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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

C. F.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY
FROM: MIKE DUVAL *Mike*
SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA - GUN CONTROL

Apparently the key guy in California for the gun lobby is Bill Richardson, who is a State Legislator. As you can see from the attached which was sent to me by Jack Veneman, Richardson along with Viguerie has raised about \$750,000 for direct mailing.

Dave Liggitt tells me that Richardson almost came out for the President when approached sometime ago. Apparently he has no love for Reagan and not a particularly high regard for his performance as Governor.

Liggitt thinks that Richardson would be susceptible to a telephone call from the President in terms of backing off any strong anti-Ford campaign based on the President's position on gun control.

I talked to Stu Spencer about this and he agrees the President should call Richardson.

Attached is the telephone call proposal.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1976

RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: California State Senator H. L. (Bill)
Richardson (R-Arcadia)

DATE: Wednesday, May 19, or Thursday, May 20.

RECOMMENDED BY: Stu Spencer, Mike Duval

PURPOSE: To diffuse California opposition by the
anti-gun control lobby.

BACKGROUND: Bill Richardson is the organizer of a new
California-based national gun lobby, Gun
Owners of America. They are linked with
Richard Viguerie, who does their direct
mailing, and have reportedly raised \$750,000
after only a few months of existence. They
have 22 full-time employees.

Richardson is an ultra conservative, but
Stu Spencer reports that he has "no love"
for Reagan. Richardson has not endorsed
you, although he received a telephone call
from Stu Spencer.

Dave Liggitt (the California PFC coordinator)
says that Richardson has quite an ego, and
a telephone call from you might go a long
way to diffusing a strong campaign against
you based on the gun control issue.

TALKING POINTS:

- I understand that you have taken a position of leadership in support of the rights of all Americans to own guns and avoid inappropriate controls by government.
- I wanted to commend you for the leadership you've shown in this area and advise you personally of where I stand on this important issue.

On July 17, 1975, I submitted hand gun legislation to Congress which is directed only at the "Saturday Night Specials".

In my Message, I said that "...we must make certain that our efforts to regulate the illicit use of handguns does not infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens. I am unalterably opposed to Federal registration of guns or the licensing of gun owners. I will oppose any effort to impose such requirements as a matter of Federal policy."

So let me make this clear once again: as long as I am President, there will be no Federal registration of guns or the licensing of gun owners.

My bill was directed only at the "Saturday Night Specials" and is designed to make certain that handguns are sold to legitimate law-abiding citizens.

My handgun bill is a positive step forward to protect the rights of citizens to own guns. If Congress enacts the carefully developed bill I submitted which will take the "Saturday Night Special" out of the hands of criminals, there will not be any pressure for licensing of law-abiding citizens.

So, the very best way to protect the rights of American citizens to own guns is to solve the problem of the criminal who misuses handguns.

NOTE: See attached fact sheet for additional information.

OUTLINE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HANDGUN LEGISLATION

The President's Handgun Bill would:

- Ban the import, domestic manufacture and sale of cheap, highly concealable handguns -- "Saturday Night Specials" -- which have no apparent use other than against human beings;
- Restrict the issuance of Federal licenses to bona fide gun dealers;
- Restrict multiple sales of handguns (authorizing the purchase of no more than one handgun within a 30-day period);
- Impose a 14-day waiting period between the purchase and receipt of a handgun, during which time the dealer can check to determine whether the purchaser may lawfully own a handgun;
- Require the dealer to take reasonable steps to ensure that the purchaser of a handgun is not prohibited from possessing it under State or applicable local law; and
- ✓ • Require the imposition of a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment on any person convicted of using a handgun in the commission of a Federal offense.

The President's Handgun Bill would not:

- Require a Federal license to purchase a handgun;
- Require that handguns be registered with the Federal government;
- Prohibit law-abiding citizens from possessing handguns;
- Authorize the Federal government to keep records of everyone who buys handguns; or
- Apply to possession of long guns.