

THE Gun Owners

31 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2006

GOA still pushing to prevent future gun confiscations

“I really appreciate the work Gun Owners of America did to spread the word to your members so they could contact their legislators and help pass the Resolution.”

— Rep. Steve Scalise

by Erich Pratt

Gun confiscation in New Orleans. That was the shocking news last year.

If you’ve visited the GOA website in the past couple of months, you have probably viewed the actual video tape. American troops can be seen going door

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Rep. Scalise thanks GOA for help



Louisiana representative Steve Scalise (left) recently thanked GOA for helping him pass an important “gun restoration” resolution in the state. Gun Owners provided news video to Scalise for use in his committee hearings. “The footage of gun confiscations on your web site [www.gunowners.org/notb.htm] was especially helpful during committee hearings in making the point that these egregious violations occurred,” Scalise said. The picture on the right comes from local television news video which shows an innocent citizen being detained in handcuffs while California highway patrolmen confiscate his legally owned firearms.

GOA continues push for CCW recognition – CCW holders help keep all Americans safe

by John Velleco

Walking outside an Auto Zone store in East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Perry Stephens heard frantic cries for help.

Twenty four-year-old George Temple, described by a witness as a “big man,” was pummeling police officer Brian Harrison, who was on the ground beneath the attacker. The officer managed to fire once into Temple’s abdomen, but the attacker still maintained the upper hand as Mr. Stephens approached.

According to a police spokesman, Mr. Stephens, who holds a concealed carry license “orders Mr. Temple to stop and get off the officer. The verbal commands are ignored and Mr. Stevens fires four shots, all of which struck Mr. Temple.”

With five shots in his body, Temple continued to fight with the officer. Mr. Stevens, wearing a neck brace, moved cautiously toward the struggle.

“[Mr. Stephens] again orders Mr. Temple to stop what he was doing and get off the officer,” the police spokesman said. “Those commands are ignored and he fires a fifth shot that hits his head. The incident is over with... Mr. Temple is dead.”

Armed citizens fight crime every day

Although the mainstream media largely ignore incidents like these, they are not uncommon. Millions of Americans hold concealed carry permits, and citizens use firearms successfully in self-defense outside the home as many

as one half million times per year.

Nearly 40 states now issue carry permits on a ‘shall issue’ basis and in spite of the dire predictions of the anti-gun movement, crime rates do not rise in areas where concealed carry restrictions are relaxed. In fact, studies have shown that concealed carry laws have the opposite effect.

In the most thorough study of its kind Dr. John Lott, presently a resident scholar with the American Enterprise

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GOA still pushing to prevent future gun confiscations

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to door, arresting residents who refused to leave their homes and confiscating their firearms as well.

It's all documented on the GOA website, and that is where most people first saw the gun thefts that occurred in the wake of Hurricane Katrina this past September.

In Louisiana, it was the GOA website that provided legislators with the evidence that gun confiscation had occurred.

"Thanks so much for sending me the link to the videos on your website," Rep. Steve Scalise said. "I showed the members of the [House] committee the video of out-of-state police confiscating weapons in the state. They watched it and couldn't believe it."

Imagine that. Even in Louisiana, many state legislators had no clue that their government had stolen firearms from decent, hard-working Americans!

Rep. Scalise told GOA that the videos were quite instrumental in helping push his "gun restoration" resolution. "It's one thing to hear about these confiscations," he said. "It's quite another thing to see them for yourself."

With the help of our Louisiana activists, GOA was able to achieve a significant legislative victory in that embattled state.

GOA assisted Representative Steve Scalise in successfully pushing a "gun restoration" resolution through the legislature. His measure passed by an overwhelming margin of 78-1 in the House — and unanimously in the Senate — and was then sent to Gov. Kathleen Blanco's desk.

Scalise's resolution documents that innocent civilians did, in fact, have their guns confiscated in September and calls on the governor to bring up legislation in the next session to repeal laws that were used to justify the confiscation of firearms during the recent state emergency.

Scalise is now working on introducing binding legislation that he will actively push in this year's session which begins in March. This bill will amend the state code to remove any language that could provide a pretext for the future confiscation of guns in

the state. The overwhelming vote on his first resolution provides a good omen for the bill's chances this year.

GOA working to curb emergency powers across the nation

What happened in Louisiana was a wake up call to freedom-loving people across the nation. Could what happened in New Orleans, people wondered, also happen in their own communities?

Well, a look at the legal codes across the country reveal that many states have laws granting tremendous "emergency powers" to the government — powers which authorize officials to regulate or



"The GOA video was extremely helpful!" said Ohio state Rep. Ron Hood (R) "There were some folks that were really shocked!"

ban firearms.

For example, Title 21 of the Oklahoma statutes says that during a state of emergency, the Governor may prohibit "the possession of firearms or any other deadly weapon by a person (other than a law enforcement officer) in a place other than that person's place of residence or business."

In Idaho, the law says that during a time of crisis, the governor can "suspend or limit the sale" firearms (Section 46-1008).

Oklahoma and Idaho? These states aren't exactly the western versions of Massachusetts and New York.

Thankfully, the gun confiscations that occurred in New Orleans last September exposed the dangers inherent in

these kinds of emergency powers. Officials in the Big Easy felt emboldened because the laws of the state contained language — albeit unconstitutional — which allowed officials to infringe upon gun owners' rights.

Louisiana law allows the chief law enforcement officers to promulgate orders during a disaster "regulating and controlling the possession, storage, display, sale, transport and use of firearms, [and] other dangerous weapons and ammunition" (R.S. 14:329.6(A)(6)).

GOA is working to fix this. We've made progress in Louisiana. We're making progress in several other states, as well.

GOA video has become "a hit" in the state legislatures

GOA has created a DVD that shows video clips which document the gun thefts that took place last September.

Gun Owners has already provided this DVD to half a dozen state governments, and pro-gun legislators are using the video to inform their fellow colleagues of the travesty which took place in New Orleans.

"The GOA video was extremely helpful!" said Ohio state Rep. Ron Hood (R). "There were some folks that were really shocked!"

Rep. Hood is the author of HB 508, a bill to amend the state's emergency powers and prohibit the Governor from controlling or regulating firearms during such a crisis.

Hood showed the GOA video to other representatives during a committee hearing and indicated that the DVD was tremendously helpful.

"Even those who are normally our opposition thought it was a great presentation," Rep. Hood said.

Similar reports have come back from other states as well, and the early projections for the outcome of these bills are hopeful.

Please stay tuned. We'll report the final outcome of these battles in future editions of *The Gun Owners*. ■

Have you considered placing GOA in your will? Send an e-mail to goamail@gunowners.org to receive information about bequests and Trust/Estate Planning.

GOA IN THE COURTS



by Larry Pratt

GOA Fighting San Francisco Gun Ban

San Francisco voters last year decided to ban handguns in a city that is already infamous for many reasons. For many gun owners, it was the last straw — no more vacation trips to a jurisdiction where the inmates are in charge of the asylum.

The matter is presently being fought in state court. Gun Owners of America — and Gun Owners Foundation along with Gun Owners of California — underwrote the costs of filing a friend of the court (*amicus*) brief by Gun Owners founder, California state Sen. H.L.

Richardson (ret.).

Sen. Richardson's *amicus* brief is important in this case because, while in his service in the California Senate, he sponsored the law that prohibits what the voters of San Francisco recently did. California state law preempts, thanks to Richardson, any local measures banning or registering firearms.

Gun Owners is hopeful that the courts will follow the preemption law Richardson enacted, but courts frequently have a problem following the law and seeking guidance from the record of those who made the law.

Richardson's preemption law has been upheld in previous cases, so

with the obvious meaning of the law and the history of judicial rulings supporting it, prospects look very good to overturn the San Francisco vote last year.

Victory in court would free the 42 percent of San Franciscans who voted against violating a constitutional right to own a handgun in the city. Unhappily it is for practical purposes impossible to get a concealed carry permit there, so lots of luck when venturing forth from one's San Francisco dwelling. Unless, that is, you are someone important such as Mrs. Gun Ban, a.k.a. Sen. Diane Feinstein. ■

Another GOF Victory for Gun Owner Privacy

Lt. Col. Michael Stollenwerk has just pulled off a legal trifecta. A victory in Pennsylvania was preceded by wins in California and in Virginia.

All three states now acknowledge, or have been told to do so in court, that gun owners cannot be required to supply social security numbers when buying a gun or applying for a concealed carry permit.

Governments have increasingly been viewing citizens as little more than transparent subjects who should be tracked and branded much like a herd of cattle. This has been the major threat of a national ID card and the present federal law that unconstitutionally mandates states to have a uniform driver's license system.

The law permits the Department of Homeland Security to later require a radio frequency identification chip (RFID chip) that would make identity theft even easier than it currently is.

Gun owner privacy has been threatened since 1968 when the federal government began to unconstitutionally require that firearms dealers keep a record (now for twenty years) of all firearms transactions. This has been nothing but a decentralized gun registration scheme that does nothing to get criminals to comply, but represents a constant danger of being used to confiscate privately owned firearms.

Some time ago, Stollenwerk had convinced authorities in California that their requirement that gun buyers be forced to turn over their social security numbers violated Section 7 of the federal Privacy Act of 1974. Virginia was less accommodating and only agreed to respect

citizens' privacy after losing in court.

Pennsylvania was equally contemptuous of federal law and citizen privacy, so Stollenwerk took them to federal court. In 2003, Stollenwerk tried to get a concealed carry permit and purchase a gun. Both efforts failed when he refused to fork over his social security number.

On February 24, 2006, U.S. District Judge Juan R. Sanchez ruled against Pennsylvania. As of this writing, Pennsylvania officials have not decided whether they will appeal.

"A lot of state governments have blown off this law. I think someone had to stand up to the government and say, 'I'm going to challenge this,'" Stollenwerk told the *Philadelphia News*.

Gun Owners Foundation was pleased to provide support for Stollenwerk in this case. ■

GOA continues push for CCW recognition

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Institute in Washington, D.C., analyzed crime statistics in every county in the United States from 1977 to 1992. The conclusion was that states that passed concealed carry laws reduced their murder rate by 8.5%, rapes by 5%, aggravated assaults by 7% and robbery by 3%.

Congressman John Hostettler (R-IN) is a longtime supporter of gun owners and has worked for years on legislation that will greatly enhance the benefits of concealed carry by allowing CCW holders to carry in any state in the country.

H.R. 1243, the Secure Access to Firearms Enhancement (SAFE) Act, seeks to treat CCW licenses in much the same way as driving and marriage licenses.

Rep. Hostettler models his legislation on Article IV of the U.S. Constitution, which provides that "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to



Pro-gun Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN) speaks before the TV news cameras.

the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other state; and the Congress may by general Law prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof."

Under the "Full Faith and Credit" clause, Congress has the Constitutional authority to take action when states refuse to recognize the acts of other

states, such as would be the case if states did not recognize auto registration, drivers' licenses, and marriage licenses.

The individual states set the standards for carry permits, therefore Hostettler's bill avoids the Constitutional problem of violating individual state sovereignty.

In an important distinction from other reciprocity bills, Rep. Hostettler's legislation also allows for national recognition if a state does not require a permit at all to carry concealed. So states like Vermont and Alaska, which do not require government permission to carry, also are covered under the SAFE Act.

The SAFE Act currently has 72 cosponsors, but has yet to receive a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. GOA is urging Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) to move this important bill through the committee and to the House floor for a vote. ■

Why are These Reps on This List?

The following congressmen have yet to cosponsor pro-gun legislation, H.R.1243, introduced by Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN). This Hostettler bill will establish nationwide reciprocity among those states that currently have concealed carry laws. There are many anti-gun legislators (rated D and F by GOA) who have not cosponsored the Hostettler bill, but they are not included in the list below. What makes the following list of representatives noteworthy is that (as of March 3, 2006), they have NOT cosponsored the concealed carry legislation, even though they are all GOA rated A through C congressmen.

Akin (R-MO)	Culberson (R-TX)	Hart (R-PA)	McHugh (R-NY)	Renzi (R-AZ)
Baca (D-CA)	Cunningham (R-CA)	Hastings (R-WA)	McKeon (R-CA)	Reynolds (R-NY)
Bachus (R-AL)	Davis (R-KY)	Hayes (R-NC)	McMorris (R-WA)	Rogers (R-MI)
Baker (R-LA)	Davis (D-TN)	Hefley (R-CO)	Mica (R-FL)	Rohrabacher (R-CA)
Barton (R-TX)	Deal (R-GA)	Hoekstra (R-MI)	Michaud (R-ME)	Ross (D-AR)
Beauprez (R-CO)	DeLay (R-TX)	Holden (D-PA)	Miller (R-CA)	Royce (R-CA)
Blackburn (R-TN)	Dent (R-PA)	Hulshof (R-MO)	Mollohan (D-WV)	Ryan (R-WI)
Blunt (R-MO)	Drake (R-VA)	Hunter (R-CA)	Moran (R-KS)	Ryun (R-KS)
Boehner (R-OH)	Dreier (R-CA)	Inglis (R-SC)	Myrick (R-NC)	Sensenbrenner (R-WI)
Bonilla (R-TX)	Duncan (R-TN)	Issa (R-CA)	Nethercutt (R-WA)	Shadegg (R-AZ)
Bonner (R-AL)	English (R-PA)	Istook (R-OK)	Neugebauer (R-TX)	Sherwood (R-PA)
Boucher (D-VA)	Everett (R-AL)	Johnson (R-TX)	Northup (R-KY)	Shimkus (R-IL)
Boustany (R-LA)	Feeney (R-FL)	Kennedy (R-MN)	Nussle (R-IA)	Simmons (R-CT)
Brady (R-TX)	Flake (R-AZ)	King (R-IA)	Osborne (R-NE)	Simpson (R-ID)
Buyer (R-IN)	Forbes (R-VA)	Kline (R-MN)	Paul (R-TX)	Smith (R-TX)
Calvert (R-CA)	Gerlach (R-PA)	Knollenberg (R-MI)	Petri (R-WI)	Stearns (R-FL)
Cardoza (D-CA)	Gibbons (R-NV)	LaHood (R-IL)	Pitts (R-PA)	Strickland (D-OH)
Chabot (R-OH)	Gohmert (R-TX)	LaTourette (R-OH)	Poe (R-TX)	Sullivan (R-OK)
Chocola (R-IN)	Gordon (R-TN)	Lewis (R-CA)	Pombo (R-CA)	Sweeney (R-NY)
Coble (R-NC)	Granger (R-TX)	Linder (R-GA)	Porter (R-NV)	Tancredo (R-CO)
Cole (R-OK)	Graves (R-MO)	Lucas (R-OK)	Price (R-GA)	Tanner (R-TN)
Conaway (R-TX)	Green (D-TX)	Manzullo (R-IL)	Pryce (R-OH)	Taylor (D-MS)
Cox (R-CA)	Green (R-WI)	McCaul (R-TX)	Radanovich (R-CA)	Terry (R-NE)
Cramer (D-AL)	Gutknecht (R-MN)	McCrery (R-LA)	Rahall (D-WV)	Thomas (R-CA)



Pro-gun Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN) has introduced H.R. 1243, a bill to establish reciprocity among those states which have recognized the right of citizens to carry firearms.

Thornberry (R-TX)
Tiahrt (R-KS)
Tiberi (R-OH)
Walden (R-OR)
Weldon (R-FL)
Weller (R-IL)
Whitfield (R-KY)
Wilson (R-NM)

Betrayed By The Bench

by Larry Pratt

John Stormer is an amazing author. He has sold over 11 million books. One, *None Dare Call It Treason*, sold 7 million. That was in 1964 when there was no internet, no faxes, no talk shows for conservatives. Stormer may have been the first to put a coupon in the back of the book for additional orders.

So, a new book by John Stormer means we can assume that he has something else to say. Indeed he does.

In *Betrayed by the Bench*, Stormer traces the lawlessness of so many of today's rulings to the revolt against the common law that is Christian through and through. The revolt was led from the Harvard Law School by professors such as its Dean, Roscoe Pound. The replacement was the tyranny of case law.

The case law preferred by Pound and his followers allowed them to slip out from under the constraints of the timeless and universal precepts foundational to the Common Law. Case law allows judges to "make law." One of Pound's followers, Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, made this amazing statement: "We are under a constitution, but the constitution is what we say it is."

Equally as amazing as Hughes' assertion was the failure to impeach him for violating his oath of office. But as Stormer points out, the idea of absolutes binding men died in the pulpits before it died in the civil realm.

Stormer calls the result of judicial lawmaking "an on-going Constitutional Convention." I would call it a *coup d'état*. This coup has been hard to spot because the judges did not have a bunch of colonels circling the seat of government with tanks. We have witnessed a coup by increments — something that is much harder to detect.

There has been a concerted effort to exclude the Declaration of Independence from the corpus of binding law. This is a legal impossibility in view of the nature of the Declaration — it is a contract much the same as Articles of Incorporation are. No one is at liberty to unilaterally change the terms of a contract.

Our sixth president, John Quincy Adams, had this to say about the foun-

dational role of the Declaration for the Constitution and laws made pursuant to it:

"The virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States...was no other than... those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence — namely the self-evident truths of the natural and unalienable rights of man... and the sovereignty of the people, always subordinate to the rule of right and wrong, and always responsible to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for the rightful exercise of that power. This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected."

The boldness of the Court's usurpation is somewhat like the old line of the crook who is caught in the act exclaiming, "Who do you believe, me or your lying eyes?" To give but one example, consider the 14th Amendment. The 39th Congress expressly stipulated that the Amendment was not designed to control schools, voting and elections. Indeed, that was so well understood that the 15th Amendment was enacted in order to deal with voting.

The record of the clear intent of the framers of the 14th Amendment has not stopped the Supreme Court from inventing the doctrine of incorporation out of thin air. This has allowed the Supremes to increase consolidation of power in their own hands (and in the hands of their willing accomplices in the legislative and the executive branches) in Washington. This has been done at the expense of the Constitutional reservation of most governmental powers to the states and to the people.

Incorporation might be best understood by thinking of it as incorporating stolen powers. The lack of jurisdiction for many of the Court's decisions is comparable to the city of Paris levying a tax to be paid by citizens of the United States in the U.S.

Incorporation is now being expanded by a majority (six of the nine justices) of the Supremes to allow for foreign law as a guide to their judicial lawmaking. When the Court recently overturned capital punishment for an 18-year old who had cold-bloodedly mur-



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has looked to other countries to find justification for his opinions.

dered a neighbor when he was just a "child" of 17, Justice Breyer claimed the support of the murder law in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe! The country run by a thug who has proclaimed himself a black Hitler!

Gun owners should not be surprised when the gun control laws of some other thugocracy such as Cuba form the basis of a Supreme rape of the 2nd Amendment. Americans generally should not be surprised at any unconstitutional notion the Supremes may take into their heads.

One challenge we face in freeing ourselves from this judicial tyranny is that they have the benefit of a mind fake that has us believing that anything, no matter how outrageous, that comes out of the mouth of a judge is law. Hence we see other government officials — who have all taken the same oath of office to uphold the Constitution — violating their oaths by obeying unconstitutional edicts of the Supreme Court. This is otherwise known as "upholding the rule of law." Of course, it is anything but.

Until "We the People" remember that we only gave the crowd in Washington a very limited amount of power to do only a very few things, we will continue to be ruled by unelected and unaccountable politicians wrapped in black robes. ■

South African Gun Owners at the Cross Roads

by Larry Pratt

There is a new pro-gun, pro-self defense organization in South Africa, and none too soon. Gun Owners of South Africa (GOSA) was publicly launched on January 26 in Cape Town. It was my pleasure to be on hand for the auspicious event.

South African officials, including Communist Party Member and now Safety and Security Minister Charles Nqakula, have made it clear that the purpose of the new law requiring reapplication for gun licenses was to disarm the public of all legal guns. Nqakula should know since his Ministry is in charge of administering the Firearms Control Act.

This was revealed during the launch by the Chairman of the Black Gun Owners' Association of South Africa (BGOASA), Abios Khoele. Khoele electrified the nearly all-white audience with his call to action. Having put to rest that anybody — white or black — could expect to get a renewal for their gun license, Khoele challenged the whites to work with BGOASA in a campaign of massive civil disobedience to get the government to back off.

The socialist government of the African National Congress (ANC) is concerned that the 3,200,000 licensed gun owners in South Africa are seriously talking about not bothering to reapply for a license, because they see the government wants to disarm them.

With talk of non-compliance already in the air, Khoele's remarks brought the audience at the GOSA launch to an excited pitch. Khoele pointed out that blacks saw how the ANC came to power, and that BGOASA was prepared to use the same lessons of civil disobedience against the ANC.

The Black Gun Owners' Association of South Africa has already put feet to that claim. Last year, BGOASA gathered more than 8,000 blacks outside the government buildings in the South African capital of Pretoria. When threatened with arrest, Khoele invited the black police to do to a black crowd what the white Apartheid police had



Larry Pratt met with other pro-gun leaders in South Africa this past January. From the left: Abios Khoele (Black Gun Owners Association of South Africa), Larry Pratt (GOA) and Charl van Wyk (Gun Owners of South Africa).

done to blacks. No arrests were made.

If Khoele were to repeat last year's demonstration with the addition of a large contingency of whites, the gun grabbers of South Africa would be hard pressed to continue.

The biggest danger could come at that point. A few days prior to the GOSA launch, I saw how capably the government attempts to shift the frame of the debate. The idea is to set the terms so that "You lose, I win."

GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt traveled to South Africa in January and was quoted in more than three dozen news outlets, both home and abroad.

I was on the stage at a GOSA conference near Johannesburg when a chief of police arrived (late) to take part in the conference. There are seven metro police districts in South Africa. Robert McBride, the chief of the Ekurhuleni Metro near Johannesburg, put on a masterful, but unsuccessful demonstration of how to neutralize one's opponent.

McBride, an ANC member, told the attendees that they all had to stop talking past each other. He continued that the gun control debate was not an ideological issue, just one of how to best implement the relicensing law. He added that it was not helpful to keep comparing gun control in South Africa

to what had led up to the genocides in Rwanda, Cambodia and Hitler's Germany. Such talk prevents him and others in the ANC, who support gun ownership, from defending licensed gun owners. (Yeah, right!)

I actually met many gun owner activists in South Africa who had read *Confrontational Politics* by GOA's founder and chairman, retired California state Senator H.L. Richardson. People who have read and begun to apply the lessons of Richardson's book are not likely to fall for the rhetorical traps of the likes of Chief McBride. Certainly those at the GOSA conference who heard Chief McBride were not buying (with perhaps a couple of exceptions).

But other gun owners in South Africa are convinced that they can "make the law work." In talks with the government they have been trying to carve out at least an exception for their own particular fraternity within the larger gun owning population. The government is playing them along to divide and conquer. What these gun owners do not understand is that the government is dead serious about disarming ALL legal

gun owners.

After the meeting, I learned that Chief McBride was quite the expert in criminal activity. As an ANC operative before the Apartheid government was replaced by the ANC, Robert McBride bombed a bar in the tourist area of Durban, killing three young women. After the ANC took over, McBride was arrested in Mozambique on gun running charges. He was released after sitting in jail for a couple of months. Now he is a chief of police.

I can foresee that if Abios Khoele, along with GOSA, and say, white farmers, are successful in getting the ANC

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South African Gun Owners

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government to cry “uncle,” the tactics employed by McBride at the GOSA conference would be attempted again. The ANC will say something such as, “Hey, you guys don’t have to shut down Pretoria. Besides, if you don’t stop doing that, you will just hurt your cause. Look, everybody take a deep breath, your thousands all go home, and we’ll talk.”

Of course, the only answer at that point from gun owners has to be, “Talk

about what? About how fast you are going to get rid of the Firearms Control Act?”

The government’s justification for targeting legal firearms is that licensed gun owners have supposedly been too careless, and thus represent the source of all the illegal guns in South Africa. However, none of the government types can explain why illegal guns are now more plentiful in England after the 1997 confiscation of almost all registered guns in the country. There simply are no legal gun owners left to blame, yet the police estimate that there are some 3,000,000 illegal guns in England.

(“Only” 1,500,000 firearms were confiscated in 1997.)

As in the United States, gun banners are simply unwilling (and unable) to deal with the mountains of data that disprove their arguments. Maybe they are really not concerned about crime after all. If that is the case, maybe we are getting close to understanding why they don’t want opponents to keep bringing up countries where gun control led to confiscation and was then followed by genocide. Do you suppose that is what terrorist-now-police-chief McBride has in mind when he wants no talk of Hitler and Pol Pot? ■

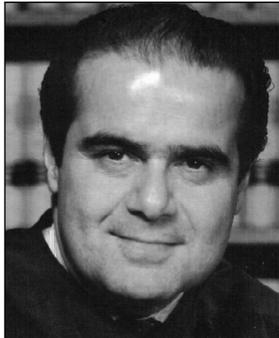
Don’t Mess with the Constitution

by Erich Pratt

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia shook up politicians in the nation’s capital when he said that anyone who believes in a *living Constitution* is an “idiot.”

Speaking to the Federalist Society in February, Scalia said that judges should stick to the plain text of the Constitution and not insert their personal views.

As to those who feel the Constitution should change its meaning as society



Justice Antonin Scalia said those who believe in a living Constitution are “idiots.”

changes?

“You would have to be an idiot to believe that,” Scalia said. “The Constitution is not a living organism, it is a legal document. It says something and doesn’t say other things.”

Scalia warned that adopting the “living Constitution” view means that issues will be decided “not by the people, but by the justices of the Supreme Court.”

Scalia also noted there is

a tremendous level of hypocrisy among those who favor the living Constitution model. Those who favor a changing Constitution are not looking for legal flexibility, he said, “they are looking for rigidity.”

They invent all kinds of “rights” which are not found in the Constitution, and then they want those supposed rights to be “embedded from coast to coast and to be unchangeable,” he said.

How ironic, for these supposed rights are given precedence over those which are specifically enshrined in the Bill of Rights. ■



Michael & Me

This debut work from provocative filmmaker and talk-radio host Larry Elder aims to mirror Moore’s quest for a confrontation with General Motors’ CEO, Roger Smith — except this time its Moore himself who is being pursued.

Michael & Me follows Elder over an 18-month period as he attempts to locate the elusive Moore in order to quiz him about some of his assertions in his attack on guns and gun owners in *Bowling for Columbine*.

Prominent in Elder’s mind is the question of how many Americans have managed to stay alive after using a gun in self-defense.

Available in DVD format only, *Michael & Me* includes interviews with prominent Second Amendment spokesmen, including several appearances by GOA’s executive director, Larry Pratt.

You can order *Michael & Me* on the GOA website for \$14.50, plus shipping and handling.

Go to <http://www.gunowners.com/resource.htm> and order a copy of *Michael & Me* today (while checking our massive ongoing booksale)!



Much Ado About Nothing

by *Larry Pratt*

The accident that occurred when Vice President Dick Cheney shot a hunting buddy during a bird hunt in February is only of interest because it involved the Vice President.

Hunting accidents happen every year, although it is also true that fatal gun accidents of all kind are continuing to

decline. Most recently there have been 770 accidental firearms deaths per year. This has occurred at the same time that the number of firearms owned by private citizens in this country has nearly tripled since 1967 — a year that saw 2700 fatal firearms accidents.

Some are trying to invent a story out of Cheney’s failure to hold a press conference right away. Those same people don’t seem to find any problem with a truly fatal accident involving another prominent person, Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. Kennedy left the scene of an accident and let a girl drown. He spent the night trying to figure out what his story would be.

Perhaps that is why so many of the media have let Kennedy alone — at least he held a news conference as soon as he had his story straight.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada has criticized Cheney for not holding a news conference right away. This is the same Senator who had a stroke and took three days to say anything to the media. Again, the Sen. Kennedy rule probably protects Sen. Reid, since his aides claim that the delay was occasioned by their desire to have all the tests in so they would have their story straight.

As long as you were thinking of the media, delay is OK. It is only inexcusable if you were not thinking first of the media — you know, like getting the poor victim of the accident to the hospital and making sure he was alright.

Other “interesting delays” in our recent history involved the 30 hours Hillary Clinton needed to contact the media about the violent death of her law partner/White House counsel, Vince Foster. Where was the media outrage following Hillary’s delay?

One reporter asked if Gun Owners of America was not afraid that the Cheney incident would lead to a call for more gun control. I explained the facts above about declining accidental firearms fatalities. He responded that, “Didn’t we



Vice President Dick Cheney appeared on Fox Cable News with Brit Hume in February to discuss his hunting mishap.

think that calls for a renewal of the semi-auto ban (which he incorrectly called “assault weapons”) could result from this incident?”

All I could do was laugh. What a non-sequitur.

I am not sure that even Sarah Brady would try to make that stretch, but then, maybe I had better wait a while. ■



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