

LETTERS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

OFFICE OF CORONER,
St. Louis County, Mo., July 1, 1965.

Senator THOMAS DODD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing you regarding your Federal gun control bill, presently being considered in the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

In order to introduce myself, I have been coroner of St. Louis County 8½ years. I am chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Coroners, chairman of the board of directors, Missouri State Coroner's Association, and consultant to the American Association of Criminology.

I have also authored 2 books on death investigation, the latest, "Outline of Death Investigation," published by Thomas Publishing Co.

I should like to heartily endorse your bill for two purposes.

First, approximately 75 percent of all of our homicides in St. Louis County (800,000 population) have been with firearms, many on the spur of the moment and in a heat of passion—deaths that otherwise would have been prevented were the firearms not available.

Secondly, St. Louis County, as other parts of the country, is witnessing a tremendous increase in suicides.

Our suicides for 6 months of this year are approximately 60 percent (38 as compared to 23) more than the same period in 1964.

Of the 38 suicides thus far this year, 22 have been as a result of guns.

Again, were these guns not available during the period of depression, these suicides might have been prevented.

Also, were these guns more difficult to purchase or secure, some of these suicides would not have occurred. Many of these successful self-murders were by persons who have previously attempted or threatened to take their own lives.

In addition to the stricter regulations called for in your bill, I have requested a local program, which probably will be put in effect within the next month, of central reporting of all suicide threats and attempts. This will allow police checks on same before issuing permits.

This kind of program, together with your bill, will most certainly lower our suicide rates.

I firmly believe that the passage of your bill, together with stringent local surveillance and regulations, will cut our murders and suicides appreciably.

Very truly yours,

RAYMOND I. HARRIS,
Coroner, St. Louis County, Mo.

HOUSTON, TEX., August 6, 1965.

Senator THOMAS J. DODD,
Senate Subcommittee To Investigate Juvenile Delinquency,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: I am writing this statement, at your invitation, in lieu of appearing personally to testify against the proposed legislation H.R. 6628. I would like this to be inserted in the printed record.

Briefly, this type of legislation, if enacted, would not accomplish its purpose, i.e., stopping criminals from getting guns.

I am qualified to testify on this subject as former Chief of Staff in the Philippine Guerrilla Forces on the island of Leyte, where our jungle arsenal made these same guerrilla guns by the thousands between 1942 and 1944. In addition, I was the first "zip gun" manufacturer in the United States. My company, Richardson Industries, East Haven, Conn., produced and sold over 2,600 guerrilla guns in 1945-46, which sold nationally for \$4.98 to \$7.98.

Serviceable shotguns, parts and labor, in quantities of 1,000, can be manufactured in any plumbing shop in America for less than \$3 each. For an electric type trigger, for high accuracy, the same gun could be produced in quantity for less than \$8 each. Fully automatic shotguns, for less than \$20 each.

The reason for this low price and ready availability is the fact that the guns can be manufactured from standard ¾- and 1¼-inch water pipe, steel rod, a welding torch and a metal disk with a nipple as a fixed firing pin. The gun is operated by bringing the barrel and shell manually back against the fixed firing pin. There are no moving parts.

The electrical model would employ the electrical elements of a Brownie Flash Camera, available at your drug stores anywhere.

Summing up, teenage gangs in any large metropolitan area have made their own "zip guns" when necessary. This is a matter of record and some concern to policemen everywhere. If H.R. 6628 were to be enacted, law enforcement is further complicated by the fact that no record of these homemade gun sales could be made, and that the component parts could be shipped anywhere without fear of detection.

For those who would deny the effectiveness of this type weapon, I might add that with the refinement of steel tubing, chambering the barrel, electric firing and the addition of a 48- to 56-inch barrel, front sights and magnum load shotgun slugs, the normal "zip gun" can become as accurate and effective as most any model presently available.

We did this in the Philippines during the war, by necessity, in less than 6 months. We could and would do the same thing here if the necessity arose, but it wouldn't take as long.

Sincerely,

I. D. RICHARDSON.

SHUR-X-BULLET CO., INC.,
Rochester, N.Y., July 12, 1965.

HON. THOMAS J. DODD,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee To Investigate Juvenile Delinquency,
Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR DODD: The board of directors of Shur-X-Bullet Corp. have reviewed in detail S. 1592 introduced into the 89th Congress to amend the Federal Firearms Act. It is the wish of the board by unanimous vote to register in opposition to this bill as written and that this letter be entered into the record when the measure is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Subcommittee To Investigate Juvenile Delinquency.

We feel that the provisions of this bill as they will apply to sportsmen and dealers in firearms and ammunition are unduly restrictive and would tend to impose unnecessary hardships on our law-abiding citizens.

Sincerely yours,

HARVEY E. STRAUSS, *President.*

BERTRAM C. VAN ARSDALE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Louisville, Ky., April 29, 1965.

HON. CHARLES P. FARNSLEY,
Old House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHARLIE: Please allow me to register my strongest personal objections to the bill introduced by Senator Thomas J. Dodd identified as S. 1592.

Some years ago I strongly objected to H.R. 613, known as the Anfusio bill, and for the same reasons hereinafter stated. The most recent Dodd bill, S. 1592, which is recommended by the administration, is merely another device whereby absolute power is delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury to impose arbitrary, capricious, and discriminatory regulations on all gun sales by dealers.

My connections with the shooting fraternity are of long standing, and my interest in hunting, gun collecting, ammunition reloading, trap, skeet, and target shooting with rifles, pistols, and shotguns is intense. Most of the larger cities of the land require registration of pistols, and these measures have become law with the intent to make it difficult for the criminally bent to either acquire or own firearms or pistols, and with the further objective of identification of the true owner of the firearms which may be involved in criminal acts. Law-abiding citizens have for the most part complied fully with such local laws and where they have not done so the chief reason is that of ignorance of the regulation. The criminal has never registered firearms as a general rule and will not do so in the future, regardless of legal requirements at the National, State, or local level.

Criminals will always be able to buy firearms or acquire them otherwise through illegitimate sources. They either remove the identifying serial numbers or deface them in such a manner and to such an extent that true identification becomes extremely difficult, even though the use of acid is commonly prac-