

THE Gun Owners

35 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2010

Could the World Court put gun makers out of business?

by Erich Pratt

Having been stymied in their efforts to enact more gun control at home, several politicians are going global in a back door effort to restrict the firearms of American citizens.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is spearheading an effort to get the World Court to do what the courts in our country have refused to do — namely, find gun makers guilty for the damages caused by their products' misuse.

Chicago's frivolous lawsuit was dismissed by a liberal Supreme Court in Illinois six years ago. So now, Mayor Daley is trying to get the international court to go after U.S. gun makers.

Daley compared guns to poison saying, "If we ship over poison to a country, don't you think we should be responsible for it?"

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reported on April 27 that Daley has

GOA in the News



John Velleco, GOA's Director of Federal Affairs, appeared on *Fox News* in May to advance gun rights. See his article on page 4 reviewing the hottest congressional races that are shaping up this year.

managed to convince more than a dozen mayors from around the world to join him in approving a resolution urging "redress against the gun industry through the courts of the world."

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Democrats Moving to Punish Criticism of Congress — But GOA mobilizing the pro-gun opposition

by Tim Macy

Fresh from his efforts to seize government control of the health services sector (ObamaCare) and the financial markets ("finance reform"), Barack Obama has a new priority: silence his political opposition.

As satisfying as it was for Obama to seize control of one-sixth of the economy, he has had to suffer protest from the "little people" (like us). So he is pushing the Orwellian "DISCLOSE" bill (HR 5175 and S 3295) to make sure gun groups and other pro-freedom forces cannot mobilize their members in the upcoming elections.

When Obama says "disclose," what he really means is "disclose the membership lists of all gun groups and allied conservative organizations that

opposes the Obama-Pelosi-Reid agenda."

Gun Owners of America has been lobbying hard to unify the pro-gun

"Gun Owners of America has been one of the key players in opposing the DISCLOSE Act."

— Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA)

movement in opposition to this dangerous legislation — language which would have a chilling effect on the rights of individuals and groups like Gun Owners of America who want to speak out against anti-gun politicians.

GOA believes that all the gun organizations need to stand together to defeat this bill. Unfortunately, that is not happening. On June 14, *Politico.com* reported that:

House Democrats have offered to exempt the National Rifle Association from a sweeping campaign-finance bill, removing a major obstacle in the push to roll back the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling.

The NRA had objected to some of the strict financial disclosure provisions that Democrats have proposed for corporations and politically active nonprofits and that had kept moderate, pro-gun Democrats from backing the legislation.

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World Court and gun makers

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According to the article, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter acknowledged that using the World Court is a long-shot. But, he said “you never know until you try,” and he further opined that it’s worth a try to counter the political muscle of the gun lobby in Washington.

He added, “People are being killed every day in the United States of America with illegal weapons. I love the 2nd Amendment. [But], I have a 1st Amendment right not to be shot.”

Hmm, where is that exactly in the First Amendment? Oh never mind, these gun banners never were sticklers for actually reading the Constitution (or even the bills they vote on).

U.S. causing Mexico’s gun violence?

In similar news, another politician is using international pressure to browbeat the U.S. Congress into banning semi-automatic firearms. He wants the U.S. to unilaterally disarm itself, but if we won’t, then there’s an international treaty waiting in the wings that will force us to do so.

Many liberal politicians want to renew the Clinton-Feinstein semi-auto ban which sunset in 2004. However, what makes this latest call for renewing the ban so unique is that the politician advocating it is Felipe Calderón, the President of Mexico, who is blaming America’s gun laws for helping foment Mexico’s gun violence.

Speaking to the U.S. Congress in May, Calderón drew standing ovations each time he blasted America’s supposedly lax gun laws.

But let’s be clear: Calderón drew standing ovations from the Democrat side of the aisle each time he took aim at our constitutional rights during his four minute rant.



Erich Pratt (left) sits down with Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) who has introduced HR 1146, legislation that would get the US out of the United Nations.

Calderón can’t get his facts straight

Calderón blamed the sunset of America’s semi-auto ban in 2004 as contributing to a rise in violence in Mexico; he warned that a failure to renew the

ban would lead to increased violence in this country; and, he quoted the discredited figure that more than 80 percent of confiscated guns in Mexico originate in the United States.

For starters, as the accompanying graph shows, the murder rate in Mexico fell after the semi-auto ban expired.

Likewise, the murder rate in the United States fell during that same five year period — dropping 5% in the years following the sunset of the semi-auto ban, according to the FBI’s *Crime in the United States*.

So tell us again, Señor Calderón, how exactly are our gun laws negatively affecting your country? Calderón simply doesn’t have his facts straight.

Nor did he tell it straight when he suggested that more than 80 percent of Mexico’s crime guns had

first come from the United States. *Fox News* conducted its own independent investigation last year and determined the real figure was barely more than a dozen percent — and that even these guns which originated in the U.S. could

have been legally shipped to our southern neighbor for use in their armed forces.

Are we really supposed to believe that Mexican drug dealers are standing in line at American gun stores, waiting to transport thousands of guns back into Mexico?

And then there are the automatic weapons, grenades, and grenade launchers that are being used by the drug cartels.

Those aren’t exactly freely available in this country. Doesn’t the presence of these types of armaments suggest that maybe ... just maybe ... these cartels have other means by which to arm themselves?

HR 1146 would move us away from additional anti-gun treaties

As stated earlier, because politicians are finding it difficult to impose stricter gun controls in this country, they are trying to use international treaties to make an end run around the Congress.

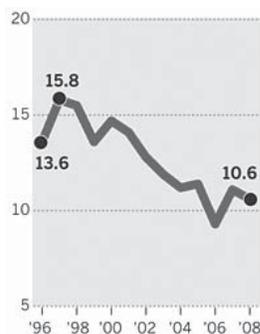
Daley wants to use the World Court, while Presidents Calderón and Obama would like to ratify CIFTA — an inter-American treaty that imposes all kinds of new firearms restrictions on American gun owners. This treaty is so expansive, it would even cover items such as BB guns and reloaded ammunition.

Then, there’s the global gun treaty that is currently being pushed at the UN level — a treaty that would not only regulate firearms around the world, but in the U.S. as well. (See GOA’s report on this treaty in the March 22, 2010 issue of *The Gun Owners*.)

All of these treaties pose a tremendous danger to U.S. gun owners. Gun owners should urge their Representatives to cosponsor HR 1146 which will withdraw our country’s membership in the United Nations.

Until then, the coming elections in November will be very important, as they will probably determine whether any of the above-mentioned treaties will find a welcome home in the U.S. Senate. ■

Homicides per 100,000 residents in Mexico



Source: Center of Research for Development. Graphics reporting by KEN ELLINGWOOD

Los Angeles Times

The murder rate in Mexico fell after the U.S. semi-auto ban sunset, judging from their murder rates between 2003 and 2008 (the former year being the last full year that the U.S. semi-auto ban was on the books).

Anti-Gun ObamaPet Nominated to the Supreme Court – But key Senators might choose not to filibuster

In May, President Barack Obama picked a radical anti-gunner to succeed Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court.

This pick could well cast the deciding vote on the constitutionality of ObamaCare and will almost certainly preside, during the next thirty years, over dozens of cases which could very well chip away at the *DC v. Heller* decision, telling us which gun laws the court views as “constitutional” and which “unconstitutional.”

So it is more than a little interesting that Barack Obama has reached into his closet of political leftists to bring out Elena Kagan — a woman whose legal views have been shaped by the most extreme socialist voices in Washington.

Kagan doesn't have a record of judicial opinions. But her views on the

Second Amendment are no mystery. According to columnist James Oliphant, Kagan was part of “a small group of staffers work[ing] behind the scenes to pursue an aggressive policy agenda” during President Bill Clinton's second term.

Oliphant writes: “According to records at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark., she also drafted an executive order restricting the importation of certain semiautomatic assault rifles. She also helped prepare a question-and-answer document advocating the campaign-reform legislation then proposed by Sens. Russ Feingold and John McCain.”

Kagan was also part of the Clinton team that pushed the firearms industry to include gun locks with all gun purchases and was in the Clinton administration when the president pushed legislation that would close down gun shows.

Not only that, *Bloomberg News* reported on May 13 that while working for Justice Thurgood Marshall, Kagan urged him to vote against hearing a gun owner's claim that his constitutional rights were violated.

Kagan wrote that she was “not sympathetic” toward the gun rights claim that was made in *Sandidge v. United States* — an amazing statement for a woman who is being heralded for supposedly showing a “special solicitude” for the interests of certain groups.

After the *Heller* case was handed down, Kagan did concede that the Second Amendment was an “individual right.” But that makes her no different than the talking heads at the Brady Campaign.

Kagan, like the President who nominated her, is an extreme leftist. According to *WeeklyStandard.com* (May 6, 2009), she is so far to the left she has lamented that socialism has “never attained the status of a major political force” in our country.

And according to *Politico.com* (March 20, 2009), she says that foreign law can be used to interpret the U.S.



Obama favorite Elena Kagan has lamented that socialism “never attained the status of a major political force” in the U.S.

Constitution in “some circumstances.” Considering that most of the world does not respect the freedoms that are protected in our Second Amendment, this is a bad sign.

Kagan could shift the balance of the Supreme Court

One could argue that the U.S. Supreme Court currently has a 5-4 conservative majority, if one defines “conservative” very loosely. Even so, Kagan could very well shift the balance of the Court.

But how can this be? Isn't she just replacing a liberal justice?

Well, President Obama is hoping for much more than that. There has been a lot of speculation at the White House that Elena Kagan will exert influence on Justice Anthony Kennedy who, until now, has usually been the “swing vote” that often sides with the conservatives on the Court.

President Obama is hoping that Kagan's reputed consensus building skills will be able to pull Kennedy back over to the liberal side of the fence. For example, *Time* magazine reported on May 11 that:

Few think [Kagan] will be able to change the positions of the most devoted conservatives, Scalia, Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito and

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GOA putting the heat on Kyl



Gun Owners of America has been heavily lobbying Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), who has voted once already for Elena Kagan (for Solicitor General) and has indicated he might not support a filibuster of her Supreme Court nomination.

GOA Supporting the Best Pro-gun Candidates in 2010

by John Velleco

The 2010 elections are perhaps the most important for the Second Amendment in our lifetimes.

And although the general election is still a few months away, Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund (GOA-PVF) has already taken part in huge primary victories by supporting candidates across the country who are ready to come to Washington and derail the anti-gun agenda of President Obama and his allies in Congress.

The 2010 Victory in Nevada

GOA-PVF jumped into the Nevada Republican primary early for pro-gun former state representative Sharron Angle and, to date, GOA has remained the only national gun group supporting her candidacy. In the race to determine who will face Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in November, Angle pulled off a stunning come-from-behind victory and won with 40% of the vote.

While Sharron Angle is a 100% Second Amendment supporter, Harry Reid pretends to be pro-gun but uses his position in the Senate to undermine the right to keep and bear arms.

Recently, Sen. Reid has led the charge to confirm radical anti-gun nominees put forward by President Obama, including:

- Eric Holder, who supports banning many semi-automatic firearms, as Attorney General;
- Harold Koh, who is pushing for ratification of a UN gun control treaty, as the top lawyer at the State Department;
- Cass Sunstein, Obama's "regulatory czar" who would ban hunting, and;
- Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who supports the notion that a complete ban on firearms by a state would be constitutional.

GOA-PVF will continue to expose the anti-gun record of Harry Reid in what will undoubtedly be the most-watched election of 2010.

Victory in Kentucky

GOA-PVF was the only national gun group to endorse Rand Paul for U.S. Senate in Kentucky. Paul cruised to victory in a Republican primary against the preferred candidate of party elites.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and other top Republicans made it clear early on that they wanted Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, a McConnell protégé, to fill the seat of retiring pro-gun Senator Jim Bunning.

Despite facing an uphill struggle, Dr. Paul entered the race because he believes that the Constitution is under serious attack and that the last thing Washington needs is another career politician.

Rand Paul will not only fight against any new gun control proposals — and anti-gun presidential nominees — but he will also work to roll back the unconstitutional gun laws that are on the books.

Following his victory, Dr. Paul sent his own message to Washington: "I am not going to mince words. We are coming to take our government back." Paul will face Democrat Jack Conway in the November elections.

Victory in Utah

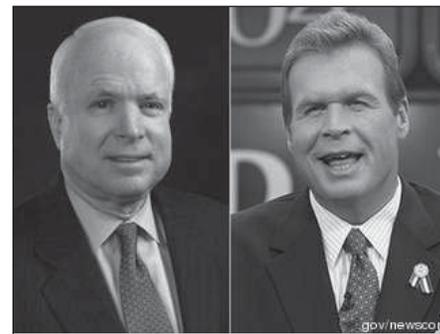
GOA-PVF also scored a huge victory when delegates to the Utah Republican State Convention ousted longtime Sen. Bob Bennett on May 8.

GOA-PVF was the only national gun rights organization to oppose Bennett in his bid for reelection. In a letter and phone calls to delegates, GOA-PVF pointed out Bennett's checkered history on gun rights, including his support of Eric Holder for Attorney General and "regulatory czar" Cass Sunstein.

Florida Senate

Gun Owners won a victory of sorts without a vote being cast, as Gov. Charlie Crist dropped out of the Republican party rather than face pro-gunner Marco Rubio in the primary.

GOA's Political Victory Fund — the only national gun group to oppose



While gun groups are divided in the Arizona Senate race, GOA's Political Victory Fund has endorsed former congressman J.D. Hayworth (right) over anti-gun Senator John McCain.

Crist, the Republican Party favorite — jumped into the race to support Rubio months before Crist decided to run as an independent.

Rubio is not only a first generation American whose parents fled Cuba after Castro's takeover; he is now a seasoned pro-gun leader who rose to the position of Speaker of the House in the Florida legislature.

J.D. Hayworth over John McCain

In Arizona, GOA-PVF is supporting the candidacy of J.D. Hayworth against anti-gunner John McCain in the Republican primary.

McCain, of course, is infamous for legislation to stifle the First Amendment rights of groups like GOA. But McCain is just as much against the Second Amendment as he is against the First.

In the run-up to his presidential race in 2000, McCain authored a bill that would have closed down gun shows. He also became a spokesman for the anti-gun group Americans for Gun Safety, appearing in ads pushing for several gun control referendums.

J.D. Hayworth earned an "A" rating from GOA during his twelve years in the U.S. House and was endorsed by GOA's Political Victory Fund in February. The NRA endorsed John McCain in June.

Gun Owners battling in the Arkansas Senate race

Pro-gun Rep. John Boozman, sponsor of a GOA-supported bill to allow recognition of the right to concealed carry nationwide, handily won an 8-way primary and will face embattled Sen.

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GOA Supporting 2010 Pro-gun Candidates

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Blanche Lincoln in November.

Like many of her colleagues, Sen. Lincoln is the type who will vote pro-gun on “safe” issues that are sure to pass (or sure not to pass), but when her vote is really needed she will follow the lead of her anti-gun leadership on votes such as all of President Obama’s nominees to high positions of power.

Senator Lincoln also followed her political bosses when she spurned gun owners and became the necessary “60th vote” to help pass the anti-gun ObamaCare bill.

John Boozman is a proven, trusted friend of gun owners and sportsmen who will always stand firm against the gun banning crowd in Washington.

GOA Members the Key to Success

As you can see, GOA-PVF — which is funded solely by the generous



GOA’s John Velleco (right) with Rand Paul, the Senate Republican candidate from Kentucky.

contributions of GOA members — is involved in the most pivotal races in the country.

And this is just a sampling of the important races GOA is involved in this year. With all 435 U.S. House seats, 37 Senate seats, 37 governorships and hundreds of state level races on the bal-

lot this year, there are many more candidates being supported by GOA-PVF.

And we continue to seek out the very best candidates through our survey program, extensive research, and personal interviews.

Just as GOA is the only no-compromise gun lobby in Washington, we will seek out and support only those candidates who will defend your Second Amendment rights 100% of the time.

Every election is important, but few place the country at the crossroads of history. Will America continue down the Socialist, anti-gun path taken by this President? Or will we slam the brakes on the Obama agenda and get to work undoing the damage and restoring this great nation for our posterity? ■

Key Senators might choose not to filibuster Kagan

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Justice Clarence Thomas. But apparently Obama thinks she may sway Kennedy.... Kagan supporters point to the fact that she convinced some hard-line Republicans to vote for her when she was nominated to be Solicitor General, most notably Jon Kyl of Arizona, the behind-the-scenes GOP power on the Judiciary Committee.... But what’s most important, her backers say, is her ability to work the process; her skill as a consensus builder, they argue, could eventual-

ly make a difference [in swaying Kennedy].

Ah, notice that *Time* (correctly) gives us some important information here. Senator Kyl voted *in favor* of Elena Kagan for Solicitor General last year. Not surprisingly, Senator Kyl stated in May that, “The filibuster should be relegated to the extreme circumstances, and I don’t think Elena Kagan represents that.”

In other words, even though the Republicans have the 60 votes to defeat Elena Kagan’s nomination to the Supreme Court using a filibuster, he (Jon Kyl) wants Republicans to keep their ultimate weapon holstered during the nomination process.

But no wonder he doesn’t want to

fight Kagan’s being seated on the high Court — that would be a tacit admission that his earlier vote in favor of Kagan was a bad vote.

While every Senator needs to hear from their constituents, there are seven Republican Senators in particular who need special attention. These seven Republicans voted for Elena Kagan last year when she was confirmed as Obama’s Solicitor General:

- Tom Coburn (Oklahoma)
- Susan Collins (Maine)
- Judd Gregg (New Hampshire)
- Orrin Hatch (Utah)
- Jon Kyl (Arizona)
- Richard Lugar (Indiana)
- Olympia Snowe (Maine) ■

What Do They Put in the Water?

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defense, and no resistance to jihadi murderers. As Governor of Arizona, Janet Napolitano declared that there was no border problem in her state. Where does she think the real problem lies?

Well, it’s those angry Tea Party types, of course!

A related item suggests that Secretary Napolitano has imposed an affirmative action program for the entire Department of Homeland Insecurity. Namely, all key personnel must be as vision challenged (we used to say blind) as is the Secretary. Faisal Shahzad was on the terrorist watch list while he was

being naturalized. I bet if they found a membership card for Gun Owners of America he would not have been naturalized.

Let’s say it. Sen. Lautenberg and Mayor Bloomberg and the like are far more interested in depriving citizens of the means of self-defense than they are in effective counter-terrorism measures. ■

Warning: The Constitution Can be Hazardous to Children!

by Erich Pratt

On your next trip to the bookstore, you can play a little game. Determine what the following have in common: music with offensive lyrics, R-rated movies and the Constitution.

Give up?

Everyone knows that the first two items — certain CDs and DVDs — have contained warning labels for years. But, thanks to Wilder Publications in Virginia, the Constitution now comes with its own warning label!

In its *Foundations of Freedom*, this publisher has reprinted the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and many other founding documents.

But Wilder warns readers that this book, containing these documents, “is a product of its time and does not reflect the same values as it would if it were written today.”

The disclaimer goes on to warn parents that they “might wish to discuss with their children [these changes in values] before allowing them to read this classic work.”

One wishes this negative warning label was just an attempt by Wilder to use reverse psychology as a means of getting kids to actually read the founding documents. One can just picture Johnny hiding with his flashlight under the covers, surreptitiously reading his contraband copy of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, Wilder Publications’ warning is serious — and people are outraged. Reviews at *Amazon.com* call the warning label “ridiculous,” “ignorant,” “insulting” and much worse.

Most of the reviewers call on people to boycott the publisher — one saying that “there should be a warning label to not buy from this company.”

Another reader notes that, according to Wilder’s webpage, they publish the *Communist Manifesto* as well. The reviewer ponders: “I wonder if they put a warning in that one?”

‘Dissing’ the Constitution leads to bigger government and gun control

It’s certainly an irony of our times that the very document our President, Congressmen and Justices swear to uphold is now thrust into the same category as offensive speech.

As one *Amazon.com* reviewer sarcastically noted,

I can understand why Wilder chose to put a disclaimer on this publication. Reading it will make you question the current state of government in this country, and really “get it” that the Federal Government is 20 times the size it should be.

Advocates for big government have long tried to minimize the impact of both the Constitution and the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

For example, the new health care law that President Obama signed in March will allow the ATF and FBI to troll through a massive health care database and disqualify millions of Ameri-

©2007 Wilder Publications
This book is a product of its time and does not reflect the same values as it would if it were written today. Parents might wish to discuss with their children how views on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and interpersonal relations have changed since this book was written before allowing them to read this classic work.

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Warning label on the Constitution

cans — who are suffering from PTSD and other similar conditions — from buying firearms.

But where’s the authority for these gun restrictions or for any of the other requirements found in the 2,000 page ObamaCare monstrosity?

Many congressmen have been asked this question, and the results have been quite telling.

• When asked by *CNSNews.com* last November what language in the Constitution allows Congress to require individuals to purchase health insurance, Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL) pointed to the part of the Constitution that he says autho-

rizes the federal government “to provide for the health, welfare and the defense of the country.” Unfortunately for Sen. Burris, the word “health” never appears in the Constitution.

• When Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) was asked about the constitutional authority to regulate health care delivery, he retorted: “There’s nothing in the Constitution that says that the federal government has anything to do with most of the stuff we do.”

• And then there’s Congressman Phil Hare (D-IL) who was asked the same question this year regarding the authority to pass ObamaCare. Rep. Hare’s responses — which can be viewed on *YouTube* using a search for “Hare” and “Constitution” — are very enlightening.



Rep. Phil Hare (D-IL) says that what’s in the Constitution “doesn’t matter to me.”

“Hare-raising” comments on the Constitution

The conversation between the Illinois Congressman and his constituents went like this:

“Where in the Constitution [is there authority to pass health care legislation]?”

Hare: “I don’t worry about the Constitution on this, to be honest I care more about the people that are dying every day that don’t have health care.”

“You care more about that than the U.S. Constitution that you swore to uphold?”

Hare: “I believe that it says we have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

“That’s in the Declaration of Independence.”

Hare: “It doesn’t matter to me.”

Wow! A congressman who has taken an oath to uphold every word of the Constitution says that it doesn’t matter to him what’s in the document or not.

In fact, this Congressman has probably never read the Constitution! But then why should he? It’s an outdated document, according to Wilder Publications.

How ironic that the Library of Congress’ official website is named “Thomas,” after our third President, because it was Thomas Jefferson who said:

In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if our Congressmen actually revered the words of the man they claim to venerate? ■

Democrats Punish, GOA Mobilizing

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But if the NRA signs off on the deal, the bill could come to the House floor as early as this week. The NRA said it would not comment until specific legislative language is revealed.

An NRA official also noted that the group would not be supporting the bill but would not actively oppose it if the deal with the Democratic leadership holds up.

An NRA Director blasts the “deal”

In fact, the deal did go through and the NRA later announced its neutrality on the bill. In other words, having gotten an exemption for itself, the NRA decided not to oppose the anti-freedom DISCLOSE Act (HR 5175).

NRA Director Clela Mitchell blasted the deal in *The Washington Post* on June 17, saying that:

[T]he NRA — on whose board of directors I serve — rather than holding steadfastly to its historic principles of defending the Constitution and continuing its noble fight against government regulation of political speech instead opted for a political deal borne of self-interest in exchange for “neutrality” from the legislation’s requirements.

The bill’s language is designed to overturn major parts of the recent Supreme Court decision which restored the ability of groups like GOA to freely criticize elected officials during a campaign.

But here’s the rub. As reported by *Politico.com*, the exemption would benefit the NRA and virtually no other groups whatsoever, thus leaving most groups who are currently in Obama’s crosshairs dangling in the wind:

The proposal would exempt organizations that have more than 1 million members, have been in existence for more than 10 years, have members in all 50 states and raise 15 percent or less of their funds from corporations. Democrats say the new language would apply to only the NRA, since no other organization would qualify under these

specific provisions. The NRA, with 4 million members, will not actively oppose the DISCLOSE Act, according to Democratic sources.

The exemption for a huge group like the NRA is sure to outrage smaller special-interest groups [like Gun Owners of America].

A later amendment offered by Democrats broadened the exemption so that groups having at least 500,000 members could benefit.

Gun groups need to stick together

We are in a political war, and our opponents are trying to change the rules of the game by gagging those groups that are their political enemies. Some might say that the requirement to disclose our membership is not a gag rule, but it most certainly is. Gun Owners of America will NOT do anything that would jeopardize the privacy of our members!

Gun owners know the dangers of being registered, as it has often proven to be the first step towards gun confiscation — which, by the way, is why it’s lamentable that the management of the NRA is selling out its members for the proverbial bowl of pottage. (Go to gunowners.org/ch06142010ee.htm to see what a leading Capitol Hill blog has written about this sell-out.)

Plus, there’s more to this bill than just requiring groups like GOA to “disclose” their membership lists. The DISCLOSE Act would impose a patchwork of free speech restrictions which would not only dramatically increase GOA’s cost of holding Congress accountable, but would threaten to impose huge fines for any failure to comply with the bill’s provisions.

We’re positive that regular members of the NRA would never want this to happen — where all the other pro-gun organizations (like GOA) that are fighting to protect our rights would be gagged, while special favors are cut for one group in particular.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with NRA and all the other pro-gun groups when they are fighting to defend our Second Amendment freedoms. We all



Sen. Mitch McConnell was incensed over the deal that liberal House Democrats offered the NRA.

have to stick together if we are going to win these battles.

It appears this decision was made by the top staff at the NRA headquarters. No doubt, this type of thing would have never happened in the past, and we’re positive that the NRA membership would not be happy with it.

That’s why we applaud NRA Director Clela Mitchell for the courageous stand she took with her editorial in *The Washington Post*. We hope that the NRA leadership will heed her wisdom and take a

stand against this bill. If they don’t, we wouldn’t be surprised if NRA members start demanding a change in their leadership. After all, the NRA has engaged in many good fights over the years, and it would be a shame to lose this *very important* battle because high-ranking staff led the NRA down the wrong path.

Senate Minority Leader outraged over the “deal”

On the Senate side, Senator Mitch McConnell was incensed when he found out about the deal, which is aimed at carving out special exemptions for the NRA leadership in exchange for their promise to sit on their hands and not oppose the DISCLOSE Act.

“If there is one thing Americans loathe about Washington, it’s the backroom dealing to win the vote of organizations with power and influence at the expense of everyone else,” McConnell said in a June 15 press release.

How ironic that a Congress and President who treat transparency with contempt should now be trying to force legal organizations to disclose the names of their law-abiding members. The hypocrisy is blatant, to say the least.

As this newsletter goes to press, no vote had yet occurred on the House bill. But GOA will continue to fight this legislation in both the House and Senate, and to update its members to the current status of the legislation.

Tim Macy is the Executive Vice-President of Gun Owners of America. ■



What Do They Put in the Water?

by Larry Pratt

When a New York City mayor does something goofy, a normal reaction is: “there they go again.” When another mayor does the same thing years later, an additional thought comes to mind. Namely, “what do they put in the water there?”

In the early 90s when Mayor David Dinkins was in office, a Utah tourist was murdered by a knife-wielding assailant. The next day, Mayor Dinkins held a news conference saying that the previous day’s violence meant that additional gun control was needed in New York.

Fast forward to the wannabe car bomber in Times Square who, through no thanks to the authorities, failed to carry out his murderous mission in early May. The following week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg went to Washington to testify for a horrendous bill sponsored by that enemy of freedom, NJ’s Sen. Frank Lautenberg. The bill? A gun control bill.

Speaking at the hearing, Bloomberg said: “It is imperative that Congress close this terror gap in our gun laws — and close it quickly. The car bomb the NYPD found in Times Square on Saturday night was not the only attempted terrorist attack on our city since 9/11 — far from it. And sadly, it won’t be the last.”

Hmm, so let’s have some more gun control because there was a car bomb in New York City. Talk about a non sequitur.

But wait, it does not seem to be just New York mayors who are loony. Congressional Democrats had the same reaction to the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. Maybe we need to understand that for the citizen disarmament supporters, any excuse is a good excuse to grab the sovereign people’s guns.

In Bloomberg’s case, he was after a lot more than disarmament. The bill he supports also aims at one of the most important bulwarks of liberty, namely, due process. Lautenberg wants to enable the faceless maintainers of the Terrorist Watch List to use the list to deny gun sales to anyone they choose.

No one ever gets to face their accuser when it comes to the Terrorist Watch List. Nameless trolls in law enforce-

ment agencies can add any name they want. Otherwise, how else to explain the addition of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy to the list? There is no way to get off the list (unless, like Sen. Kennedy, you can call the head of the Homeland Insecurity Agency).

Seeing how ruthless the Chicago-style political thugery of the Obama administration is, it is not hard to imagine that all their political enemies would end up on the Watch List. In September, 2008, Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that she had zeroed in on the terrorist threat in the U.S. by releasing a publication entitled: *Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment*. The resurgence threat, of course, comes from returning veterans, pro-lifers, Second Amendment advocates and constitutionalists in general, the report explained. Police were to approach such people with extra precautions.

Not once has the Obama gang issued an analysis of the 1400 years of Islamic terror and conquest and its contemporary threat posed by jihadi thugs. Mayor Bloomberg’s speculation about who the wannabe Times Square car bomber might be, before he was apprehended, suggested that we would probably find that he was a 40-year old loner white guy who did not like ObamaCare. Oops, Faisal Shahzad is a 30-something naturalized Pakistani Muslim extremist. And, double oops, he made over a dozen trips to be trained by the Pakistani Taliban who have praised his attempt.

Nameless trolls in law enforcement agencies can add any name they want to the Terror Watch List. Otherwise, how else to explain the addition of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy to the No-Fly list?

While the Beltway Sniper murders were taking place in 2002, you may recall that police were looking for a 40-something white guy and a loner. How disappointing for the politically correct that it was a couple of black guys who had trained at a Muslim jihad camp in southwestern Virginia.

The domestic gun control advocate has always had a love for appeasement at home and abroad. No guns for self-

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