

REALISTIC FIREARMS CONTROLS An Editorial

The American people and the peoples of the world mourn the death of President John F. Kennedy. This was an incredible tragedy which shocked all civilized human beings. To those who treasure the right to keep and bear arms and the other basic American freedoms, the use of a rifle to assassinate our nation's leader is a calamity added to our grief at his loss.

In this disturbing time, there is a tendency to seek a sweeping solution to crimes of violence. The days following the tragic events on Nov. 22, 1963, saw the eruption in the press, radio, and television of a highly emotionalized reaction to the weapon with which the terrible deed was performed. Never before has there been such a wave of anti-firearm feeling or such vocal and almost universal demand for tighter controls over the mail-order sales of guns. Although this was hysterical in nature, it has had its impact upon the U. S. Congress and it may certainly will have its impact upon the legislature of each of the 50 States.

No group of individuals has done more over the years, or is doing more now to evaluate the problems related to firearms and to protect the right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms, than members of the National Rifle Association of America. The NRA believes that firearms legislation is of insufficient value in the prevention of crime to justify the inevitable restrictions which such legislation places upon law-abiding citizens. Nevertheless, it does not oppose proposed legislation to prohibit the sale of firearms to persons who have been convicted of a crime of violence, fugitives from justice, mental incompetents, and other undesirables, or to proposed legislation to make the sale of firearms to juveniles subject to parental consent.

The NRA is opposed to the registration of the ownership of firearms at any level of government; to the requirement of a license to purchase or possess a firearm; to control measures which levy discriminatory or punitive taxes or fees on the purchase or ownership of firearms; and to legislation which denies or interferes with individual rights of our citizens or is designed for the purpose of circumventing due process of law.

Reputable gun owners maintain that legislation should not be aimed at the firearm but at its misuse. The NRA does not oppose reasonable legislation regulating the carrying of a concealed handgun, but it does oppose the theory that a target shooter, a hunter, or a collector should be required to meet the same conditions. It strongly supports legislation providing severe additional penalties for the use of a dangerous weapon in the commission of a crime.

It is certain that anti-firearm sentiment will remain a vital problem for some time. Regardless of what the U. S. Congress may ultimately do in the way of Federal legislation, it is certain that many state legislatures will attempt solutions of one kind or another. Nothing in the present crisis has changed the fundamental policy of the National Rifle Association of America with respect to the purchase, possession, and use of firearms by law-abiding American citizens for lawful purposes.

It is important that each gun owner formulate a policy to govern his own thinking and that he accept the responsibility, as well as the privilege of making his views known to his elected representatives. The time for hysteria and name-calling is over. It is time now to point out calmly and logically the areas in which legislation is proper and effective in discouraging the ownership and misuse of firearms by criminals and other undesirables. The lawmakers must be enlightened on the views of reputable citizens who believe in the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America and who believe in the preservation of our heritage to keep and bear arms. Then, and only then, will we have the basis for developing realistic firearms controls.

(Permission is granted to reprint this editorial by the NRA)

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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Turning Back The Pages of Andover History

(Taken from the Files of The Andover News)

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 2, 1914
J. H. Backus, Publisher
Mrs. John Horne and Jett Blodgett were united in marriage Thursday, December 25th at the home of relatives in Wellsville.

Married Tuesday evening, December 23rd, in Hornell were David H. Hancock, Andover and Mrs. Ann Hancock.

Miss Helen Baker of Andover is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Howard Wednesday, December 23rd.

Floyd Greene is carrying the mail on Route 2 during Mr. Baker's absence.

Allison Baker of Perkskill and Joseph Baker of Michigan, Andover, called here by the serious illness of their father, Newell Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tracy and sons left for their home in Fletcher, Canada Wednesday after passing the holidays at the home of his father, Charles Tracy.

R. M. Progeon of Hornell was looking after his ice business in Andover, Friday.

Mrs. Susan O'Donnell died at the home of her son, Dr. C. W. O'Donnell, Thursday, December 25th. Three sons survive.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 4, 1924
J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers
Mrs. Mary E. Backus died Friday, December 26th at her home in Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Scott has purchased a farm near Andover and moved there.

Miss Elizabeth Folsing is home from Lenox Hill Hospital in New York for the holidays.

Everett Clair was home from Philadelphia to pass the holidays at the home of his father, B. A. Clair.

Miss Mary D. Walsh of Utica was spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Ellen Walsh.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bines left Andover Wednesday en route to Orlando, Florida, where they are on a winter vacation.

Miss Elizabeth Folsing is home from Lenox Hill Hospital in New York for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Watson left Saturday morning en route to Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cummings of Detroit, Mich., are visiting at the home of their son, Mr. and Mrs. George Cummings.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 26, 1934
J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers
The Andover National Bank will begin doing business at the site of the former Andover State Bank next Tuesday morning.

Ames Rogers was a Christmas guest of Willis Scribner and family at Greenwood.

Kenneth Alford of New York is spending Christmas vacation at his home here.

Miss Dorothy Oakes of Bethesda Hospital, Hornell, was a Christmas guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Oakes.

Emmett Dawson of Depew is spending the holidays with his mother, Mrs. Edna Dawson.

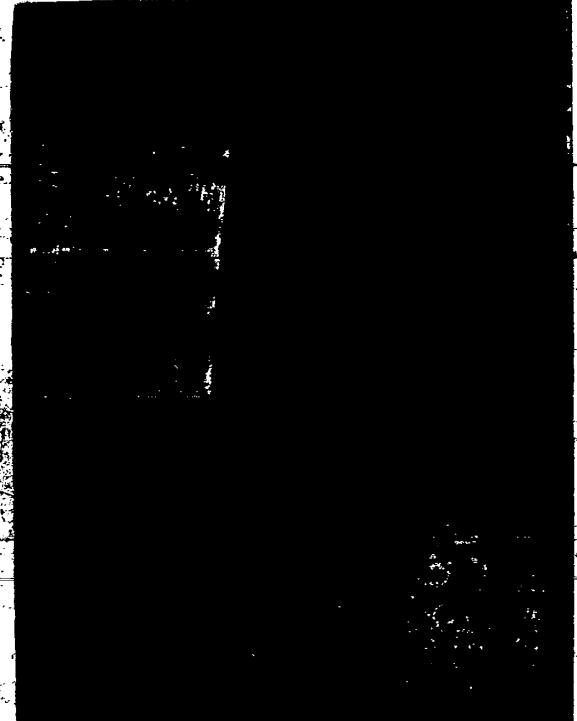
Claire Green of George Washington University Medical School, Washington, D. C. is passing the holidays with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Grease.

Miss Helen Baker of Brooklyn is visiting at the home of her brothers, E. D. and A. R. Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Langworthy and family of Alfred Station were Christmas guests of his mother, Mrs. Agnes Langworthy and brother, Edson Langworthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Mas and daughter, of Rochester were Christmas guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith.

Boost Your Home Town!



"Dave's" Christmas Tree that was donated and set up for him by "Sandy Claws"—according to the sign. So far the identity of the donor is still a deep, dark, secret but we understand suspicion has been cast on at least 3 or 4 local wags. Photo by Wittle

GRASSROOTS OPINION

Waseca, Minn., Herald: "New Congressmen and Senators are asking for a 55.5 per cent pay increase. Even the presidential commission on salaries favors raising the pay from \$22,500 to \$35,000 annually. Taxpayers will watch with interest those elected as conservatives and how they vote on this matter. As for the liberals who control both houses of Congress, they will put it through. In 1789 the first members of Congress were paid \$6 a day for every day they attended. The lawmakers paid their own travel expenses, meals, lodgings and incidentals."

Chicago, Iowa, News-Republican: "A newspaper is a public utility. Its price is dedicated to the public good. A good newspaper must show a profit. In some countries the newspapers are the instruments of the government, but not so in the United States. That is what is meant by freedom of the press. In this country newspapers are free to express themselves without fear of government retaliation."

West Point, Miss., Times Leader: "For many people, the best and easiest solution to any public problem is to get some special law, or benefit from the government. The pattern normally is to cry for help—demanding some law or regulation. When that phase of the action has arrived, those in authority can call for a new bureau to enforce the new laws or carry out the new benefit being enacted—which in turn calls for new taxes and new federal employees to staff the bureau. Under the above pattern, Washington bureaucracy has grown to over two million, and taxes have skyrocketed."

Norfolk, Va., Times-Advocate: "Look at the contents of your wallet. Think you have everything you need? The odds are that—like eight out of 10 of your neighbors—you aren't carrying the most vital piece of information about yourself: your blood type. Should a sudden emergency arise, it could save you, and your family, untold grief. A card in your wallet, identifying blood type and possible RH factor, is peace-of-mind insurance."

Spalding, Nebr., Enterprise: "The big pay increase for top-level government personnel are enough to make any ordinary congressman or cabinet member drool with anticipation. So how about a little sporting proposition: The first year Congress and the Administration are able to balance the federal budget, let that be the year they enact these pay raises."

Sylvania, Mich., Advertiser: "I always look at a good long look at the guy who suggests we raise our taxes for this or that. Generally he leaves me wondering if perhaps he might not be paying his fair share."

Winona, Miss., Times: "Read your local newspaper and keep always in mind that 'Freedom of the Press' is still the principal dividing line between our democratic form of government and the anarchies of the enslaved world."

Brownsville, Pa., Telegraph: "The three-power treaty still permits underground testing. What worries some senators is that Russia will manage to engage in underhanded testing."

White, S. D., Leader: "Isn't having plenty of good food for everyone a greater and more practical accomplishment than putting a man on the moon? That's one facet of the welfare of our people in which the Communist countries can't say they have us beat. We don't need to ape what the Communists are doing."

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