

TO: Deputy Attorney General Gorelick, Caroline Aronovitz, Dan Hamilton
FR: Rica Rodman
DT: May 4, 1994
RE: Assault Weapon Ban Radio Interviews

Thank you for your time.

6:17 - 6:22

STATION: KARN
CITY: Little Rock, AR
PHONE: 501-661-7555
BACKUP #: 501-661-7500
BACKUP #2: 501-661-7568/7592
HOST: Neil Tate, Laurie, or Elton
STATUS: This is a **LIVE news interview.**

6:22 - 6:24 SAFETY WINDOW

6:24 - 6:30

SHOW: Dateline Washington
HOST: Pat Korton
CONTACT: Tim Shermer
PHONE: 703-734-1776
STATUS: This is a **LIVE talk show interview.**
NOTES: This show is syndicated on 10 stations along the east coast as well as in California.

6:30 - 6:35

STATION: KRLD
CITY: Dallas, TX
PHONE: 214-631-2223
BACKUP #: 214-634-6260
HOST: TBD - one of the news anchors
STATUS: This is a **LIVE news interview. Please have this station waiting on another phone ready to go as soon as the previous interview ends. This needs to begin right at 6:30. Thank you.**

BANNING ASSAULT WEAPONS WILL SAVE LIVES

- Why does America need a ban on assault weapons? A legislative ban will save lives, pure and simple. Over the last five years, the number of assault weapons traced in relation to homicides has almost doubled, hitting a high of 280 last year.
- But it's not only the victims who want to ban these lethal weapons. It's law enforcement as well. The men and women who put their lives on the line for our safety day in and day out are outmatched by the firepower street criminals now have access to. We cannot ask them to risk their lives in the fight against crime without giving them all the help we can muster, and they desperately want to ban these weapons.
- The legislation now before Congress would ban the manufacturing of semiautomatic assault weapons, but would protect the rights of hunters by specifically exempting over 650 types of hunting and sporting weapons.
- We already know that restricting the supply of these weapons can reduce their presence on the streets. When the Bush Administration banned the importation of certain assault weapons, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime declined by 45% in the first year, while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same.

- Able to fire dozens of bullets in rapid fire succession and designed for military combat, these weapons have no conceivable sporting purpose. Their only purpose is to kill people.
- Because they are so lethal, semiautomatic assault weapons are the weapons of choice among criminals. While representing less than 1 percent of privately-owned firearms, assault weapons account for 8 percent of the firearms traced to criminal activities -- a number which has been on the rise in recent years.

THE ADMINISTRATION-BACKED ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN: JUST THE FACTS

The Feinstein Amendment to the Senate Crime Bill, passed last fall, and H.R. 3527, introduced by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Mike Synar (D-OK), with 59 co-sponsors, do the same thing: both effectively stem the supply of semiautomatic assault weapons now flowing onto America's streets. Here are the facts about how the legislative ban works.

WHAT THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN DOES

- The legislation bans the future manufacture and importation of semiautomatic assault weapons, specifically naming 19 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. Currently-owned guns, however, are not covered by the ban.
- In order to protect the rights of hunters, the legislation specifically exempts over 650 types of hunting and sporting firearms from the ban.
- Moreover, not all semiautomatic weapons are banned by the legislation; only those firearms which are assault weapons -- weapons designed for military purposes and equipped with combat hardware -- fall under the legislative ban. Semiautomatic sporting and hunting rifles, such as the Browning and Remington, will not be affected by the ban. In fact, over 60 semiautomatic rifles are among the more than 650 weapons exempted from the ban.

What the Legislative Ban Covers:

- In order to target only assault weapons, the legislation uses very specific and objective criteria in defining which semiautomatic rifles, pistols and shotguns are prohibited:
 - * Any banned assault rifles are limited to those rifles which are semiautomatic AND able to accept a detachable magazine AND have at least TWO of the following five features:
 - 1) grenade launcher;
 - 2) pistol grip, which allows the weapon to be "spray fired" from the hip;
 - 3) bayonet mount;
 - 4) threaded barrel for flash suppressor;
 - 5) folding stock, which facilitates concealability and mobility in combat situations.

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN: JUST THE FACTS (continued) . . .

- * Any banned assault pistols are limited to those pistols which are semiautomatic AND able to accept a detachable magazine AND have at least TWO of the following five features:
 - 1) semiautomatic version of a machine gun;
 - 2) threaded barrel for silencer;
 - 3) barrel shroud, which cools the barrel so that firearm can shoot many rounds in rapid succession without overheating;
 - 4) unloaded weight of 50 ounces or more;
 - 5) magazine which attaches outside the pistol grip (this feature enables the shooter to grasp the weapon with two hands during rapid fire).

- * Any banned assault shotguns are limited to those shotguns which are semiautomatic AND have at least TWO of the following four features:
 - 1) folding stock;
 - 2) pistol grip;
 - 3) fixed magazine capacity in excess of 5 rounds;
 - 4) ability to accept a detachable magazine.

What the Legislative Ban Does Not Cover:

- In addition to specifically exempting over 650 types of hunting and sporting weapons, the legislative ban uses very specific and objective criteria to exempt hunting and sporting firearms from the ban. The following guns are not banned:
 - * Guns that are manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action;
 - * Semiautomatic rifles that cannot accept detachable magazines that hold more than five rounds of ammunition;
 - * Semiautomatic shotguns that cannot hold more than five rounds of ammunition in fixed or detachable magazines;
 - * Guns that are antique firearms, as defined by current law;
 - * Guns that have been rendered permanently inoperable.

- The legislative ban also explicitly exempts firearms used for governmental or experimental purposes.

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN: JUST THE FACTS (continued) . . .

What Else Does the Legislative Ban on Assault Weapons Do?

- Prohibits the manufacture and importation of large-capacity ammunition magazines -- those magazines which can hold in excess of 10 rounds of ammunition. Tubular magazines for .22 caliber rimfire ammunition, however, do not fall under the ban.
- Applies to large-capacity magazines the same requirements as are applied to all firearms -- for instance, manufacturers and dealers of such magazines must be licensed, and such magazines must be marked with serial numbers.
- Requires private sellers and buyers of assault weapons to keep a record of the transaction.
- Contains penalties for those who violate the ban: Up to five years in jail, except for those who violate the record-keeping provision, who face up to six months in jail.
- Requires the Attorney General to study the problem of assault weapons in America to evaluate the effectiveness of the legislative ban.
- Sunsets the legislative ban 10 years after the date of enactment.

WHY AMERICA NEEDS A BAN ON SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS

- A legislative ban on assault weapons will save lives, pure and simple. It will take weapons designed for military combat off the streets and out of the hands of violent individuals. Over the last five years, the number of assault weapons traced in relation to homicides has almost doubled, hitting a high of 280 last year. Just ask the parents of any one of the five elementary school children who were killed, or the 29 others who were wounded, when Patrick Purdy used his AK-47 to fire 106 rounds in less than 2 minutes on a Stockton, California schoolyard where the kids were playing.
- Although they represent less than 1 percent of privately-owned firearms, assault weapons account for 8 percent of the firearms traced to criminal activities -- a number which has been on the rise in recent years. As the weapon of choice for violent criminals, assault weapons make up a disproportionately high number of firearms traced to crime.
- When the Bush Administration banned the importation of certain assault weapons, the number of imported assault weapons traced to crime declined by 45% in the first year, while the number of domestic assault weapons traced to crime remained the same.
- There are almost no current federal restrictions on the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons. Although designed specifically for combat, they can be legally sold in most states. And there are no current restrictions on the sale of 30, 50 or even 100 round

THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN: JUST THE FACTS (continued) . . .

ammunition magazines, which can be legally sold to anyone, though they have no conceivable sporting purpose.

- Law enforcement knows that the streets are safer with a legislative ban on semiautomatic assault weapons. That's why every major law enforcement organization in the country supports a ban on these weapons of war.
- The American people agree. According to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll taken last December, 77% of those surveyed nationally favored a ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of semiautomatic assault guns such as the AK-47.

May 2, 1994