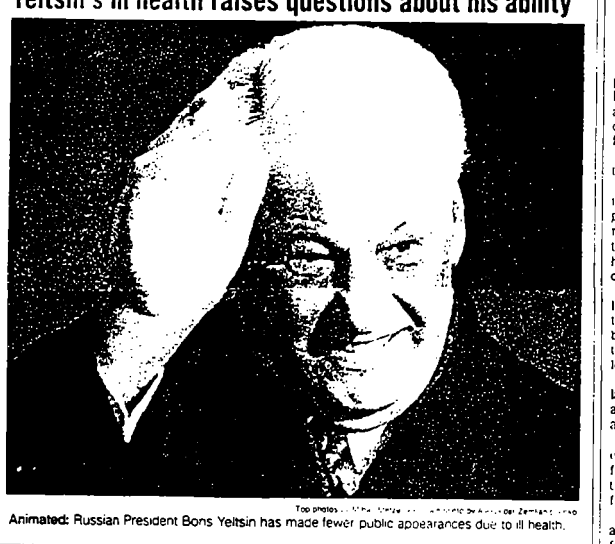
Cancer breakthrough comes with big risk

By Robert D. Fox, MD, PhD

But the drug has life-threatening side effects, including a 10% risk of uterine cancer. The message here is complex, says Raymond Woodley, of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington. It says women must consider their own risk for breast cancer carefully with their doctor before deciding whether to take the drug now. One in eight U.S. women will get breast cancer. The disease will kill 13,500 women in 1998. Tamoxifen, says Dr. Woodley, has been used to prevent the spread or return of breast cancer for 20 years. The drug blocks the effects of estrogen on breast cancer cells, halting growth. But when doctors noticed that women taking the drug for cancer in one breast did not develop cancer in their other breast, the \$68 million study was begun to determine why. Two years, passed 13,000 U.S. women, and the results are in. The drug cuts the risk of a second breast cancer by 50% in women with a family history of breast cancer or those with precancerous breast tumors. Some were given tamoxifen, others a placebo. Those on tamoxifen had half the breast cancer rate. The women will be watched for two more years, especially for the drug's side effects. Tamoxifen has been linked to heart problems, cataracts and cancer of the uterus, digestive system and liver, women on the drug can have children for risk of fetal harm. "All of that has to be weighed by a woman and her physician," Woodley says. "But what this says is that breast cancer can be attacked. This may not be the way we do it in the long run, but it means we will be able to make even more advances."

Who's running Russia?

Yeltsin's ill health raises questions about his ability



Animated: Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made fewer public appearances due to ill health.

COVER STORY

Even aides say he works few hours, lacks focus

By Fred Coleman, USA TODAY

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin's health has declined to the point where some of his aides no longer pretend he is effectively leading Russia. Although the exact cause of Yeltsin's condition remains secret, it has become increasingly clear at home and abroad that the Russian leader is seriously ill, that the campaign to succeed him has begun and that other governments must start adjusting for the post-Yeltsin era. For the United States, that means the potential for influencing Russia in a positive direction has just gotten more difficult.

"The president's health prevents him from doing practical political work every day," a key adviser, Boris Beresovsky, recently told reporters. Beresovsky, the oil and media tycoon who financed Yeltsin's reelection in 1996, is one of the few people who can still see the Russian president on a daily basis and make that kind of statement with authority. Even when Yeltsin is officially said to be at work — either in the Kremlin or more often at a country home outside Moscow — his schedule has to be limited for health reasons, aides say. Two advisers who occasionally see Yeltsin and who spoke separately with USA TODAY on condition of anonymity said that Yeltsin is "talking points" instead of making decisions. The chamber's campaign is only a few months old, but it has already begun to make campaign contributions to judges. The institute will monitor the chamber's lobbying on issues like product liability and harness its 200,000 member businesses to do grassroots advocacy of curbing lawsuits. But the Association of Trial Lawyers of America is fighting back by asking its 60,000 members to complain to local lawmakers about the chamber's efforts. The chamber says lawsuits claiming injuries or other losses of consumers and busi-

Feds seek to protect airline competition

By Donna Rosato, USA TODAY

The Department of Transportation will announce guidelines today to crack down on airlines that use unfair methods to snuff out competition from low-fare rivals. More competition could lead to lower fares for fliers. "Carriers appear to be straying beyond the confines of legitimate competition into the realm of unfair competition," the DOT says, something "we have not only a mandate but an obligation to prohibit." The key test, if a major airline deliberately sustains losses to drive a competitor out of business and then raises fares to recoup its losses when the low-fare rival ceases service. In the 20 years since deregulation, the DOT has not used its authority to crack down on anti-competitive behavior. But a steep rise in unrestricted low fares and complaints from low-fare airlines the past two years brought pressure from Congress and consumers. A USA TODAY analysis of air fares published in February found ticket prices at the key hub airports of major airlines have surged, and business travelers were hit hardest. The DOT says an airline will face enforcement action if: ► It sells such a large number of seats at very low fares that it loses more money than would be "reasonably expected" from competing with a new low-fare competitor. ► The number of passengers it carries at low fares exceeds the rival's seat capacity, causing the major airline to lose more money than if it had had a "reasonable response." ► The number of low-fare passengers it carries exceeds the number of low-fare passengers actually flown by the rival, resulting in lowered revenue. The DOT, which will take public comment on the guidelines for 60 days, also will examine other practices that might be predatory. Those could include hoarding airport gates and using incentives to entice fliers and travel agents away from rivals. Violators will face fines. The guidelines will not apply to past activity.

"It's good that there's a policy, but if in six months from now, the DOT hasn't taken any action that not much has changed," says Bob Walker, president of Handgun Control Inc., calls the action "an important step and essential to maintain the effectiveness of the assault weapons ban" enacted in 1994. That year's crime bill included a ban on the import, manufacture or sale of 19 specific types of assault weapons. The administration says manufacturers have skirted the law by making slight cosmetic changes to AK-47s, Uzis and other weapons. The weapons are made in China, Korea, Germany, Russia and other countries. Importers have 30 days to appeal.

Business group takes aim at trial lawyers

By Jim Drinkard, USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is unveiling a plan today it hopes will rein in trial lawyers and eliminate frivolous lawsuits. The nation's largest business lobbying group is establishing a new offshoot, the Institute for Legal Reform, to wage a long-term public relations, lobbying and political battle. "We're going to play hardball," says chamber President Thomas Donohue. The chamber says lawsuits claiming injuries or other losses of consumers and busi-

Bombers as Folk Heroes

On Friday, the man who drove a truck bomb into the basement of the World Trade Center in 1993 was sentenced to 240 years in prison, perhaps 2,400 years less than he deserves. About the same time this sentence was being handed down, thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were participating in memorial rallies over the death last weekend of a local hero, Mohiyedine Sharif, a 32-year-old professional bomb-maker.

Sharif was found dead near a car that blew up in the West Bank. Palestinian officials say he was shot. However it is also acknowledged that Sharif was naked. Bomb makers often work naked lest static electricity from their clothing ignite the bomb.

In any event, the mysterious death of Mohiyedine Sharif caused the marching Palestinians to chant, "Kidnap Israeli soldiers now." It also caused a leader of the terrorist group Hamas to assert that Sharif's death would make it necessary to send many more suicide bombers into Israel.

It is, at the least, a remarkably unusual culture that reveres men who make bombs to blow up civilians indiscriminately. Not that this ethos is peculiar to contemporary Palestinian culture; last week police in Dublin, Ireland, detained four men believed to be responsible for a BMW booked to board a ferry boat, along with a 980-pound car bomb. And of course, someone thought that blowing up the World Trade Center towers would be a "political statement."

The death of this Palestinian bomb-maker, and folk hero, occurs as always against the ever-present backdrop of the "peace process." Events such as memorial marches for bomb-makers often give the impression that the peace process never moves. In fact, 98% of West Bank Palestinians

for the first time ever find themselves living under some form of self-rule rather than Israeli, Jordanian, or, in the old days, British or Turkish administration. In the world of non-violent politics, this counts as progress.

Indeed it was Yasser Arafat who halted negotiations with Israel a year ago, counting on outside pressure to force concessions from Israel that he cannot win on his own. What Mr. Arafat understands is that in a process driven primarily by diplomats and journalists whose livelihoods depend on "results," the appearance of "movement," not its real direction, is what's important.

An example of how the game is played: Negotiations on an airport and industrial park in Gaza are done deals, but Mr. Arafat has been withholding his signature on the assumption that the Americans would not come in if bilateral progress were made. With no "movement," the diplomats and journalists feel obliged to bring pressure to "rescue" the peace process.

Once again, what's being talked about just now is the need for "movement" on Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory. On this, it is worth noting that significant progress was made during the most recent visit to Israel by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, consisting of American recognition that Israel cannot move without Palestinian cooperation.

A role indeed exists for those who have the bully pulpit to use it in some positive way. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has admitted lately that "the United States is losing its credibility among all the parties involved." It would boost the credibility of the U.S. if it pressured Mr. Arafat to publicly repudiate using a bomb-maker's mistake as a Palestinian pretext for renewing suicide attacks on Israel.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1998

Business group takes aim at trial lawyers

By Jim Drinkard
USA TODAY

A1

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is unveiling a plan today it hopes will rein in trial lawyers and eliminate frivolous lawsuits. The nation's largest business lobbying group is establishing a new offshoot, the Institute for Legal Reform, to wage a long-term public relations, lobbying and political battle.

"We're going to play hardball," says chamber President Thomas Donohue. The chamber says lawsuits claiming injuries or other losses cost consumers and busi-

nesses \$160 billion a year and that plaintiffs get less than half. The chamber plans to spend \$500,000 a year on the new effort. It also is urging businesses to make campaign contributions to judges.

The institute will increase the chamber's lobbying on issues like product liability and harness its 200,000 member businesses to do grass-roots advocacy of curbing lawsuits.

But the Association of Trial Lawyers of America is fighting back by asking its 60,000 members to complain to local chambers of commerce — and lawyers are members — and donate radio and TV ad time.

Those could include hoarding airport gates and using incentives to entice fliers and travel agents away from rivals. Violators will face fines. The guidelines will not apply to past activity.

"It's good that there's a policy, but if in six months from now, the DOT hasn't taken any action, that will also send a signal that not much has changed," says Ed Faberman, spokesman for the Air Carriers Association, which represents low-fare airlines.

But major carriers say the guidelines could make airlines wary about offering too many low fares.

"There may be a chilling effect on the number of fare specials," says American Airlines spokesman Chris Chiames.

In "talking points" mailed to members, the lawyers group said the chamber's campaign benefits only "big insurance companies that deny medical claims, the tobacco companies and corporations that pollute the environment and make dangerous products."

The chamber's effort reinforces an offensive by Republicans on Capitol Hill, where potentially huge lawyers' fees from a proposed tobacco settlement have come under attack.

The trial lawyers' political action committee was the third-largest donor in the 1996 elections, giving \$3.5 million — 85% to Democrats.

The DOT says an airline will face enforcement action if:

- It sells such a large number of seats at very low fares that it loses more money than would be "reasonably expected" from competing with a new low-fare competitor.
- The number of passengers it carries at low fares exceeds the rival's seat capacity, causing the major airline to lose more money than if it had had a "reasonable response."
- The number of low-fare passengers it carries exceeds the number of low-fare passengers actually flown by the rival, resulting in lowered revenue.

The DOT, which will take public comment on the guidelines for 60 days, also will examine other practices that might be predatory.

Those could include hoarding airport gates and using incentives to entice fliers and travel agents away from rivals.

Violators will face fines. The guidelines will not apply to past activity.

"There is no firearm now protected in America. It's become an elastic ban," says Tanya Metaksa of the NRA.

But Bob Walker, president of Handgun Control Inc., calls the action "an important step and essential to maintain the effectiveness of the assault weapons ban" enacted in 1994.

Cancer breakthrough comes with big risk

By Robert Davis
USA TODAY

A1

The first study to show that a drug prevents cancer will be released today, but scientists warn it poses serious risks.

In one of the largest cancer prevention trials ever, the National Cancer Institute found that tamoxifen cut the rate of breast cancer by nearly half over five years. The study focused on women at high risk.

But the drug has life-threatening side effects, including blood clots in the lungs and increased risk of uterine cancer.

"The message here is complex," says Raymond Woosley, of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington. He says women must consider their own risk for breast cancer carefully with their doctor before deciding whether to take the drug now.

One in eight U.S. women will get breast cancer. The disease will kill 43,500 women in 1998. Tamoxifen, made by Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, has been used to prevent the spread of return of breast cancer for 20 years. The drug blocks the effects of estrogen on breast cancer cells, halting growth.

But when doctors noticed that women taking the drug for cancer in one breast did not develop cancer in their other breast, the \$68 million study

was begun to determine why. Doctors picked 13,000 U.S. and Canadian women at high cancer risk: women 60 and older, those with a family history of breast tumors. Some were given tamoxifen, others a placebo. Those on tamoxifen had half the breast cancer rate.

The women will be watched for two more years, especially for the drug's side effects. Tamoxifen has been linked

to heart problems, cataracts and cancer of the uterus, digestive system and liver; women on the drug can't have children for risk of fetal harm.

Feds seek to protect airline competition

By Donna Rosato
USA TODAY

A1

The Department of Transportation will announce guidelines today to crack down on airlines that use unfair methods to snuff out competition from low-fare rivals.

More competition could lead to lower fares for fliers. "Carriers appear to be straying beyond the confines of legitimate competition into the region of unfair competition," the DOT says, something "we have not only a mandate but an obligation to prohibit."

The key test: if a major airline deliberately sustains losses to drive a competitor out of business and then raises fares to recoup its losses when the low-fare rival ceases service.

In the 20 years since deregulation, the DOT has not used its authority to crack down on anti-competitive behavior. But a steep rise in unrestricted air fares and complaints from Congress and consumers.

A USA TODAY analysis of air fares published in February found ticket prices at the key hub airports of major airlines have surged, and business travelers were hit hardest.

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Import ban imposed on assault guns

By Susan Page
USA TODAY

A1

WASHINGTON — President Clinton today will announce a permanent ban on 58 types of assault weapons from abroad, a step that will immediately block 1.6 million firearms for which import permits have been issued or requested.

The action will substantially reduce the supply of the military-style weapons, officials say, but it doesn't affect domestic manufacturers.

Feds seek to protect airline competition

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COVER STORY

Even aides say he works few hours, lacks focus

By Fred Coleman
USA TODAY

A MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin's health has declined to the point where some of his aides no longer pretend he is effectively leading Russia.

Although the exact cause of Yeltsin's condition remains secret, it has become increasingly clear at home and abroad that the Russian leader is seriously ill, that the campaign to succeed him has begun and that other governments must start adjusting for the post-Yeltsin era. For the United States, that means the potential for influencing Russia in a positive direction has just gotten more difficult.

"The president's health prevents him from do-

ing practical political work every day," a key adviser, Boris Berezovsky, recently told reporters.

Berezovsky, the oil and media tycoon who financed Yeltsin's re-election in 1996, is one of the few people who can still see the Russian president on a daily basis and make that kind of statement with authority.

Even when Yeltsin is officially said to be at work — either in the Kremlin or more often at a country home outside Moscow — his schedule has to be limited for health reasons, aides say.

Two advisers who occasionally see Yeltsin and who spoke separately with USA TODAY on

"There is only one important question. How is the president making his decisions and what condition is he in to be making those decisions?"

— Grigory Yavlinsky,
opposition leader

appearances are no longer convincing. Typically the Russian leader is shown making a prepared statement of 20 seconds or so duration.

But it has been more than a year, these analysts say, since Russian television has shown Yeltsin engaged in an extended conversation, demonstrating that he understands what is said and can respond coherently.

They are watching whether the Russian president will be well enough to make a trip to Japan, now rescheduled for April 18 and cut to two days.

Yeltsin's frail health has heightened concern over his decision March 23 to fire veteran Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, 59, in a Cabinet reshuf-

fle and replace him with an untested young reformer, Sergei Kiriyenko, 35. With Yeltsin ill, responsibility for running the government falls increasingly on the prime minister.

Chernomyrdin was fired, Russian analysts say, for becoming a presidential rival. They say Kiriyenko, a former banker in government for less than a year, was chosen because he won't be a political threat to Yeltsin. Critics say he is too inexperienced for the prime minister's job.

If Yeltsin dies in office, Russia's constitution says the prime minister becomes interim president and must call elections within four months.

Succession question

That job would fall on Kiriyenko, but if Yeltsin died tomorrow there would be no constitutional successor at all. As only "acting prime minister" until his confirmation perhaps this week, Kiriyenko doesn't yet qualify.

Unlike the U.S. Constitution, which spells out succession from vice president to speaker of the House to Senate majority leader and down through the Cabinet, the Russian constitution stops at prime minister. There is no established succession procedure if the country, as now, is between prime ministers.

At worst, Russian experts say, the military might step in to sort out the mess.

Another danger: Yeltsin is increasingly dependent on a small circle of top aides, including his daughter Tatiana Dyachenko, chief of staff Valentin Yumashev and spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky, keeping other advisers and views away.

"The president is isolated," says Andrannik Migranyan, a foreign policy adviser. Meanwhile opposition presidential candidates, including communist leader Gennady Zuganov and former general Alexander Lebed, a nationalist, will openly campaign for the presidential election set for the 2000, with no agreed-on reform candidate yet in place to succeed Yeltsin.

President Clinton's personal rapport with Yeltsin has been devalued by the Russian leader's illness. Vice President Gore's ties to Chernomyrdin, in twice yearly meetings that were often the forum for the best cooperation between the two countries, collapsed with the Russian prime minister's sacking.

First deputy premier Anatoli Chubais, a leading reformer who welcomed American advice, was also fired in the reshuffle. The highest level Russian-American channel is now Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who disagree on how to handle a wide range of key issues from Iraq to Kosovo.

Personal ties

Russian specialists have long criticized the Clinton administration for pinning relations with Moscow on personal ties with Yeltsin the man, rather than broader support for reform, the policy. Many thought the administration lucky that Yeltsin won re-election in 1996, now that it is known how ill he was then.

The luck of that policy, however, is now clearly running out. The administration will have to rethink Russia policy if it hopes to continue playing an influential role in Moscow.

Yavlinsky thinks American support helped Yeltsin turn post-communist Russia into a country of one-man rule with a new constitution giving most power to the president.

"The entire social and political power base is Yeltsin and only Yeltsin," Yavlinsky said. "This isn't a democracy. It's not a civil society. It's Byzantium."

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

Continued from 1A

condition of anonymity, say the president can now work a maximum of three to four hours a day. They also say he often suffers from memory lapses, loss of concentration and difficulty in understanding material presented to him.

Russians don't need access to Yeltsin's inner circle to comprehend the problem. Once they turn on television and see the president's slower walk and slower speech, they understand that Yeltsin never fully recovered from his quintuple heart bypass operation in November 1996. Once they read their newspapers they know he has officially been reported out sick for a total of six months in the 18 months since then.

The opposition asks if Yeltsin, 67, is fit enough to stay in office. "There is only one important question," says liberal Grigory Yavlinsky. "How is the president making his decisions and what condition is he in to be making those decisions?"

Communist opposition is shriller. "In a fit of unpredictable

COVER STORY

action, the president could, after all, unexpectedly press the nuclear button," the pro-communist newspaper *Sovietskaya Rossiya* warned. It said Yeltsin should resign or be impeached.

Thoughtful Russians, with no partisan political agenda are increasingly worried.

"I'm concerned about the president's physical and mental weakness, especially the mental weakness," Andrei Piontkovsky, director of the Strategic Studies center, an independent think tank, said in an interview. The incoherence of Yeltsin's statements, he says, is "going from bad to worse" and "I think it's past the point of no return."

Yeltsin's gaffes

In recent months Yeltsin has mistakenly named Germany and Japan as nuclear powers and promised to unilaterally cut Russia's nuclear arms by a third, only to be corrected by aides.

On March 26, with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl looking on incredulously, Yeltsin declared open their post summit press conference — before the summit meeting had actually begun.

Russian and Western analysts in Moscow note that attempts to hide Yeltsin's condition with stage-managed television ap-

LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Top of page:

Col 1: Feature on dual citizenship

Col 2: Cops in rural America are twice as likely to be killed in the line of duty as officers in large cities despite the feeling among locals that this is the sort of big-city crime that is not supposed to happen in small towns. (POLICE, moving Monday).

Cols 3-5: Photo of Grand Prix auto race in Long Beach, Calif.

Col 6: A strike threat by actors that could have paralyzed Hollywood over the next few weeks ends when representatives of actors and producers agree to a tentative three-year contract that still leaves unresolved the thorniest issue of how much performers deserve when their work airs on cable TV or in the booming foreign markets. (SAG, moved)

Above fold:

Col 2: Turning a suspension into a ban, the Clinton administration will prohibit importation of 58 models of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles, after a Treasury Department study found that the modifications had not converted them into sporting weapons. (WEAPONS-TIMES, moved).

Below fold:

Cols 3-4: After a long truce, the smog wars are back: national and Southern California officials are feuding over a far-reaching clean-air plan, which maps the path and pace of pollution control in the Los Angeles basin for the next dozen years. (SMOG, moving Monday)

Col 5: The chief government agency responsible for keeping potential spies off U.S. government payrolls believes it has a better way to identify potential turncoats but others fear that instead, traitors might be able to elude capture for longer. (SPIES, moved)

Bottom of page:

Cols 1-2: A boisterous visit by Iranian wrestlers to the United States, a sequel to the groundbreaking trip by U.S. wrestlers to Tehran in February, is the latest in a series of cultural and academic exchanges propelling the United States and the Islamic Republic toward rapprochement after two decades of hostility. (USIRAN, moved).

Cols 4-6: Local feature on housing market

Administration to Prohibit Importation of Assault Weapons (Washn) By Ronald J. Ostrow (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Turning a suspension into a ban, the Clinton administration Monday will prohibit importation of 58 models of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles, after a Treasury Department study found that the modifications had not converted them into sporting weapons.

The ban, which importers will have 30 days to appeal, could involve up to 1.6 million firearms, a White House official estimated. It is to be announced at the White House by President Clinton, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Attorney General Janet Reno.

A White House official gave some of the credit for the latest in a series of stiffening actions against assault-type weapons to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and a series of articles by the Los Angeles Times. The stories last year revealed that flawed gun regulations allowed U.S. and foreign manufacturers to modify banned assault weapons to create so-called copycats, which are legal and have different names but are just as deadly.

In the Treasury Department study, which was initiated last November as Clinton ordered the temporary suspension of imports of the modified weapons, all but one of 59 models fell short of being "particularly suitable or readily adaptable" to sporting purposes.

"You don't need an Uzi to go deer hunting, and everyone knows it," Clinton said in announcing the temporary suspension and study. "As effective as the assault-weapons ban has been, we know that some foreign gun manufacturers are getting around the ban by making

minor modifications to their weapons that amount to nothing more than cosmetic surgery."

The bulk of the outlawed modified weapons are AK-47s, but they also include Uzis, the FN-FAL rifle and the SIG SG550 and HK-91 and -93 design types, a Treasury Department official explained.

The AK-47-type weapons are imported from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Egypt, Hungary, Israel and Poland; the FN-FAL from Argentina, Brazil, Greece and Portugal; the HK-91 and HK-93 from Switzerland, Germany, Greece and Portugal; the SIG SG550 from Switzerland; and the Uzi from Israel, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The modified weapon that will be permitted is the AK-47-VEPR, which does not accept large-capacity, military-style magazines, one of the key factors in separating sporting rifles from assault weapons. Those magazines are defined as holding more than 10 rounds of 2.25-inch or smaller ammunition.

In estimating that up to 1.6 million modified imports will be affected, the White House official included more than 1 million importation requests pending at the time of the suspension and up to 600,000 that were held up after having been approved for entry into the country.

Officials cautioned that actual imports can fall far short of the number for which permits are sought.

Tanya Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association voiced unhappiness at the news of the edict. "No firearms in America are protected now that the president himself is deciding which guns will be banned regardless of what laws Congress has passed," she said.

The 1968 Gun Control Act restricted importation of firearms unless they were determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, some 43 assault-type rifles were ordered kept out of the United States.

Manufacturers, however, modified many of the banned weapons to remove certain military features but without changing their essential operational mechanism, Clinton explained in ordering the study and suspension of permits.

These modifications, deemed "cosmetic" by critics, included eliminating bayonet studs, night-sights and flash suppressors.

Citizens' Letters Measure Intensity of Jones Case (Little Rock) By Richard A. Serrano (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. Three years ago, long before U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright created the political firestorm that forever will mark her name, this one-page, badly written letter landed on her desk.

"Dear Sir," the letter began, assuming the judge was a man.

"Why you will cover up President?" the writer demanded. "The American people want that man. How much money you get for the cover up? He is a THIEF and a CROOKED man. The American people have the right to bring this TODAY to court."

The judge stapled the letter to the envelope and filed it inside a folder in the case stamped LR-C-94-290. That case is or was the Paula Corbin Jones sexual harassment suit against President Clinton. Last week, Wright dismissed the lawsuit, which had been set for trial in May.

The case file covers a dozen volumes. Several of those folders, what Wright calls her "correspondence file," are a measure of the intense pressure she faced from a sometimes admiring, other times vitriolic American public since the suit was filed in 1994.

Some of the letters were from women, encouraging her to stand up for their rights, stressing their fear of a setback in equal rights should she rule in favor of Clinton.

Others urged caution, emphasizing the historic and constitutional questions she faced, imploring her not to destroy the sanctity of the presidency.

And, of course, there were the odd letters, some from prisoners pulling her name out of a newspaper story and asking for help, some from writers obviously mentally disturbed.

"She read each letter," said James McCormack, chief clerk of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Jones had claimed that Clinton, while governor of Arkansas, lured her into a hotel room, groped her, exposed himself and asked for oral sex. Jones alleged that her career as a low-level state clerk was ruined by Clinton and others bent on revenge because she thwarted his alleged advances.

In her ruling, Wright termed the behavior alleged by Jones "boorish and offensive." But she also found that even if it were true, it did not rise to the level of sexual assault. And even if it did, Wright

concluded. Jones was never harassed in her job.

What follows is what the public, at least those moved to pen their thoughts, felt important enough to tell the judge.

Some, like Mrs. C. Dunlap of Ohio, drew parallels between the case and other societal problems.

"I am so fed up with what is going on in the U.S.," Dunlap wrote. "Murderers benefiting, and Michael Fay may make \$1,000,000 for getting his bottom tanned. Instead of a punishment, he's getting rewarded." She was referring to a young American who was a hot topic in 1994 when he was caned in Singapore for spray-painting cars.

Aside from all that, President Clinton needs our support and respect," she continued. "Instead we get this Jones person accusing him. Please dismiss this, and please see if you can do anything about the other thing."

With the case seen as one significant for its impact on women's rights, a woman who identified herself as working for a Baptist missionary emphasized to Wright that Jones was "violated" in that hotel room, regardless of whether Clinton touched her or not.

"How can we know which leaders really care about a woman's rights?" she wrote. "These guys ... still see women as vehicles for their sexual appetites. When are we going to say to men that they need to control their reaction to short skirts and beautiful faces? The key is CONTROL."

Robert L. Hightower, no address listed, also urged that the case go to trial. "Let us not try to fool the public. We are not dummies. Peasants perhaps, but not stupid."

**Flurry of Congressional Activity May Be Misleading (Washn)
By Janet Hook and Doyle McManus (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times**

WASHINGTON After months of desultory political chatter, a recent flurry of activity on Capitol Hill suggests that it may be too soon to dub this a Do-Nothing Congress.

But what the Republican-led House and Senate are doing is a far cry from the issues that propelled the GOP to power in 1994. And it seems far removed from the issues that Americans regard as their biggest problems. Call it, instead, a Don't-Rock-the-Boat Congress.

A highway bill bulging with pork-barrel projects. A supplemental appropriation for disaster cleanups. A budget calling for a nominal tax cut. A tobacco bill that was on neither party's radar screen until it was thrust upon them by the tobacco companies and the states.

The whole modest agenda seems to be driven more by forces beyond Congress' control: floods in California, public backlash against smoking, a booming economy, than by a clear sense of where either party wants to take the country on issues like drugs, education and health care that rank high among voters' concerns.

The sense of drift is the result of a mix of factors: the weakness of both parties' leadership in Congress, the exhaustion of the Republican revolution's ideological impetus, the distraction of the White House by President Clinton's endless legal battles and the strangely paralyzing prospect of a congressional election in November.

So while Americans across the country are tuning Washington out, even many of the capital's politicians are hardly surprised. "It's no wonder that there's apathy," said Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass.

"You've got a Congress that's been neutered ... and a president that's been diverted in focus and attention."

After an unusual spate of late-night sessions last week, Congress left town for a long spring recess: the latest break in an election-year calendar that gives lawmakers plenty of time to go home and campaign. Democrats are gleefully promoting the "do-nothing" characterization, calling attention to the fact that the Republican-led Congress has managed to send only 12 finished bills to the White House so far this year. There were no blockbusters among them: four do nothing but name post offices and federal buildings.

President Clinton razzed Republicans all the way from Africa. "This is a Congress with nothing to do and no time to do it."

Preparing his troops for such attacks, House Majority Leader Dick Annen, R-Texas, sent a memo last week to fellow Republicans reminding them of the accomplishments they could tout to constituents. At the top of his list: banking reform. But within hours after the memo was sent, the banking bill was shelved for lack of support.

Annen's boasting points also included House approval of legislation renaming Washington's National Airport after Ronald Reagan; an anti-paperwork measure and aid to California flood victims and to people in other states hit by natural disasters. These may be important bills for Reagan fans, businesspeople and disaster victims, but they are hardly the stuff of a conservative revolution.

The same could be said of the two bills that may become this session's biggest accomplishments. A measure funding highway construction for the next six years and legislation redirecting national tobacco policy are ambitious measures that could have a great direct effect on people's lives. But they are not issues that were high on either party's priority lists.

In fact, many Republicans see these bills as a striking detour from the straight and narrow path that the party promised to follow. Conservative true believers blasted the highway bill as a shameless return to big spending as usual, and a threat to Republican efforts to provide a significant tax cut in this year's budget.

"Whatever happened to the promise that government would be made smaller and people's take-home pay would be bigger?" asked Steve Forbes, who is expected to seek the GOP presidential nomination in 2000.

But GOP spin-meisters insist that the transportation bill is consistent with the party's message. "One of the things that made us secure as a nation is highways," said a Republican leadership aide.

The tobacco bill is, in its own way, a big-government initiative that should be anathema to proponents of deregulation. It expands the regulatory power of the Food and Drug Administration to carry out a very intrusive effort to reduce teenage smoking.

The bill also puts Republicans in the awkward political position of repudiating one of the party's biggest financial backers: the tobacco industry.

Movement on both measures was greased by that good old-fashioned political lubricant: money. The highway bill sprinkles road, bridge and transit projects in hundreds of congressional districts. The tobacco deal promises a flood of new revenue for politicians' favorite programs.

The highway and tobacco measures also have the advantage of drawing bipartisan support, unlike many closer-to-home issues such as education and health care, where party lines have been starkly drawn.

Action in those areas has been stymied, in part, by a fact of current political life that will not change before the next election, if then. With a Democrat in the White House and Republicans holding Congress by narrow margins (a mere 12 votes in the House, 10 in the Senate), neither party has the political might to muscle its own agenda through on partisan issues.

Republicans have been promising action later this year on a variety of tax matters, including a tax cut for married couples, overhaul of the Internal Revenue Code and a measure calling for a radical rewrite of the tax code by 2002.

The tax talk may be important to the party's conservative base but polls indicate that the issue is not a priority for other voters.

When a Los Angeles Times Poll in January asked people to identify the most important problem facing the country, only 3 percent said taxes. That was far below the level of concern expressed about such issues as drugs, moral decline, the economy and education.

Asked how the federal budget surplus should be spent, only 12 percent called for cutting taxes, a distant fourth behind those who would shore up Social Security, increase funding for education and reduce the national debt.

Even when this Congress has addressed the issues that people seem to really care about, the debate has seemed more symbolic than real.

Both parties are clamoring to improve American schools, but the bill most likely to clear Congress this year—a new tax incentive to encourage savings for elementary and secondary education expenses—is a modest gesture in the face of a monumental problem, many proponents conceded.

**Spy-Screening Agency Proposes Controversial Changes (Washn)
By Paul Richter (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times**

WASHINGTON The chief government agency responsible for keeping potential spies off U.S. government payrolls believes it has a better way—one that would cost less money while improving the odds of identifying potential turncoats such as Douglas Fred Groat, a fired CIA officer who was arrested Friday.

But others involved in the spy-catching business fear that instead, traitors might be able to elude capture for longer.

With spy-catching budgets being squeezed, reformers at the Defense Security Service, the agency responsible for checking the reliability of workers in jobs with access to sensitive information, are pushing the efficiency plan. They would substitute quicker—but less thorough—telephone conversations for many of today's in-person interviews of neighbors and social acquaintances.

These efforts to gather information from nongovernmental sources

The Washington Times

http://www.washingtontimes.com

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Saudis move closer to Iran

Urge U.S. to help Tehran 'open up'

By Richard Engel
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SAUDI PRINCE TALAL BIN ABDULAZIZ, the latest in a line of Saudi princes to visit Iran, urged the United States to help Tehran "open up" to the world, says a Saudi newspaper.

Prince Talal, 60, visited Iran for two weeks in early March. It was the first time a Saudi prince had visited Iran since the 1979 Iranian revolution, which raised fears among many of the Gulf states that Iran might try to export its revolution to their lands.

The election last May of reform-minded Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, however, has encouraged much of the Arab world to rethink relations.

Iran's new government "is making an internal and external opening. Our relationship is developing with President Khatami of Iran," said the prince, who was interviewed at the Cairo office of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, which he heads.

Egypt has also expressed a desire to improve relations with Iran. After Iran successfully hosted an Organization of Islamic Conferences meeting in December, there

see SAUDIS, page A16

FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS



An Israeli border policeman watches yesterday as hundreds of Christians walk from the Mount of Olives to St. Anne's Church in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The procession follows the path Jesus took during the final days before the Crucifixion. Story, A9

Clinton poised to expand gun ban

Congress in recess as president acts

By Joyce Howard Price
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Clinton today plans a Rose Garden ceremony to announce expanded enforcement of the 1994 ban on assault weapons.

Officials on both sides of the gun-control battle said yesterday that Mr. Clinton will announce a permanent ban on import of 58 models of semiautomatics. A White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press the president will issue an executive order declaring the ban.

These weapons were not covered under the gun-ban legislation. For the first time, permits for such firearms that already have been shipped here, but not yet sold, would be pulled.

"This has been in the works for several months, but I assume the announcement now is in response to Jonesboro," said Michael K. Beard, president of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, referring to the March 24 schoolyard killings in Jonesboro, Ark. of a teacher and four students. Two young boys found with high-powered weapons are in custody as suspects.

Tanya Metaksa, lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, which is outraged by the White House plans, said yesterday she's been told "five basic firearms" will be affected by the new restrictions. They are AK-47 type weapons, Uzis, FN-FALs, Heckler & Koch models 91 and 93, and SIG-Sauer model 550.

"These guns all conformed to the 1994 Clinton gun ban law," Mrs. Metaksa said. "We always said the difference between the guns banned then vs. the guns that this shows we're concerned about is that they were not."

But Mr. Beard argued that gun manufacturers "have been flouting the law" by "flouting assault weapons that are essentially the same as those banned by the federal legislation."

"Manufacturers have been responsible in the past," he said, "for responding to the ban," Mr. Beard said.

Imports of the weapons Mrs. Metaksa identified were sus-

see GUNS, page A16

Jones likely to appeal dismissal of case

Misdeeds ascribed to Clinton would violate his own policy on harassment

By Paul Bedard
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Incidents of sexual groping and indecent exposure as described by Paula Jones would have put President Clinton at risk of his own administration's rules on sexual harassment.

White House volunteer Kathleen E. Willey's account of Mr. Clinton's unwanted Oval Office sexual advance and Mrs. Jones' charge that the president exposed himself to her in a Little Rock hotel room — even if one-time incidents — would violate the administration's internal

regulations on office conduct. Under those regulations — a copy of which was provided to The Washington Times — it is sexual harassment to "create an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment," whether the harassment is "carried out by a supervisor or by a co-worker."

The administration policy forbids a range of activities, from making sexually suggestive jokes to hanging "pinup" calendars to making sexual advances.

"Sexual harassment continues to be one of the most trouble-

see MISDEEDS, page A16

By Joyce Howard Price
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Paula Jones' advisers said yesterday she is leaning strongly toward filing an appeal of the dismissal of her sexual misconduct suit against President Clinton.

The president himself said the dismissal was "in the best interest of the country."

"I think there's a good chance she'll appeal," John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, which is financing Mrs. Jones' litigation, said on CNN's "Late Edition." This decision could come "early this week."

Such an appeal would go to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, which has three times reversed Little Rock judges who had ruled in Mr. Clinton's favor in Whitewater-related litigation.

Earlier on NBC's "Meet the Press," Susan Carpenter McMill-

lan, Mrs. Jones' spokeswoman, said Mrs. Jones is "very much looking toward an appeal, but nothing is definitive as of yet."

U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright unexpectedly threw out the 4-year-old lawsuit Wednesday, and the fallout from her ruling dominated the Sunday morning talk shows.

House Majority Whip Tom DeLay denounced it on "Fox News Sunday."

"I think it's really sad that now we are redefining sexual harassment and sexual assault as bumpy-tous behavior," the Texas Republican said.

Asked if he believes the president's past sexual misconduct toward women, Mr. DeLay replied, "I do believe, after looking at all that's going on, that this president could very well be a

see JONES, page A16

Austria pressed to try doctor

Nazi experiments, child deaths cited

By Michael Leirdig
LONDON SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

VIENNA — Austria faces mounting pressure to prosecute a prominent physician accused of involvement in experiments on children as part of the Nazi euthanasia program.

This follows the emergence of fresh evidence in the case — including declassified top secret papers released from the archives of the East German secret police, the Stasi.

Dr. Heinrich Gross reportedly is implicated in some of the 1,000 murders estimated to have been carried out in the name of Adolf Hitler at the Am Spiegelgrund Children's Clinic at Steinhof, Austria, during World War II.

Dr. Gross, who later rose to become one of Austria's most prominent neurologists, earned the country's highest medical honor for work carried out on the body parts of child euthanasia victims who died in his care. He was allowed to keep the parts after the war.

Now the 82-year-old doctor, who was briefly before the courts in 1951 when he was acquitted of a single manslaughter charge, is likely to find himself back in the

Federal police funds pose dilemma



Can't afford it: Sykesville Police Chief Wallace Mitchell passed up the opportunity to receive federal grant.

By Kristian Trugman
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Officials of Sykesville, Md., turned aside an offer of federal money to hire a new police officer.

Too many strings attached, town leaders said. Too much of a political hot potato.

Towns confront time when funds come to an end

out, police departments have to pay their own lights or buy off cops — neither a popular option.

Fairfax, Prince Georges and Montgomery counties, meanwhile, gladly took the federal money and just as gladly rolled the extra expense into the budget.

gift horse in the month," said Fairfax County Deputy Chief Bill Brown.

Sykesville, in southern Carroll County, is a few miles from Interstate 70 and an easy commute to Baltimore in the District. New housing subdivisions are popping up around town like mushrooms after a summer rain.

Right now Sykesville has seven police officers to serve its 4,000 residents and another police officer would be a big help.

Navy finds pregnancy put at risk by sea duty

Women sailors lose 4 of 10 fetuses

By Rowan Scarborough
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Navy's most comprehensive survey on the sex lives of men and women at sea has turned up some troubling trends on pregnancy loss, birth control and sailors' attitudes.

Four in 10 pregnancies for enlisted women on sea duty ended in miscarriage or abortion in 1996, compared with 23 percent for shore-assigned women, according to the results of the survey, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Times.

Navywide, nearly two-thirds of enlisted women said their pregnancies were unplanned, and half that number were not using birth control.

A confidential report being circulated in the Pentagon urges Navy policy makers to conduct a follow-up study to determine "why

women who conceive while on sea duty suffer a higher level of fetal loss than peers."

The paper also recommends a two-step plan to reduce unplanned pregnancies. Expand birth control education and explain why sailors need to "time pregnancies consistent with their Navy careers."

In 1995, Navy Secretary John Dalton issued a new pregnancy policy that declared the condition is compatible with a naval career. It directed that women be removed from ships at the 20th week of pregnancy.

Carmen Pace, president of Concerned Women for America, said in an interview that the new findings may mean the Navy needs to remove women sooner. She said the pressure to match the performance of men and the exposure to

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Sports

ORIOLES TAME TIGERS — The Orioles won their fifth straight game, including the Detroit Tigers, at Camden Yards. B1



Clinton poised to expand gun ban

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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President Clinton today plans a Rose Garden ceremony to announce expanded enforcement of the 1994 ban on assault weapons.

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Tanya Metaksa, lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, which is outraged by the White House plans, said yesterday she's been told "five basic firearms" will be affected by the new restrictions. They are AK-47 type weapons, Uzis, FN-FALs, Hechler & Koch models 91 and 93, and SIG-Sauer model 550.

"These guns all conformed to the 1994 Clinton gun-ban law," Mrs. Metaksa said. "We always said the difference between the guns banned then vs. the guns that weren't banned was cosmetic, and this shows we were right."

But Mr. Beard argued that gun manufacturers "have been flouting the law" by selling assault weapons that are essentially the same as those banned by the federal legislation.

"Manufacturers have been irresponsible in how they've responded to the ban," Mr. Beard said.

Imports of the weapons Mrs. Metaksa identified were sus-

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pending for four months under a freeze on imports of all modified assault weapons that Mr. Clinton imposed late last year.

Mr. Clinton announced the suspension after learning that, in one month, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) had issued permits allowing 150,000 assault weapons — imitation AK-47 rifles from Egypt and Romania — into the country. The president was angry that the permits were issued at a time when he planned to sign an order blocking such imports.

Mrs. Metaksa said the NRA has many concerns about the White House's latest salvo. A key one, she said, is her organization's understanding that the administration intends to cancel all permits for firearms identified under the ban expansion that have already been shipped to this country but have not gone through customs.

She said this means some people may lose substantial investments. Mr. Beard said it's his understanding that permits will be pulled for affected firearms "that have already been shipped here but which have not been sold." This will be a first, he said.

Mrs. Metaksa said the NRA has other objections. "The president is going ahead and legislating when it's Congress' prerogative to legislate" federal laws, and Mr. Clinton is making this announcement "when Congress is conveniently

absent" from Washington, she said, adding:

"For the better part of the past five months, Clinton has been searching for a reason to ban the import of some foreign-made firearms... and because it's a fact that all the guns being banned conformed to the 1994 law Clinton signed, they [administration officials] are taking the law and bending it as far as they can to ban more guns."

Mrs. Metaksa accused the administration of dishonesty. In 1994

and 1995, ATF told Sen. Larry E. Craig, Idaho Republican, "they would not do what they are doing now" in enhancing the assault weapons ban, she said.

Asked about today's announcement, White House spokesman Josh Silverman said he could not comment. He said only there would be a crime-related announcement by the president in the Rose Garden this morning.

Mr. Beard said many of the firearms being added to the ban come from Israel, China and Germany.

Mr. Clinton singled out Israeli manufacturers, Uzi and Galils, for special criticism when he announced the freeze on imports of modified assault weapons in a Saturday radio address last November.

He said then they were flouting the spirit of a 1968 law banning guns not appropriate for hunting or recreation by making small superficial changes. "You don't need an Uzi to go deer hunting," Mr. Clinton said.

The Washington Times
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1995

suffer blood clots in the lung; two of the 13,000 women in the study died of such clots. The same group of older women who took the drug had double the rates of cancer of the lining of the uterus. These women were treated by hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, and none died.

But the occurrence of these two conditions is far lower than the rates of fatal breast cancer, researchers said. "The frequency of the risk is much less than the frequency of the benefits," said Dr. Leslie Ford, an associate director at the National Cancer Institute.

Despite these difficult choices, it seems clear the drug marks a significant advance in the fight against breast cancer.

"For the first time in history we have evidence breast cancer can not only be treated but prevented," said Dr. Bernard Fisher, a professor at the Allegheny University of Health Sciences, one of the main researchers.

Tamoxifen was tested on a group of 13,388 women with a high risk of breast cancer. Half of them took the drug and the rest took a placebo,

a pill that has no effect on the body. The results were,

Among women between 35 and 49 years old, 38 women who took tamoxifen developed breast cancer, compared to 59 in the placebo group.

Among women between 50 and 59 years old, 24 in the tamoxifen group developed the diseases, compared to 46 in the placebo group.

Among women over 60, there were 23 in the tamoxifen group who got breast cancer, compared to 49 in the placebo group.

The trial began in April 1992 but was stopped four weeks ago, more than a year earlier than scheduled, because tamoxifen's benefits were so obvious, said researchers. On average, tamoxifen reduced the rate of breast cancer in high-risk women by 45 percent.

"It's not often we get to present results of a 45 percent reduction," said Dr. Richard Klausner, director of the National Cancer Institute, which helped fund the study. He added that, despite theories that changes in exercise and diet can reduce breast cancer, tamoxifen is the first proven risk-reducer.

Tamoxifen has been used to treat patients with advanced breast cancer for 25 years. More recently it has been used in combination with radiation therapy. Researchers noticed when women with cancer in one breast took the drug, they did not develop it in the other. They decided to begin the study, the results of which were reported Monday.

Tamoxifen is one of a class of drugs called Selective Estrogen Response Modifiers. These drugs function like double agents, mimicking estrogen in one part of the body and acting against it in another. Tamoxifen acts like estrogen by lowering blood cholesterol and slowing bone loss. It neutralizes the effects of estrogen in the breast.

The 13,388 women in the study did not know whether they were taking tamoxifen or the placebo. They are now being told and face the same questions and considerations of risk that all women will face when discussing the drug with their doctors.

Researchers, meanwhile, will continue trials of other SERMs on breast cancer, including more narrowly focused trials on women with specific risk factors.

Clinton bans military-style rifles, drawing fire from NRA By G. Robert Hillman The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

WASHINGTON President Clinton, declaring "our work is not done" in keeping military-style rifles off the streets, Monday blocked the importation 1.6 million such weapons.

Flanked by more than a dozen uniformed police officers, the president said he intended to continue a temporary ban imposed last fall because a Treasury Department review concluded the rifles should not be exempted as sporting weapons.

Clinton suggested manufacturers were skirting the law by making only "minor modifications to weapons of war."

He told the gunmakers: "You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making your minor changes. But we are going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar the wrong way."

He was interrupted by applause from gun-control advocates, victims of gun crimes and others invited for his announcement.

"No statistics can measure the pain or the brave resilience of the families shattered by gun violence," he said.

The permanent ban the president announced will be imposed by the Treasury Department on 58 high-powered weapons, including modified AK-47s and Uzis, that can use large-capacity military-style ammunition clips.

It is designed to close loopholes in a 1989 ban by the George Bush administration and in the 1994 anti-crime bill.

"You don't need an Uzi to go deer hunting. You don't need an AK-47 to go skeet shooting," the president said. "These are military weapons, weapons of war."

"They were never meant for a day in the country," he said.

Clinton was immediately praised by Handgun Control Inc. and chastised by the National Rifle Association.

"We don't need more Uzis and AK-47s on the street. And we don't need their modified clones," said Sarah Brady, chairwoman of Handgun Control.

She urged Congress to approve a similar ban on similar weapons that are manufactured in this country.

"They are, in essence, military weapons dressed up in civilian garb," she said. The NRA, however, ridiculed the president's announcement as the "Bigger Clinton Gun Ban."

Banning guns, said NRA lobbyist Tanya Metaksa, "is one of the president's passions."

"The Clinton Gun Ban of 1994 was only a prelude to a bid for more bans, encompassing more guns than ever before," she said.

Monday's announcement in the White House Rose Garden was the first of a weeklong series of events designed by the White House to push the president's domestic agenda, now that the Paula Corbin Jones sexual misconduct lawsuit has been dismissed.

Tuesday, the president joins members of Congress and others in Kansas City, Mo., for a forum on Social Security reform. Wednesday, he's in Chicago to push his program to modernize public schools. And Thursday, he's in Kentucky to highlight his efforts to curtail the availability of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

"It's my candid hope as other issues fade into the background, his agenda will be more prominent," said Paul Begala, one of the president's senior advisers. "We'll get more coverage."

Energy Secretary Federico Pena Resigns From Administration By G. Robert Hillman, The Dallas Morning News Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News

WASHINGTON -Apr. 7--Energy Secretary Federico Pena, the highest-ranking Hispanic in the Clinton administration, announced on Monday he was stepping down on June 30 to return to private business.

President Clinton was reported by an aide to have a successor in mind, but no announcement is expected for at least a few days.

Mr. Pena, however, told reporters he was sure his deputy, Elizabeth Anne Moler, was "right up there" among those under consideration.

"I have a great amount of confidence in her," he said. "But that will be the president's decision."

Ms. Moler, 49, is the former chairwoman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and had been high on the list to be energy secretary when Mr. Pena got the post for Mr. Clinton's second term.

A lawyer, Ms. Moler had been the senior counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Pena said that there was never a "perfect time" to quit but that the time had come for him to tend to family matters and pursue other career options.

The former Denver mayor said he had no intention of going back into politics but was returning to the private sector, which would afford him the opportunity to "focus on the future of my family." He and his wife, Ellen, have three young children.

"We haven't made any decisions about where we're going to go," Mr. Pena said.

At the White House, press secretary Mike McCurry told reporters that the president had talked to Mr. Pena over the weekend and reluctantly agreed to his resignation.

The spokesman said he expected the president would "cast a wide net" in search of a successor, and "diversity will be an important criteria, as will excellence."

Mr. Pena, 51, was born in Laredo, Texas, grew up in Brownsville and received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Texas in Austin.

Before joining the Clinton administration as transportation secretary in 1993, Mr. Pena was an investment adviser. He was mayor of Denver from 1983 to 1991.

As transportation secretary during Mr. Clinton's first term, Mr. Pena presided over a large department that often drew criticism, particularly for its dealings with the airline industry.

After several crashes, commuter airlines were ordered follow the same strict safety standards as major carriers. But Mr. Pena drew repeated protests for his handling of the 1996 ValuJet crash in the

Similarly, Spirit Airlines, based in Detroit, began a daily flight between Detroit and Philadelphia, for fares as low as \$49 each way in 1995 and then began serving Detroit and Boston, also with a daily round trip. Northwest responded by, in Boston, by matching the \$69 fare on its 11 daily flights and on most of its coach seats. In the Philadelphia market, it matched Spirit's \$49 fare on all flights and increased its capacity by more than 15 percent. Within a few months, Spirit pulled out of both markets in September 1996.

"If there is going to be a low-fare industry in this country alongside hub-dominating 'fortress carriers' then it is important to define the line between legitimate, hard-nosed pricing and predatory tactics," said Mark Kahan, Spirit's vice chairman, in recent congressional testimony.

But, said American's Chiamess, "What it's going to mean is less consumer-friendly promotions and fares."

Airline competition guidelines Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

The Transportation Department issued proposed guidelines Monday to make sure large carriers are not using their market power to drive new low-cost airlines out of business.

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater gave three "triggers" that would start an investigation.

Assume BIG Airline suddenly finds that SMALL Airline is starting up service from point A to point B. The Transportation Department would step in if:

BIG Airline suddenly added lots of flights in the market and offered many seats at the same low fares as SMALL Airline and in the process was losing money on the route.

BIG Airline is carrying more local passengers at SMALL Airline's low fares or at similar fares that are far below BIG's previous rates, and those passengers exceed SMALL's total seat capacity.

The number of local passengers that BIG Airline carries at SMALL's low fares or at prices far below BIG's previous fares exceeds the number of low-fare passengers carried by SMALL Airline, meaning lower local revenue for BIG Airline.

Bottom line: You can't lose money to drive a competitor out of business.

If the Transportation Department finds a violation, it would issue a cease-and-desist order. If things still didn't change, the government could impose fines up to \$1,100 a day.

Supreme Court grants Starr's request for a speedy hearing By Aaron Epstein Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON Independent counsel Kenneth Starr has persuaded the Supreme Court to deliver a fast-track ruling on his effort to obtain notes that may help his investigation of the Clinton administration.

Replying Monday to Starr's request for a prompt decision so his investigation "can be completed in an expeditious manner," the justices set arguments for June 8 on whether a lawyer must surrender notes taken at a meeting with White House aide Vincent Foster nine days before Foster killed himself.

The court's accelerated consideration of the case means a ruling is now expected by July, instead of early 1999.

Starr seeks the notes as evidence for his inquiry into whether Hillary Rodham Clinton or presidential aides lied about her role in the firing of seven employees in the White House travel office in 1993.

Mrs. Clinton said she played no part in the heavily criticized purge, which Starr said was the subject of three pages of notes taken by James Hamilton during his meeting with Foster on July 11, 1993. Foster and Mrs. Clinton were law partners at the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock, Ark.

Hamilton has resisted a grand-jury subpoena for his notes. He contends that the attorney-client privilege, which protects confidential communications between lawyers and their clients, and the work-product privilege, which protects notes taken by a lawyer in preparation for litigation, override the subpoena.

Last August a panel of federal appellate judges ruled 2-1 that the prosecutor's search for truth outweighed a dead client's interest in confidentiality, and that the work-product privilege did not apply to preliminary notes such as the ones Hamilton took.

The Supreme Court voted to hear the dispute after Hamilton argued that the attorney-client privilege lives on even though the client is dead.

Otherwise, Hamilton said, people who expect to die soon—such as the elderly, the suicidal or the dangerously ill—would be denied "the right to consult attorneys in confidence about criminal matters that threaten friends, associates, family or their own reputation."

Hamilton also said that the panel's decision on the work-product issue "discourages attorneys from taking notes at initial client and witness interviews."

Hamilton said he did not oppose the court's hearing the case this term.

Starr argued that Hamilton's claims to confidentiality are outweighed by Starr's need to obtain relevant criminal evidence.

Starr told the court he is legally authorized to find out "whether particular individuals have made false statements or committed other federal crimes during various investigations of the White House travel office employees."

Official inquiries into Foster's death concluded that he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound July 20, 1993. Investigators said he was depressed over criticism of the White House travel office purge.

Advance in breast cancer treatment could cut rate drastically By Raja Mishra Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON With a major advance in breast cancer treatment announced Monday, American women are facing a whole new set of risks and benefits as they weigh how to best protect themselves from a fearful disease that kills about 43,500 a year.

Some who have considered surgically removing a healthy breast to avoid future breast cancer can now contemplate simply taking a daily pill to prevent the disease. But the pill, the drug tamoxifen, brings with it increased risk of uterine cancer and blood clots in the lungs.

"One has to make a balanced decision ... that must be discussed with a woman's physician," cautioned Dr. Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes of Health and a Nobel prize-winning cancer researcher, in announcing the test results. But he added: "There are clear benefits in tamoxifen for women at increased risk."

As the news of the new treatment began filtering through the medical community, doctors began to reconsider how they will treat breast cancer, one of the diseases women fear most.

"We'll have to explain to patients the benefits of the medicine and the risks. Then say, 'Think this over, Mrs. Jones, and make a decision,'" said Dr. Thomas Doyle, a senior doctor in the oncology division at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

A large-scale, four-year study found women at high risk for breast cancer reduced their chances of getting the disease 45 percent by taking tamoxifen, researchers reported Monday.

The results have not yet been published, and the cancer treatment staff at some hospitals, such as Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said they would not be advising women on use of the drug until they get a chance to thoroughly review the data. Doctors elsewhere are exercising similar caution.

Tamoxifen is manufactured by Zeneca, a Delaware-based drug company.

A month's supply is expected to cost between \$80 and \$120.

It is likely family doctors and gynecologists will be the medical practitioners first bombarded with questions as news of the drug spreads, since they see women before cancer develops. While detailed scientific results aren't yet available, these doctors will be able to discuss new and welcome options with women, said Doyle.

Doctors must now help women weigh the advantages of tamoxifen with its serious side effects. The drug produced higher rates of uterine cancer and blood clots in the lung when women over 50 years old who took it. Researchers said those conditions are rare enough the benefits of tamoxifen outweigh the risks.

"I would imagine women at high risk would consider using this drug, and the small percentage of women who are considering preventative mastectomies will not have them," said Doyle.

The first key step is determining the risk of getting breast cancer, a highly individual calculation, said researchers.

The strongest risk factor is age. The older a woman, particularly if she is over 50, the greater the risk. If one or more close family members have had breast cancer, then risk is higher. The age of a woman at her first birth, particularly if she was younger than 25, decreases risk. The younger her first period, the greater the risk. The risk also increases with the number of breast biopsies she has had.

Recent advances in genetic testing have shown women who have the genetic mutations called BRCA1 and BRCA2 have higher risks. But when the tamoxifen study began, genetic testing was not available, so there are no conclusions about how the drug affects the breast cancer rates of women with this mutation. These results are expected within a year.

All of this must be considered before a woman makes a decision about the drug, said researchers.

Women over 50 who took the drug were three times as likely to

When in doubt, blame the guns

When President Clinton signed an "assault weapons" ban into law in 1994, critics said he was making a distinction based on politics rather than firepower. Real assault weapons — machine guns — had been severely restricted for decades. The weapons on Mr. Clinton's list simply looked bad because they had nasty but cosmetic features such as bayonet lugs. Meanwhile, guns that lacked the nasty features — but had the same rate of fire and the same firepower — remained legal.

What's a gun manufacturer to do? Remove the bayonet lugs, of course. So back this week came Mr. Clinton to announce that if the manufacturers were going to abide by the 1994 rules (darn them), he would have to change the rules. "You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want," he said at White House ceremony Monday, "and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way." (Coming from an administration that was caught shaking down Buddhist monks and impoverished Indian tribes during the last campaign, Mr. Clinton might want to spare everyone the pious lectures on greed.)

Mr. Clinton has therefore issued an executive order banning the importation of weapons that had complied with the 1994 law. Importers had already obtained permits to ship in some 600,000 guns altered to satisfy the law, and some 20,000 had already entered the country.

Where it will all end is hard to say because the administration seems to be addicted to gun control. As White House official Jose Cerda told the Los Angeles Times last October, "We are taking the law and bending it as far as we can to capture a whole new class of guns."

The backdrop for all this gun grabbing is, of course, the horrible shooting in Jonesboro, Ark., in which two young boys are said to have shot four schoolchildren and a teacher and wounded many more. Anyone who failed to make the connection between Mr. Clinton's executive order and Jonesboro got a not-so-subtle reminder when he said, "There are still far too many children in harm's way," and so on.

But there really isn't any connection between the shooting and the order. Police say the Jonesboro killers did their dirty work with an ordinary, perfectly legal hunting rifle. Media slurs on "southern gun culture" notwithstanding, their parents didn't exactly leave guns lying around where trigger-happy young hands could easily get them either. The boys reportedly tried to get into one of the family's gun safes with a blow torch and a hammer. When that failed, one of them got the family van (driving illegally) and drove to a grandparent's farm, where they had to break into the basement of a house to get what they wanted. This was hardly a drive-by shooting.

Mr. Clinton says there are too many guns in the hands of too many criminals. But criminals, almost by definition, ignore executive orders banning politically incorrect weapons. Law-abiding citizens do obey them, denying themselves at the least, favored hunting weapons and predator controls, and at most, weapons of self-defense.

The president need not worry about such things. He has the luxury of round-the-clock guards. But most Americans can't take such things for granted. Least of all can they afford to subscribe to the theory that by limiting the importation of ugly-looking weapons, they can control crime in Jonesboro or anywhere else.

Choices for the D.C. budget

Well, D.C. budgeting 101 drew to a close this weekend and officials emerged with smiles on their faces. Cute picture, isn't it, that after two tense years of budget battles and political bickering, elected and appointed officials can all be seated in the same room and still raise to a critically important occasion? Who would have thought?

But their real work has yet to begin. In their next series of deliberations on the fiscal 1999 budget, officials will have to deliver. What are the priorities? How will they spend the surplus? Will politics take a seat at the head of the table this election year? Or will Mayor Barry and members of the D.C. Council and control board check their bags of tricks at the door?

The choices made for FY 1999 must be as hard as those that led to the budget surplus in the first place. The priorities, however, have changed. To be sure, taxpayers are as interested in public safety and schools as they ever were. And regulatory and management reforms must be carried out. But residents' eyes are trained on their wallets, too. Individual taxpayers, like businesses large and small, have been nickled and dimed all the way to the D.C. line and beyond. The ones who have hung in there while taxes rose and service delivery declined must now be rewarded. The ones who are considering moving here ought to be given greater incentive. That is precisely what tax cuts would provide.

According to preliminary figures from budget analysts, the District's revenue stream will rise slowly

but steadily each of the next four years—from \$4.2 billion in 1999 to \$4.5 billion in 2002. And while expenditures will also increase, current forecasts project surpluses in each of those four years as well, with 1999 showing the largest surplus (\$192 million). Promising outlook indeed.

All this came about, as you know, because Chief Financial Officer Anthony Williams provided hard and fast numbers on which other top officials set policy and program spending levels — and stuck to them. Everything was on the table. Social service programs, jobs, raises and all manner of services.

Now, crime is down, schools are still struggling but at least on the mend physically, road works can be witnessed across the city, and the nation's capital is no longer the laughingstock of Wall Street. So now, with the city on a course of balanced budgeting and serious management reform, comes the difficult task of keeping it there without losing anymore tax-paying residents and businesses.

Officials will be tempted to fool around the edges with reform measures, tinkering with the tax structure here and there but failing actually to provide much in the way of real tax cuts. But they would only be fooling themselves and hurting the city. People want more money where it counts — in the bank and in their wallets.

To that end, priorities must be: tax cuts; paying down the deficit; management/personnel reform; capital expenditures; and raises for front-line workers. That is the real nitty-gritty for the '99 budget.

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1998

Herbert Hashimoto

The Japanese economy has been flat on its back since its property- and stock-market bubbles burst in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The worst may be yet to come. Comparing Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Herbert Hoover, the chairman of Sony warned Thursday that Japan was on the verge of economic collapse.

An economy that seemingly could do no wrong during the first four and a half decades of the post-war period now looks like it's unable to do anything right. The long-term future looks even bleaker. A rapidly aging population confronts a national debt greater than its annual economic output, one of the largest budget deficits among industrialized nations and a pension system more precarious than Social Security. What went wrong? And how can it be fixed?

Clearly, the once-omnipotent Japanese economic model has outlived its usefulness in today's globalized economy, whose primary catalyst has been the unshackling of the international capital markets. These markets have been furiously allocating and reallocating capital, much of it ironically supplied by Japan, to investments promising the highest equity returns. The Japanese economic model, however, ignores return on equity in favor of building market share, and the internal Japanese capital markets reward the practice. That put Japan, Inc. on a collision course with World, Inc.

While the United States began deregulating its financial system and capital markets in 1975 and Britain in 1986, Japan has foolishly retained its vastly overregulated model. Since 1945, this model has been based upon government allocation of credit through a financial system built on cross-holding ownership among banks, their industrial customers and international trading houses. With a one-dimensional emphasis on collateral — often in the form of once-spiralling property — rather than risk-based return, Japanese banks, whose capital base was buttressed by the soaring stock market, for years used the captive savings of their depositors to provide easy credit in the form of non-profit-generating loans to their cross-holding partners. When the stock market

crashed, so did the capital bases of the banks. The loans collateralized by property turned lousy, virtually bankrupting the lenders.

Belatedly, Japan finally began this month to reform its antiquated financial system. The so-called "Big Bang," a three-year process of financial deregulation that commenced April 1, will address what may be Japan's most fundamental problem: the inability of its massive financial system to efficiently allocate money, the lifeblood of any modern economy. The Japanese have been among the world's most prodigious savers. For decades government policy has directed these savings into the domestic banking system, where returns to savers have been purposely limited for the benefit of cheap bank credit to corporations unable to exploit fully developed equity and bond markets to finance their investments. This will now change. With foreign-exchange controls relaxed, it will be much easier for savers to invest their funds overseas, where returns are much higher. Stock commissions will start to be deregulated. Eventually the walls between banks, securities firms and the insurance industry will be removed, drastically increasing competition and lowering fees. Increased international competition will offer more options to consumers who have been subjected to Ponzi-type insurance policies, lagging pension returns and a well-churned stock market that securities firms have notoriously rigged for the benefit of their biggest clients.

While the "Big Bang" will not by itself serve as Japan's silver bullet, it is a huge step in the right direction, even if its three-year process is much too slow. Whether Japanese bureaucrats will permit financial deregulation to evolve as promised remains an open question. An even bigger question is whether those firms kept on life support by cheap credit will be permitted to expire as credit inevitably becomes more expensive. At stake is nothing less than a revolution against the once-vaunted, now-outdated Japanese model. The "Big Bang" aims squarely at Japan, Inc., which deserves to be put out of its misery.

The Washington Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1998

Meiring announced his retirement after several days of high-level meetings among government officials, including a meeting between the general and Mandela on Friday. While Meiring said he was not forced to resign, government officials anonymously told reporters over the weekend that he had been offered a better retirement package if he stepped down voluntarily. The general was scheduled to retire in July 1999.

Government officials indicated that the shakeup in the military would not end with Meiring's ouster. Speculation is rampant that a full-fledged house-cleaning is in the works, targeted mainly at the military's intelligence agency, which is still dominated by apartheid-era holdovers. The agency allegedly helped put together the report.

"There must have been at least one or two other people that assisted in compiling that report," Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana said after Meiring resigned Monday. "The motives have to be looked into."

Clinton moves to ban import of assault-style rifles By Steven Thomma and John Stamper Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON With the memory of the Arkansas schoolyard shooting tragedy fresh, President Clinton on Monday moved to ban the import of 58 types of rapid firing, assault-style rifles and vowed to "do our best to keep our people alive."

His executive order closed a legal loophole that allowed the weapons to be modified and imported into the United States despite a 1994 ban. Most are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi rapid firing weapons banned earlier.

"It is our sworn duty to uphold the law, but it is also our moral obligation, our obligation to the children and families of law-abiding citizens, an obligation to stop the terrible scourge of gun violence," Clinton said in a Rose Garden ceremony with a row of uniformed police officers behind him.

While many gun control advocates applauded the ban, they were less sure of its effect.

"It will be more difficult to get around this ban," agreed Mike Beard, president of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. But, "it's clear that manufacturers can find ways around gun bans."

"We think a carefully crafted assault-weapon ban would work, but to date we haven't seen that," added Kristen Rand, director of federal policy at the Violence Policy Center, a non-profit group that seeks to reduce gun-related violence. "The ATF has for years been giving gun manufacturers a road map of how to get around these bans."

Still, the chairwoman of one of nation's biggest gun control groups, Sarah Brady of Handgun Control, called Clinton's action "a significant victory for public safety." She said it would ban the import of a type of rifle similar to one used in the March 24 slaying of four schoolchildren and a teacher in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the ban would keep as many as 1.6 million weapons from reaching the hands of criminals.

But the chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association, Tanya Metaksa, promised to appeal to Congress when it returns from its Easter recess. "We believe the people who have responsibility for writing gun laws are the Congress, not the president," Metaska said.

She also complained that the move proved the 1994 ban was cosmetic and regulated only the way guns look. She said all the guns banned Monday had been altered enough to meet the law.

For 10 years the government's efforts to regulate assault-style rifles has been piecemeal, banning only specific weapons by name and thus allowing manufacturers to keep selling by changing the appearance or characteristics of a banned weapon. President Bush banned the import of 43 specific semi-automatic, assault-style rifles in 1989. Clinton and Congress followed with the 1994 ban on the domestic manufacture of 19 specific weapons and dozens of copies.

"Neither measure," said Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin,

"prevented rifles with the ability to accept large-capacity military magazines, which fire large numbers of bullets in a very short time frame without reloading, from entering our country."

So, for example, manufacturers could comply with the regulations by reconfiguring the stock and pistol grip of UZI and renaming it the UZI Sporter. The MAK-90, the imported assault weapon traced to crime scenes most often during 1995 and 1996, was a legal knock-off of the AK-47.

Indeed, Clinton complained, "as long as those manufacturers can make minor cosmetic modifications to weapons of war, our work is not done."

Promising to be vigilant in watching new models of the rifles,

Clinton said to gun manufacturers, "You can read the fine print in our

law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way."

Clinton and his aides noted that the banned weapons are not needed for sport. A 1968 federal law prohibits the import of foreign weapons that are not used for sports like hunting or skeet shooting.

"This decision will in no way affect the importation of true sporting firearms, but it will prohibit the importation of dangerous weapons that are attractive to criminals," Rubin said.

The ban would be made permanent in 30 days barring any successful appeal to the Treasury Department.

Though the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had started a review of the weapons months ago, Attorney General Janet Reno noted that Jonesboro shooting was a timely reminder of the need to act.

"Their tragedy," she said of the people in the small Arkansas town, "is an unfortunate reminder to all of us. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to provide our children with safe schools in which to learn and safe communities in which to grow."

Brady said the order would ban the import of guns with magazines that hold more than 10 bullets.

"Today's ruling affects weapons like the military-style carbine that was used in the Jonesboro (Ark.) shooting and which had a 15-round magazine," she said in a statement. But the gun itself, a Universal M1 carbine, is made in the United States and wouldn't be covered by Monday's ban.

She added that the stricter standards applied to foreign-made weapons should be extended to U.S.-made guns.

And that is what alarms Metaksa of the NRA.

She said gun manufacturers, importers, dealers and owners have "fully complied" with the 1994 ban and had stopped making guns with "meaningless, cosmetic features" that made them look menacing.

"The ban is not a crime-fighting measure but a cosmetic alteration on certain firearms," she said.

Now, she said, "The Clinton gun ban of 1994 was only a prelude to a bid for more bans encompassing more guns than ever before."

Connecticut based firm will be first to set up U.S. trade show in Cuba By Christopher Marquis Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON In another sign that U.S. policy toward Cuba is easing, the Clinton administration has authorized a Connecticut firm to stage the first U.S. trade show there in nearly 40 years, according to the company and U.S. officials.

The firm, PWN Exhibicon International, plans to arrange the exhibition of products such as X-ray and CAT-scan equipment, operating tables and medicines from U.S. health care companies in Cuba within the next year, said PWN President Peter Nathan.

Potential exhibitors include Fortune 500 companies that will pay to show their wares in Cuba; at least 100 American firms have expressed interest in participating, Nathan said.

"There's potentially a very large market," he said. "Some of them might be able to develop a relationship before any (U.S.-Cuban) relations change." Others, he said, "want to get a foot in the door and know they will be in the forefront when relations change."

The United States cut off diplomatic relations with Havana in 1961 and imposed a trade embargo the following year. John Kavulich, president of the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council in New York, said the event would be the first U.S. trade show since October 1959, when the American Association of Travel Agents convened in Havana.

Kavulich, who advises corporate clients interested in Cuba, called the move "the most significant change in U.S. commercial policy toward Cuba in almost 40 years."

State Department spokesman James Foley confirmed that PWN Exhibicon received U.S. authorization for the trade show last Oct. 23. But U.S. officials insisted it did not reflect a change in policy because the administration has authorized eight individual U.S. companies since 1992 to display health-care products in Cuba.

The U.S. Treasury Department must license each participant before it can travel to Cuba, as well as any future sales. Under the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act, U.S. health-care companies may sell medicine or medical equipment in Cuba as long as they can provide independent confirmation that the product is not used for resale or torture.

Prodded by Pope John Paul II, President Clinton last month ordered the Treasury department to streamline procedures for allowing U.S. firms to sell medicine and health products to Cuba. The president also

said he would again allow direct flights and cash transfers to the island.

Energy Secretary Pena announces pending resignation By Elsa C. Arnett Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON Energy Secretary Federico Pena, the highest ranking Hispanic in the Clinton Administration, made a surprise announcement Monday that he would resign to spend more time with his family.

Cradling 9-month-old Ryan Federico in one arm, and holding the hand of Cristina, 6, Pena said, "I'm leaving the administration for personal and family reasons. (My wife) and I have three wonderful children and it is now time to focus on their futures."

Also accompanied by his wife, Ellen, and daughter Nellia, 7, Pena added, "I made this difficult decision with mixed emotions."

Pena, 51, will remain in his job through June. He said he would not run for political office and expects to return to the private sector, though he did not offer any details of his employment plans.

Pena leaves his high-profile post barely a year after the Senate confirmed him in a 99-1 vote. He previously served as transportation secretary during President Clinton's first administration and prior to that was mayor of Denver, where he oversaw the creation of the massive and costly Denver International Airport.

With so little time as energy secretary, Pena has not left much of a mark on the department, and he leaves it with many pressing issues.

The department is struggling to determine how to clean up many contaminated sites once used to produce nuclear weapons; it is attempting to push legislation through Congress to promote competition among electric utilities; and it is wrestling with a continuing controversy over plans to store nuclear power wastes at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Given the coalitions that you have to build and the real fractured politics that surround that agency, a year is not at all enough of a length of time to get anything done," said Michael Maniates, assistant professor of environmental science and political science at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. "His resignation is tantamount to an admission that he just couldn't get the job done, or never had that intention in the first place."

With Pena soon to be gone and with Henry Cisneros's resignation in 1996 from his post as secretary of housing and urban redevelopment, the highest-ranking Hispanic in the Clinton administration is Bill Richardson, the United States' chief delegate to the United Nations. There are a few other Hispanics in senior positions.

"Hispanics are now the largest minority in the country, but we are under represented in government," said Brent Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic advocacy group. "We continue to be very concerned with the number of Hispanics in the Clinton Administration, and with Secretary Pena leaving, we feel like we're losing ground. It's a considerable step backwards."

In a testy exchange with a reporter at his news conference in the Department of Energy's auditorium, though, it seemed Pena was ready to leave the political spotlight. When asked if he was resigning because he was indicted or knew of any possible indictments, Pena became visibly angry.

"You really asked that question seriously?" said an indignant Pena, adding, "It is ridiculous and silly questions like that that often try to embarrass public officials, that perhaps is driving people away from government."

U.S. can stop big airlines from being anti-competitive under new rules By Maria Recio Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON The Clinton administration proposed tough new guidelines on airline competition Monday that would limit the ability of major carriers to use cheap fares and added flights to undercut lower-cost competitors.

"There is growing concern that major carriers are willing to lose money - lots of it - in the short run to drive off competition, selling so many seats at low fares that the airline's strategy is economically rational only if it forces out competition from low-fare, start-up airlines," said Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater at a press conference.

The guidelines mark the first federal steps to curb airline competition since Congress deregulated the industry two decades ago. The major carriers sharply criticized the new policy while small low-fare competitors welcomed it.

"Despite DOT's claims, this is clearly an attempt at re-regulation,"

said American Airlines spokesman Chris Chiamas. "When you have the government enforcing a policy that limits our ability to compete with other airlines and restricts our ability to offer new service and fare sales and promotions, we don't know what else to call it."

"These guidelines cannot stand," said Elliott Seiden, Northwest Airlines's vice president of law and government affairs. "They are unconstitutional on its face."

The Justice Department is currently investigating whether established airlines, including American, are engaged in predatory pricing at hub airports. The Transportation Department guidelines are an effort, said Slater, to make clear what the government considers anti-competitive behavior.

Although Slater said he hoped not to have to use enforcement powers, the Transportation Department could issue a "cease and desist" order, followed by a fine of \$1,100 per day per violation.

The federal government is responding to growing criticism about monopoly power and high ticket prices. The complaints have come not only from low-fare airlines but also from communities that are captive to one airline. There are several bills pending in Congress that would require the Transportation Department to respond promptly to complaints of predatory pricing.

Critics of major carriers say consumers have typically benefited from short-term cheaper fares when a low-fare carrier enters the market. But in the end, passengers lose when the small carrier is driven out of the market and the major carrier returns to business as usual.

The policy would trigger an investigation and possibly an enforcement action if a large established carrier faced with a new low-fare competitor:

- Increases flights and offers so many discounted seats that the revenue loss is substantially more than if it merely matched the fares and number of seats offered by the new competitor;

- Carries more passengers at the lower fares than the new competitor's total seat capacity, again resulting in revenue loss;

- Has more customers paying the lower fares than the number of low-fare passengers carried by the new competitor.

The guidelines say the losses by the major carriers would be compared to what would happen under a "reasonable alternative response" without actually explaining what that means.

Pat Murphy, the Transportation Department's deputy assistant secretary for policy and the prime mover behind the guidelines, said the "reasonable" response would be the way the carriers respond to Southwest Airlines, the Dallas-based low-cost carrier. When Southwest enters a market, the larger airlines usually match fares and service.

Industries of all stripes offer "loss leaders" on products, meaning short-term revenue losses in return for larger market share. In the case of airlines, Slater said, "when they cut costs and saturate the markets with capacity for sole purpose of driving out new entrants, that's a matter we're concerned about."

"No matter how they cut it," said Air Transport Association President Carol Hallet, "this policy puts government bureaucrats in the business of setting fares and determining the level of service in the market."

Robert Crandall, chairman of Fort Worth, Texas-based American, has been a vocal critic of the proposal as it was being developed. Monday, Chiamas said, he and senior officials were "shaking their heads" at the announcement.

Meanwhile, small low-fare competitors welcomed the proposed guidelines.

The Air Carrier Association, representing new low-fare airlines, said in a statement that "it is essential that DOT quickly respond to actions taken by large carriers to force smaller, affordable fare carriers out of their markets."

Alfred Kahn, a Cornell University economist who is considered the "father of deregulation" for his role in deregulating the airlines as Civil Aeronautics Board chairman in the 1970s, actually assisted the Transportation Department in developing the guidelines.

"Anyone who says applying anti-trust laws is the same as re-regulating is simply ignorant," said Kahn in a telephone interview. "To preserve competition we need the anti-trust laws and vigorous enforcement of the anti-trust laws. If this is regulation, then the whole economy is regulated."

Federal officials and lawmakers have been hearing complaints about the behavior of large carriers in recent congressional testimony.

For example, Vanguard Airlines, based in Kansas City, Mo., began serving the Dallas/Fort Worth-Wichita, Kan. market only to have American Airlines match the lower fares and increase frequency. Vanguard then left the market.

Robin J. Bachman

04/07/98 03:13:08
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The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

Aired on April 6, 1998

TAKING AIM

At a White House ceremony today, President Clinton issued an executive order that permanently bans the import of over 50 types of foreign-made assault weapons. Elizabeth Farnsworth and guests discuss the ban.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Today's executive order permanently bans the importation of more than 50 types of assault weapons, primarily modifications of the AK-47 and the Israeli Uzi but also including

other models. The ban comes after a review by the Treasury Department, which oversees the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. At a White House Rose Garden event Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin explained what led to today's executive order.

ROBERT RUBIN, Secretary
of the Treasury: A key
element of the president's
strategy to fight crime has
been his action to make it
harder for criminals to get
guns, particularly

semiautomatic assault weapons. We at Treasury are proud to be heavily involved in this effort through the enforcement of federal firearms laws by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. As part of its responsibilities, in 1989, ATF prohibited the importation into the United States of a series of semiautomatic assault rifles, which had specified military features, because these weapons were not sporting weapons. The 1989 decision, along with the 1994 assault weapons ban have made it harder for criminals to obtain semiautomatic assault weapons; however, as long as these other militarized features were removed, neither measure prevented rifles with the ability to accept large capacity military magazines which fire large numbers of bullets in a very short time frame without reloading from entering our country. Today we are taking steps to stop the flow of these deadly rapid-firing weapons by prohibiting the importation of designated semiautomatic rifles that have the ability to accept large capacity military magazines. Our decision today stems from a comprehensive review conducted by the Treasury Department and the ATF. This review was a result of concerns, including those raised by several members of Congress. Nearly 10 years have passed since the last comprehensive review, and during this time, dangerous new rifles have been developed. This decision will in no way affect the importation of true, sporting firearms. But it will prohibit the importation of dangerous weapons that are attracted to criminals.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: And now two perspectives on today's executive order: Rahm Emmanuel is senior adviser to the president for policy and strategy, and Tanya Metaksa is the chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. Ms. Metaksa, what's your reaction to this ban?

"Less than one percent of these guns are used in crime, the same numbers we had in 1994."

TANYA METAKSA, National Rifle Association: Well, it just shows you what happens when people try to design guns by

passing a gun ban and then two years later come back and say, gee whiz, that didn't work, so we're going to stretch that gun ban, as was stated by Joseph Serto of this administration back in October. They're going to stretch it as far as they can until it bends. Well, here we have it again, the same rhetoric as in 1994, and it doesn't mean anything for the simple reason that these aren't guns that are used in crime. Less than one percent of these guns are used in crime, the same numbers we had in 1994. It's the president being not honest with the American people.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: So, Ms. Metaksa, these guns are used for sporting events and sporting--I mean, in hunting?

TANYA METAKSA: These guns are used by people for sporting events, for hunting, and for self-defense. It's interesting to note that one gentleman who used it testified before Congress, was accosted by two strangers, and his fellow hunter was laying, wounded on the ground, and he used this to save the life of himself and his friend. These are guns that are used by honest, law-abiding citizens and are very rarely used in crime.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Okay. Rahm Emmanuel, how do you respond to this?

RAHM EMMANUEL, President's Senior Adviser: Elizabeth, the president--you know, I respect Tanya, and she represents a particular interest, the president's job is to represent the national interest. And weapons he dealt with today are military weapons, not sporting weapons. You know, when we did the--the Treasury Department did the survey, they consulted with over 2,000 people and the sporting guides and the hunting guides that they interviewed, approximately 200 of them, 95 percent did not recommend this weapon for hunting. This is not a hunting--these aren't hunting weapons. These aren't sporting weapons. These weapons were meant for one purpose. They're military weapons. And the president's decision today represents what other presidents have done--Democrat and Republican--in using the 1968 law to ban the importation of certain weapons that don't meet the sporting purposes.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Mr. Emmanuel, let's back up just one minute.

RAHM EMMANUEL: Sure.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms did grant a number, tens of thousands of licenses, no, for importing these weapons last year, is that right?

RAHM EMMANUEL: That's correct, that's right.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Why did they do that? They felt that they did come within the confines of the law?

"Those weapons were designed for one purpose-- military-- and they don't belong on our street."

RAHM EMMANUEL: At that point they felt they did. What the president did on November 15, 1997, is put a temporary halt to study whether, in fact, they met the purposes, which comes under the 1968 law dealing with the category of sporting. Democrat and Republican presidents--President Johnson, Presidents Reagan and Bush and also President Clinton have used that law to actually ban the importation of weapons that don't meet the sporting laws. These weapons--the Uzi and the AK-47--and others are military weapons. They are not sporting weapons, and it's clearly within his authority to do exactly that. And there is no purpose for a weapon like the AK-47 on our streets that accept rounds in the 20, 30, 40, in some cases 100 rounds at a case. A lot of hunting--in many states they're limited for hunting purposes to three or four or five rounds, not twenty, thirty, or forty. Those weapons were designed for one purpose-- military-- and they don't belong on our street.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Ms. Metaksa, how many--how are importers accepted by this? How many import licenses that had been granted are we talking about?

TANYA METAKSA: We're talking about an awful lot of import licenses. We're talking about small businesses being impacted, but let me just go back to what Mr. Emmanuel said. Basically, you have to understand, these guns were designed by the criteria in the president's own law. These aren't guns that have a loophole. They were designed to meet the president's criteria. And now he's stretching that criteria. And we're going to see a lot of small businesses go out of business because of this unilateral stoppage of these people's import permits, even though they got them legally and through all the necessary channels in our government.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: But, Ms. Metaksa, how do you respond to the people who say, well, there was a gun, and they just took the bayonet off of it, and that made it fit in under the law, at least in perhaps not really but it looked like it did, how do you respond to that?

TANYA METAKSA: Well, the law was designed by President Clinton. He said what really was supposed to be on or off the gun. The manufacturers complied with that law. We always said this was cosmetic; it didn't make a difference. These were semiautomatic rifles that function exactly the same way no matter what kind of cosmetics you have on them, and we were right. The president is now trying to bend the law as far as he can to now ban more and more firearms.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: What about that, Mr. Emmanuel, that they were trying to comply with the law, now you've just changed the law?

RAHM EMMANUEL: Elizabeth, in 1989, President Bush banned 43 semiautomatic rifles because of certain features that they had that didn't fit under the sporting category; they fit under the military category. Second, in 1994, the President of the United States passed the assault weapons ban that dealt with 19 particular weapons. It fathered--it grandfathered in 650 specific weapons, which none of these are affected, and that law also dealt with a large capacity magazine of more than 10--or larger than 10 ammunition rounds. And what we're doing here in 1998 is dealing with the importation of the AK-47 and Uzi-type weapons, 59 in particular, that don't fall under the sporting category and don't meet that category because of the large capacity magazine. And second point I'd like

to make the point is, you know, in--about two years ago when Charleston Heston was nominated and elected to the board of the NRA, he himself said in an interview in San Francisco it was inappropriate for a personal ownership of the AK-47 because he knew then--and he was speaking his honest mind there before he was yanked back--that the AK-47 is a military weapon, it is not a sporting weapon. And in the process of reviewing this, when the ATF went out and interviewed people, we had comments from over 2,000 people, the people who deal with sporting guides and hunting guides, 95 percent of them said they never recommend this weapon--these weapons.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Mr. Emmanuel, responding to something else that Ms. Metaksa said, what is the evidence on whether banning the assault weapons has cut down on the number of criminals using them.

The president's strategy to fight crime.

RAHM EMMANUEL: Well, there's no doubt--I mean, first of all, I think it was--that's kind of a false choice--in this sense, you have to have a comprehensive strategy dealing with crime, which is the approach the President of the United States has taken. If all I said to you was the Brady Bill is our only effort on crime, well, that had an impact and no doubt in preventing criminals from getting handguns because of the waiting period. The assault weapons ban has been the weapon of choice for a lot of gang members--there's no doubt about that--that has had an impact. A hundred thousand new community police officers on the street has had an impact on crime. Targeted deterrence and tougher laws like the three strikes you're out have had an impact on crime. Better prevention programs like the Boys & Girls Club has had an impact on crime. Dealing with certain drugs has had an impact on crime. You can't hang an entire anti-crimes strategy on one piece. It's an entire strategy that deals with putting more cops on the street and getting criminals, drugs, and guns off the street, and that's the approach the president has taken. And, in fact, this is a piece of a larger strategy the president's put in place, and I don't think it's accidental over the five-year period of time since the president put in place that strategy, and on the local level put the resources there, and police on the beat, that we've had a dramatic drop in crime. It is a part of a comprehensive strategy and to isolate one piece from the other and say that's not working is not (a) honest and (b) it's not the strategy the president's put in place with the result that you're seeing in neighborhoods across this country.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Ms. Metaksa, please respond to that and also, what comes next for the NRA, how can you fight this current ban?

TANYA METAKSA: Well, first of all, this president has been notorious about not prosecuting criminals. They talk about the Brady Bill but do you know they prosecuted seven people for breaking that law when they tout numbers in the hundreds of thousands and only three of them are serving jail time? What a deterrent! That's absurd! This president has a passion for banning guns. It's not his only passion, but it's one of the high priority passions. What are we going to do? We believe it's the Congress who makes the laws that deal with firearms, and we're going to go to the Congress to try to turn this back and stop this elasticizing of the gun ban. This is an elastic ban that should be stopped, and we're going to work toward that end.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: And, Ms. Metaksa, are you concerned that more will come if this isn't stopped, or what do you think would be next?

TANYA METAKSA: Is President Clinton going to ban more guns? You betcha! He's going to try to figure out what guns he can ban, and he's going to try to stretch that law as far as he can. He's doing it one gun at a time, and it may be one gun that I own or somebody else owns next.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Okay. Rahm Emmanuel, your response to that and perhaps legal action.

RAHM EMMANUEL: Well, I would think this: One is the President of the United States will continue to ensure--and Tanya has a right to represent the National Rifle Association, which is a special interest and a particular interest--the president has got to represent the national interest, and take an entire look at what we've got to do to make our streets safe.

Second of all, this president grew up hunting, and he knows the difference and Tanya knows full well he knows the difference between hunting and sporting versus what happens on our streets, and these weapons have nowhere and do not belong on the streets of America. They were never designed for those purposes. They were designed for one purpose only and that's military purpose. And third, I want to be clear about something, is that the weapons we are talking about are only designed for one purpose, and when it came to the Brady Bill, the NRA fought the president tooth and nail, and over 200,000 criminals have been denied the access of those weapons, and that law has worked, much to the--much to the shock of the NRA, who put around a lot of propaganda saying it would work. It did work. And the assault weapons ban has been effective. And these people keep putting up a lot of smokescreens saying, none of these laws will work, but I note that after years and years of spiraling increase in crime, it's finally been five years in a row a drop and dramatically in violent crime, and the gun laws on the books that we have that President Clinton passed has had a role in that, and much to their chagrin.

ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH: Okay. Well, thank you both very much for being with us.

TANYA METAKSA: Thank you.

RAHM EMMANUEL: Thank you.

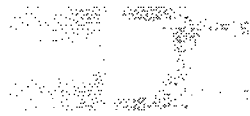
Message Sent To:

Robin J. Bachman 04/07/98 04:48:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP
cc: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP
Subject: ABC: GMA, 4/7/98

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Ruby Shamir

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Dag Vega

04/07/98 08:59:45 AM

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ABC Good Morning America

Aired on APRIL 07, 1998

Interview with RAHM EMANUEL, WHITE HOUSE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER
and WAYNE LAPIERRE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NRA

GIBSON: To further gun control, President Clinton yesterday announced the ban on the import of 58 types of assault weapons. The banned weapons are mainly variations of the AK-47 and Uzi

semiautomatic firearms. The administration calls the ban a necessary move to close a loophole in the law that could allow millions of assault weapons into this country. Anti-gun control advocates say it's the administration's latest assault on the right to bear arms.

And so joining us from Washington this morning, White House senior adviser Rahm Emanuel; also joining us, Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the National Rifle Association. Appreciate both of you being with us.

Mr. LaPierre, let me start with you. These are assault weapons; they are military-style weapons. So why do you think we ought to allow them in this country?

LAPIERRE: Well, let's be clear about one thing, Charlie. I mean, what's at issue is a broad attack on the Second Amendment freedoms of Americans to own firearms, whether American citizens in the future will be allowed to own any rifle, shotgun or handgun.

It seems like every time an incident comes along, anytime the administration wants to change the topic, they try to chip away at the freedom of American citizens to own guns.

What they ought to do is admit that they don't believe Americans have a constitutional right to own firearms and they don't want Americans to own any rifle, shotgun or handgun of any kind.

GIBSON: But he's not banning rifles, shotguns or handguns. He's banning semiautomatic, military-style weapons.

LAPIERRE: Well, the very concept of an assault weapon is a President Clinton media-manufactured myth. The fact is no self-respecting soldier would go into battle with any of these firearms of any kind. They're not more powerful. They don't shoot any faster. They don't shoot any more rounds. They're simply self-loading rifles.

And this is an attempt to undermine the Second Amendment freedom of American citizens to own rifles of any kind.

GIBSON: Mr. Emanuel.

EMANUEL: Well, first of all, these are military weapons, not sporting weapons. The AK-47 and Uzi were designed for military purposes.

Second of all, this is a component of the president's overall anti-crime strategy, which is basically to put 100,000 new community police on the streets, take guns, criminals and drugs off the street.

And third, you know, when we passed the assault weapon ban in 1994, it banned 19 weapons and specifically permitted 650 different types of rifles. And we did this survey. Approximately 2,000 people were questioned; 95 percent of those who are hunting guides specifically said they would never recommend this type of weapon.

This is not a sporting weapon. It's a military weapon.

GIBSON: Mr. Emanuel, why did the president review these weapons, or the government, review these weapons one by one and decide specifically which ones could not come in and which ones could? Why not simply ban, if you believe this, why not ban these military assault weapons as a class?

EMANUEL: Well, specifically, these weapons -- based on the 1968 law, which is the ability to ban the importation of weapons that do not make the sporting purposes. Democratic and Republican presidents -- Reagan, President Bush, President Johnson and also President Clinton -- have all used that clause and invoked that clause to ban particular types of weapons.

I mean, Ronald Reagan did it for riot control weapons. President Bush did it for automatic rifles as well. And President Clinton's following pursuit here.

These weapons were redesigned in a particular modified form just to simply try to skirt the 1994 assault weapon ban that the president passed over the objections of the NRA. And the NRA has always, always invoked this scare tactic that somehow we're trying to take people's guns away.

GIBSON: Let me go back to Mr. LaPierre.

Why don't you simply accept the president at his word that he simply wants to get these weapons off the street that put the public at risk? And why do you keep raising this issue of handguns and shotguns and rifles when the president has made no move to do anything about that?

LAPIERRE: Well, he is right now. I mean, he assured Congress that he would not expand this ban,

Charlie, and assured them that he was not after self-loading rifles. What he was after was guns that had these cosmetic features.

Well, the cosmetic features have been dropped. Now, he's simply trying to ban self-loading rifles.

But what the viewers are concerned about is safety. And you ran a wonderful story last night on the -- Peter Jennings did -- talking about children that receive education are much safer around firearms than don't. And the NRA is spending millions in a cooperative effort with parents and teachers and police departments to teach kids safety.

But what this administration...

GIBSON: I'm sorry. I apologize, because I'm going to run out of time and I want to give Mr. Emanuel the last 15 seconds.

EMANUEL: Well, look, I mean, one of the things that we disagree with the NRA, they always try to make it a choice. And the fact is you have to teach people safety.

On the other hand, there are particular weapons, like the assault weapon ban, that need to be banned. They're not meant for sporting. And Wayne knows that.

GIBSON: OK. Rahm Emanuel, thank you very much.

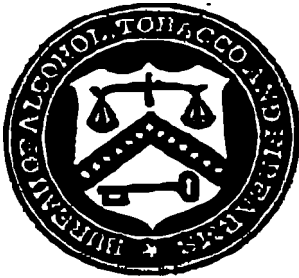
Wayne LaPierre, appreciate it.

EMANUEL: Thank you.

GIBSON: Always good to have both of you here. Thank you.

END

Message Sent To: _____



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Office of Public Information

ATF News Summary

Friday, April 10, 1998

CNN Interactive 4/10/98

Israeli firm to make Uzi-style weapons in U.S.

10 April 1998

Web posted at: 00:21 GST, New York time (20:21 GMT)

JERUSALEM, April 9 (Reuters) - Israel Military Industries Ltd (IMI) said on Thursday it intends to manufacture in the United States weapons modelled on its Uzi gun to get around opposition in Washington to their import.

A spokesman for the state-owned firm said IMI was discussing a deal with American gun manufacturer O.F. Mossberg & Sons to build the weapon together.

"There is an intention to manufacture them in the United States," the spokesman said.

IMI received permission from U.S. authorities last year to market semi-automatic versions of the Uzi and Galil assault rifle in the United States but protests by U.S. senators have prompted the Israeli government to freeze any sales.

A group of 30 senators expressed concern the guns, banned for import since 1986, would fall into the wrong hands and be used in crimes against civilians and policemen.

IMI worked for more than a year with O.F. Mossberg & Sons to modify the Uzi - used in many Israeli army units - to meet restrictions of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The remodelled guns can fire only a single round with each squeeze of the trigger. U.S. laws aimed at cutting violent crime ban the import of automatic weapons that can empty a magazine in a rapid burst of fire.

May 12, 1998

Mr. Bobby D. Moody
President
International Association
of Chiefs of Police
515 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2357

Dear Bobby:

Thank you for your kind letter on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police regarding the decision to ban the importation of more than 50 modified assault weapons. I appreciate having your organization's support for this important measure.

I look forward to working with the IACP and other members of the law enforcement community to find ways to make our streets safer and our neighborhoods more secure. As we continue to make progress on this vital mission, I am grateful for your dedication and your involvement.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/TFS/RSM/RLM/DC/efr-emu (Corres. #3928025)
(4.moody.bd)

cc: J. Cerda, OPD, 224R OEOP
cc: C. Robinson, OPD, 207 OEOP

**Status Report: Administrative Appeals Relating to
Treasury Policy Decision on Large Capacity Military Magazine Rifle Importation**

May 21, 1998

On April 8, 1998, ATF sent letters to importers whose *import permits* for modified semi-automatic assault rifles had been suspended, advising them that ATF proposed revocation of the permits. The importers were also advised that no final determinations would be made on individual permits until 30 days after the importer's receipt of the letter, during which time importers could challenge the determination. The permits proposed for revocation include both complete firearms and receivers for modified semi-automatic assault rifles. The proposed revocations include receivers for the rifles because receivers are included within the Gun Control Act definition of "firearm" and may be assembled into such rifles.

ATF also sent letters to importers whose *applications for import permits* were suspended on November 14, 1997, advising them of the proposed denial of their applications. These importers were told that they had thirty days from receipt of the letter to challenge the determination.

The 30-day appeal period has ended. Twelve of the 27 importers affected by the proposed revocation of *import permits* have submitted administrative appeals. These appeals relate to 56 of the 73 revoked permits, and cover 558,535 of the 656,280 complete firearms covered by those permits. The appeals also cover 304,800 of the 322,802 receivers covered by revoked permits. None of the 46 importers with pending *applications for import permits* have filed appeals relating to the pending applications.



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

(202) 224-3841

November 7, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that you will soon finalize your Presidential Directive calling for a temporary suspension of permits for the import of military style assault weapons. I respectfully call on you to suspend existing permits as well as future permits.

The Secretary of the Treasury did just that in 1989, temporarily suspending existing and future permits. This suspension was fully upheld by the Court of Appeals in *Gun South, Inc. V. Brady*, 877 F.2d 858, 859 (11th Cir.1989).

We now know that thousands of military-style assault weapons from a variety of countries are entering the United States for commercial sale. These weapons have generally been slightly modified in an attempt to circumvent U.S. Law. However, these weapons clearly violate the 1968 Gun Control Act and the intent of Congress as evidenced by statute, congressional intent and judicial decision, in that they are not "suitable for, or readily adaptable to sporting purposes" [18 USC 925(d)3].

The Hungarian, Romanian and Bulgarian AK-47s are three military-style assault weapons that are now being sold to the public through gun magazines. These weapons are functionally no different than the military-style weapons Congress intended to ban and those weapons prohibited from import by the suspension of 1989: they are capable of firing bullets as fast as the operator can pull the trigger, the pistol grip is designed to allow the weapon to be fired from the hip as opposed to target shooting, with slight alterations they are able to be made fully-automatic, and they are capable of accepting magazines that hold 30, 50, or even 100 bullets. These are weapons that we must keep off our streets.

I would like to again emphasize that these foreign made assault weapons are not designed for hunting or target shooting. Rather they are designed to kill large numbers of people in the shortest amount of time.

Respectfully,

enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1997

TO: Jose Cerda
FROM: Nelson Cunningham 
SUBJECT: Senator Feinstein--Assault Weapons

Mack received the attached handwritten letter from Senator Feinstein. She has asked that her information be passed to the President.

We are providing it to you to pass to the President through the appropriate policy channels.



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Q. Neel
2. Des

November 7, 1997

Mack,

Can you get this to
the President? I believe
there is strong and
wide support for
an executive order that
prohibits all impositions,
present and future,

until it can be
determined whether the
weyams meet the "sporting
test" of the '68 law.

Right now no one knows
exactly what is coming in
or where it is going.

Thanks for your help Mack,
Best,

Danne

The New York Times

EDITORIAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1997

Importing Assault Weapons

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms should not have granted permission to a munitions manufacturer owned by the Israeli Government to sell two types of semiautomatic weapons, the Uzi American and the Galil Sporter, in this country. The prospective sales appear to violate the law and in any case are dangerous to public safety. With police and policy makers struggling to keep assault weapons off the streets, it would be senseless to allow more to come in from abroad.

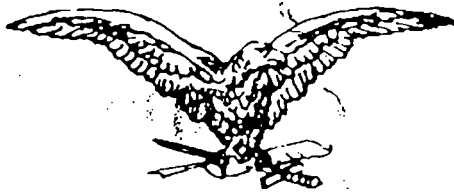
The 1968 Gun Control Act law, which should be the governing statute here, allows only the import of guns that are suitable for, or readily adaptable to, sporting purposes. Although the A.T.F. did not think to invoke the act in this case, it has in the past interpreted "sporting purposes" to mean traditional sports such as hunting, target shooting and skeet shooting. The two Israeli weapons, created by Israel Military Industries Ltd., are modified versions of weapons designed for and used by the Israeli military and other armed forces. They are clearly not intended for hunting or target shooting.

The plain language of the 1968 act would prohib-

it these imports, yet the A.T.F. appears to be relying instead on standards in the 1994 assault weapons ban to approve them. The 1994 law banned the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 kinds of assault weapons and barred the manufacture and sale of other semiautomatics with certain military characteristics such as bayonet mounts, grenade launchers and flash suppressors. Since the two Israeli guns, as modified from the military versions, do not have a requisite number of the banned characteristics, they were approved by the A.T.F. Indeed the two guns could be legally manufactured here, which is testimony to how lax the standards are under the 1994 law.

Even so, there is no indication that Congress intended to override the tougher import test under the 1968 law when it passed the 1994 act. Thirty senators led by Dianne Feinstein of California have urged President Clinton to use his executive authority to suspend the import permits. He should do so before the Israeli manufacturer begins shipping thousands of guns to these shores in the next few months.

LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIALS



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1997

Time for Presidential Boldness

Clinton needs to go the extra mile in controlling assault guns

Yes, President Clinton took a big step Tuesday when he signaled he will impose new limits on the influx of foreign-made assault weapons into this country. But if he intends his directive to close an egregious loophole in the 1994 federal assault gun ban, it should be comprehensive, not only barring future imports that evade the spirit of the law but also any shipments that have already been given import permits. The second-term president has nothing to lose by standing up to the gun lobby on this issue.

His planned crackdown on the importation of modified assault weapons from 15 countries comes in response to determined efforts by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to staunch the flow of these guns. Some 35,000 assault guns entered this country in the past two years, according to the White House. These guns differ only cosmetically from models already banned under federal law, and they are no less deadly.

Though the White House has announced he will sign the directive in the coming days, Clinton may, sadly, be willing to compromise on its scope. He will ask the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to study how some 30

foreign-made modified assault rifles are being used. That study clearly seems an excuse not to act more boldly now.

Feinstein in a letter urged Clinton to temporarily halt the importation of all assault weapons, even those with valid federal import permits, pending the study's findings. That move, entirely within the president's executive authority, would be the far more responsible course and would prevent entry from Israel of several thousand modified Uzi and Galil firearms—what Feinstein calls “the weapon of choice for grievance killers.” Wednesday, four House members sent their own letter urging more aggressive action.

The president will get no credit for this compromise from the National Rifle Assn., which as usual sees the planned directive as evidence of a conspiracy to disarm lawful gun owners. But if he chooses to move more forcefully, he probably will have overwhelming public support. In poll after poll, Americans have agreed strongly on the need for tough limits on assault weapons.

Before the ink dries on his directive, Clinton should rethink any compromise.

Boston Globe

October 6, 1997

A loophole for assault weapons

Despite President Clinton's strong effort to assure that a ban on assault weapons would be included in the 1994 crime bill, he must now take quick action to prevent his own administration from opening a large and unconscionable loophole in the law.

The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has already approved the importation of thousands of Uzi and Galil firearms from Israel and perhaps similar weapons from other countries. The weapons have been modified to skirt the specific prohibitions in the crime bill, but Senator Dianne Feinstein says they still violate an earlier law, the 1968 Gun Control Act, which bars imports of guns that are not "suitable for, or readily adaptable to, sporting purposes."

Feinstein says the guns in question are easily altered into fully automatic assault weapons. She and 29 Senate colleagues, including Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, have urged Clinton to use his executive authority to prevent any

imports of these weapons, at least until their exact nature and the screening process used by ATF are clarified. Clinton should comply.

Uzis have a special cachet among gun enthusiasts because of their high quality, compact size, and firepower. The basic Israeli models are specifically barred from the United States under the 1994 law; the modified version would find a ready market in the United States if it were allowed in.

As Feinstein argues, these weapons were designed to kill people, and that's what they are good at. The altered models require a separate pull on the trigger for each bullet but can still fire rapidly. To say they could be used for hunting or target practice, while not false, is laughable.

Criminals know the uses of these weapons. A score of police officers were killed by them in the years prior to the assault weapons ban, which took effect in May 1995. Since then the rate of killings has dropped sharply. Clinton should act swiftly to prevent a healthy trend from turning deadly again.

Keep Uzis off U.S. streets

Thirty senators ask President Clinton to bar from this country tens of thousands of deadly assault rifles from Israel

SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN and 29 colleagues have made a sensible request of President Clinton: to block the importation of thousands of military-style semiautomatic guns.

The senators also want the president to order the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to resume its review of such deadly imports under terms of the 1968 Gun Control Act, which requires such foreign products to be suitable for sporting use. The Bush administration acted in 1989 to keep many such weapons out of the country after five Stockton schoolchildren were killed and 30 wounded by a man wielding an AK-47 assault rifle.

The former San Francisco mayor's particular concern now is a plan by an Israeli government-owned manufacturer to export tens of thousands of Uzi and Galil assault weapons slightly modified from their original military designs.

These are not sports firearms.

American police officers and civilians should not be asked to face criminals and maniacs brandishing this lethal merchan-

dise from abroad — especially when U.S. law bars such imports. The 1968 statute affecting imports existed for a quarter century before the 1994 act of Congress banning the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of specific types of assault weapons with military characteristics.

Feinstein also called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop the export of Uzis and Galils to this country because "there is a moral issue at stake here that far outweighs any commercial value . . ." She said more than a dozen other countries may be exporting or planning to export similar weapons to this country, while ATF fails to apply the standard of "sporting purposes" used to exclude such undesirable products in the 1980s.

Clinton should remind his bureaucrats of their responsibility to enforce the legislation meant to keep this foreign military weaponry out of U.S. commercial channels. And he must act on his own authority to halt the deadly traffic immediately while the bureaucratic wheels grind. The lives he saves could well be those of schoolchildren and unarmed adults — and of outgunned peace officers.

Jam the semiautomatics

Clinton must act more boldly to slow their spread

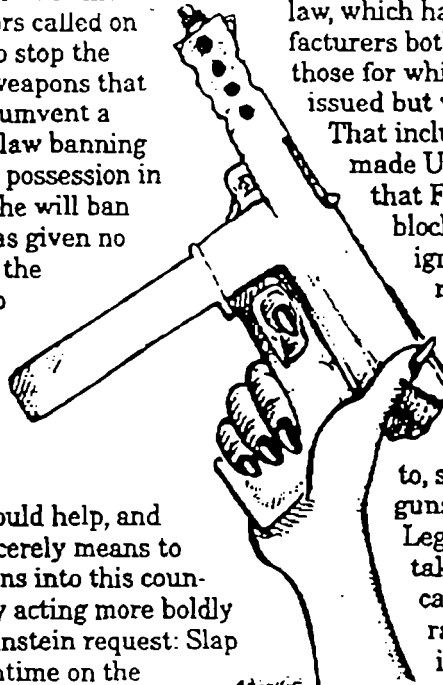
Last month, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and 29 other senators called on President Clinton to stop the import of semiautomatic weapons that have been modified to circumvent a Feinstein-sponsored 1994 law banning their manufacture, sale or possession in this country. Clinton says he will ban such imports, but so far has given no details. He also has asked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to do a study on how some 30 models of modified semi-automatics — so-called "assault" weapons — are now being used.

Perhaps such a study would help, and perhaps the president sincerely means to stanch the flow of such guns into this country. He could prove that by acting more boldly in response to another Feinstein request: Slap a moratorium in the meantime on the import of all such weapons, including those

that meet the too-loose standard of the 1994 law, which has been circumvented by manufacturers both at home and abroad, as well as those for which import licenses have been issued but which have not yet been shipped.

That includes tens of thousands of Israeli-made Uzi and Galil modified weapons that Feinstein has asked Clinton to block if the Israeli government ignores her plea to stop the shipment.

Clinton has legal authority to block imports under a 1968 gun control law that bars from this country any gun that is not suitable for, or easily adaptable to, sporting purposes. None of the guns in question clears that bar. Legislation to close up loopholes may take years; in the meantime, Clinton can act to slow the proliferation of rapid-fire, large-magazine weapons in response to widespread public support for their prohibition.



Maguire • Newsart

A deadly loophole

Clinton should block semiautomatic imports

The name Patrick Purdy may not register with you. But it resonates with the parents of five children who were killed and 30 who were wounded in Stockton eight years ago. Purdy was the madman who sprayed a crowded elementary schoolyard with more than 100 rounds from his AK-47 assault rifle.

The carnage caused President Bush to suspend the importation of more than 40 semiautomatic assault weapons in 1989. In implementing the presidential directive, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) took care to note that federal rules restricting imported weapons to ones used for sporting purposes were not intended "to recognize every conceivable type of activity or competition which might employ a firearm."

In upholding the import ban, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded: "While the bureau must consider the rifles' physical structure, the (1968 Gun Control) Act requires the bureau to equally consider the rifles' use."

In 1994, Congress passed a law that bans the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 different varieties of assault weapons that have certain military characteristics. That sensible statute remains intact, despite a clumsy attempt the following year by the Republican-controlled House to repeal the measure.

Like many gun-control laws, however, these have proved to be porous. The

newest loophole is being exploited by an Israeli-owned munitions manufacturer, which has received permission from the BATF to import thousands of modified Uzi and Galil semiautomatic rifles into this country for commercial sale.

Copycat weapons come with the territory. But the BATF should have been more diligent about giving the munitions firm permission to peddle these lethal weapons in the United States.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., agrees. Author of the 1994 assault weapon ban, Feinstein has fired off a letter to President Clinton imploring him to intervene. The letter also contains the signatures of 30 other senators.

With a stroke of his pen, Clinton could suspend the import permits. He is given that executive authority by the 1968 Gun Control Act, which was passed by Congress after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

The gun lobby clings to the fiction that these weapons present no danger to the public. Despite a mounting body count to the contrary, the NRA would have us believe that Uzis and other semiautomatic weapons are safe in the hands of collectors and sportsmen. Although some sociopath may get his hands on one of these weapons and wreak havoc, the semiautomatic apologists would hasten to argue that is a small price to pay for an armed citizenry that remains our best defense against threats, both foreign and domestic.

Clinton should reject such bogus arguments and block the importation of these semiautomatic weapons so that parents everywhere will not have to worry about the threat posed to their children by another Patrick Purdy.



Patrick Purdy

September 25, 1997

Omaha World-Herald

Assault-Weapons Shipment Not Needed

Twenty-two U.S. senators have urged President Clinton to halt a shipment of thousands of Israeli assault-style weapons to the United States for sale to the public. A leader in the protest, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., has made a similar request to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. We hope the requests are taken to heart. America already has more than enough assault weapons in private hands.

The shipment is being planned by a government-owned firm in Israel. The U.S. government gave its approval after the firm certified that the rifles, modeled on the famous Uzi and Galil weapons used by the Israeli military, had been modified enough to make them legal for import.

Senator Feinstein, a leading sponsor of 1994 restrictions on the importation of assault

weapons, wrote to Netanyahu that the modifications were inconsequential. The weapons proposed for sale, she said, "are functionally no different than the military-style weapons (that) Congress intentionally banned."

The weapons fire as fast as the shooter can pull the trigger, she said. They have a pistol grip, enabling them to be fired from the hip. They accept a magazine holding up to 100 rounds, and they can easily be converted into fully automatic weapons, which are illegal.

Commerce is commerce. But the Israeli firm's plans plainly violate the spirit of the U.S. ban on importing assault weapons. It would be well if the U.S. government found a way to take back its approval — or if Netanyahu, as an act of friendliness toward an ally, called off the shipment.

St. Petersburg Times

September 29, 1997

Up in arms over Israeli weapons

An Israeli-owned company plans to bypass the congressional assault-weapons ban and sell Uzi-like guns for commercial use in the United States. That has U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., up in arms, for good reason. America's streets are dangerous enough.

Feinstein is battling Israel Military Industries' planned export of tens of thousands of guns modeled after the Uzi and Galil assault weapons used by the Israeli military. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, relying on minor design changes that appear to push the guns outside the federal ban, says its hands are tied. So Feinstein has urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to block

the deal. Her request deserves backing from the White House.

Netanyahu of all people should be sympathetic to the dangers these weapons pose. For years, the United States has sent military equipment and other assistance to help Israel protect its citizens and to stabilize security in the region. Netanyahu knows, more than most leaders, what can happen when assault weapons fall into rogue hands.

Given our efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, the prime minister should take this opportunity to help our police keep the peace on America's streets.

The Hartford Courant.



A8 ♦ THE HARTFORD COURANT ♦ Monday, October 6, 1997

F.O.G.: Friends Of Guns

California is a leading producer of cheap handguns called Saturday night specials. Perhaps that's the reason Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a bill last month that would have required these "junk" weapons to meet safety standards set for imported guns.

The National Rifle Association vigorously opposed the legislation, which may be another reason for Mr. Wilson's veto.

Lawmakers intended the bill as a consumer protection measure, not as a gun control bill per se — though increased prices stemming from higher quality standards may have dampened sales for the easily obtainable weapons. Mr. Wilson argued that the bill would deprive law-abiding people of a chance to buy inexpensive protection from crime.

That's nonsense. His veto will maintain the status quo, allowing cheap, unsafe weapons to be sold to everyone.

Public safety will soon take another blow with the intended export to the United States for com-

mercial sale of tens of thousands of military-style assault weapons modeled after the Uzi and Galil used by the Israeli military. The manufacturer is a company owned by the government of Israel.

The import permit was approved by U.S. authorities on the basis that the weapons were modified just enough from their original design to fall outside the technical definition of weapons banned for sale under U.S. law. But they are functionally no different from the assault weapons banned by Congress: They are capable of firing bullets as fast as the operator can pull the trigger.

Some members of Congress are urging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to stop the export of these weapons, which are prized by criminals. They should also ask U.S. authorities to revoke the import permit.

Americans don't want thousands more assault weapons and Saturday night specials flooding onto the streets.

A8**Monday, October 27, 1997****The Pantagraph****Independent in everything,
neutral in nothing.**

Founded Jan. 14, 1837, by Jesse W. Fell

Donald R. Skaggs
PublisherBill Wills
Managing Editor/EditorialJan Dennis
Managing Editor/News**Import of assault weapons
circumvents 1994 gun law**

The 1994 federal crime bill bans assault weapons. It also describes what firearms are classified as assault weapons and specifically prohibits importation of Uzis from Israel.

President Clinton strongly backed the law and his support made its passage possible. But now his own administration is shooting the measure full of loopholes.

For reasons yet to be determined, the hapless federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has approved the importation of thousands of Galil and Uzi firearms from Israel and elsewhere.

The trigger mechanism on those weapons has been slightly modified to circumvent the specifications of the 1994 law. But it can be readjusted easily to produce bursts of rapid fire.

Moreover, these weapons may vio-

late the 1968 Gun Control Act, which bars weapons not suitable for sporting purposes.

Assault weapons are not used for hunting.

It is hypocritical to claim true sportsmen have the need — or constitutional right — to carry an Uzi.

Yet if those weapons are allowed to enter the United States, they will find a ready market among criminals. That must not happen.

At least 30 U.S. senators have urged Clinton to use his executive authority to prevent the import of these weapons. The president should do so.

Once that is accomplished, Clinton should instruct the Treasury Department to review the ATF's obviously flawed regulatory policies. People in this country need fewer, not more, guns.

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10/10/97 TGMGZTWM A10			ALLNEWSPLUS
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Telegram & Gazette Worcester, MA
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Friday, October 10, 1997

EDITORIAL

IN OUR OPINION

No Uzis for "hunters" // Import of assault weapons must be halted

The 1994 federal crime bill bans assault weapons. It also describes what firearms are classified as assault weapons and specifically prohibits the importation of Uzis from Israel.

President Clinton strongly backed the law and his support made its passage possible. But now his own administration is shooting the measure full of loopholes.

For reasons yet to be determined, the hapless federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has approved the importation of thousands of Galil and Uzi firearms from Israel and elsewhere.

The trigger mechanism on those weapons has been slightly modified to circumvent the specifications of the 1994 law. But it can be readjusted easily to produce bursts of rapid fire.

Moreover, these weapons may violate the 1968 Gun Control Act that bars weapons that are not suitable for sporting purposes.

Even though the National Rifle Association and its supporters want people to believe assault weapons are for hunting or target practice, they are produced for one purpose only: to kill people.

It is hypocritical to claim true sportsmen have the need - or constitutional right - to carry an Uzi.

Yet if those weapons are allowed to enter the United States, they will find a ready market among gun nuts and criminals. That must not happen.

At least 30 U.S. senators, including Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry, have urged Clinton to use his executive authority to prevent the import of these weapons. The president should do so.

10/10/97 TGMGZTWM A10

(Publication page references are not available for this document.)

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

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OCT 16 1997

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Editorial Roundup

Assault on Gun Imports

duy
The name Patrick Purdy may not register with you.

But it resonates with the parents of five children who were killed and 30 who were wounded in Stockton eight years ago. Purdy was the madman who sprayed a crowded elementary school yard with more than 100 rounds from his AK-47 assault rifle.

The carnage caused President George Bush to suspend the importation of more than 40 semiautomatic assault weapons in 1989. In implementing the presidential directive, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took care to note that federal rules restricting imported weapons to ones used for sporting purposes were not intended "to recognize every conceivable type of activity or competition which might employ a firearm."

In upholding the import ban, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded: "While the bureau must consider the rifles' physical structure, the [1968 Gun Control] Act requires the bureau to equally consider the rifles' use."

In 1994, Congress passed a law that bans the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 different varieties of assault weapons that have certain military characteristics.

That sensible statute remains intact, despite a clumsy attempt the following year by the Republican-controlled House to repeal the measure.

Like many gun-control laws, however, these have proved to be porous. The newest loophole is being exploited by an Israeli-owned munitions manufacturer, which has received permission from the BATF to import thousands of modi-

fied Uzi and Galil semiautomatic rifles into this country for commercial sale.

Copycat weapons come with the territory. But the BATF should have been more diligent about giving the munitions firm permission to peddle these lethal weapons in the United States.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., agrees. Author of the 1994 assault weapon ban, Feinstein has fired off a letter to President Clinton imploring him to intervene. The letter also contains the signatures of 30 other senators.

With a stroke of his pen, Clinton could suspend the import permits. He is given that executive authority by the 1968 Gun Control Act, which was passed by Congress after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

The gun lobby clings to the fiction that these weapons present no danger to the public. Despite a mounting body count to the contrary, the National Rifle Association would have us believe that Uzis and other semiautomatic weapons are safe in the hands of collectors and sportsmen.

Although some sociopath may get his hands on one of these weapons and wreak havoc, the semiautomatic apologists would hasten to argue that is a small price to pay for an armed citizenry that remains our best defense against threats, both foreign and domestic.

Clinton should reject such bogus arguments and block the importation of these semiautomatic weapons so that parents everywhere will not have to worry about the threat posed to their children by another Patrick Purdy.

— San Diego Union Tribune



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That Was Then, This is Now

**The NRA and the Gun Industry Talk About
Assault Weapons—From Both Sides of Their Mouths**

**Tom Diaz
Senior Policy Analyst**

© November 1997

Introduction

Semi-automatic assault weapons are civilian versions of military assault rifles (like the AK-47, UZI, and M-16) and pistols (like the MAC-10). Military assault weapons were designed so that soldiers could "spray-fire" a large number of bullets over a broad killing zone, without having to aim at each individual target. Their increased firepower is the result of their ability to accept high-capacity ammunition magazines (also known as "clips") which can hold up to 100 rounds. When one clip is emptied, it can be ejected and replaced by the shooter with a fresh clip in seconds. Their ability to be spray-fired from the hip is the result of a set of features that allow a "point-and-shoot" grip and help control recoil so the shooter can "hose down" a wide area. Civilian assault guns maintain the key design features that make this deadly spray firing easy. These features include:

- pistol grips (including so-called "thumb-hole stocks" and magazines that function like pistol grips); and,
- barrel shrouds, vented tubes surrounding barrels (which can become too hot to hold during rapid fire), which remain cool enough to be directly grasped by the shooter.

Some assault guns also feature folding stocks, which make the gun more concealable and easier to hold in a from-the-hip firing position, grenade launchers, bayonet mounts, and threaded barrels for adding silencers and flash suppressors (to reduce flash from the muzzle at night).

The ability to quickly lay down a high volume of fire makes semi-automatic assault weapons particularly dangerous in civilian use, and explains why terrorists, mass killers, and violent criminals favor them. It also distinguishes them from true hunting or target weapons.

In its efforts to stop restrictions on the production and sale of semi-automatic assault rifles, pistols, and shotguns, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has worked with members of America's gun industry to deceive the American public as to the special threat posed by assault weapons. In this battle, four myths have been posited by the NRA and the industry:

- Gun experts say there is no such thing as a civilian assault weapon.
- Assault weapons merely "look different" than traditional semi-automatic rifles and shotguns and have been singled out for their cosmetic differences.

- A "true" assault weapon is a selective-fire military weapon, capable of full-auto fire.
- Assault weapons pose no threat to America's police.

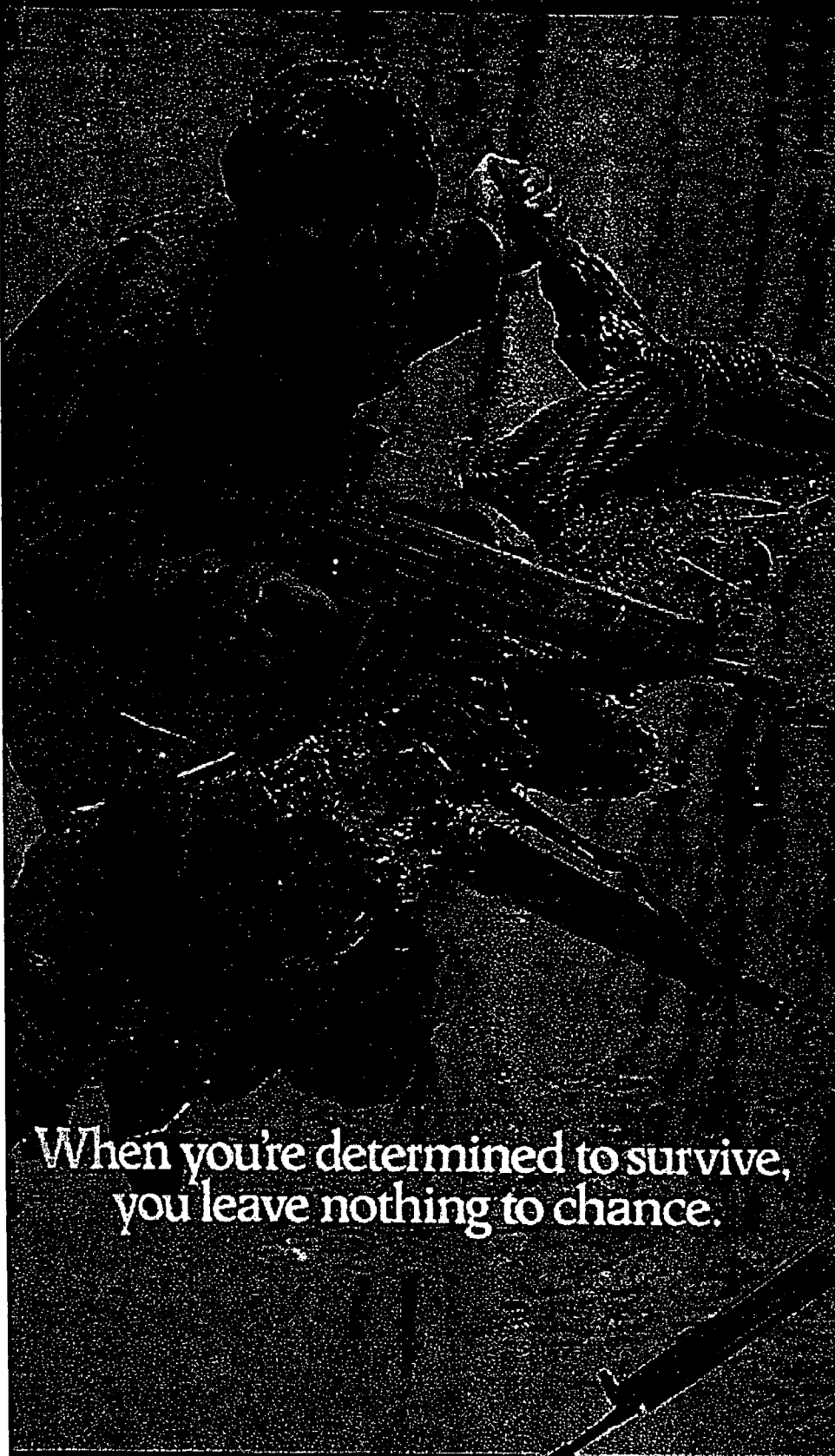
These four myths are easily refuted by the facts surrounding semi-automatic assault weapons and *much of the information debunking these false claims actually comes from the NRA and the gun industry*. Throughout the 1980s, the NRA, the firearms industry, and the gun press talked enthusiastically about "assault rifles" and "assault pistols" and openly acknowledged the guns' differences from traditional sporting weapons. This changed in 1989 when legislative efforts to restrict assault weapons began in the wake of Patrick Purdy's Stockton, California schoolyard massacre. Purdy, armed with a semi-automatic AK-47 assault rifle, killed five schoolchildren. Twenty-nine others, including a schoolteacher, were wounded. Writers and industry members who had proudly pointed to the guns' military heritage and applications now reversed themselves and began portraying these weapons of war as misunderstood ugly ducklings. The reality is that assault weapons are treated differently than other semi-automatic firearms for a simple reason: they are different.

Myth One

Gun Experts Say There is No Such Thing as a Civilian Assault Weapon

The NRA, the gun industry, the gun press, and other pro-gun "experts" today claim that there is no such thing as a civilian assault weapon. But before the guns came under fire, these same experts enthusiastically described these civilian versions of military weapons as "assault rifles," "assault pistols," and "military assault" weapons. For example:

- In 1982, *Guns & Ammo* published a book titled *Assault Rifles*, advertising "Complete Data On The Best Semi-Automatics."¹ In 1988 *Guns & Ammo* handgun expert Jan Libourel defined an "assault pistol" simply as, "A high-capacity semi-automatic firearm styled like a submachine gun but having a pistol-length barrel and lacking a buttstock."²
- Gun magazines also specifically praised the spray fire features of civilian assault weapons. For example, a 1989 *Guns & Ammo* review of the "Partisan Avenger .45 Assault Pistol" noted that when the gun "is fired rapidly from the hip, its swivelling front grip makes for easy and comfortable control of the recoil," and that the "forward pistol grip extension of this powerful assault pistol not only helps point it instinctively at the target but goes a long way to controlling the effects of recoil...."³ *Guns & Ammo* also found point shooting from the hip to be "surprisingly easy" with the HK 94 9mm Carbine.⁴ A 1990 review in the NRA's *American Rifleman* of the Sites Spectre HC Pistol said, "A gun like the Spectre is primarily intended for hip-firing...."⁵ The same magazine's 1993 review of the Steyr Mannlicher SPP Pistol reported, "Where the SPP really shines is in firing from the hip...."⁶
- A cottage industry of accessory suppliers sprang up, all of which targeted ads soliciting owners of civilian "assault weapons."⁷
- The gun industry deliberately used the military character of semi-automatic "assault weapons" and the lethality-enhancing utility of their distinctive characteristics as selling points. The German company Heckler & Koch, for example, published ads in 1984 calling their civilian guns "assault rifles" and stressing their military lineage. "The HK 91 Semi-Automatic Assault Rifle from Heckler & Koch...was derived directly from the G3," a German army weapon, said one ad.⁸ Another ad that year described the HK 94 Carbine as "a direct offspring of HK's renowned family of MP5 submachine guns."⁹ A 1989 Intratec ad said the company's TEC-9 "clearly stands out among high capacity assault-type pistols."¹⁰ And in 1982 Magnum Research advertised that the Galil rifle system to which it had import rights "outperformed every other assault rifle."¹¹



When you're determined to survive,
you leave nothing to chance.

In a survival situation, you want the most uncompromising weapon that money can buy. The HK 91 Semi-Automatic Assault Rifle from Heckler & Koch.

The HK 91 was derived directly from the G3. Its delayed roller-locked bolt system reduces recoil to keep the gun on target. It exceeds the most stringent NATO accuracy requirements—right out of the box. And HK's revolutionary scope mounting system guarantees that you're still zeroed-in every time you mount your scope.

Easy to maintain and take apart, the HK 91 in cal. 308 and the HK 93 in cal. 223 were both designed as parts of an integrated gun system. The HK system of interchangeable parts and accessories enables these precision firearms to adapt quickly to changing tactical situations.

Leading military operations and law enforcement agencies around the world rely on firearms that bear the H&K name. Your choice is equally clear. You can carry an ordinary weapon. Or own the most uncompromising firearm in the world.

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color brochure,
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Heckler & Koch, Inc.
14601 Lee Road
Chantilly, Virginia 22021
Tel. 703-631-2800

In a world of compromise, some men don't.

Myth Two

Assault Weapons Merely "Look Different"

While it is true that the "actions" or internal mechanisms of all semi-automatic guns are similar, the actions of assault weapons are part of a total design package that promotes "spray fire"—unlike true sporting guns. Assault weapons look different because they are different—*their looks reflect the fact that they are designed to kill people efficiently.*

And while the NRA and the gun industry today put themselves through tortured gyrations in their attempts to justify the "sporting use" of assault guns, early reviews of these weapons noted their limited sporting value:

- In 1987 the NRA's *American Rifleman* magazine reviewed the Calico M-100 rifle and concluded, "The M-100 is certainly not a competition gun, hardly a hunting gun, and is difficult to visualize as a personal defense gun."¹²
- In 1983, *Guns & Ammo* reviewed the Heckler & Koch HK 94 rifle and reported, "You certainly aren't going to enter any serious, formal matches with it...."¹³

During this period, the gun industry also actively promoted the intimidating looks of assault weapons as a sales booster:

- A 1989 *Guns & Ammo* review of the A.A. Arms AP9 praised the appeal of the gun's "wicked looks" to *teenagers*, noting "it is one mean-looking dude, considered cool and Ramboish by the teenage crowd....Take a look at one. And let your teen-age son tag along. Ask him what *he* thinks. And be sure to carry your checkbook."¹⁴ [emphasis in original]
- In 1985 *Guns & Ammo* expert Garry James noted in his review of Colt's 9mm AR-15 rifle that "the intimidation factor of a black, martial-looking carbine pointing in one's direction cannot be underestimated."¹⁵
- In 1983 *Guns & Ammo* writer Howard French said of the HK 94 9 mm Para Carbine that "you would not get much static from an intruder eyeballing its rather lethal appearance."¹⁶
- 1981 C.A. Inc. advertisements for the Mark 45 and Mark 9 "Tommy-Gun" style carbines explicitly made the point that a "show of force can be stopping power worth having."¹⁷

Notice the big barrel on this carbine. Forty-five caliber to be exact, a size considered ideal for sheer stopping power. Or blowing a can away.

As a sporting rifle, the CA Mark 45 semi-automatic carbine makes a lot of sense. It's light handling, fires with great accuracy, little recoil and little noise. But without the danger

of long range ammo. For plinking, it's a blast.

The Mark 45 was engineered with military practicality for toughness and reliability at low cost. So its appearance is somewhat formidable, an advantageous deterrent if you also need a gun for protection. A show of force can be stopping power worth having.

Write for free brochure CA with details on 45 cal. or 9mm models, grips, cases, clips, sights and slings.

Stopping power

\$195⁰⁰

Horizontal or vertical front grip models

Legal for private ownership

MARK 9

9 MM SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE

MARK 45

45 CAL. SEMI-AUTOMATIC CARBINE

Manufactured in U.S.A.
Nickel plate optional, add \$30.00 to above price.

CA Inc.
Distributed by:
C.A. Inc.
P.O. Box 10214
Knoxville, TN 37919
615/523-3393

92 GUNS & AMMO/MARCH 1981

Myth Three

A "True" Assault Weapon is a Selective-Fire Military Weapon

The full-auto "issue" is a red herring that was raised by the NRA and the gun industry only *after* public attention began to focus on the increasing death and violence associated with semi-automatic versions of these weapons.

The NRA and the gun industry are correct that military assault weapons often have a "selective fire" feature. This allows the shooter to switch between full-auto fire (fires repeatedly as long as the trigger is held back) or semi-automatic fire (the trigger must be pulled for each round fired). It is also true that civilian assault weapons do *not* have automatic fire capability (federal law severely restricts the sale and possession of machineguns by civilians). But semi-automatic assault weapons are *still* unacceptably dangerous because:

- *They keep the generic features that make them ideal for rapidly laying down a withering field of fire.* As the leading pro-assault weapons expert Duncan Long wrote in his 1986 book, *Assault Pistols, Rifles and Submachine Guns*:

The next problem arises if you make a semiauto-only model of one of these selective-fire rifles. According to the purists, an assault rifle has to be selective fire. Yet, if you think about it, it's a little hard to accept the idea that firearms with extended magazines, pistol grip stock, etc., cease to be assault rifles by changing a bit of metal.¹⁸

- *Military and civilian experts agree that semi-automatic fire is actually more—not less—likely to hit the target than is automatic fire, and is thus more deadly.¹⁹ Regardless, a person of moderate skill can fire a semi-automatic assault weapon at an extremely fast rate of fire.²⁰*
- *Many semi-automatic assault weapons can easily be converted to automatic fire with home tools and modest skill.*

DUNCAN LONG

ASSAULT PISTOLS, RIFLES AND SUBMACHINE GUNS



© 1994 by Duncan Long

The next problem arises if you make a semiauto-only model of one of these selective-fire rifles. According to the purists, an assault rifle has to be selective fire. Yet, if you think about it, it's a little hard to accept the idea that firearms with extended magazines, pistol grip stock, etc., cease to be assault rifles by changing a bit of metal.

Myth Four

Assault Weapons Pose No Threat to America's Police

A favorite argument made by the NRA and the gun industry in attempting to overturn the federal ban on assault weapons is that such weapons pose little or no threat to our nation's police officers.

In fact, in 1995, one in 10 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty was felled by an assault weapon as defined in the "Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994."²¹ This grim statistic is consistent with the real-world experience of cops on the beat. As Baltimore City Drug Enforcement Officer Gerald Hensley testified in 1995 before the House Judiciary Committee's Crime Subcommittee:

Since joining the Police Department, I have seen the firepower of criminals, particularly drug dealers, grow from small caliber revolvers to military-style weapons which can shoot 30 bullets in less than ten seconds. In my years of service I have personally encountered assault weapons on several occasions....I participated in the service of a search and seizure warrant at a drug house where we found and confiscated a semi-automatic TEC-9. The weapon, which was fully loaded with 30 rounds, was on the bottom shelf of a closet in a bedroom occupied by children. In May of 1991, I myself was threatened by a semi-automatic TEC-9. While on a routine patrol of a suspected drug area, my two partners and I noticed suspicious activity. While my two partners went in the back way, I went in the front. As I entered the house I noticed a gunman lying in wait for my partners with the TEC-9. I shouted to him and he turned and prepared to shoot me. Before he could, I shot and killed him.²²

Furthermore, The Urban Institute's 1997 evaluation of the federal assault weapons ban found that the number of murders of police officers perpetrated with assault weapons is higher than that for civilian gun murders.²³ When they are available, assault weapons are the preferred weapons of cop killers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, assault weapons constitute a specific class of firearm incorporating design characteristics intended to enhance their utility as killing machines. The veil of obstinance and false argument the NRA and the gun industry attempt to hide behind today is pierced not only by the real-world testimony of law-enforcement personnel, but by their own enthusiastic words as recorded in pro-gun publications since the early 1980s. Nothing about the weapons has changed, only the politics.

Endnotes

1. Advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (July 1982), p. 20.
2. "Handgunner's Glossary," *Guns & Ammo* (August 1988), p. 42.
3. "Partisan Avenger .45 Assault Pistol," *Guns & Ammo Handgun Annual* (1989), pp. 26-30.
4. "H&K's 9 mm Para Carbine," *Guns & Ammo* (November 1983), p. 44.
5. "Sites Spectre HC Pistol," *American Rifleman* (December 1990), p. 58.
6. "Steyr Mannlicher SPP Pistol," *American Rifleman* (August 1993), p. 72; see also, "Colt's 9mm AR-15," *Guns & Ammo* (July 1985), p. 76 ("fired from the hip.... about as natural a pointer as you can get.").
7. See, e.g., Assault Systems advertisements in *Guns & Ammo* (July 1981), p. 90 ("assault rifle case"), 92 ("lightweight assault bipod"); (November 1983), p. 101 ("assault rifle cases" and "padded assault rifle sling"); Beeman advertisement in *Guns & Ammo* (December 1982), p. 14 ("Beeman Short Scopes...New for Assault Rifles to Airguns...Use on assault rifles...."); Ventech Inc. advertisement for "Assault Weapon Accessories" in *Guns & Ammo* (February 1991), p. 96 ("Mini-14...10/22...AR-7....").
8. Heckler & Koch advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (July 1984), p. 9.
9. Heckler & Koch advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (June 1984), back cover.
10. Intratec advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (January 1989), p. 77.
11. Magnum Research advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (November 1982), p. 59. See also, e.g., advertisement by Paragon S&S Inc. for AR 10, *Guns & Ammo* (July 1981), p. 90 ("Used world wide by military and LAW ENFORCEMENT officers. This famous assault rifle is now available in a semi-auto form!").
12. "Calico M-100 rifle," *American Rifleman* (January 1987), p. 61.
13. "H&K's 9 mm Para Carbine," *Guns & Ammo* (November 1983), p. 44.
14. "A.A. Arms AP9 Assault Pistol," *Guns & Ammo Handgun Annual* (1989), p. 51.
15. "Colt's 9mm AR-15," *Guns & Ammo* (July 1985), p. 76.
16. "H&K's 9 mm Para Carbine," *Guns & Ammo* (November 1983), p. 42.
17. CA Inc. advertisement, *Guns & Ammo* (March 1981), p. 92.

18. Duncan Long, *Assault Pistols, Rifles and Submachine Guns* (Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press 1986), p. 1.
19. See, "How Effective is Automatic Fire?," *American Rifleman* (May 1980), pp. 30-31, 80.
20. See, e.g., "Calico M-100 rifle," *American Rifleman* (January 1987), p. 61 ("the full 100 rounds were sent downrange in 14 seconds by one flicker-fingered tester.")
21. Jeffrey A. Roth and Christopher S. Koper, et al., *Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994: Final Report* (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute 1997), p. 107.
22. Kristen Rand, *Cop Killers: Assault Weapon Attacks on America's Police* (Washington, DC: Violence Policy Center 1995), p. 7-8.
23. Jeffrey A. Roth and Christopher S. Koper, et al., *Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994: Final Report* (Washington, DC: The Urban Institute 1997), p. 108.



NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION

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November 16, 1997

William J. Clinton, President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton

The National Troopers Coalition, NTC, represents approximately 45,000 state police and highway patrol officers nationwide. On behalf of our membership I want to thank you for your recent ban on the importation of the military type weapons into this country.

There is no doubt that at least some of these weapons would have gotten into the wrong hands and caused either death or injury and destroy lives. We in law enforcement, both as victims and investigators of crime, know to well what a gun in the wrong hands can do.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,


James A. Rhinebarger,
Chairman

NOV 21 1997

**President Clinton:
Working to Keep Crime Rates Down and Assault Weapons Out**

- **Today's radio address:** The President highlighted two important issues in his weekly radio address:

(1) a new Department of Justice report showing continued and meaningful gains in the nation's fight against crime; and

(2) a temporary suspension on the importation of certain assault-type weapons.

- **Crime rates at lowest levels since 1973.** Earlier this morning, the Department of Justice released the 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and its findings are more good news for the American people. The NCVS shows that, in 1996, crime victimization rates continued their downward trend, and -- in fact -- reached their lowest level since 1973. Both the murder and violent crime rates plummeted 10% in 1996, and property crimes dropped 8%. Rapes and car thefts were down even more.

Overall, since 1993, violent and property crimes have dropped 16% and 17%, respectively. The murder rate has dropped 22% during that same period.

- **Most Americans benefitting from lower crime rates.** The NCVS also shows that, since 1993, the reduced rates of crime victimization were being experienced equally by men, women and different racial and income groups throughout the country. And the sharp declines in murder are being experienced by cities of all sizes -- and all regions of the country.
- **Falling crime rates are no coincidence.** There is no mystery behind the continued and dramatic reduction in crime rates since 1993. Thousands of communities across the country have embraced tough, smart crime strategies. That is why this Administration fought to pass a crime bill that gave these communities the tools they asked for -- more police, tougher punishments, better prevention and fewer guns in the hands of criminals.
- **Enforcing our gun laws.** The President also signed a directive to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are allowed into the country. He directed the Treasury Department to temporarily suspend the importation of 30 models of assault-type weapons, and review whether or not these weapons comply with the law. Permits to import more than 1.5 million of these weapons will be put on hold until this review is completed.

**Crime Radio Address
Questions and Answers
November 15, 1997**

Modified Assault Weapons Directive

Q. What are you directing the Treasury Department to do with respect to the modified assault-type weapons that have been reported in the press? How many and what kinds of firearms are at issue?

A. Over the past few years, firearms manufacturers have modified, or “sporterized”, certain dangerous assault weapons to circumvent the ban on their importation required by the 1968 Gun Control Act and the 1994 Crime Bill. There are about 30 models of these firearms that are being manufactured in about 12 different countries, including modified Uzis, Galils and AK-47s. While only a limited number of these weapons have been imported to date -- and about 20,000 so far this year -- permits have been approved to import 600,000 more of these weapons and applications are now pending to import one million more.

The number of weapons involved underscores the potential threat to the public safety and necessitates that we take immediate action. The President’s directive orders the Treasury Department to: 1) Immediately conduct an expedited 120-day review to determine whether modified assault weapons are properly importable under current law; and 2) Suspend outstanding permits on modified assault weapons until the review is complete. Thus, until the review is complete, the permits to import more than 1.5 million of these weapons will be put on hold.

In the past, this Administration has used every tool available to keep millions of non-sporting, military surplus and other firearms posing a threat to public safety from entering the country and flooding our streets:

- In 1993, President Clinton banned the importation of assault pistols and toughened requirements for federal gun dealers.
- In 1994, the President banned the importation of millions of assault-type weapons and ammunition clips from China.
- The President fought for and signed the Assault Weapons Ban into law as part of the historic 1994 omnibus crime bill.
- The Clinton Administration successfully fought back repeated attempts by Congress to allow the importation of millions of military surplus weapons.

The President's actions have helped to ensure that criminals are not better armed than our police. And we believe that due in part to our efforts, last year fewer police officers were slain in the line of duty than in any year since 1960.

Q. Doesn't this directive really amount to a revocation of permits that ATF already approved?

A. The directive does not revoke already approved permits, but suspends them for the duration of the Treasury Department's 120-day review. At the end of Treasury's review, existing permits will be revoked only if the Treasury Department determined that a particular weapon does not meet the statutory test for importation. Moreover, the importer would have an opportunity to make its case to Treasury before any permit would be revoked.

The most important point of this directive is to ensure that -- in light of the new assault-type weapons that are coming into the country -- we are making every effort to guarantee that only legitimate sporting weapons that comply with the law enter into the country. That's the point of Treasury's review.

Q. Why didn't you just take action prospectively and suspend pending and future applications for permits?

A. Limiting our action to the pending applications to import one million firearms-- but allowing the importation of nearly 600,000 of these modified assault weapons under outstanding permits-- threatens to defeat the purpose of the overall review. That is why we are taking action similar to the 1989 Bush Administration decision to suspend already granted permits until completion of the agency's review process. We have roughly the same number of weapons importable under already granted permits as did the Bush Administration in 1989, but today we are faced with pending applications to import roughly ten times more firearms.

Q. Does this mean that you are already planning to permanently ban these firearms from importation?

A. Not necessarily. The directive does not tell the Treasury Department what guns should or should not be allowed into the country. However, pursuant to the 1968 Gun Act, the Treasury Department has an obligation to ensure that only legitimate sporting weapons are imported. Thus, the proposed 120-day review will determine what changes, if any, are needed to continue enforcing this provision of law. And ultimately, those firearms that fail to meet the sporting purposes test will be permanently banned. If an importer has an approved permit for a banned weapon, their permit will be revoked only after they have had an opportunity to make their case before the Treasury Department.

Q. Why did the President take so long to sign the directive?

- A. This is not an action the President takes lightly and we needed sufficient time to explore our options and to consider the implications of taking such a bold move. In addition, we received letters signed by about 60 members of Congress who argued that these weapons are not properly importable -- and we wanted to make sure we consulted with some of these members before proceeding. That being said, we moved as quickly as possible to finalize the final directive, and Treasury is now instructed to conduct their review as expeditiously as possible.

Q. Can you comment further on the reported friction between the White House and ATF? Will this have any impact on the final outcome of the review process?

- A. I really don't think there is much more to add. As was confirmed in Thursday's press briefing, some permits were approved during the time that the White House and Treasury were considering the directive that the President signed today. I don't think that anyone at the White House or Treasury or ATF was pleased about that breakdown in communication, but -- frankly -- the reported reactions to this incident have been greatly exaggerated. More importantly, it's all a moot point now. The directive signed by the President temporarily suspends all permits until the Treasury Department completes its review.

Crime Victimization Survey

Q. What were the most significant findings in the 1996 crime data released today?

- A. The 1996 National Crime Victimization Survey released by the Department of Justice confirms that crime is continuing to fall across the board and to the benefit of most Americans. Crime victimization rates fell to their lowest points since the inception of the National Crime Victimization Survey in 1973. Both the murder and violent crime rates plummeted 10% in 1996, and property crimes fell 8%. Rapes and car thefts were down even more. The decreases are even more significant when viewed over time: since 1993, violent and property crime rates dropped 16% and 17%, respectively, and murder rates dropped a whopping 22%.

The survey also shows that since 1993, reduced crime victimization rates were being experienced equally by men, women, and different racial and income groups throughout the country. And the sharp declines in murder are being felt by cities of all sizes and all regions of the country.

When the President first took office, he made a commitment to take our streets back from crime and violence through a comprehensive anti-crime plan. That's why the President fought to pass a crime bill that gave communities the tools they asked for -- more community police, tougher punishments and fewer guns in the hands of criminals. We think today's numbers show that our combined efforts are making a significant and sustained difference.

Q. Are these crime numbers different from the numbers released by the FBI earlier this year?

A. The numbers are largely the same and both confirm that crime is dropping. Today's statistics are released by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) as part of their annual National Crime Victimization Survey. The National Crime Victimization Survey is a series of in-depth interviews with approximately 100,000 people representing about 50,000 households. The BJS survey measures fewer cases than those contained in the FBI annual report, but in much greater depth. The BJS survey yields vital information about the victims of crimes-- such as their sex, race, age and income level. Importantly, the BJS survey includes many cases which were not reported to the police. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports record those crimes which were actually reported to the police.



NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION

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November 16, 1997

William J. Clinton, President
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton

The National Troopers Coalition, NTC, represents approximately 45,000 state police and highway patrol officers nationwide. On behalf of our membership I want to thank you for your recent ban on the importation of the military type weapons into this country.

There is no doubt that at least some of these weapons would have gotten into the wrong hands and caused either death or injury and destroy lives. We in law enforcement, both as victims and investigators of crime, know to well what a gun in the wrong hands can do.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,


James A. Rhinebarger,
Chairman

NOV 21 1997

Date: 04/06/98 Time: 13:43

CClinton moves to permanently ban imports of modified assault

WASHINGTON (AP) Vowing ``to do our best to keep our people alive,'' President Clinton today closed a loophole through which thousands of foreign-made assault rifles found their way into the United States despite a 1994 ban.

With the White House Rose Garden and a wall of uniformed police officers as a backdrop, Clinton issued an executive order that permanently barred importation of 58 assault weapons that were modified for sport shooting in order to get around the ban. Most of the affected guns are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi semiautomatic weapons.

Clinton hailed an overall drop in violent crime since he took office in 1993, but said much work remains in preventing violence as long as gun manufacturers ``can make minor cosmetic modifications to weapons of war'' and send them onto the streets of America.

``There are still far too many children in harm's way, too many families behind locked doors, too many guns in the hands of too many criminals,'' Clinton said.

Speaking directly to gun makers, the president added, ``You can read the fine print in our law and our regulations all you want, and you can keep making minor changes, but we're going to do our best to keep our people alive and stop you from making a dollar in the wrong way.''

Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., who sponsored the 1994 ban, said he would introduce a resolution in Congress later this month supporting Clinton's action, a maneuver he hoped would thwart an attempt to overturn the ban.

``We can't let a bunch of gun extremists put lives in jeopardy,'' Schumer said. ``They'll continue to prod and poke in a tireless search for new loopholes.''

Clinton's order follows a Treasury Department review of 59 weapons, done in consultation with state game and law enforcement agencies, hunting guides, and publications and groups devoted to hunting and shooting. The review determined that many of the guns in question do not meet requirements under federal law for import for sporting purposes, mainly because they can be fitted with large-capacity magazines.

Only one weapon, the .308-caliber Vepr, was considered acceptable for continued import, a Treasury official said Sunday. The gun is a variant of the AK-47.

Importers will be allowed a 30-day period to appeal the Treasury findings.

In a report last December, the Congressional Research Service said Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms interprets sporting purposes so broadly that many of the weapons allowed entry have features not needed for sport use, such as semi-automatic fire, grips for one-handed combat shooting and large ammunition clips.

Under a 1968 federal law, foreign firearms brought into the United States must be for sporting purposes only, such as target shooting skeet and trap shooting, and hunting. An order issued in 1989 under President Bush bans shipment of assault weapons into the United States, with an exemption if they are used for sport.

Since then, many manufacturers have altered the appearance of their weapons to give them a sporty look that gets them past the ban.

In November, Clinton ordered a 120-day suspension on import permits for about 43 types of military-style rifles and directed Treasury officials to review policies to determine whether there should be further restrictions to block altered assault weapons, which are in high demand.

Last year, firearms importers obtained permits to ship in nearly 600,000 altered guns, and applications were pending for an additional 1 million. Some 20,000 of the 600,000 weapons already have entered the country.

Clinton's order comes at the urging of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who asked him to block an Israeli manufacturer's export to this country of thousands of modified military-style assault weapons. The guns, known as the Uzi American and the Galil Sporter, were modified for sport. ATF officials have said the guns remain capable of firing rapid rounds of ammunition but were approved for import because they were not found to violate the 1994 assault weapons ban.

APNP-04-06-98 1341EDT

Top of page:

Col 1: Feature on dual citizenship.

Col 2: Cops in rural America are twice as likely to be killed in the line of duty as officers in large cities despite the feeling among locals that this is the sort of big-city crime that is not supposed to happen in small towns. (POLICE, moving Monday).

Cols 3-5: Photo of Grand Prix auto race in Long Beach, Calif.

Col 6: A strike threat by actors that could have paralyzed Hollywood over the next few weeks ends when representatives of actors and producers agree to a tentative three-year contract that still leaves unresolved the thorniest issue of how much performers deserve when their work airs on cable TV or in the booming foreign markets. (SAG, moved).

Above fold:

Col 2: Turning a suspension into a ban, the Clinton administration will prohibit importation of 58 models of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles, after a Treasury Department study found that the modifications had not converted them into sporting weapons. (WEAPONS-TIMES, moved).

Below fold:

Cols 3-4: After a long truce, the smog wars are back: national and Southern California officials are feuding over a far-reaching clean-air plan, which maps the path and pace of pollution control in the Los Angeles basin for the next dozen years. (SMOG, moving Monday).

Col 5: The chief government agency responsible for keeping potential spies off U.S. government payrolls believes it has a better way to identify potential turncoats but others fear that instead, traitors might be able to elude capture for longer. (SPIES, moved).

Bottom of page:

Cols 1-2: A boisterous visit by Iranian wrestlers to the United States, a sequel to the groundbreaking trip by U.S. wrestlers to Tehran in February, is the latest in a series of cultural and academic exchanges propelling the United States and the Islamic Republic toward rapprochement after two decades of hostility. (USIRAN, moved).

Cols 4-6: Local feature on housing market

Administration to Prohibit Importation of Assault Weapons (Washn) By Ronald J. Ostrow (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON Turning a suspension into a ban, the Clinton administration Monday will prohibit importation of 58 models of modified semiautomatic assault-type rifles, after a Treasury Department study found that the modifications had not converted them into sporting weapons.

The ban, which importers will have 30 days to appeal, could involve up to 1.6 million firearms, a White House official estimated. It is to be announced at the White House by President Clinton, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Attorney General Janet Reno.

A White House official gave some of the credit for the latest in a series of stiffening actions against assault-type weapons to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and a series of articles by the Los Angeles Times. The stories last year revealed that flawed gun regulations allowed U.S. and foreign manufacturers to modify banned assault weapons to create so-called copycats, which are legal and have different names but are just as deadly.

In the Treasury Department study, which was initiated last November as Clinton ordered the temporary suspension of imports of the modified weapons, all but one of 59 models fell short of being "particularly suitable or readily adaptable" to sporting purposes.

"You don't need an Uzi to go deer hunting, and everyone knows it," Clinton said in announcing the temporary suspension and study. "As effective as the assault-weapons ban has been, we know that some foreign gun manufacturers are getting around the ban by making

minor modifications to their weapons that amount to nothing more than cosmetic surgery."

The bulk of the outlawed modified weapons are AK-47s, but they also include Uzis, the FN-FAL rifle and the SIG SG550 and HK-91 and -93 design types, a Treasury Department official explained.

The AK-47-type weapons are imported from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Egypt, Hungary, Israel and Poland; the FN-FAL from Argentina, Brazil, Greece and Portugal; the HK-91 and HK-93 from Switzerland, Germany, Greece and Portugal; the SIG SG550 from Switzerland; and the Uzi from Israel, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The modified weapon that will be permitted is the AK-47-VEPR, which does not accept large-capacity, military-style magazines, one of the key factors in separating sporting rifles from assault weapons. Those magazines are defined as holding more than 10 rounds of 2.25-inch or smaller ammunition.

In estimating that up to 1.6 million modified imports will be affected, the White House official included more than 1 million importation requests pending at the time of the suspension and up to 600,000 that were held up after having been approved for entry into the country.

Officials cautioned that actual imports can fall far short of the number for which permits are sought.

Tanya Metaksa, chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association voiced unhappiness at the news of the edict. "No firearms in America are protected now that the president himself is deciding which guns will be banned regardless of what laws Congress has passed," she said.

The 1968 Gun Control Act restricted importation of firearms unless they were determined to be particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. In 1989, some 43 assault-type rifles were ordered kept out of the United States.

Manufacturers, however, modified many of the banned weapons to remove certain military features but without changing their essential operational mechanism, Clinton explained in ordering the study and suspension of permits.

These modifications, deemed "cosmetic" by critics, included eliminating bayonet studs, night-sights and flash suppressors.

Citizens' Letters Measure Intensity of Jones Case (Little Rock) By Richard A. Serrano (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. Three years ago, long before U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright created the political firestorm that forever will mark her name, this one-page, badly written letter landed on her desk.

"Dear Sir," the letter began, assuming the judge was a man.

"Why you will cover up President?" the writer demanded. "The American people want that man. How much money you get for the cover up? He is a THIEF and a CROOKED man. The American people have the right to bring this TODAY to court."

The judge stapled the letter to the envelope and filed it inside a folder in the case stamped LR-C-94-290. That case is or was the Paula Corbin Jones sexual harassment suit against President Clinton. Last week, Wright dismissed the lawsuit, which had been set for trial in May.

The case file covers a dozen volumes. Several of those folders, what Wright calls her "correspondence file," are a measure of the intense pressure she faced from a sometimes admiring, other times vitriolic American public since the suit was filed in 1994.

Some of the letters were from women, encouraging her to stand up for their rights, stressing their fear of a setback in equal rights should she rule in favor of Clinton.

Others urged caution, emphasizing the historic and constitutional questions she faced, imploring her not to destroy the sanctity of the presidency.

And, of course, there were the odd letters, some from prisoners pulling her name out of a newspaper story and asking for help, some from writers obviously mentally disturbed.

"She read each letter," said James McCormack, chief clerk of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Jones had claimed that Clinton, while governor of Arkansas, lured her into a hotel room, groped her, exposed himself and asked for oral sex. Jones alleged that her career as a low-level state clerk was ruined by Clinton and others bent on revenge because she thwarted his alleged advances.

In her ruling, Wright termed the behavior alleged by Jones "boorish and offensive." But she also found that even if it were true, it did not rise to the level of sexual assault. And even if it did, Wright

concluded. Jones was never harassed in her job.

What follows is what the public, at least those moved to pen their thoughts, felt important enough to tell the judge.

Some, like Mrs. C. Dunlap of Ohio, drew parallels between the case and other societal problems.

"I am so fed up with what is going on in the U.S.," Dunlap wrote.

Murderers benefiting, and Michael Fay may make \$1,000,000 for getting his bottom tanned. Instead of a punishment, he's getting rewarded." She was referring to a young American who was a hot topic in 1994 when he was caned in Singapore for spray-painting cars.

"Aside from all that, President Clinton needs our support and respect," she continued. "Instead we get this Jones person accusing him. Please dismiss this, and please see if you can do anything about the other thing."

With the case seen as one significant for its impact on women's rights, a woman who identified herself as working for a Baptist missionary emphasized to Wright that Jones was "violated" in that hotel room, regardless of whether Clinton touched her or not.

"How can we know which leaders really care about a woman's rights?" she wrote. "These guys . . . still see women as vehicles for their sexual appetites. When are we going to say to men that they need to control their reaction to short skirts and beautiful faces? The key is CONTROL."

Robert L. Hightower, no address listed, also urged that the case go to trial. "Let us not try to fool the public. We are not dummies. Peasants perhaps, but not stupid."

Flurry of Congressional Activity May Be Misleading (Washn) By Janet Hook and Doyle McManus (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON After months of desultory political chatter, a recent flurry of activity on Capitol Hill suggests that it may be too soon to dub this a Do-Nothing Congress.

But what the Republican-led House and Senate are doing is a far cry from the issues that propelled the GOP to power in 1994. And it seems far removed from the issues that Americans regard as their biggest problems. Call it, instead, a Don't-Rock-the-Boat Congress.

A highway bill bulging with pork-barrel projects. A supplemental appropriation for disaster cleanups. A budget calling for a nominal tax cut. A tobacco bill that was on neither party's radar screen until it was thrust upon them by the tobacco companies and the states.

The whole modest agenda seems to be driven more by forces beyond Congress' control: floods in California, public backlash against smoking, a booming economy than by a clear sense of where either party wants to take the country on issues like drugs, education and health care that rank high among voters' concerns.

The sense of drift is the result of a mix of factors: the weakness of both parties' leadership in Congress, the exhaustion of the Republican revolution's ideological impetus, the distraction of the White House by President Clinton's endless legal battles and the strangely paralyzing prospect of a congressional election in November.

So while Americans across the country are tuning Washington out, even many of the capital's politicians are hardly surprised. "It's no wonder that there's apathy," said Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass.

"You've got a Congress that's been neutered . . . and a president that's been diverted in focus and attention."

After an unusual spate of late-night sessions last week, Congress left town for a long spring recess: the latest break in an election-year calendar that gives lawmakers plenty of time to go home and campaign. Democrats are gleefully promoting the "do-nothing" characterization, calling attention to the fact that the Republican-led Congress has managed to send only 12 finished bills to the White House so far this year. There were no blockbusters among them: four do nothing but name post offices and federal buildings.

President Clinton razzed Republicans all the way from Africa. "This is a Congress with nothing to do and no time to do it."

Preparing his troops for such attacks, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, sent a memo last week to fellow Republicans reminding them of the accomplishments they could tout to constituents. At the top of his list: banking reform. But within hours after the memo was sent, the banking bill was shelved for lack of support.

Arney's boasting points also included House approval of legislation renaming Washington's National Airport after Ronald Reagan, an anti-paperwork measure and aid to California flood victims and to people in other states hit by natural disasters. These may be important bills for Reagan fans, businesspeople and disaster victims, but they are hardly the stuff of a conservative revolution.

The same could be said of the two bills that may become this session's biggest accomplishments. A measure funding highway construction for the next six years and legislation redirecting national tobacco policy are ambitious measures that could have a great direct effect on people's lives. But they are not issues that were high on either party's priority lists.

In fact, many Republicans see these bills as a striking detour from the straight and narrow path that the party promised to follow. Conservative true believers blasted the highway bill as a shameful return to big spending as usual and a threat to Republican efforts to provide a significant tax cut in this year's budget.

"Whatever happened to the promise that government would be made smaller and people's take-home pay would be bigger?" asked Steve Forbes, who is expected to seek the GOP presidential nomination in 2000.

But GOP spin-meisters insist that the transportation bill is consistent with the party's message. "One of the things that made us secure as a nation is highways," said a Republican leadership aide.

The tobacco bill is, in its own way, a big-government initiative that should be anathema to proponents of deregulation. It expands the regulatory power of the Food and Drug Administration to carry out a very intrusive effort to reduce teenage smoking.

The bill also puts Republicans in the awkward political position of repudiating one of the party's biggest financial backers: the tobacco industry.

Movement on both measures was greased by that good old-fashioned political lubricant, money. The highway bill sprinkles road, bridge and transit projects in hundreds of congressional districts. The tobacco deal promises a flood of new revenue for politicians' favorite programs.

The highway and tobacco measures also have the advantage of drawing bipartisan support, unlike many closer-to-home issues such as education and health care, where party lines have been starkly drawn.

Action in those areas has been stymied, in part, by a fact of current political life that will not change before the next election, if then. With a Democrat in the White House and Republicans holding Congress by narrow margins (a mere 12 votes in the House, 10 in the Senate), neither party has the political might to muscle its own agenda through on partisan issues.

Republicans have been promising action later this year on a variety of tax matters, including a tax cut for married couples, overhaul of the Internal Revenue Code and a measure calling for a radical rewrite of the tax code by 2002.

The tax talk may be important to the party's conservative base but polls indicate that the issue is not a priority for other voters.

When a Los Angeles Times Poll in January asked people to identify the most important problem facing the country, only 3 percent said taxes. That was far below the level of concern expressed about such issues as drugs, moral decline, the economy and education.

Asked how the federal budget surplus should be spent, only 12 percent called for cutting taxes, a distant fourth behind those who would shore up Social Security, increase funding for education and reduce the national debt.

Even when this Congress has addressed the issues that people seem to really care about, the debate has seemed more symbolic than real.

Both parties are clamoring to improve American schools, but the bill most likely to clear Congress this year—a new tax incentive to encourage savings for elementary and secondary education expenses—is a modest gesture in the face of a monumental problem, many proponents conceded.

Spy-Screening Agency Proposes Controversial Changes (Washn) By Paul Richter (c) 1998, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON The chief government agency responsible for keeping potential spies off U.S. government payrolls believes it has a better way—one that would cost less money while improving the odds of identifying potential turncoats such as Douglas Fred Groat, a fired CIA officer who was arrested Friday.

But others involved in the spy-catching business fear that instead, traitors might be able to elude capture for longer.

With spy-catching budgets being squeezed, reformers at the Defense Security Service, the agency responsible for checking the reliability of workers in jobs with access to sensitive information, are pushing the efficiency plan. They would substitute quicker—but less thorough—telephone conversations for many of today's in-person interviews of neighbors and social acquaintances.

These efforts to gather information from nongovernmental sources

To Stop the Rain of Gunfire

THE WORLD'S peddlers of outlandishly deadly weapons go to such devious lengths to pump their products into America's criminal market that every attempt to write protections into the law needs constant monitoring. It is this sophisticated subterfuge of firearms suppliers that has led to President Clinton's latest order barring permanently the importation of 58 semiautomatic assault-style weapons that have been finding their way around a 1994 ban. Most of the affected weapons are variations of the AK-47 and Uzi, modified just enough for the NRA and global gun lobbies to try to pass them off as sport-shooting firearms. They aren't—and they don't belong in the sports world, the underworld or anyone's home arsenal.

The gun manufacturers found a loophole in the 1994 law and blew it open enough to drum up a major run on these weapons: Permits are pending or already have been issued for 1.6 million of them—all to be blocked under the new order from coming into the country. Sen. Diane Feinstein, who pressed the president to issue the order, notes that the weapons to be covered under the new ban "are the tools of gang members, grievance killers and those

who go up against police. They do not belong on our streets."

The all-guns-are-good NRA lobbyists don't accept this description, of course, and have promised an attempt to overturn the president's ban in Congress. After all, just because these weapons handle like the assault-style weapons already banned, they shouldn't be kept from needy consumers; besides, the manufacturers have made them look less military by dropping trimmings such as flash suppressors, pistol grips and folding stocks; that until now was enough to keep from being defined as unlawful under the '94 ban.

Any member of Congress pressed by NRA lobbyists to overturn this measure ought ask who really needs these weapons. Is there anyone in the home district who can't live without an imported Uzi knock-off? When these weapons go off, do we hear them on sporting ranges—or in school yards and on the streets? What is the point of allowing these items into the country? Toys for militia groups? More effective tools for cop-killers? Or are lawmakers content to intensify the dangers and augment the grief caused by too many people with too many deadly weapons?

"I am concerned that her attacks on Brimmer were almost set off to put her in this position, almost like she campaigned for this," Davis said. "It may be when the day is over that her record of achievement will outweigh the other concerns."

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), a longtime friend of Newman's, is compiling a list of Democrats who might serve as chairman and has told some people that she would prefer an entirely new panel, sources familiar with the matter said.

Norton, who called for creation of the control board, has been criticized by those opposed to the panel's anti-democratic ways and would receive additional criticism if she did not seriously look for a Democrat to head the panel. Others have said Norton would prefer a control board chairman she could influence more easily than Newman.

"She will only speak with the president and the highest officials in the White House regarding the selection of members of the control board," Norton spokeswoman Donna Brazile said yesterday.

D.C. Council member Kevin P. Chavous (D-Ward 7) said his concerns about having a Republican serve as chairman of the panel have been minimized by the constructive working relationships Newman has developed with the council over the last several years.

"I've enjoyed working with Connie Newman," Chavous said. "She has been the member most receptive to working with the elected leadership. She clearly has the skills to be reappointed and to be considered for chair."

Council member Kathy Patterson (D-Ward 3) sent Clinton a letter urging him to appoint Newman as chairman and noting that they had worked together on personnel and contracting reform. Both Joslyn Williams, head of the local branch of the AFL-CIO, and David Schlein, national vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said they would like Newman as head of the control board.

"We have never had a problem with her not being completely honest with us. We don't agree with her on everything, but she has had our respect because when she tells us something, we know that she is going to stand by it," Schlein said.

D.C. Council member Jack Evans (D-Ward 2) said he supports Newman even though it puts the city in a "potentially scary position" to have a Republican control board chairman and a majority Republican Congress.

Unlike many Republicans, however, Newman favors affirmative action, supports abortion rights and worries that welfare reform has left people without either the financial support or job training they need.

"She is a lot more liberal than Andrew Brimmer," said the Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, a harsh and persistent critic of the control board.

Newman eschews the limelight, preferring to cut back-room deals and move things along quietly. As chair of the control board, she would be unlikely to please those who have called for a panel that would operate more openly. "I work behind the scenes, and then people don't always know what I'm doing," Newman said.

But Ellis-Hagler, pastor of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, said he hopes Clinton names Newman as chairman: "She has a very good ear. She really seems to pause and listen to people and to involve herself in many sectors of the city."

L. Michael Heyman, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Newman's boss, said she is one of the best managers and hardest workers he has ever encountered. He also acknowledged having mixed emotions about the prospect of Newman serving as control board chairman because of the time it would take away from her top-level job at the museums.

"I think she would be a great chair, and I would hate to have her do it," he said. "I'm being selfish. I think for the city, it would be a wonderful thing."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read a short biography of Constance Newman, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at www.washingtonpost.com

For the Record

From a White House background briefing yesterday by "a senior administration official" about the assault weapons ban:

Official: In 1968 the Gun Control Act set up a standard, a standard saying that firearms generally could not be imported into the country unless they were generally seen as being particularly suitable or readily adaptable to sporting purposes. . . .

What happened is manufacturers . . . took off from the weapons what were then decided to be indicia of military weapons—bayonet studs, flash suppressors, night sights, folding stocks—and in fact began to export to this country in essence the same weapon. . . .

[Our] study showed . . . that the guns were not used for sporting purposes for the most part and . . . that they all had . . . magazines with a capacity of over 11 rounds. . . . The study looked at five design types, which encompassed a total of 59 weapons, and all but one of those weapons were deemed to be inappropriate. . . .

Q: Had all of these weapons been licensed and the licenses were on hold? . . . How many weapons actually made it into the United States to be warehouse?

A: Since 1991 about 425,000 of these weapons have been imported. However, there are pending 600,000 permits for the importation of up to 600,000 [more]. And there are pending applications of about 1 million more for permits. . . . That's what they asked for; it doesn't necessarily mean they're going to import that number of weapons.

thedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, and date to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. They are used with their hinged glass display doors, to display the host, or the wafers representing the body of Christ to be venerated in church services. One monstrance had a gilt bronze and enameled facade featuring the four evangelists and the four rivers of paradise, and a filigree base of four cherubs clutching lapis lazuli globes.

Major Jumez said that beyond the spiritual significance of the monstrances, no one in the town overlooked their artistic value. "These things are objects of art — treasures," he said, sounding eager for their return.

White House revokes licenses to export guns

U.S. industry outraged by move

By Martin Sieff
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Clinton administration has revoked the export licenses of 200 U.S. companies exporting handguns to Britain to prevent U.S.-made guns from being re-exported to crime syndicates, terrorist-supporting rogue states and ethnic conflicts, U.S. officials said yesterday.

However, the decision has outraged U.S. domestic weapons manufacturers who say it is an unfair crackdown on legitimate businessmen.

The administration "has taken the decision to revoke existing licenses for the export of handguns in order to be doubly sure that the supply corresponds to the legitimate demand in the United Kingdom and to eliminate any chance of its diversion to third parties," a U.S. official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The decision was made in the Office of Defense Trade Controls in the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, the administration official said.

Jim Baker, a spokesman for the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute which represents major U.S. domestic firearms and ammunition manufacturers, said the decision penalized U.S. companies unfairly.

"It is further evidence of the Clinton administration doing what it can to restrict legitimate businessmen," Mr. Baker said. "I don't understand why exporting businessmen have to be the guarantors of everyone else who buys and sells their products all the way down the line."

However, U.S. officials said the decision to revoke the licenses was taken after they discovered in talks with their European Union counterparts that a huge loophole existed allowing European companies to import large numbers of U.S.-made handguns and then re-export them.

The re-exporting meant that the U.S. government and U.S. law enforcement agencies could no longer track the final destination of the weapons, government officials said.

The problem appeared to be particularly acute in the case of Britain because that country passed draconian gun control legislation that went into effect March 1 this year, following the massacre of 16 young children by a deranged gunman at Dunblane, Scotland, in 1996.

U.S. officials noted in February that a British company, Conjay Arms, bought 1,600 handguns from an American company and sought the necessary export license under the U.S. government's International Trafficking and Arms Regulation regime.

The application came just a few weeks before the post-Dunblane legislation — one of the toughest handgun control laws in the world — came into effect in Britain, barring virtually every British private citizen from owning a handgun.

U.S. officials therefore concluded that the guns were almost certainly not going to remain in Britain. Their British counterparts agreed, but said there was nothing they could do, U.S. officials said.

"We decided to revoke the licenses pending completion of a review of these new orders," said State Department official James Foley.

U.S. officials had also been dismayed to learn that, although Britain itself has tough and effective controls on tracking weapons exports, under European Union regulations it can export guns anywhere in the 15-nation EU where they can be re-exported once again, Mr. Foley said.

"We discovered a potential problem or loophole in EU regulations which could allow EU and U.S. firearms to fall into the wrong hands," Mr. Foley said.

U.S. officials suspect that thousands of high-powered and semi-automatic American pistols and rifles sold to Europe in the past few years have been quietly exported along that circuitous route to help inflict bloodbaths in Rwanda, Bosnia, Algeria and Turkey.

"We have no indication that this has actually happened, but we are concerned," Mr. Foley said.

Currently, 250 licenses are outstanding, for more than 14,000 handguns, the New York Times reported Sunday.

At Gang Summit, a Call for Answers

Troubled Youths Need Help as Problem Grows, Speakers Say

By BROOKE A. MASTERS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Although youth gang violence is concentrated in Virginia's urban areas, it is spreading to the outer suburbs, and more services for troubled youths are needed, speakers told a summit meeting on the issue convened by state and federal officials last night.

A statewide survey conducted in 1996 and recently updated found 260 gangs operating in Virginia, 57 percent of them in Northern Virginia, said Kim Echelberger, of the Virginia Commission on Youth. Gangs are present in 32 jurisdictions, including eight rapidly growing communities where they have appeared only in the last two to three years.

"It's not that serious a problem right now, but it will be," said Stephen O. Simpson (R), sheriff of Loudoun County, where gangs have appeared only recently. "We have to hit it and hit it hard."

The summit was convened by Virginia Attorney General Mark L. Earley (R) and three members of Congress from Northern Virginia after a gang-related shooting outside Marshall High School in Fairfax County. It drew 150 law enforcement, social service and political officials to Northern Vir-

ginia Community College's Annandale campus.

Earley announced that he plans to convene a task force to study the issue of gang violence. "The wave of youth violence and gang relation is not going to be the wave of the future in Virginia," he said. "We're going to be looking for community-based solutions. . . . This is a problem for all of us. It's not somebody else's problem."

Police and gang experts urged the assembled crowd to help keep young people out of trouble by starting school later, supporting after-school programs and funding outreach workers to counteract the influence of gang recruiters.

"There is good news. The problem is solvable . . . if our children know that the people in their lives love them just the way they are," said Lilia Lopez, principal of an Alexandria elementary school and mother of a former gang member.

Virginia Reps. James P. Moran Jr. (D), Thomas M. Davis III (R) and Frank R. Wolf (R) promised to seek \$3 million in federal funding to expand and improve anti-gang programs, including a database that is being set up to help track the region's gangs and gang members.

Capt. James Charron, of the Fairfax County police, said that earlier effort has helped police there identi-

fy 45 local gangs with 1,500 members and hangers-on.

Gangs have been blamed for part of the escalating juvenile violence in the Washington suburbs. From 1990 to 1996, juvenile arrests for serious violent crime rose 70 percent, to 1,634, according to FBI statistics.

Davis said congressional studies show that gang members commit more than two-thirds of all violent acts by juveniles both nationally and in this area. This kind of summit "is important, because it gets jurisdictions talking to each other. . . . This is not brain surgery, but it is focus. We've got to provide [youths] alternatives to being in a gang," he said.

The panel of experts drew criticism from the few young people in attendance. Anthony Hayes, 18, of Falls Church, who said he has just finished 4½ years of probation for an offense he did not want to discuss, complained that the adult panelists "are not out in those streets where juveniles are getting into trouble."

"Experts are great, but [kids] are the real experts. We live that way," said Lisa Amata Campbell, 18, who described herself as a "floater" who hung out with several gangs and a friend of two of the young men charged in the shooting death of David Albrecht outside Marshall. "Next time, let's listen to kids."

Box #4

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