

Gun Control

Fifth of July and me and my boyfriend are just sitting around watching T.V. when the phone rings. I answer the phone and here my best friend Laurie trying to tell me something through her tears. I knew it was more than a family problem because she wouldn't call me at my boyfriends if it wasn't serious. I tried to get her to calm down so I could half way understand her. I could here her say something about our good friend Jerry. I took her a few minutes but I finally understood her. Jerry had been shot earlier that day by two juveniles with handguns in search of drugs and money.

Contention 1. Juvenile Crime with guns has gone up.

A. Juveniles homicide with guns is tripling

Congressional Record 96' (July 24, Senate Resolution 282)

"Juvenile homicides involving firearms trippled from 1980 to 1994. Ask any police chief of any major cities in this country and they will tell you the problem in violence is that how the weapons are more powerful and they are used more frequently."

B. Number of other teen murders by other means has remained the same

Montgomery, 96' (Knight-Ridder, July 8)

"Noting that the number of gang murders by juveniles has tripled since 1980 while the number of teen murders by all other means has stayed the same."

C. Black Market is a great source of gun trading

Munsey, 96' (Christopher, March 31)

"Firearms stolen from residents and gun stores are the number one outlet for for criminals. 'They are traded on the street in the brisk black-market whirl that includes drugs & cash.' state police said.

D. Guns kill more teens than all diseases combined.

Neergaad, 96' (AP, July 13)

"Guns kill more teen-agers than all other diseases combined. Gun related homicides & suicides are rising. Firearms send almost 40,000 americans to thier graves each year.

Contention 2. Availability of guns to juvililes has gone up.

A. Guns are easy to steal

Munsey, '96 (Christopher, March 31)

"Criminals like stolen handguns because if they are somehow recovered after a crime, they will turn up in the records only as stolen."

B. Handguns are sold frequently

Johnson, 96' (February 21, Columbia Dispatch)

"People can buy handguns at gunshows, flea markets, and on the black market without a Brady Check. Criminals with half a brain will avoid the gunstores and going through the system."

C. The Brady Law

Johnson, 96' (February 21, Columbia Dispatch)

"The Brady Law which took effect February 28, 1994, requires a background check during the five day waiting period before the sale of a handgun."

D. Police are inadequate

Jeffery Synder (The Public Interest, 1993)

"Crime is increasing because citizen resistance & law enforcement is inadequate."

Plan

Plan Plank 1. The plan will be administered by the Department of Justice and all other necessary agencies in the U.S.

Plan Plank 2. Mandates

A. The possession of a handgun by a juvenile will be classified as a Class 2 Misdemeanor

B. Local police will be given the authority to search any juvenile suspected of carrying a handgun.

C. A tip reward for a gun reporting, like the Charleston "Operation Gun Stoppers" program, will be implemented nationwide.

D. Any handguns possessed by juveniles will be confiscated and turned over to local police.

E. Block grants will be given to the states and localities in order to hire and necessary law enforcement personnel required for plan implementation

Plan Plank 3. The proposal shall be funded by a simplification of the tax code, which will raise \$250 billion over the next 5 years.

Plan Plank 4. Enforcement will be through normal means

Plan Plank 5. The Aff. claims legislative intent

Contention 3. Gun Stoppers program will reduce juvenile crime.

A. The "Gun Stoppers" program will improve classification efforts

Rueben Greenburg(Police Chief, Charleston S.C.) The status quo Researcher , March 15, 1996 p. 229

"Under the program, if a tip leads to the confiscation of an illegal gun, the tipster gets \$100 within an hour. 'We changed the situation from kids showing off their guns to one where they are afraid for anyone to even know to have the gun.' Greenburg says."

In conclusion, juvenile crimes with handguns are increasing rapidly. If we do not try to take control of this problem now, then it will most likely only get worse. The juveniles are the future of the U.S. ; let's not give them a weapon that determine the life of another. Thank You.