



**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



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CCRKBA ASSAILS BRADY HYPOCRISY

By Dave Workman

When anti-gun zealot Sarah Brady disclosed in her autobiography, *A Good Fight*, that she had purchased a "gift rifle" for her son, James S. "Scott" Brady two years ago at Christmas, questions about the propriety of the sale prompted the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms to ask for an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to see that everything was done properly.

While no criminal wrongdoing was uncovered, CCRKBA did find considerable irony in this transaction that underscores what CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb and Executive Director Joe Waldron called the blatant hypocrisy of the anti-gun movement.

For example, seven months before Sarah Brady bought the rifle at a Delaware gun shop, her husband, Jim, appeared before the Delaware Senate to promote legislation that would have banned private transfers of firearms in Delaware without a background check.

That legislation, SB 172, was eventually pulled by its sponsor, Democrat Sen. Harris McDowell, IL. Had the bill passed, the kind of gun purchase completed by his wife would have been illegal because there was no background check conducted on her son at the time she gave him the rifle.

But there was some small justice in this transaction. CCRKBA learned that the day Brady purchased the rifle, she could not take delivery because the National Instant Check System computers were down. She had to return later to pick up the gun.

Sarah Brady, now apparently battling from lung cancer due to long term cigarette smoking, has been criticized by gun rights activists for essentially doing the kind of thing that Handgun Control, Inc., now the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, has been campaigning against for years. Said one Delaware activist: "This is the kind of stuff that traps law-abiding citizens every day."

The day after the Brady story broke in the national press, a "correction" was issued by the Delaware Attorney General's office explaining that no laws were broken by Sarah Brady when she purchased the rifle. This was in response to a story in the *New York Daily News* March 22 suggesting the transaction may have violated Delaware law. CCRKBA did not conclude that any laws were broken, but it sought an investigation to determine whether all state and federal laws had been followed.

Ferris W. Wharton, Delaware's chief deputy attorney general, issued the following statement: "The transaction as described would only be in violation of Delaware law if James Brady, Jr. were prohibited from possessing a firearm. We have no indication that he is prohibited, and therefore the transaction would not be in violation of Delaware law." The *Daily News* published a correction the following day, asserting that "a spokeswoman for the Delaware Department of Justice

(Continued on page 2)

CCRKBA BLASTS KOFI HYPOCRISY

CCRKBA blasted the United Nations on the heels of reports that security officers for U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan may be illegally carrying automatic firearms.

"Apparently," said CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder, "the universal gun grabbing program with which United Nations officials would like to saddle law-abiding citizens of the United States and other countries does not apply to Kofi Annan and company. It is sheer hypocrisy for them to promote international small arms regulation but to carry machine guns illegally!"

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said all weapons carried by Annan's detail are properly licensed and registered. The BATE, however, confirmed that Annan's detail is being investigated for carrying German-made MP5 machine guns.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said the U.N. security service is not considered a law enforcement organization and is not allowed to carry weapons such as the MP5. According to U.N. Security and Safety Service sources, however, they've been doing it since 1998, reported *The Washington Times*.

Kofi Annan, who hails from Ghana, is a strong vocal advocate of worldwide small arms controls. Last year, he led an international conference

Brady Hypocrisy (Continued from page 1)

said it misinterpreted the law and Brady was not obligated to state that the gun was for her son as long as he was legally qualified to own a gun."

Gottlieb noted that, for years, Brady has made a career out of campaigning for restrictive gun laws that require prospective gun buyers to often jump through a maze of hoops in order to own a firearm. Depending upon an individual's state of residence, that could mean having to obtain a Firearm Owner's Identification Card or some other permit just to purchase a

gun, then having to go through state and federal background checks before the sale is completed. Sometimes it takes weeks before a law-abiding citizen can even get the FOID card.

Waldron said Brady's case reeks of hypocrisy. He noted that the firearm, a Remington Model 700 with a telescopic sight, would fit the description of a gun that is often portrayed in anti-gun statements and literature as a "terrorist sniper rifle."

against the manufacture of such firearms, and supported tighter export controls. He tools around New York in a bullet-proof sedan. John Valceanu of Alexandria, VA, who works for the Society of American Military Engineers, wrote in the *Times* that Annan "is typical of bureaucrats and politicians who oppose the rights of individuals to keep and bear arms. As self-appointed shepherds of humanity, these 'leaders' seem to believe they are immune from the restrictions on liberty they seek to impose on others. "The United States is currently one of the few nations on earth to safeguard individuals' rights to bear arms," he continued. "The Second Amendment to our Constitution guarantees us that right, and the amendment's inclusion in our Bill of Rights by the framers of the Constitution is proof that they understood the vital relationship between this right and the future of a free republic."

Valceanu said efforts by the United Nations to impose international gun control measures would target primarily the United States, and they would serve to reverse two centuries of tradition of individual freedom. By contrast with the United States, he pointed out, "the United Nations counts among its members such to-

talitarian regimes as China, North Korea, Cuba, Libya and Iraq. One thing these repressive regimes have in common is a denial of their citizens' individual right to bear arms." "More recently," he continued, "tribal warfare during the past decade on Annan's home continent of Africa has claimed the lives of untold millions.

"Annan is wrong: Guns are not one of the major problems facing the world. Bad governments are. Evil, repressive governments can commit atrocities because they have access to guns, while their subjects do not."



POINT BLANK

"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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CCRKBA CALLS VOTE A CIVIL RIGHTS MASSACRE

Calling it "the St. Valentine's Day Massacre of the Bill of Rights," CCRKBA condemned the U.S. House of Representatives for its Feb. 14 middle-of-the-night passage of the "Shays-Meehan" campaign finance reform bill.

That bill was subsequently passed by the Senate and sent to President Bush.

"Running scared from the horrible disclosures surrounding the Enron scandal," stated CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, the House of Representatives "massacred the First Amendment rights of every grassroots interest group in the country. And rather than do it in the light of day, they waited until the early morning hours of St. Valentine's Day, while the nation slept, to adopt legislation that is a direct assault on freedom of speech."

CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron noted that many of those who voted for the Shays-Meehan package also are long-time backers of restrictive gun control.

"It's a sad day when so many members of Congress who already are after our Second Amendment rights now are after our First Amendment rights as well," Waldron said. "If you look at the vote, many of the people who supported the so-called campaign finance bill also are the most ardent proponents of gun control."

Gottlieb noted that, while CCRKBA does not oppose the ban on so-called "soft money" donations to national political parties, the organization objects strongly to language that would restrict broadcast advertising for 60 days just prior to a general election. The House narrowly rejected an amendment backed by various

gun rights groups that would have protected specifically pre-election advertising related to the Second Amendment. Gottlieb said that vote was "telling."

"For years," Gottlieb said, "CCRKBA and others have been warning the country that congressional zealots are after not only the Second Amendment, but the entire Bill of Rights. Passage of Shays-Meehan is proof positive that those who oppose a citizen's right to own a gun now are focusing on their right to free speech."

Gottlieb concluded, "It comes as no surprise that Federal Election Commission Chairman David Mason said the bill, as written, is unworkable and unenforceable, and that some provisions of the bill are, in his words, 'flatly unconstitutional.'"

CCRKBA ENDORSES SECOND AMENDMENT PRESERVATION MEASURE

CCRKBA has announced its support for the proposed Second Amendment Preservation Act of 2002. The bill, S. 1996, by Sen. Bob Smith (R-NH), a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John Michael Snyder said the bill "is necessary because it goes right to the heart of ongoing attempts to undermine the Second Amendment by perpetrators of third party lawsuits."

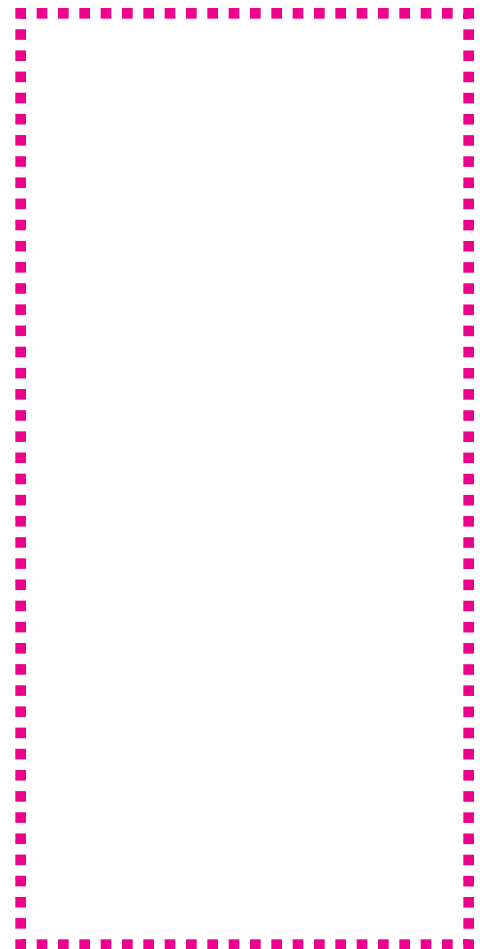
"These lawsuits," Snyder explained, "attempt to penalize firearm manufacturers, importers and dealers for the criminal use of firearms by third parties who somehow acquire the firearm."

Snyder commended Sen. Smith for introducing the bill, noting that, "Throughout his public life, he has been an outstanding defender of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American

citizens to keep and bear arms. He deserves the support of all freedom-loving Americans in this endeavor."

Smith's legislation would limit amounts paid in plaintiff's attorney's fees in connection with the settlement or adjudication of gun industry lawsuits. The limit would not exceed an amount equal to \$150 per hour, plus actual expenses incurred by the attorney in connection with the action; or an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount that the plaintiff receives under the action.

The bill also provides that, in a civil action brought to curtail the sale or availability of firearms for legal purposes, if the court finds that the defendant is not wholly or primarily liable for the damages sought, the court shall require the plaintiff to reimburse the defendant for reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, unless the court finds that special circumstances make such a reimbursement unjust.



TIME TO WRITE PRESIDENT ABOUT MINETA AND RIDGE

It's time to write the White House about the anti-gun antics of two of the Bush Administration's top officials, Homeland Security chief Tom Ridge and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

Late last year, in response to the terrorist threat, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act. Section 128 of the law allows qualified airline pilots to carry handguns in the cockpit with the consent of their airline employers and the approval of Transportation Undersecretary John McGaw.

Although pilots' groups and pro-gun organizations, including CCRKBA, support the arming of pilots, Ridge and Mineta oppose the idea.

"I don't feel that we should have lethal weapons in the cockpit," Mineta stated.

Added Ridge, to *USAToday*: "I don't think we need to equip our pilots with firearms. That doesn't make a lot of sense to me. Where do you stop? If pilots carried guns (then) railroad engineers and bus drivers could ask to do the same."

According to the newspaper, unnamed White House officials said Ridge's view reflects the opinion of President Bush, who has not commented publicly on the issue.

Readers of *Point Blank* who would like to let President Bush know what you think could write to him at The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500.

In Congress, Rep. John D. Hostettler of Indiana, a CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee, is urging his congressional colleagues and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support a policy of allowing qualified commercial airline pilots to carry firearms while on duty. He believes the new law "addresses flight deck security and lays down the necessary guidelines for authorizing commercial pilots to carry firearms in the cockpits of their aircraft."

On the other side of Capitol Hill, Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor, wrote Mineta "that armed pilots are a first line of deterrence to terrorism, because terrorists will know that armed pilots will be behind that reinforced cockpit door to defend the aircraft. We further believe that armed pilots are the last line of defense against terrorism, because when all else fails, an armed pilot will be provided with the most effective means to disable a terrorist."

Rep. Don Young of Alaska, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor, and 60 other U.S. Representatives also wrote Mineta. "We hope that you and the new undersecretary will move expeditiously to implement Section 128 in order that these indispensable provisions (allowing pilots to carry guns) can be carried out seamlessly and without delay," they stated.

Captain Bob Lambert, a commercial pilot and a board member of the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance, said support for arming pilots is building inside and outside of the industry.

"We have been working closely with the other pilots groups, such as ALPA (Air Line Pilots Association), APA (American Pilots Association), and SWAPA (Southwest Pilots Association) to present a united front of all pilots," said Lambert. He and fellow board member Capt. Tracy Price have met with Hostettler.

In an early February survey, 73 percent of the members of ALPA polled supported "authorization of pilots who volunteer to be armed with firearms for defense of the flight deck." The survey had a margin of error of three percent with a 95 percent confidence rating, according to the Cybercast News Service.

"It must be recognized that even with the replacement of the cockpit door, the terrorist threat is so sophisticated that terrorists will devise other ways to breach the secure

door," wrote Captain Duane Woerth, President of ALPA, in a petition to the FAA.

ALPA is the largest airline pilots union, representing 64,000 pilots at 45 airlines in the United States. The group petitioned the FAA for new rules that would allow pilots to be armed under strict conditions.

CITIZEN ACTION

In two conferences last summer, Democrats used their rhetoric on the issue of gun control, but it was not their agenda, or their ultimate goals.

The Democrat Leadership Conference, more than any other, has moved away from their usual calls for additional restrictions on gun control. Democrat National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe has made gun control a central campaign for 2002 mid-term elections.

Why the change? And is it a real change or just a tactical answer.

Former Vice President Al Gore lost the election in Virginia, Tennessee and Arkansas, all states of Gore's pocket from the beginning. Had he won, it would be a different story today. It's clear to Democrats that if they are to win in the south, solid Bush country during the election, they need to control gun control.

The second question is harder to answer. Is this a tactical strategy? Virginia Democratic candidate Mark Warner won in November. The Virginia legislature just passed a bill to allow cities and counties from enacting their own gun control policy. As this is written the bill is on its way to the governor. Is this his campaign promise to protect gun owners' rights? Or is it the bill?

The Democrats' number one goal in this year's U.S. House of Representatives. A change in leadership will give gun grabbers Dick Gephardt, John Conyers and others their ilk complete control of Congress' gun control. Dianne Feinstein, Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton are all for that?

We need YOUR help to elect congressional candidates are campaigning on a platform. With your assistance, we'll know where to go and where to blow the whistle on these false promises. If you are one of these candidates, please call our National Helpline.

GUN GRABBERS ARE NOT CHANGING SPOTS

The leopards are not changing their spots, and neither are the gun grabbers, despite some speculation to the contrary!

Some high-ranking Democratic party officials, frightened by losses at the polls attributable to their party's growing identification with the gun control cause, are telling fellow Democrats to back off their gun control advocacy.

Gun grabbers, with their eyes on

the elections later this year, in public may lower the volume of their demands for new gun control legislation. If they ever achieve political power, however, you can rest assured that they will become as demanding as ever.

Yet these same gun control zealots still favor the enactment of anti-gun laws, including restrictions on, if not elimination of, traditional American gun shows, curtailment of sales and possession of various types of firearms, especially handguns, and bans on certain kinds of firearms, such as .50 caliber guns.

Although there are a number of solid, pro-gun Democrats, they are not ranking party members. Still occupying Democratic Party leadership positions are the Schumers, Kennedys and Clintons.

The *New York Times* recently noted that for Democrats, there is "a continental divide on guns." Leaders of the Democratic Party in Montana fear the party has "taken a beating for being anti-gun."

The *Times* quoted Bob Ream, chairman of the Montana Democratic Party, noting that he "has in the last few months moved to distance himself from the national party, calling attention to its backing for hunting and to a clause in its platform saying, 'We support the right to bear and keep arms'."

The newspaper reported also that, "beyond Montana, a number of other Democrats from the West and the South have portrayed themselves as advocates of gun owners' rights."

It noted, for instance that in Virginia, Mark R. Warner, the state's new governor, met with pro-gun spokesmen during his campaign and said he opposed major new gun laws.

Dario Herrera, running for a new congressional seat in Nevada, said his views did not differ from those of his Republican opponent.

Howard Wolfson, executive direc-

tor of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, acknowledged that it was "a widely held view within party circles that the gun issue hurt" former Vice President Al Gore's presidential effort in Arkansas, West Virginia and his home state, Tennessee. It also hurt a number of Democratic congressional candidates.

Republicans point out that the 2000 Democratic national party platform supported numerous regulations on gun ownership. That platform called for "mandatory child safety locks, to protect our children. We should require a photo license I.D., a full background check, and a gun safety test to buy a handgun in America."

In their 2000 national party platform, on the other hand, Republicans emphasized that, "individual rights, and the responsibilities that go with them, are the foundations of a free society." They stated that, "We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and we affirm the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. Because self-defense is a basic human right, we will promote training in their safe usage, especially in federal programs for women and the elderly.

"A Republican administration will vigorously enforce current gun laws, neglected by the Democrats, especially by prosecuting dangerous offenders identified as felons in instant background checks. Although we support background checks to ensure that guns do not fall into the hands of criminals, we oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as a violation of the Second Amendment and an invasion of privacy of honest citizens."

There is no doubt that the 2002 Congressional elections are critical to the continuation of our right to keep and bear arms.

CTION PROJECT

Democrat leaders announced they would change
l, but it does not mean they have changed their

ence, meeting in Indianapolis, backed away
restrictions on firearm ownership. A short time later,
erry McAuliffe unveiled a "take back the South"
Central to this strategy was (and is) silence on

change of position? The first question is easy to

the election in the 2000 election by losing West
states observers thought should have been in
d he won any of the three, he'd be president
y are to win elections in the western states and
e election, they must soften their image on gun

swer. Is the change real, or is it simply a campaign
e Mark Warner adopted this strategy during the
sit gun clubs and talk with gun owners. And he
e just passed a state preemption bill, prohibiting
own gun control laws in contravention of state
way to Governor Warner's desk? Will he keep
owners' rights, or will he revert to form and veto

n this year's election is to regain control of the
nge in as few as half a dozen House seats will
Conyers, Carolyn McCarthy, Robert Wexler and
gun control agenda, along with Tom Daschle,
Hillary Clinton in the Senate. Are you ready for
R help to identify those districts where Democrat
ning on an "I'm a sportsman, I'm pro-gun" plat-
where to take a closer look at the candidates,
false prophets. If you have information on one
tional Headquarters at (425) 454-4911 and ask

SCHOOL OF LAW HERO IS CCRKBA AWARDEE

Tracy K. Bridges of the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, VA has been named the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Award for April.

"Tracy, who throughout his adult life has been a firearms enthusiast and defender of the right to keep and bear arms, recently demonstrated the heroic use to which firearms may be put during a harrowing incident as his law school," said John Michael Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "He most certainly deserves this Award."

The incident occurred in January when student Peter Odighizuwa, a 43-year-old naturalized US citizen from Nigeria, allegedly shot and killed his dean, L. Anthony Sutin, Prof. Thomas Blackwell, and another student, Angela Dales, 33. Odighizuwa reportedly had been dismissed because of failing grades.

When the shots rang out, Bridges was in a classroom waiting for class to start. A fellow student, Mikael Gross, was outside and just returning from lunch. Utter chaos erupted.

Bridges and Gross immediately ran to their cars and got their guns. Along with Ted Besen, who was unarmed, they approached the gunman from different sides.

"I aimed my gun at him, and Peter tossed his gun down. Ted approached Peter, and Peter hit Ted in the jaw. Ted pushed him back and we all rushed on," Bridges said.

The incident received wide

media coverage, but not surprisingly, very few reports noted that an armed student was crucial to ending the shooting. CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month Awardee John R. Lott, Jr. wrote in the *New York Post* "that out of 280 separate news stories (from a computerized Nexis-Lexis search) in the week after the event, just four stories mentioned that the students who stopped the attack had guns. Only two local newspapers (the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and the *Charlotte Observer*) mentioned that the students actually pointed their guns at the attacker. Much more typical was the scenario described by *The Washington Post* where the heroes had simply 'helped subdue' the killer. The *New York Times* noted only that the attacker was 'tackled' by fellow students..."

"In all, 72 stories described how the attacker was stopped without mentioning that the student heroes had guns."

Bridges, though, made the record clear during an interview on NBC's Today show that he, "saw the shooter, stopped at my vehicle and got out my handgun and started to approach Peter. At that time, Peter threw up his hands and threw his weapon down."

The Appalachian School of Law is a private law school with an enrollment of about 170 students. It opened five years ago in a renovated junior high school to help ease a shortage of lawyers in the region and foster renewal in Appalachia.

Bridges hails from Marshall, NC, a small town outside of Asheville. While he was only 16 years old, he started working for the Madison County Sheriffs Department as a communications officer staying until he graduated in 1988 from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. He then transferred to a larger department in Buncombe County.

He holds several law enforcement certifications and maintains an active status. He expects to receive his Juris Doctor degree from Appalachian this spring.

"I have been an active gun lover since my early years," Bridges told *Point Blank*. "I have always collected guns, handguns in particular. I feel that every law-abiding citizen should have the right to own guns. I also believe that most gun laws only affect law-abiding citizens and not criminals. I will continue my support for gun rights once I enter the legal career."

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www.ccrkba.org



In California, pro-gun rights candidate Bill Simon, Jr. defeated anti-gun Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan in the Republican gubernatorial primary. Political newcomer Simon's victory came as a surprising upset. In a poll taken Jan. 23-27, Riordan had a 33-point lead over Simon. "But," reported USA Today, "Riordan angered conservatives with his liberal views on abortion, gay rights and gun control." In November, Simon faces the gun grabbing incumbent Gov. Gray Davis who already has built a \$35 million war chest according to the paper.



Attorney General John Ashcroft announced plans recently to curb gun purchases by illegal immigrants and criminals, reports *The Washington Post*. Ashcroft ordered the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to revamp their computer systems to identify noncitizens who try to buy firearms through federally licensed firearm dealers. Illegal immigrants and those in the United States on temporary visas are prohibited from buying guns under federal law, although some can buy firearms for hunting in some circumstances.

Ashcroft also announced plans recently to upgrade the nation's background check system to provide immediate approval or denial for gun purchases in most cases. Currently, a person is allowed to buy a firearm if federal officials do not provide a response within three days. Ashcroft an-

nounced a \$141 million initiative to help states improve their computerized criminal records over the next four years, supposedly to help weed out felons trying to buy firearms, and another program to add 94 federal prosecutors focused on crimes committed with guns by juveniles.

In Virginia, the General Assembly sent Gov. Mark R. Warner a bill that would practically invalidate the City of Alexandria's ban on guns in city buildings. The bill would bar localities from adopting laws or rules for gun use that have not been expressly authorized by the state, although governments could prohibit their employees from carrying guns into their buildings. The bill passed overwhelmingly, 26 to 13 in the Senate and 68 to 26 in the House of Delegates.

In Annapolis, MD gun control advocates rallied at the State House in March to push for a bill to require handgun buyers to get a license similar to a driver's license. Ginni Wolf, executive director of Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse, and others called upon legislators to pass the Maryland Gun Accountability Act. The measure would require gun owners to obtain a seal for their state identification cards or driver's licenses signifying approval to purchase a firearm.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in the 1980s, 40 or more states prohibited concealed weapons.

The first in a "new wave" of concealed carry laws was passed in Florida 15 years ago. Since that time, reports Join Together, a project of the Boston University School of Public Health, "gun advocates have been successful in overturning laws against carrying concealed weapons in other states." Joe Vernick, co-director of the anti-gun Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research in Baltimore, MD, said he is surprised by the victories. Pro-gun advocates "have been very successful in promoting this kind of change," he says.

An anti-gun group in late February asked the nation's newspapers to stop accepting classified ads for the sale of all guns. Calling itself the National Campaign to Close the Newspaper Gun Ad Loophole, the group consists of several local anti-gun organizations in several states. Bryan Miller, executive director of Ceasefire New Jersey, criticized *The Washington Times* for accepting the classified ads. The newspaper's general manager, Richard Amberg, said that, "Advertising for guns is still legal to the best of my knowledge and we would not knowingly be a part of anything that contributed to any illegality."

