

FACTS AND OPINIONS

An Editorial

What is the truth? Whom can we believe? Can we believe everything we see in the Newspapers and publications? How many of you believe in gun control? And, if you do, where did you find the facts to base your beliefs on?

Let's take a look at some facts and statistics. Gun control laws, of themselves, do little to retard the growth of crime. Of the nation's twelve largest cities, four were covered by total firearms registration during the first half of 1969. Four more were under local or State laws requiring permits to buy or transfer handguns. One had an ordinance covering all firearms transfers. Three of the nation's largest cities, by contrast, had no local or State laws rigidly restricting the sale of firearms.

Among the cities with controls, New York City, Chicago, Washington, D. C., and San Francisco have, perhaps, the stiffest firearms laws. In these cities, the homicide rate during the first half of 1969 ranged from a six percent increase in New York to a 102 percent increase in San Francisco. Five of the nation's largest cities with gun controls of varying stringency showed alarming increases in homicides, ranging from 53 percent in Cleveland to 18 percent in Philadelphia. The other three of the nation's cities — Los Angeles, Houston and Milwaukee — having the least restrictive gun laws came up with these figures for the first half of 1969. Los Angeles, murders up 14 percent; Houston, murders decreased five percent; Milwaukee, murders decreased 18 percent.

The foregoing are facts from figures compiled from the FBI Uniform Crime Report. They bear out the belief of Dr. Bruce Danto, director of the Detroit Suicide Prevention Center, that "gun control is not the answer" to the rising tide of violence in cities. The sad truth is that many freedom destroying laws aimed at law-abiding citizens are passed in an emotional fury; and, after passage, no one ever takes the time to appraise their effectiveness. It is much easier to pass another law than to remove a bad law from the statute books.

While the furor over gun control laws seems to have died down somewhat, many misconceptions still remain in the public mind concerning such controls. A lot of people still think that taking guns away from the law-abiding citizens will solve the crime problem. Others see abridgement of the right of gun ownership as merely a matter of stepping on the toes of a few sportsmen. The truth is far different.

To begin with, abundant evidence indicates that penalizing the law-abiding, like confiscating all guns, would do little to curb crime. Secondly, not only sportsmen, but a great many other people are strongly opposed to lumping criminals and the law-abiding into one category, when it comes to regulating guns. A nationwide survey of independent businessmen shows that 86 percent favor a bill, currently in Congress, that would make possession of a firearm during a violent crime punishable by a mandatory 1 to 10 year sentence and by a 25 year automatic sentence for a second conviction, apart from other prison terms resulting from the crime. In other words, businessmen support gun controls for criminals only.

Considering that independent business establishments are often targets of burglary, robbery and other serious crimes, it is not surprising that a landslide majority of small businessmen favor cracking down on criminals who use guns in the commission of a crime.

The right of gun ownership by U. S. citizens is so much an integral part of the American tradition of freedom under a constitutional government that many view it as the taproot of liberty.

Gun control extremists have shown little regard for this fundamental consideration.

And, as a further current trend in the thinking of today, in Congressional action Wednesday, the Senate rejected 87 to 2 an amendment that would have required Presidential approval to load the weapons of National Guardsmen on domestic riot duty.

Isn't it high time to crack down hard on the criminal with the gun — not the sportsman or law-abiding citizen?

FROM OUR FILES

50 YEARS AGO

August 13, 1949

J. H. Backus, Publisher

The Edward Seaman Relief Corp held their annual picnic Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. U. W. Statton on Main Street. The G. A. R. were guests. Marjorie Price and Harry Boyd of East Pembroke, formerly of Andover, were united in marriage August 5th.

John C. Lever has purchased the livery barn from the Wilcox Brothers and will make his headquarters in the future in that barn instead of the Lever & Stearns barn which was so badly wrecked by the cyclone.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Hardy are the parents of a son, Donald Edward, born Tuesday, August 10.

On Sunday thirty-five friends and relatives from Avoca, Canisteo and Bennetts Creek, drove to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Bines for a surprise picnic. Later in the day they viewed the ruined buildings and crops on the farm and in Elm Valley and Pringrey Hill area.

The Bloss family reunion is being held today (Aug. 13) at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Clarke on First Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Terribury and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Terribury have moved from the Caple house on Water Street to Elm Valley.

M. H. Dean of Wellsville returned home Friday after nearly a week's visit with his brothers, P. A. Dean and John Dean of South Hill.

Miss Mary Conwell of Bradford, Pa., was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. P. A. Dean and family of South Hill, a few days last week.

Mrs. F. M. Vogan of Canton, Ohio, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. R. Crandall of Independence. Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Crandall and family of Independence are spending a few days in Scranton, Pa.

Maxon Green of Warren, Ohio returned to his home Saturday after a six weeks visit at the home of E. V. Greene of Tip Top.

R. C. Baker of Salamanca, spent Monday and Tuesday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Baker of Tip Top.

Mrs. Wilbert Davis and daughter, Sarah Ila, of Marlboro, N. J. arrived in Andover Thursday for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Clarke.

Fay Bloss of Elkhart, Ind., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Bloss and other Andover relatives.

Mrs. A. R. Brillion and children of Kingston, arrived Monday for a visit with her sister, Miss A. M. Trainor.

Miss Mary Pardon returned to Buffalo Saturday after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Pardon.

P. C. Regan returned to his home at South Chicago, Ill., Thursday after a ten-day visit with his mother, Mrs. E. Regan and other relatives in Andover.

Mrs. H. Dower and daughter, Margaret Helen and Miss Esther Birmingham of Buffalo are visiting at the home of William Pardon.

Mrs. Nina Palmer of Almond was the guest of Miss Alice Clarke Tuesday and Wednesday.

40 YEARS AGO

August 15, 1930

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Thursday, August 7th the Whitney family held their annual reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Updyke. About fifty were present.

J. L. Williams was the successful bidder for putting in the curb and gutter on Dyke Street. He

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

First there was Richard Ottinger and his "Conservation Party."

Now there is Rocky and his "Civil Service - Independents Party."

Rocky can't be blamed too much though. He's being politically realistic by merely going along with something that was started elsewhere.

But, Ottinger, the Democratic candidate for U. S. Senator, has to take the cake for sheer political crassness and hackery.

Ottinger is supposed to be big on conservation, so the argument runs that he named his second-line-on-the-ballot party "Conservation."

But it is nothing more than an effort to pull votes from the Conservative Party candidate, Jim Buckley.

If it were anything else, Ottinger would have named his party "Ecology," or "Anti-pollution" or any of the many other words that are synonymous with clean-up the

air, water and land.

Everybody is making a mad rush to get on two lines on the ballot.

What you get, for example, is the business of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Goldberg running on the same line with Republican senatorial candidate Goodell — the Liberal Party line.

The only candidate that doesn't need two lines also has them — Comptroller Levitt.

And the man who really needs two lines, Neil Ragan of Buffalo, Levitt's opponent, so far is only on one, the Republican line.

Some state party workers are wearing smiles — perhaps prematurely.

They claim there is some evidence Goldberg's campaign has already peaked — which is pretty astounding for someone to claim in August.

There is more evidence to suggest that, if anything, Goldberg's campaign has yet to get off the ground.

has already started work.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Calhoun have sold their residence property on Pleasant Avenue to Mr. and Mrs. John Oakes, who will take possession September 1st. Mr. and Mrs. Calhoun will occupy an apartment in Maple Place with Mrs. Hall.

Miss Loretta Harrington of Middletown, N. Y., was the guest last week of her aunt, Mrs. James Dean and family of South Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Earley of Davis Hill were pleasantly surprised Tuesday when they were visited by Mel Hartum of Andover and Fred Corwin of Dowagiac, Mich. Mr. Corwin is a cousin of Mrs. Earley and this was the first meeting in several years.

School will begin in District No. 6 on Monday, August 25th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Brown are the parents of a son, James Ivan, born Wednesday, August 6th at the home of her father, Fred Conrad of West Greenwood.

Mrs. Mildred Gravelle and daughter, Mildred Genevieve, of Stephens Mills and Mrs. Nettie Miller of Hornell, spent Wednesday and Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brewster of West Greenwood.

Elizabeth and Jennie Teribury of Scio are spending a week at the home of their uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Franz Teribury of West Greenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Coombs and daughters of West Greenwood, spent Sunday with his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Ewart at Whitney Crossing. Mrs. Van Coombs and daughters remained for a week's visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Updyke and son, Paul, spent the week-end with relatives in Bradford, Pa.

Fred Corwin and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cochrane of Dowagiac, Mich., were guests of Andover relatives and friends last week.

Miss Ella Riley of Fredonia has been visiting her sister, Mrs. W. L. O'Connell and family.

D. K. Porter of Buffalo, returned home Sunday after visiting his daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Richardson.

Mrs. William Youmans and Miss Carmen Youmans have returned from a week's visit with Mrs. Youmans' sister, Mrs. William Head of Galeton, Pa.

Harry Joyce, Jr., of Buffalo has been passing his vacation at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Joyce, Sr., on Main Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Harland Robinson of Mid West, Wyoming, guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A.

Robinson, in company with his brothers, George and Lloyd and families of Alfred, left Friday by motor for New York City and a visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Robinson of Rutherford, N. J., who will accompany them to Andover this week.

Wayne Sutherland of Jasper spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sutherland.

Mrs. Ella Whitney of Lake Placid, N. Y., is the guest of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Updyke this week.

Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Connors of Utica, have been spending the week with her mother, Mrs. Ellen Walsh on Barney Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Ruger and grandson, Edwin Kemp, are enjoying a motor trip this week to Syracuse and several places of interest in the eastern part of the state.

30 YEARS AGO

August 8, 1949

Claire C. Backus, Publisher

"Jack" Dolan was elected Commander of Thomas M. Lynch Post No. 397 American Legion at their regular meeting held this week.

Andover won first place in the first half of the Octagon Baseball League schedule by defeating Hornell here Sunday by a score of 4 to 3.

Mrs. E. C. Wightman has returned from a two weeks visit at the home of her sister, Mrs. V. W. Brabury of Kenmore.

Raymond Snyder and son, Craig, Jimmy Driscoll and John Howland attended the ballgame at Cleveland, Ohio, Sunday.

Mrs. Bernice Cooper of Bradford, Pa., is visiting her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mead of East Valley.

Mrs. Romaine Bassett and son, Charles of Chicago, Ill., are visiting Mrs. Esther Bassett and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Bassett of Independence.

Leo Fulkerson returned Monday from Akron, Ohio, where he has been for several weeks.

Mrs. Gerald Burns and daughter, of Toledo, Ohio, are visiting her father and sisters at the Folsing home for a few days.

William Pease and Gerald Hyland are enjoying a trip to Adirondacks and the World's Fair in New York City.

Frank Quigg of Conneaut, Ohio is visiting his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Quigg and calling on Andover friends.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Wamsley and two children of Verona, N. J., are passing two weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John DeRemer.

Harold Dawson passed the week-end in Depew with his brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Dawson.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Moran have returned from several days vacation motor trip including Albany and West Point, N. Y., Boston, Mass., Princeton and Cape Cod.

THE ANDOVER NEWS

Published Weekly by: The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y.

Jeanne Backus Allen and Ralph A. Allen, Owners, Andover, N. Y.

Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Andover, N. Y., under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price \$3.50 a year