

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

1998-0004-F[2]; 2002-0208-F

FOIA Number:

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Collection/Office of Origin: Chief of Staff, White House Office of
Series: Sununu, John, Files
Subseries: Issues Files

OA/ID Number: 29159
Folder ID Number: 29159-008

Folder Title:
Gun Control 1991

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Paper	Gun Control Issues (2 pp.)	n.d.	P 5	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Chief of Staff, White House Office of
Series: Sununu, John, Files
Subseries: Issues Files
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Gun Control 1991

Open on Expiration of PRA
 (Document Follows)
 By JF (NLGB) on 6/28/05

Date Closed: 1/4/2005	OA/ID Number: 29159-008
FOIA/SYS Case #: 1998-0004-F[2]	Appeal Case #:
Re-review Case #: 2005-0426-S	Appeal Disposition:
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	Disposition Date:
AR Case #:	MR Case #:
AR Disposition:	MR Disposition:
AR Disposition Date:	MR Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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

PRM. Removed as a personal record misfile.

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

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GUN CONTROL ISSUES

Both the Democrats and the press are seeking to derail the crime bill by emphasizing the absence of two gun control provisions: 1) the banning of "assault weapons" (the DeConcini bill); and 2) the establishment of a national waiting period for the purpose of identifying felons (the so-called "Brady Bill"). The overwhelming majority of news coverage and editorials use these two issues to attack the Administration's bill.

General Policy Option: The President demands that Congress pass his crime bill within 100 days and, in doing so, take "up or down" votes in both the House and the Senate on the DeConcini Amendment and the Brady Amendment. The President says he will sign an anti-crime package that includes his own tough proposals plus whichever of the two gun amendments are adopted.

I. Assault Weapons

The primary proposal on this issue is commonly referred to as the DeConcini Amendment, although Senator Biden has included this language in his recently introduced crime bill.

- Bans the possession and transfer of nine types of semiautomatic firearms: seven are long guns (e.g., AK-47, Uzi, Colt AR-15, Street Sweeper); and two are 9mm pistols. The long guns are rarely used in crime; pistols are more frequently used.
- Grandfathers all existing firearms of these types, and the entire ban sunsets in three years.
- Secretary of the Treasury can recommend to Congress firearms to add to or delete from the list.

Comments: The amendment is almost exclusively symbolic for both sides: 1) it accomplishes very little; manufacturers can easily circumvent it by changing the name and some features; has no effect on sporting activities; and other proposals are much more expansive (the Hughes version in the House extends the "sporting purposes test" to all domestically made semiautomatic long guns.); but 2) NRA is strongly concerned with the "slippery slope"; and the Senate had an intense debate on this last year and was divided by only a couple of votes.

It should be noted that this amendment, watered down as it is, could have difficulty in the House. Foley, Brooks and Dingell would probably oppose it.

Policy Option: Send a clear signal that the crime bill is a higher priority, and that, if the President gets his crime bill, he would sign DeConcini as part of it.

II. Waiting Period

The Brady Bill is the top priority with House liberals. Mark-up is planned for early April.

- prohibits the transfer of a handgun until a gun dealer does the following: 1) notifies his chief local law enforcement official about the transfer; and 2) waits seven days (unless the law enforcement officer tells the dealer within the seven days that the buyer is not a convicted felon).
- permits immediate transfers when a person's life is at risk.
- contains a sunset clause when a national point-of-sale system is established by the Attorney General.

Policy Option: Shift position to support a "modified" Brady Bill that would defer a national waiting period by two years and thereby force states toward the establishment of point-of-sale identification systems, the improvement of the quality of their criminal justice records, and full cooperation with the FBI's records improvement efforts. (A separate incentive to improve criminal history records would be established for States that already have waiting periods through BJA grant conditions.)

Comment: This option gets the Administration out in front and permits it to spin the issue toward the point-of-sale approach. It also narrows differences with Democrats to technical issues and increases the pressure on them to act quickly on the violent crime bill. NRA's criticism is restricted by the emphasis placed on point-of-sale approach.

Note that, once again, the concept of background checks is largely symbolic as Department of Justice research indicates that only 1 out of 6 handguns used in felonies are purchased through dealers. It should also be noted that the Brady Bill may also have a difficult time passing the Senate. It is not in Biden's bill, and the fight over DeConcini was very intense.

03/15/91

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NRA/ILA WASH. DC 202/661-0306

002

Fax to Ed Rogers - for Gov. Sanjour

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlie Black

FROM: James Jay Baker

DATE: March 15, 1991

RE: President's Crime Package: Anti-gun Provisions

To refresh your memory, following are the anti-gun provisions contained in the President's Crime Package last year (S. 1971/S. 1225) that the NRA had serious concerns with and worked to defeat prior to the Crime Control Act of 1990 being signed into law (P.L. 101-647/Nov. 29, 1990):

- * Banned the sale of assault weapons manufactured abroad, specifically provided that it was "unlawful to import any frame, receiver, or barrel" of a firearm where the firearm itself cannot be imported. Likewise, it banned the domestic assembly "from imported parts" of any semiautomatic rifle or semiautomatic shotgun that cannot be imported, thus restricting domestic assembly, using domestic parts, to "sporting" models. Future Treasury Secretaries could administratively prohibit any semiautomatic rifle or shotgun made domestically by declaring a foreign model nonsporting and "identical" to a domestic firearm.

This provision never came up in the Senate Crime debate since the Biden bill was used as the crime vehicle with the DeConcini semiauto ban language. However, Hughes incorporated the Administration's language in his Crime bill and the NRA spent \$3 million to defeat the Administration's language with an 85+ vote margin -- the Unsoeld Amendment.

- * Banned the future manufacture for domestic sale of magazines with a capacity greater than 15 rounds and required the centralized registration of future transfers in a National Ammunition Feeding Device Registry.

Central registration of magazines is equivalent to central registration of the firearms that accept those magazines. Since every semiautomatic firearm will eventually be transferred, either by sale or by death of its owner, every magazine accompanying such a firearm will also be transferred. Registration of magazines, proposed by the

Bush Administration. Is equivalent to registration of gun owners who have semiautomatics.

- * Repealed a reform implemented by the 1986 Firearm Owners Protection Act and denied an individual the right to possess firearms unless that right was "expressly authorized" by the "expunction, setting aside, pardon or restoration." (Definition of Conviction)
- * Provided a retroactive and permanent ban on firearms ownership by person convicted of certain misdemeanors -- including property crimes. **The Bush Administration proposed one of the most sweeping proscriptions on firearms ownership in this provision.**

Last year, NRA opposed these provisions in the strongest possible terms, spending millions of dollars to defeat them and to control the extremely volatile impact of these measures on our NRA members.

In spite of all our efforts, this year the Bush Administration reintroduced their Crime Package (S. 635/H.R. 1400) with the identical onerous gun control provisions (minus the semiauto bans and misdemeanor provisions). In addition, the President again proposed a general "good faith" exception to the exclusionary rule in cases involving search warrants (barring the use of illegally seized evidence to prosecute criminals). The police would only have to be held to an "objective reasonableness standard" for the admission of evidence. The NRA strongly opposes the exclusionary rule provisions. It makes no sense to keep and bear arms to defend your liberty by bargaining away one amendment to protect another.

So, to even consider doing anything more obstructive in the firearms area would seriously jeopardize and alienate not only the NRA and its 2.6 million members, but also the over 70 million firearms owners nationwide.

The NRA did not block the Crime bill last year and we do not intend to do so this year. **But, we will use our substantial resources and grassroots supporters to assure that no more gun control provisions become law and to protect our Constitutional rights under the Second Amendment.**

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SHOULD USE THEIR CURRENT POLITICAL CAPITAL TO CURB CRIMINALS NOT LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHO CHOOSE TO OWN FIREARMS FOR RECREATION AND HOME DEFENSE IN THIS COUNTRY.

Before any further deterioration of our gun rights is proposed, it must be cleared with members of the Senate and House, especially Senators Hatch and Gramm and Congressmen McCollum and Gingrich.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02. Memo	From POTUS to Kathy Super Re: Invitation to Yale (1 pp.)	3/13/91	P 5	

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE:

3-13-91

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To:

Kathy Super
cc: Chief of Staff

I have accepted the Yale invitation
for May 27th.

Please simply pencil in a "HOLD
on schedule..

Yale has always tried to announce
their Honorary Degrees on the
day of Commencement- it is ab-ig deal
to them. Pres. Schmidt realizes
that there may be leakage, indeed Gov.S
told him as much, but let's try to keep
it quiet for as long as possible.

John: I would like ~~to~~ have a 12 minute
perhaps 15, speech on something of
substance. Please discuss with Brent.

Having accepted this I want this one to
be special, given family ties etc.

gb .

Kathy: I'd like to go to New Haven from KB on
Monday. Stay for post-graduation lunch-then
do a Memorial Day event-discuss iwht Chief of
Staff please.....



**American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination
Committee**

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Washington, DC 20008
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Alex Odeh (1944-1985)

James Abourezk, Chairman

Albert Mokhiber, President

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Joe Yusuf

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

Last week General Alfred Gray, member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, while speaking at the Executives Club in Chicago had the poor judgment of telling an ethnic "joke" which was disparaging to both Arab-Americans and Muslims. (See enclosed article)

Since the Gulf crises began last August, Arab-Americans have been subjected to an alarming increase in "hate crimes" and other acts of anti-Arab discrimination. Such incidents, while certainly not an indictment against American society, do remind us that hate mongers are in our midst.

Many prominent individuals, organizations and members of the press have publicly condemned the ugly phenomenon of Arab-bashing. Two of the most important and appreciated statements in this regard were those made by you, Mr. President.

Unfortunately, General Gray seems to have disregarded your strong assurances that anti-Arab discrimination would not be tolerated.

We are extremely concerned that comments such as General Gray's will be viewed by bigots in our nation as a green light for further anti-Arab discrimination and violence.

Therefore, we call upon you to order General Gray to publicly apologize to the Arab-American and Muslim community. Further, we seek your dismissal of general Gray as an assurance from the White House that such behavior will not be tolerated, especially from high government officials.

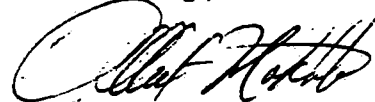


President George Bush
Page Two
February 20, 1991

Perhaps most ironic about this incident is the fact that hundreds of Arab-Americans are currently serving their country in the Gulf at this time. Thus, it is with deep regret that we make this request, but General Gray and his careless actions leave us with no other option.

Your swift and decisive action in this case will reassure Arab-Americans of their government's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Albert Mokhiber', written in a cursive style.

Albert Mokhiber
President

Joke not funny to Arabs here

By Phillip J. O'Connor
Staff Writer

Three Arab-American leaders Saturday called on President Bush to fire the head of the Marine Corps because of an "Arab-bashing" joke he told in a speech to the Executives Club of Chicago.

Gen. Alfred M. Gray, Marine commandant, joked that the 7-Eleven



Alfred M. Gray

chain of convenience stores might go out of business because it has so many Iraqi employees who have been called back to Baghdad. Fadi Zanayed, spokesman for the Chicago chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, noted that Bush has condemned "Arab-bashing."

"The general owes us an apology and President Bush should terminate his services," Zanayed said. "Gray should know better."

"This joke suggests Arab-Americans are agents of [Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein. That's furthest from the truth and an unfair accusation against our community."

Gray, who is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a luncheon

speech Friday, "As some of you know, I spend my spare time around 7-Elevens and other convenience stores because that's my way of finding out what the American people really think about [the war]."

"I don't know if they have those stores around here. Back around Washington there's a joke that says the 7-Eleven stores may close because Saddam Hussein has called back all of the people who are working there,"

Gray said, drawing audience laughter.

Issa Bataresch, president of the American Jordanian Social Center and an engineering instructor at City Colleges, said the joke will "cause more discrimination against Arab-Americans."

Samir Odeh, director of the Arab Community Center here, said the joke was "naked bigotry. I think there has been a supremacist culture unleashed by the war."