

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 180

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Dear Subscriber,

Attorney General ERIC HOLDER has been in the crosshairs of the **U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee** on two important occasions affecting gun rights.

In a recent response to **written questions from Senate Judiciary Committee members on reinstating the so-called "assault weapons" ban**, HOLDER backed off from his February remark that **President OBAMA would like to reinstitute the ban on the sale of assault weapons."**

HOLDER replied to Sen. TOM COBURN (R-OK), who asked **"Is it still your intent to seek a reinstatement of the 'assault weapons' ban?"** with a mushy, "The department is currently reviewing existing gun laws to determine how best to combat gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others prohibited from possessing them."

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

However, **HOLDER's testimony** before the Senate Judiciary Committee **shortly after the Ft. Hood terror attack** "revealed a **stunningly broad and aggressive anti-gun agenda**," according to TED DEEDS of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America.

DEEDS says, **"HOLDER wants a national, permanent gun registration system administered by law enforcement** - honest citizens' federal background check records permanently retained by and shared among law enforcement."

DEEDS also says, **"HOLDER wants new federal authority to prohibit any person on the federal watch list (reported to be 400,000 names) from buying guns and supports confiscating guns from those on the list who possess them."**

In New York, **Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND** and **Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY** have announced **legislation to "crack down on gun traffickers."** Senator GILLIBRAND was **previously** a staunch defender of gun rights, but now she's a political tool of the gun control lobby.

With this legislation she says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms would get **an additional 1,500 agents and inspectors**. That would let them monitor gun dealers "who don't do enough to screen out potential criminals."

The legislation would also increase penalties for "gun traffickers."

Nebraska's Senator BEN NELSON reached out to members of the **Congressional Sportsman's Caucus (CSC)** to join him in supporting the rights of law-abiding gun owners in a **key case before the Supreme Court**. Senator NELSON urged CSC members to **sign on to a brief in support of gun owners which will be submitted to the Supreme Court as it considers the McDONALD v. City of Chicago case**.

The **McDONALD v. City of Chicago** case will decide whether the **Second Amendment is a fundamental individual right that applies to states** in the same way the Supreme Court found that it applied to the Federal government in last year's **District of Columbia v. Heller** decision. **The amicus curiae brief was originally circulated in the Senate by Senators KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON and JON TESTER**.

PAUL HELMKE, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, **sent a letter to Senator RICHARD BURR (R-NC)**, responding to the Senator's recent attack on HELMKE and the Brady Campaign because of comments about his bill that would restore guns rights to thousands of veterans previously mis-categorized without counsel as presenting sufficient risk that they were denied firearms. In his letter, **HELMKE called for Sen. BURR to withdraw his bill**.

Also in this issue: ● California's ammo law faces repeal ● 7 more states work on Firearms Freedom Act ● Key brief released on Chicago gun ban ● Robbers killed by clerks in several states ● Canada's long gun registry loses vote ● Chicago Politicians Armed and Dangerous in our Page 8 "Parting Shot"

NEW CALIFORNIA AMMO LAW FACES REPEAL EFFORT

A new California law, AB 962, requiring ammunition buyers be fingerprinted and registered is coming under fire. Backed by the California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA) and the NRA, Assemblyman Curt Hagman (R-Chino Hills) wrote a new bill to repeal AB 962. Hagman said AB 962 was an attack on the Second Amendment.

"The laundry list of new requirements in Assembly Bill 962 treats law abiding citizens like criminals," Hagman said.

The NRA and CRPA are distributing a letter in support of the repeal, which is set to be introduced to the California Legislature in January.

**IN THE
STATES**

NEW JERSEY HANDGUN LIMIT SET FOR CORRECTIONS

A N.J. gun law needs exceptions for various groups – including retailers who will only be able to buy one handgun a month from suppliers – members of a task force reviewing the legislation have reported to Gov. Jon Corzine.

"As it stands now, retailers would be prohibited from purchasing guns from their suppliers," said Burlington County Prosecutor Robert Bernardi, who leads the task force. "I think that was an oversight when the legislation was passed."

State Police Lt. Col. Christopher Andreychak, a task force member, said the law is currently too tough on retailers.

"You couldn't run a used car business if you can only buy and sell one used car a month," he said. "They have to have an exemption or we'll put them out of business."

Jake McGuigan, government relations director for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, said the task force's recommendation on retail stores is a "step in the right direction. It's tremendous for the task force to recognize that error in the legislation."

Sen. Sandra Cunningham (D-Hudson) said some collectors also could receive an exemption when purchasing handguns.

Cunningham, who sponsored the law, said the proposals should pass easily.

UTAH FORWARDS FIREARMS FREEDOM ACT

The federal government has no right to regulate guns made, sold and used within Utah, state lawmakers at a committee hearing have decided.

The Legislature's Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee advanced a bill that its sponsor, Sen. Margaret Dayton, R-Orem, calls the "Firearms Freedom Act." If upheld in federal courts – a big if, considering past rulings on states' rights – Utahns purchasing Utah-made guns would not face federal requirements such as background checks.

Gun-control advocates say such laws would prove meaningless because federal authority was settled by the Supreme Court decades ago.

Dayton said it's important for a groundswell of states to push the matter, possibly leading to a reversal by the Supreme Court.

NUMBER OF "FIREARMS FREEDOM ACT" STATES GROWS

The Ohio House introduced its Firearms Freedom Act (HB-315) in October, bringing to seven the number of state moving to limit federal law and allow made-and-kept-in-Ohio firearms to avoid federal regulations.

Two states have already passed their own Firearms Freedom Acts: Montana and Tennessee. And, along with Ohio, at least 7 other states have introduced similar bills. Those states are Alaska, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Texas. Utah has a bill in committee that will go forward soon.

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CLERK SHOT ROBBER BUT MISSOURI PROSECUTORS CHARGE ACCOMPLICE WITH MURDER

A store clerk in East St. Louis killed armed robber Larando King, but it was holdup accomplice Michael T. Hunter Jr., who has been charged with first-degree murder, officials said. A person committing a felony can be charged with murder under Illinois law for the death of anyone during the crime.

St. Clair County State's Attorney Robert Haida, whose office filed the charge, said in a prepared statement: "I commend the shop clerk for what is clearly a legal act of self-defense." He added, "This type of defensive action is allowed by law-abiding citizens when violent, unlawful acts are perpetrated against them."

GUNS SAVE LIVES

CLERK KILLS ROBBER OF WILMINGTON LIQUOR STORE

A liquor store clerk shot and killed a masked gunman who tried to rob him, according to Wilmington police. Two gunmen came into Favor's Liquor Store on S. Walnut Street around 9:30 p.m. and ordered the clerk to give them the money in the register.

When the gunmen came around the counter to try to get the money themselves, the clerk opened fire, hitting one of the masked men, police said. The man who was shot staggered out of the store and collapsed on the sidewalk. He died at the hospital. Police were using dogs to try to track down the second gunman, who fled.

APPARENT FLORIDA HOME INVADER SHOT TO DEATH BY HOMEOWNER

A 25-year-old man was shot to death on Orlando's west side while apparently trying to break into a home.

Police are identifying the dead suspect as Mark Clark. He was found outside the front door of 5369 Botany Court, near Kirkman Road, around 7:30 on a recent Wednesday night.

The Orlando Police Department has not provided any details other than that they're working a death investigation. The homeowner's mother said her daughter heard three men trying to break into the house and opened fire. The other two suspects ran away.

LONG ISLAND STORE CLERK SCARES OFF WOULD-BE ROBBERS WITH SHOTGUN

A bodega worker in Elmont scared off handgun-toting bandits who were trying to rob the cashier when he whipped out a shotgun, Nassau County police said.

Police say the shotgun that the worker brandished was behind the counter when the two bandits came into the Elmont Deli at about 4:15 a.m. on a recent Saturday and pointed a handgun at the cashier, demanding money from him. Another employee produced the handgun, police said.

"After he brought out the gun, they run away," said Sias Jihan, a co-worker of the employee who had the shotgun.

ELDERLY TEXAS WOMAN WITH GUN SCARES OFF HOME INVADER

Law enforcement officials suspect a home invasion in Leon County is connected to a serial rapist who has been terrorizing elderly women in rural areas of Texas for months. Police say a man recently broke into the home of an 81-year-old woman. The woman had a handgun and managed to fire several shots, scaring the man away. The burglar got away with some cash and other items, but the woman was not hurt.

BIRMINGHAM ROBBERY FOILED AFTER SHOTS EXCHANGED

Two employees of the Phone Store at 2111 Center Point Road were closing up for the night about 8 p.m. when a man came from behind a trash bin and pointed a gun at the female employee as she was getting in her car, saying "Give up your money; you might as well give it up." When the male employee tried to take cover, the gunman opened fire. The male employee returned fire, firing eight shots at the robber who took off running, said Jefferson County sheriff's spokesman Lt. Randy Christian.

Neither of the victims were injured. Christian said they don't know whether the assailant was struck by the bullets.

KEY BRIEF RELEASED IN CHICAGO GUN BAN SUPREME COURT CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation has filed its much-anticipated brief to the United States Supreme Court in the case of *McDonald v. Chicago*, which challenges the constitutionality of that city's ban on handguns.

SAF is joined in the lawsuit by the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA) and four individual plaintiffs. They are represented by attorney Alan Gura, who successfully argued the landmark *Heller* case before the high court in 2008, leading to a ruling that the Second Amendment affirms and protects an individual right to keep and bear arms beyond the scope of serving in a militia.

**ON THE
LEGAL FRONT**

The McDonald case not only challenges the Chicago ban, but also brings up the question of application of the right to keep and bear arms to the states through the 14th Amendment. "Our filing will help establish that the right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental right of American citizenship no city official can violate," Gura said.

Alan Gottlieb, SAF founder and executive vice president, added, "We brought this case because the Chicago ban has denied law-abiding citizens the exercise of a basic civil right for more than 20 years. This kind of onerous regulation simply cannot go unchallenged."

"The Chicago case presents an opportunity to challenge a local law in a case that has national implications," said ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson. "A victory in this case not only restores a fundamental right to Chicago residents, it will prevent other such outright bans all over the country."

Oral arguments are scheduled before the Supreme Court March 2, 2010 and a ruling on the case is expected sometime in late spring. The case may be followed at: www.chicagoguncase.com.

RECORD MAJORITY OF CONGRESS JOINS AMICUS BRIEF AGAINST CHICAGO GUN BAN

An overwhelming, bipartisan majority of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate has signed an amicus curiae, or "friend of the court," brief supporting the position that the Second Amendment is incorporated against the states through the Fourteenth Amendment. The amicus brief bears the signatures of a record 251 Members of Congress and 58 Senators – the most signers of a congressional amicus brief in the history of the Supreme Court. In last year's historic *Heller* case, a then-record 55 Senators and 250 Representatives signed an amicus brief supporting the Second Amendment as an individual right. (To see a copy of this brief, go to: http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/briefs/pdfs/09-10/08-1521_PetitionerAmCuSenatorKayBaileyHutchison.pdf.)

COURT: CRIMINAL RECORD MAY NOT PREVENT GUN OWNERSHIP

A federal appeals court has overturned the conviction of a Wisconsin man barred from owning firearms because of his criminal record, ruling the lifetime prohibition may violate Americans' Second Amendment rights and calling into question the future of a 13-year old gun control law.

In a 3-0 decision, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a trial judge to take a second look at the evidence that a 1996 federal law prohibiting anyone convicted of a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" is constitutional in light of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that emphasized "the individual right to possess and carry weapons."

NASHVILLE JUDGE STRIKES DOWN TENNESSEE GUNS-IN-BARS LAW

A Davidson County judge, Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman, has ruled Tennessee's guns-in-bars law unconstitutional, prompting Doug Jackson, the state senator who sponsored the legislation, to say he will push the issue again when lawmakers return in a few months.

Bonnyman said the law, enacted earlier this year over the veto of Gov. Phil Bredesen, is "fraught with ambiguity." She ruled after an hour of arguments in a lawsuit brought by restaurant owner plaintiffs.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS OREGON TEACHER'S HANDGUN REQUEST

The Oregon Court of Appeals has rejected a request by a Medford teacher to carry a handgun at school. Shirley Katz had argued the Medford School District lacked authority to set a policy banning employees from carrying firearms.

Katz has a concealed weapons permit and claimed she needed her 9 mm semiautomatic pistol for protection from her ex-husband.

ON THE LEGAL FRONT

But the appeals court upheld a Jackson County trial judge who ruled the Medford School District had the authority to prohibit guns on campus. District officials said they were pleased with the decision because it affected work rules intended to ensure staff and school safety.

The attorney for Katz said she was disappointed with the ruling. He said an appeal was under consideration.

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CLEVELAND ORDINANCE DESPITE PREEMPTION LAW

The 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of Cleveland's right to enforce its local gun control ordinance despite an opposing state law.

A three judge panel has declared that the state law to preempt local gun control and ensure statewide uniformity of gun laws is unconstitutional.

Judges Colleen Conway-Cooney, Ann Dyke (both Democrats facing re-election in 2010), and Melody Stewart (a Democrat facing re-election in 2012) reversed a lower court's decision to uphold the law.

Dyke was elected to the appellate court in 1987, after serving 7 years as a common pleas judge in Cuyahoga County. Conway-Cooney was elected in 2000, after serving 9 years as a Cleveland Municipal Judge and 8 years as a Cuyahoga County prosecutor. Stewart was elected in 2006 after serving as assistant Law Director to Cleveland.

Ironically, in a footnote to their ruling that the law is unconstitutional, the appellate court admitted the state Supreme Court has already, by implication, ruled that the law is constitutional.

GUN STORAGE LAW ARGUED IN MASSACHUSETTS' HIGHEST COURT

The Massachusetts state Supreme Judicial Court has heard oral arguments in a case in which Richard Runyan was charged in April 2008 with improper gun storage. A Lowell District Court judge threw out the charge, citing the June 2008 Supreme Court ruling in a case called District of Columbia v. Heller.

Prosecutors appealed.

Attorney Brenden J. McMahon, representing Runyan, said the Supreme Court ruling held not only that the District's "wholesale ban on guns is unconstitutional and violates the Second Amendment," but that provisions requiring trigger locks were invalid.

The Middlesex district attorney's office argued that a state law that requires guns to be stored in locked containers or outfitted with trigger locks is valid. While the Supreme Court struck down a tough handgun ban last year in the District of Columbia, the court "went out of its way to make clear that the right to bear arms, like all rights, is not unlimited. It can be curtailed by regulatory measures," said Assistant District Attorney Loretta M. Lillios

TEXAS COLLEGE STUDENTS FILE LAWSUIT OVER PROTEST RESTRICTIONS

Two community college students, Clayton Smith and John Schwertz Jr., who favor carrying concealed weapons, have filed a federal lawsuit in Dallas against the Tarrant County College District.

They contend the college system restricts their First Amendment rights by controlling the time, place and manner of protests.

The students plan to participate in a nationwide demonstration known as "empty holster protests," calling attention to policies forbidding concealed weapons on campus. School officials limited the protest to a designated area and prohibited students from wearing empty holsters.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Ottawa, Canada:** The House of Commons dealt a major blow to the federal long-gun registry as 20 Liberal and NDP MPs broke ranks with their leaders to endorse a Conservative bill that would bring the program to an end. The vote exposed clear splits among Liberals and New Democrats along rural and urban lines, as the 12 NDP MPs and eight Liberals who voted with the Conservatives were primarily from rural ridings. Many of them had been the target of an aggressive Conservative lobbying campaign which flooded their ridings with anti-registry pamphlets from Tory MPs, as well as Conservative party radio ads.

● **Manila, Philippines:** The Philippine National Police has urged the Senate to ratify a House bill seeking to impose stiffer penalties over holders and users of illegal firearms. PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa called on the Senate to ratify House bill 6776, a measure that would impose stiffer penalties for illegal possession of firearms and light weapons, amending some provisions of Presidential Decree 1866. The bill has been ratified at the House on the third reading. In the House bill, illegal possession of three or more firearms would become a non-bailable offense that would be punishable by life imprisonment.

● **Bangkok, Thailand:** About half of Thailand's national lawmakers are taking advantage of a new government plan allowing them to purchase guns at a discount and receive a license to carry them anywhere, an official said. Election campaigns in Thailand's rural areas are sometimes violent, and most campaigns are marked by several deaths, usually of vote canvassers who buy votes for their candidates. The new program was arranged at the request of lawmakers, said Pranee Siridhamakun of the Interior Ministry's Provincial Administration Department.

● **Somali Coast:** Somali pirates attacked the commercial cargo ship Maersk Alabama. This time, however, an armed security team successfully thwarted the attackers. Last April, Somali pirates brutally attacked the Alabama, kidnapping ship's Captain Richard Phillips and holding him hostage until Navy SEAL snipers killed the captors. In 2008, Vice Admiral Bill Gortney, commander of the U.S. Navy's fleet in that area, specifically warned that the Navy "can't be everywhere" and that "shipping companies have to take responsibility for their own ships." The Maersk killed four pirates and wounded two others in this latest pirate attack, said a Somali pirate boss known as Red Teeth. Somali pirates said they would continue their attacks, and Maersk will hopefully continue killing the thugs.

● **Washington, D.C.:** Background checks on the sale of firearms were up 4.3 percent in October, according to data released by the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). A total of 1,233,982 checks were reported for the month, up from 1,183,279 in October 2008. The 2009 year-to-date total for background checks is 11,403,417, an increase of 18.1 percent over the same time period last year. FBI background checks are required under federal law for all individuals purchasing either newly manufactured or used firearms from federally licensed retailers. As such, the checks serve as a gauge of sales but do not reflect the actual number of firearms produced or sold. The increase coincides with a rise in excise taxes reported by firearms and ammunition manufacturers, another key economic indicator for the firearms industry.

● **New York City:** Billionaire anti-gun zealot Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, recently appeared on "Meet the Press." Host David Gregory asked him, "How can you muster the clout and the power to take on the NRA?" Bloomberg raised some eyebrows with his response. "If you look at what the real numbers are, I think that we can pull together here and raise enough money to take on this issue and explain to Congress this is just an outrage," said Bloomberg. Having called your Second Amendment rights an "outrage," Bloomberg went on to add, "I'm going to not only do that myself, I'm going to ask plenty of other people to do it. And it costs money to do that." But his anti-gun lobbying group, "Mayors Against Illegal Guns," is failing: at least 25 members of his group are not mayors at all. Another five members have already lost their re-election campaigns or have retired.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Morris County, New Jersey:** Obama's presidential run – and fears he will clamp down on gun sales – seems to have triggered a larger surge in Morris County handgun permit applications than in the months following Sept. 11, 2001. "The firearms industry has seen a jump in sales since the election, and the assumption is that the Democratic party could attempt to resurrect old, stricter gun control policies," Parsippany Police Sgt. Yvonne Christiano said. Between 2001 and 2002, the year following the Sept. 11 attacks, issued permits increased almost 9 percent, from 1,779 to 1,936. By comparison, issued permits jumped 48 percent, from 1,842 to 2,740, between 2007 and the presidential campaign year of 2008. "After September 11th, that lasted two months," Frank Vuono, owner of The Silver Bullet in Rockaway, said of the boosts. "That was a blip on the screen. This has been sustained."

● **Chicago, Illinois:** Chicago Police are accused of offering a crooked "get out of jail free" card for a traffic violation. The catch? Courtney Harris says she was told to plant a gun for it. Now the city has paid her \$50,000 in a settlement, and the cops have been suspended without pay and face trial this month. "Police told me where to get the gun from. We went through a list of known drug houses," Harris said. "I planted the gun in the house by telling them I had to use the restroom, and I put the gun in the house, in the bathroom under the sink. The police then obtained a search warrant later and went in the house to get the gun." Harris filed a complaint and the investigation found false information was provided by the officers to execute a search warrant at the house where Harris planted the gun. The Office of Professional Standards recommended the three officers involved in Harris' case be fired.

● **Fayetteville, Georgia:** Dick's Sporting Goods informed GeorgiaCarry.Org that it permits lawfully carried handguns in its stores in Georgia, so long as the person carrying the handgun is abiding by state law. This issue arose when the President of GeorgiaCarry.Org, Ed Stone, was kicked out of the Fayetteville, Georgia store because of a lawfully carried H&K USP 45 pistol. Stone was carrying a holstered pistol, as is his daily habit, and wearing a GeorgiaCarry.Org T-shirt when he brought his eight year old son to the store to look at the Davey Crickett rifles. His eager son has been pestering him to get one, after he fired a friend's borrowed rifle under close supervision. Stone and son were stopped halfway into the store, however, by a young man who asked Stone to put his pistol back in his truck, as it was "policy" that the store did not permit the lawful carry of firearms. Disappointed, Stone informed him that he would not leave his pistol in his automobile. Stone contacted the corporate headquarters of Dick's in Pennsylvania and they made sure their local managers allowed legal carry in their stores.

● **Bellevue Washington:** Anti-gun Chicago Mayor Richard Daley has reached a new low in his attempt to blame the Fort Hood massacre on firearms, the Bellevue-based Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said. "Mayor Daley is deplorably capitalizing on the outrage at Fort Hood to push his gun prohibition agenda," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. Daley reacted to the Fort Hood shooting by telling reporters, "Unfortunately, America loves Guns. We love guns to a point where that, uh, we see devastation on a daily basis. You don't blame a group." "You don't blame guns, either," Gottlieb fired back. "You hold the perpetrator responsible for his crime, not the instruments he used. Would Daley blame cars for the highway carnage created by drunk drivers?"

● **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania:** After the recent election results came in, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun group, "Mayors Against Illegal Guns," is down another 16 mayors in Pennsylvania. Most of Bloomberg's losses in Pennsylvania actually came from mayors that didn't run again. Some lost in their primary elections, and others in the general election. But Bloomberg will claim success: Most of his mayors won re-election with more than 90% of the vote! (Because they had no challengers.) No doubt he'll claim an overwhelming mandate for more gun control.

Parting Shot

CHICAGO'S POLITICOS: ARMED AND DANGEROUS TO YOUR RIGHTS

Since 1972, 27 Chicago City Council members have been convicted on charges involving malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance, disfeasance and high moperly and dopery at the public trough.

The most recent convict, Arenda Troutman, got four years in prison for bribery after being caught on tape attesting that "most aldermen, most politicians are ho's."

No surprise. Al Capone Town has always been known for dirty politicians. But these elected officials can and do own handguns.

At a 1991 neighborhood meeting that got rowdy, Alderman Dorothy Tillman reportedly pulled out her handgun and waved it pugnaciously.

How can that be? Handgun ownership is not allowed in the city of Chicago, which has one of the strictest gun control laws in the country.

Big secret: under an 1872 Illinois state law, mayors and aldermen are designated "peace officers." And, conveniently, peace officers are permitted to not only own but also carry handguns.

That makes aldermen a special class in Illinois, one of only two states with an almost complete ban on the carrying of concealed handguns. In most places, an adult with no criminal record or history of psychiatric commitment can get a concealed-carry license after taking a training class.

But Chicago is a dangerous place because gun-toting aldermen are making sure nobody else has a right to self-defense.

In 1994, State Sen. Rickey Hendon had an unregistered handgun stolen from his home in a burglary.

"I have a right to protect myself," he said, not mentioning that the state legislature of which he is a member allows Illinois cities to deprive their citizens of that right. The police were kind enough not to charge him.

U.S. Sen. Roland Burris, another Chicagoan, endorses a nationwide ban on handguns. In 1993 he organized Chicago's first Gun Turn-in Day. But he admitted he owned a handgun - "for protection," he explained - and hadn't seen fit to turn it in along with everybody else's firearms.

Chicago politicians are zealously committed to self defense for them but not for you. You want to carry a handgun for self-defense in Chicago? All you have to do is 1) run for the city council and 2) win.

As writer Steve Chapman said, "In Chicago, only criminals and aldermen are armed. Forgive me for being redundant."

Alan M. Gottlieb

Joseph D. Vukobratovic

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