

HCI 'Kitchen Sink' Filed

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When the 'reasonable' Brady Bill was pending, we told the world that radical, unreasonable gun laws were waiting in the wings. We were called paranoid, at best, and liars, at worst—by HCI, Congress, the news media and even some of our fellow gun owners.

Yesterday, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), Rep. Charles Schumer and Handgun Control Inc. proved us right by introducing their 'comprehensive gun control' package, H.R. 3932/S. 1886. *It is European-style total people control.*

It has every provision on the anti-gunners' wish list short of a total handgun ban. They're satisfied, for now, with a ban on merely some handguns—for it creates the total registration and licensing system necessary to make an eventual confiscation law work.

The same day Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen announced that they were using the 'Destructive Devices' section of the 1968 Gun Control Act to put the 'non-sporting' Streetsweeper, Striker and USAS-12 shotguns under the same registration and \$200 transfer tax applicable to machine guns under the National Firearms Act.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if this ruling sticks, exactly the same 26-year-old provisions will be used to do the same thing to pistol-grip-stocked Remington 870's and Winchester 1400's, and tens of thousands of surplus Model 12, Model 97 and Model 37 'riot guns'—with their evil barrel shrouds and bayonet lugs.

Only a few days earlier BATF banned steel-cored 7.62x39 ammo on the basis that it met the definition of 'Cop-Killer' handgun ammo—because one manufacturer had made, but hadn't sold, six handguns in that caliber, based on AR-15 frames. (Note: No police officer has ever been killed by an armor-piercing bullet penetrating lightweight body

armor, but soft-nosed 7.62x39 ammo would penetrate the vests, as will any other rifle cartridge.)

But there's some good news. The first of several NRA-backed lawsuits was filed yesterday by Graham County, Arizona, Sheriff Richard Mack against the Brady Act. It cites a 1992 Supreme Court ruling in 'New York v. U.S.' that, under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, 'The Federal Government may not compel the States to enact or administer a federal regulatory program.'

Arizona Gov. Fife Symington also ordered the state's attorney general to sue the U.S. on the same grounds in the Supreme Court.

HCI's huge new Schumer/Metzenbaum bill—the text is 32 narrow-margin typewritten pages—is much too complicated to analyze completely here. But we'll hit some of the high spots.

It includes handgun registration, licensing of their owners (after police safety training), and restricts private transfers.

It requires a \$300 Federal 'arsenal license' for anyone who has more than 20 *firearms* and/or more than 1,000 rounds of ammo (or primers). Local law enforcement would have to give permissions for such 'arsenals,' and BATF could inspect those homes three times per year to verify all records and security requirements were being met.

Not content with the ban on magazines over 10 rounds in H.R. 3527 (Schumer's House copy of the Senate-approved Feinstein 'assault weapons' ban), the bill bans all magazines over six rounds.

Its many other provisions include declaring 'Saturday Night Specials' (defined to include Colt Single Actions) and handgun ammunition with over 1,200 foot-pounds of energy as 'prohibited weapons,' transferable by present owners only under the same restrictions as machine guns.

Further, all barrels, stocks, magazines and action parts would be considered firearms; it would limit purchases to one handgun per month and forbid dealers from conducting business except at their licensed business—no dealers at gun shows.

Because it includes a 50 percent tax on handgun ammo (to go into health care grants), the bill has been assigned to Sen. Patrick Moynihan's Finance Committee.

Considering that Sen. Metzenbaum acknowledged that it would take years to pass everything in the package, it's a puzzle why he, Schumer and HCI chose to introduce it within a month of the H.R. 3527 'assault weapon' vote. (Capitol Hill observers expect the House vote around the first of April.)

And why did they weaken the 'need' for that bill by interpreting existing law to restrict three of the most evilly photogenic guns banned by Feinstein/Schumer.

A cynic might think they were trying to kill the Feinstein/Schumer 'assault weapon' bill to keep HCI's fundraising machine in high gear.