

The original documents are located in Box C17, folder “Presidential Handwriting, 4/8/1975 (2)” of the Presidential Handwriting File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT. *dyf*

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON *Jue*

SUBJECT: Handgun Control

AK my 1

On Sunday, April 6th, Attorney General Levi delivered a speech to the Law Enforcement Executives Narcotics Conference in which he touched upon the subject of handgun control. In his talk, the Attorney General set forth the elements of a provocative new approach to the problem of gun control, which has generated a fair amount of news coverage.

Under this new approach, the Department of Justice would develop a method for identifying areas where the need for handgun control has been clearly demonstrated by a critical level of violence. In areas where the violent crime rate has reached the critical level, Federal handgun controls would automatically "trigger on." These controls would include a ban on the possession of all handguns outside of the home or place of business; a ban on the sale or transfer of handguns and handgun ammunition in the "triggered" area; and a ban on the importation of handguns into the "triggered" area. These prohibitions would be federally enforceable through the imposition of civil penalties, criminal sanctions and confiscation of illegally possessed weapons.

Contrary to news reports that the Attorney General advocated enactment of this proposal, he merely indicated that it is currently under study by the Department of Justice and that it provides a sound basis for initiating public discussion of the underlying issue.

My staff is preparing a comprehensive options paper on the handgun control issue which I expect to be able to give you within the week.