

THE Gun Owners

30 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2005

As Katrina Educates World on Need for Owning Guns

GOA Denounces Gun Confiscations in New Orleans

by Erich Pratt

“All our operators are busy right now. Please remain on the line and an operator will be with you shortly. Your call is important to us.”

Can you imagine any words more horrifying after dialing 9-1-1? Your life’s in danger, but there’s no one available to help you.

For several days in September, life was absolutely terrifying for many New Orleans residents who got stranded in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. There were no operators ... there were no phone calls being handled.

Heck, there was no 9-1-1. Even if the phone lines had been working, there were no police officers waiting to be dispatched.

Hundreds of New Orleans police officers had fled the city. Some took their badges and threw them out the windows of their cars as they sped away. Others participated in the looting

New Orleans Jazzed about Disarmament



ABC News on September 8 showed National Guard troops going house-to-house, smashing through doors, searching for residents, and confiscating guns. Every victim of disarmament was clearly not a thug or looter, but a decent resident wanting to defend his or her home.

of the city.

While there were many officers who acted honorably — even apprehending dangerous thugs while grieving the loss of their own family members — most residents were forced to fend for them-

selves.

Many did so successfully, using their own firearms, until New Orleans Police Commissioner Edwin Compass III

Continued on page 2

Sen. Vitter Moves to Block Anti-gun UN

By John Velleco

(Washington, D.C.) – Pro-gun Senator David Vitter (R-LA) recently introduced S. 1488, a bill that would block the United Nations from implementing gun control measures affecting U.S. citizens.

Gun owners across America are increasingly victorious in legislative and elective battles at the local, state and national levels. Nevertheless, anti-gun internationalists, long burrowed in the UN headquarters, are planning, with some success, massive international gun control measures.

In July 2005, the UN held the second biennial meeting of States to consider

the implementation of the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Though couched in the flowery rhetoric of protecting victims of violence, the goal of the conference is nothing short of global gun control.

The rabid gun banners to our north would seem to agree. “From Canada’s perspective ... serious attention should be given to the regulation of civilian possession of small arms,” said Tim Martin, head of Canada’s delegation to the conference.

Sen. Vitter has meticulously documented and highlighted for his senate

colleagues some of the most egregious proposals, including:

- A comprehensive program for worldwide gun control and a total ban on certain types of firearms;

Continued on page 3

Inside:

- **Outrageous gun confiscation from the Big Easy (page 5)**
- **Concealed carry opponents forced to eat crow (page 6)**

GOA Denounces Gun Confiscation in New Orleans

Continued from page 1

issued the order to confiscate their guns.

Anti-gun zealots confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens

On September 8, several news outlets began reporting that officials in New Orleans were confiscating firearms ... not from looters, but from law-abiding citizens who legally owned firearms!

“No one will be able to be armed,” said Deputy Chief Warren Riley. “We are going to take all the weapons.”

It was like a scene out of the former Soviet Union or Communist China.

The *Associated Press* quoted Compass, the police commissioner, as saying, “Only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons.”

Well, there you have it. Given the chance, gun control advocates will always implement their real agenda — confiscation of firearms from everyone ... except the police!

ABC News video on September 8 showed National Guard troops going house-to-house, smashing through doors, searching for residents, and con-



fiscating guns. Every victim of disarmament was clearly not a thug or looter, but a decent resident wanting to defend his or her home.

Many of the troops were clearly conflicted by their orders. “It is surreal,” said one member of the Oklahoma National Guard who was going door-to-

door in New Orleans. “You never expect to do this in your own country.”

Many never would have expected it — confiscating firearms from decent people who were relying on those firearms to protect themselves from the looters.

It was an outrageous order — one that should not have been obeyed. There was no constitutional authority for the directive, and it ignored the fact that many good people had already used firearms to successfully defend their lives and property.

Guns were saving lives and protecting property prior to the confiscation order

As flood waters started rising in New Orleans, a wave of violence rolled through the city.

“It was pandemonium for a couple of nights,” said Charlie Hackett, a New Orleans resident. “We just felt that when [looters] got done with the stores, they’d come to the homes.”

Hackett was right . . . which is why he and his neighbor, John Carolan, stood guard over their homes to ward off looters who, rummaging through the neighborhoods, were smashing windows and ransacking stores.

Armed looters did eventually come to Carolan’s house and demanded his generator. But Carolan showed them his gun and they left.

No wonder then that gun stores, which weren’t under water, were selling firearms at a record pace to people looking to defend themselves. “I’ve got people like you wouldn’t believe, lots of people, coming in and buying handguns,” said Briley Reed, the assistant manager of the E-Z Pawn store in Baton Rouge.

“I’ve even had soldiers coming in here buying guns,” Reed said.

Firearms were a hot commodity

It would be an understatement to say that firearms were the hottest commodity in the days following the massive destruction. In Gulf Port, Mississippi,



Ron Roland used his handgun (visible in waistband) to stop looters from rummaging through his storm-damaged property, after Hurricane Katrina leveled much of it to the ground.

Ron Roland, 51, lost everything — three homes, four cars, a bait-and-tackle shop and a boat. It was all destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Nevertheless, Roland was determined to salvage what he could amidst the rubble — with or without police protection. And it’s a good thing, too, because there would be no such thing as “police protection” in the days following the storm.

With gun in hand while standing guard over one of his homes, Roland managed to stop looters from rummaging through his storm-damaged property.

Roland and his son even performed a citizen’s arrest on one plunderer and then warned future thieves by posting the following message in his yard: “NO TRESPASSERS! ARMED HOME-OWNERS.”

Signs like this were common throughout the Gulf Coast region in the days following Katrina.

Unfortunately, some people had to learn the hard way about the utility of keeping firearms for protection.

Water, food ... but what about guns?

The managers at the Covenant Home nursing center in New Orleans were more than prepared to ride out the hurricane. They had food and supplies to last the 80 residents for more than ten days.

They had planned for every contin-

Continued on page 3

Witness Gun Confiscation for Yourself

To see actual news video of guns being confiscated in New Orleans (and what GOA is doing about it), please go to www.gunowners.org/notb.htm on GOA's website. See it for yourself ... you won't believe it has happened in this country!

GOA Denounces Gun Confiscation in New Orleans

Continued from page 2

gency . . . or so they thought.

"We had excellent plans. We had enough food for 10 days," said Peggy Hoffman, the home's Executive Director.

But they had no firearms. So when carjackers hijacked the home's bus and drove by the center shouting "Get out!" to the residents, they were completely helpless.

All of the residents, most of them in wheelchairs, were evacuated to other nursing homes in the state.

Hoffman says she has now learned her lesson.

Next time, "we'll have to equip our department heads with guns and teach them how to shoot," she said.

Thank goodness someone is learning from their mistakes.

Does anyone remember Los Angeles?

We should have learned this lesson more than ten years ago when the entire country saw horrifying images coming out of Los Angeles.

If the riots of 1992 taught us any-

thing, it is that the police can't always be there to protect us.

For several days, that city was in complete turmoil as stores were looted and burned. Motorists were dragged from their cars and beaten.

Further aggravating the situation, police were very slow in responding to the crisis. Many Guardsmen, after being mobilized to the affected areas, sat by and watched the violence because their rifles were low on ammunition.

But not everybody in Los Angeles suffered. In some of the hot spots, Korean merchants were able to successfully protect their stores with semi-automatic firearms.

In areas where armed citizens banded together for self-protection, their businesses were spared while others (which were left unprotected) burned to the ground.

The pictures of Korean merchants defending their stores left quite an impression on one group of people living in Los Angeles: those who had previously identified themselves as gun control advocates.

Press reports described how life-long gun control supporters were even running to gun stores to buy an item they never thought they would need — a gun. Tragically, they were surprised

(and outraged!) to learn there was a 15-day waiting period upon firearms.

Confiscating guns puts people at risk

Fast forward more than a decade, it seems that many folks still haven't learned the lessons from previous tragedies. If the Mayor and his cronies really wanted to help the decent citizens of New Orleans, they would have been issuing people firearms instead of taking them away.

These guns were the only thing that prevented many good folks from becoming victims in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Now that residents are disarmed, will the Mayor provide 24-hour, round-the-clock protection for each of these disarmed families? Will he make himself personally liable for anyone who is injured or killed as a result of being prevented from defending himself or his family?

When your life is in danger, you don't want to rely on a police force that is stretched way too thin. And the last thing you want to hear when you call 9-1-1 is, "All our operators are busy right now..."

That might just be the last thing you ever hear. ■

Sen. Vitter Moves to Block Anti-gun UN

Continued from page 1

- The establishment of an international tracking certificate which would be used to ensure UN monitoring control over the export, import, transit, stocking, and storage of legal small arms and light weapons;
 - Worldwide record keeping for an indefinite amount of time on the manufacture, holding and transfer of small arms and light weapons;
 - National registries and tracking lists of all legal firearms.
- Much of this agenda was conceived



Pro-gun Sen. David Vitter (R-LA)

in a 1995 proposal, and then adopted as a Program of Action in 2001. At that time, then-Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton led the U.S. opposition

to the Program. The United States has neither signed nor ratified the Program.

Sen. Vitter's bill will prohibit any U.S. funding to the UN unless the President certifies that the world body "has not taken action to restrict, attempt to restrict or otherwise adversely infringe upon the rights of individuals in the United States to possess a firearm or ammunition."

This yearly certification will bring public attention to the anti-gun actions of the UN, something that usually occurs with little fanfare or publicity.

"The U.N. has no business interfering with our Second Amendment rights guaranteed by our Founding Fathers," Sen. Vitter said. ■

Senate Passes Gun Control Amidst Protection For Gun Makers

Lock up your safety amendment to S. 397. The Senate passed a trigger lock amendment offered by Democrat Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin on July 28, 2005. The Kohl language requires gun dealers to include a “lock-up-your-safety” device with every handgun sold. In addition to imposing a “gun tax” on every handgun buyer, this amendment paves the way for future legislation mandating that gun owners use those trigger locks. The Kohl language passed (by a vote of 70-30) as an amendment to the gun makers protection act, S. 397. A vote against this amendment is rated as a “+”.

Key:
+ Pro-gun vote
- Anti-gun vote
X Not voting

Hawaii Akaka (D) - Inouye (D) -	Minnesota Coleman (R) - Dayton (D) -		
Idaho Craig (R) + Crapo (R) +	Mississippi Cochran (R) + Lott (R) +		
Alabama Sessions (R) + Shelby (R) +	Illinois Durbin (D) - Obama (D) -	Missouri Bond (R) + Talent (R) +	
Alaska Murkowski (R) - Stevens (R) -	Indiana Bayh (D) - Lugar (R) -	Montana Baucus (D) - Burns (R) +	Ohio DeWine (R) - Voinovich (R) -
Arizona Kyl (R) + McCain (R) -	Iowa Grassley (R) - Harkin (D) -	Nebraska Hagel (R) - Nelson (D) -	Oklahoma Coburn (R) + Inhofe (R) +
Arkansas Lincoln (D) - Pryor (D) -	Kansas Brownback (R) - Roberts (R) -	Nevada Ensign (R) + Reid (D) -	Oregon Smith (R) - Wyden (D) -
California Boxer (D) - Feinstein (D) -	Kentucky Bunning (R) + McConnell (R) -	New Hampshire Gregg (R) - Sununu (R) -	Pennsylvania Santorum (R) - Specter (R) -
Colorado Allard (R) + Salazar (D) -	Louisiana Landrieu (D) - Vitter (R) +	New Jersey Corzine (D) - Lautenberg (D) -	Rhode Island Chafee (R) - Reed (D) -
Connecticut Dodd (D) - Lieberman (D) -	Maine Collins (R) - Snowe (R) -	New Mexico Bingaman (D) - Domenici (R) -	South Carolina DeMint (R) + Graham (R) -
Delaware Biden (D) - Carper (D) -	Maryland Mikulski (D) - Sarbanes (D) -	New York Clinton (D) - Schumer (D) -	South Dakota Johnson (D) - Thune (R) +
Florida Martinez (R) + Nelson (D) -	Massachusetts Kennedy (D) - Kerry (D) -	North Carolina Burr (R) + Dole (R) +	Tennessee Alexander (R) + Frist (R) -
Georgia Chambliss (R) + Isakson (D) +	Michigan Levin (D) - Stabenow (D) -	North Dakota Conrad (D) - Dorgan (D) -	Texas Cornyn (R) + Hutchison (R) -
			Utah Bennett (R) + Hatch (R) +
			Vermont Jeffords (I) - Leahy (D) -
			Virginia Allen (R) + Warner (R) -
			Washington Cantwell (D) - Murray (D) -
			West Virginia Byrd (D) - Rockefeller (D) -
			Wisconsin Feingold (D) - Kohl (D) -
			Wyoming Enzi (R) + Thomas (R) +



“The anti-gun provisions in S. 397 would probably be stripped out in the House if all the gun groups were working together with GOA.”

--Rep. Ron Paul, Sept. 15, 2005

New Orleans Saints ... and Sinners

Notable quotes in the wake of Hurricane Katrina

“I was a card-carrying, anti-gun liberal . . . not anymore!”

— A New Orleans woman explaining to a gun store clerk why she was buying a handgun for the first time (*Boston Globe*, Sept. 11, 2005).



Chief Riley

“No one will be able to be armed. We are going to take all the weapons.”

— Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley, commenting on the order to confiscate firearms from citizens who had committed no crimes (*Associated Press*, Sept. 9, 2005).



“It is surreal. You never expect to do this in your own country.”

— Statement from a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, who was clearly uncomfortable with the fact that he was being used to forcibly evacuate and disarm fellow citizens in New Orleans (*ABC News*, Sept. 8, 2005).



Police Commissioner Compass

“Only law enforcement are allowed to have weapons.”

— Police Commissioner Edwin Compass III showing his ignorance (*New York Times*, Sept. 9, 2005). If he had not lost touch with reality, he would have realized (after issuing his order to confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens) that, “Only law enforcement AND THUGS are allowed to have weapons.”

“We had excellent plans. We had enough food for 10 days. Now we’ll have to equip our department heads with guns and teach them how to shoot.”

— Peggy Hoffman, manager of a nursing home in New Orleans, lamenting that her extensive plans to care for elderly residents fell short because they were unable to protect themselves against looters who stole their provisions and effectively forced elderly residents to be evacuated to other parts of the state (*Associated Press*, Sept. 8, 2005).



Mayor Ray Nagin

“If Mayor Ray Nagin really wanted to help the decent citizens of New Orleans, he would be issuing law-abiding citizens firearms instead of taking them away.”

— Statement issued to news outlets across the country by Erich Pratt, director of communications for GOA.



“We had a lot of chaos. . . . They should be open to sell guns. They should not be doing this to people.”

“People have to protect themselves.”

— Two disappointed Wal-Mart shoppers, noting that the store should not have stopped selling firearms to citizens in need of protection (*Boston Globe*, Sept. 11, 2005).

“We were told to have firearms . . . it was more [of] a deterrent.”

— Rescue worker, Tommy Stevens, explaining that they were ordered to have at least one gun on each rescue boat (*The Robesonian*, Sept. 12, 2005).

Concealed Carry Opponents Forced to Eat Crow

by Erich Pratt

It's been a bad year for gun control supporters.

More and more civilians are carrying guns across the nation, even while crime rates continue to drop.

That wasn't supposed to happen, say gun opponents.

Oklahoma is celebrating a 10 year anniversary this year. Citizens in the Sooner State have now been able to carry concealed firearms for a decade, and the results have been quite impressive.

According to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, citizens today are much safer as violent crime in the state has fallen 18 percent during the last decade.

"I'm for it," said Warner Police Chief Terry Thompson. "I have no problem with good, decent law-abiding citizens having the right to carry a weapon."

What a great attitude Chief Thompson has. Unfortunately, not everyone is as gung-ho as the Chief when it comes to concealed carry laws in their states.

"Sky is falling" predictions fail to materialize

Ohio and Missouri are celebrating their respective one year anniversaries. So far, their relatively new concealed carry laws have been working quite well. But this is not what one would have expected after listening to the cries of protest from gun haters in each state.

One author — writing in the *Kansas City Star* (10/13/03) — shrieked that Missouri's concealed carry law "is truly scary. Rage is rage. Spontaneous, combustible, volcanic. It erupts without warning."

And columnist Miriam Pepper, writing for the *Star*, sounded a similar warning the day before: "Restaurants don't want patrons pulling a gun on a waitress because they had a lousy meal. Let's not even mention the drunk who is losing a bar fight."

Scary predictions, to be sure. But those forecasts never came true.

Consider what David Lieb of the *Associated Press* had to say on February 25 of this year. "Contrary to some predictions," Lieb wrote, "there appears to be neither a verifiable spike nor decline in gun crimes attributable to the



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has not yet cosponsored H.R. 1243, a bill to establish concealed carry reciprocity amongst the states.

[carry] law."

You see that? There has been no "spike" in crime. To hear the opponents of the law, there should have been a huge escalation in crime now that hot-headed citizens have the ability to shoot each other in a moment of rage.

But that's not been the case in Missouri . . . or Ohio for that matter, where the same predictions have failed to materialize.

On January 18, 2004, Marilou Johaneck — a columnist for the *Toledo Blade* — predicted that because of their new carry law, Ohioans would see "the worst-case scenario when road, work, or play rage finds a trigger within easy reach."

Again, more scary predictions that the "sky would fall" once average citizens got their hands on guns. But even opponents are now admitting this has not come to pass.

Toby Hoover is the director of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence. He lobbied against the concealed carry law. He opposes guns in the hands of private citizens.

And yet even Hoover has had to admit the inevitable. He told the *Cincinnati Post* on April 9 of this year that despite more guns being in the hands of private citizens, "There's been no increase in violence."

Lessons from the Sunshine State

All of this has been reminiscent of Florida's battle to pass concealed carry legislation almost 20 years ago. The Sunshine State was one of the first in the nation to ease restrictions on carrying concealed firearms.

The Florida carry bill passed in 1987. But in trying to garner opposition to the bill, opponents came up with this catchphrase — "the Sunshine State is going to become the Gunshine State." It was a cute little jingle, but thankfully, it never came true.

Florida, which in 1987 had one of the highest murder rates in the country, has seen its murder rate drop through the floor. In the fifteen years following the passage of its concealed carry law, the homicide rate fell 52 percent — putting it below the national average.

While the media is more likely to report news related to gun crime, the fact is that a Florida resident is far more likely to be attacked by an alligator than to be assaulted by a concealed carry holder.

An honest gun grabber?

To his credit, one of the chief opponents of the Florida law, Rep. Ron Silver (D), graciously admitted afterwards that he had been wrong. "There are lots of people, including myself," Rep. Silver said, "who thought things would be a lot worse as far as that particular situation [carry reform] is concerned. I'm happy to say they're not."

Good for him. An honest gun grabber, who is not scared to admit when he's wrong.

Now, if we can just get more anti-gun liberals in the nation's capital to admit this, as well.

Rep. John Hostettler (R-IN) has introduced legislation to establish reciprocity among the states which have passed concealed carry laws. But while there are 66 representatives who have cosponsored H.R. 1243, there are still many A, B or C-rated congressmen who have not. (See page 7 for a listing of these representatives.)

Gun Owners of America will soon be asking its members and activists to put the heat on these recalcitrant folks. Please stay tuned.■

HIT THE RIGHT TARGET! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fundraising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn't find a group that wasn't attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate **Gun Owners Foundation (GOF)** as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use **Agency Number 1054** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate that your gift be to **Gun Owners Foundation**. Many local United Way Campaigns allow **Gun Owners Foundation** to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to **Gun Owners Foundation** by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep **GOF** in mind when making your donation. Thank you very much.



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 they have NOT cosponsored the concealed carry legislation, even though they are all GOA rated A through C congressmen.

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



On Being Thankful for Crooked Cops

by Larry Pratt

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (the BATFE) — a federal agency that is already infamous as a thuggish group — has teamed up with the Virginia state police and Rich-

mond area cop shops to violate the law . . . BIG TIME.

The scandal is huge, even if you have not heard of it. By and large, the media worships at the altar of big government, and they are not about to tell us that our emperor is butt naked.

At an August gun show operated by Showmasters, a Virginia gun show promoter, the BATFE turned over to local police the names and addresses of gun buyers who were having their backgrounds checked. Officers were then dispatched to the buyers' homes to ask wives, other family members — even neighbors — if they knew that the individual was at a gun show that day, that he was buying a gun, blah, blah, blah. Many buyers decided they were not interested in that kind of harassment, and the show lost a huge amount of business by citizens trying to avoid this outrageous conduct.

Subsequently, it was learned that the BATFE had told the building owner, where the gun show was conducted, that the promoter had given the OK to install surveillance cameras. With that representation (which was a total lie), the owner gave permission and the government spy cameras were installed.

During this entire ordeal, at least three federal laws were broken — by the cops!

1. The BATFE may not give to anyone outside the agency information taken from the forms involved in an instant background check.
2. The BATFE is only allowed to do an inspection for compliance of a dealer's records once a year or pursuant to a criminal investigation.
3. Federal law prohibits federal departments from perpetrating fraud.

It turns out that this assault on the people has been a routine policy for the Virginia State Police for about a year.

Gun Owners of America has never supported the Instant Background Check, also known as the Brady Law. It is unconstitutional (surely one has to concede that it is an infringement of the right to keep and bear arms because it imposes a prior restraint on purchase, and it treats the purchaser as a criminal until proven innocent).

The Instant Background Check is also of no use in controlling crime. Anti-gun scholar Jens Ludwig studied the law five years after imposition and found that it had had no impact on crime. More generally, this is a conclusion reached about all gun control laws by an analysis done by the federal government's Centers for Disease Control.

Every time a bureaucrat or any other public official is employed, there is a chance of hiring a crook or a thug. To argue against this proposition is to argue against history and human nature (unless we assume that government employment washes away the sinfulness of man).

No state should be involved in piling on the unconstitutionality of doing background checks. Bad enough the feds do this; the states should not also be doing this. With all the state and local police available, the BATFE had a large pool of volunteers to join them in their law breaking.

State operation of a redundant Instant Background Check does nothing to fight crime. These cops think they are fighting crime, I am sure. Unhappily, all they are actually doing is fighting against the restraints imposed on them by the Constitution.

These rogue police have done us a favor, and for that we should be thankful. They have so overreached the limits of their authority that they have awakened many gun owners about the abuses inherent in the Instant Background Check.

We can even be thankful for crooked cops — if it means we can straighten them out. It is doubtful that any of these rogues will end up in jail, which is where a "mere" citizen would land for a similar violation of civil rights. But we should not stop until there are some unemployed police who are barred from this line of work.

Government employees, especially cops, have power. The Constitution is all about ensuring that power is exercised with accountability.

It is time for accountability.■

THE
Gun Owners

Sen. H.L. Richardson (Ret.)
Founder and Chairman

Larry Pratt
Executive Director

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102
Springfield, Virginia 22151

Erich Pratt
Director of Communications

John Velleco
Director of Federal Affairs

703-321-8585
Web Site:
<http://www.gunowners.org>

The Gun Owners publication is not copyrighted. Copies may be made freely, but it is requested that attribution be made together with GOA's address, phone number and web site location.