IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Before all else, be armed." Niccolo Machiavelli, Italian politician, historian, and philosopher, born 1469 and died 1527. His work, the Prince, is viewed as maybe the beginning of modern political thought.

"When you disarm the people, you commence to offend them and show that you distrust them either through cowardice or lack of confidence, and both of these opinions generate hatred." Machiavelli

"When a politician opposes all reasonable gun control and gets shot, he deserves a Darwin Award nomination, not a sympathy card."
Martin Cizmar, political writer for The Raw Story, commenting on the shooting of Rep. Steve Scalise at a Congressional baseball practice.

"There's no room for guns."
LeBron James, NBA basketball star and anti-gun activist ignoring the fact that he hired 10 armed guards to secure his home in LA.

"people need to ignore the NRA's "stand-your-ground" and 'only-a-good-guy-with-a-gun-can-stop-a-bad-guy-with-a gun' nonsense and realize that during a hostile confrontation with another person, remaining non-aggressive and removing oneself from the situation is a much better way to remain safe than using a gun."
Professor George Elliott, Associate University of Maine Electrical Engineering, Bangor Daily News article titled, "Why banning handguns makes sense."

2019 – SOME THOUGHTS

With the mid-term election behind us we, the advocates of our individual liberty and the Second Amendment, face an uncertain future. With the election of Donald Trump as President and Republican control of both houses of Congress it was certain that there would be no erosion of our Second Amendment rights. Despite not passing constitutional carry or nation-wide reciprocity laws the Congress and the President stood strong against the ever ringing bell of more gun control. But in January the Democrats take control of the House. We still have a gun rights majority in the Senate and have a President who can still veto any anti-Second Amendment legislation. What can we do?

The first thing is to tell our legislators here in Tennessee that we support gun rights guaranteed by the Second Amendment and oppose any infringement of those rights. Another thing you can do is be and keep informed. I will certainly do that via this article every month. Other ways to be involved is to become a member of an organization that fights to keep our Second Amendment intact. You all know about the National Rifle Association, http://www.nra.org. Another is the National Association for Gun Rights, http://www.nationalgunrights.org. Still another is Gun Owners of America, www.gunowners.org. Lastly there is the Second Amendment Foundation, www.saf.org. All of these organizations work every day to protect our Second Amendment rights. They serve as watchdogs of congress and their legislation, good and bad. We all need to be informed and involved or the forces of gun control will incrementally destroy the right that has angered them for decades. Make no mistake; their objective is the complete repeal of the Second Amendment.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS OUTLINE GUN CONTROL AGENDA FOR 116TH CONGRESS

With anti-gun Democrats back in control of the House of Representatives come January, now is the time to prepare for a new onslaught on the Second Amendment. Emboldened by the mere thought of controlling the lower chamber, we are already seeing the warning signs of what will come for the next two years.

First, virtually all Democrat leadership positions are likely to be filled by long-time anti-gun zealots, such as former Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). Similarly, key committees will surely be chaired by extremists with long histories of

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supporting any and all legislation designed to diminish the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

In other words, if you can imagine a new, draconian restriction on guns, gun owners, firearm parts and accessories, or ammunition, expect it to not only be introduced, but to be given a hearing. Also expect the anti-gun legacy media to openly fawn over these efforts. The same goes for any old proposals that have already been introduced and rejected, or even implemented and later repealed or abandoned after proving to be ineffective.

At the top of the list, of course, will be banning semi-automatic firearms. Extremists will try to ban America's most popular rifle, the AR15, as well as any other semi-automatic rifle. The standard magazines that come with these rifles, as well as any that are sold separately that are deemed "too big," will also be the target of bans. Most semi-automatic handguns and shotguns will also be swept into these bans.

"Universal" background checks are also a priority for anti-gun Democrats. In fact, Nancy Pelosi even promised to support criminalizing the private transfer of firearms if Democrats were given control of the House. Pelosi and her ilk will try to exploit all of the recent tragic shootings that have taken place in order to promote "universal" background check while ignoring the fact that none of them would have been impacted by such a scheme. The firearms in all of these horrific crimes were acquired through either the federally-mandated background check, or even more restrictive state systems.

There are many reasons to not trust Pelosi, but when it comes to her pledge to attack law-abiding gun owners, you can take that to the bank.

Democrats who have been chomping at the bit for years to push their anti-gun agenda in the House have made it very clear your rights are fair game, and they have said they will not waste any time once they seize the reins of control.

Along with semi-auto bans and "universal" background checks, expect to see attempts to tax firearms and ammunition out of the grasp of the average American. Through incompetence or malice, these legislative proposals will be so poorly drafted that it will be impossible for law-abiding gun owners to even attempt to comply with their byzantine provisions.

As an example, one need only look to the most recent gun control bill introduced in Congress. H.R. 7115, the so-called "3–D Firearms Prohibitions Act." Attentive readers will probably notice that the bad drafting started with the title: we live in a three-dimensional world; so all firearms are necessarily "3-D." Despite the title, the bill doesn't seem to ban all firearms, however, it's provisions are so poorly drafted and show such a incredible lack of understanding of firearms that it likely does ban nearly any part intended for use in a modern semi-automatic firearm. Even simple pins and springs seem to fall within the provisions of the bill.

While 7115 is unlikely to move in the current Congress, it will likely be on the agenda next year. But that's just the start.

Ultimately, the Second Amendment will likely be under a more severe attack over the next two years than perhaps it has ever seen. With some sources showing that as many as one in five likely voters in Democrat primaries would like to see the Second Amendment repealed, it's likely that some members of Congress will attempt to oblige. https://www.ammoland.com/2018/11/house-democrats-outline-gun-control-agenda-116th-congress/

ENGINEERING PROFESSOR SHARES THOUGHTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, CALLS FOR HANDGUN BAN

In a recent piece for the Bangor Daily News ironically titled, "Why banning handguns makes sense," Associate University of Maine Electrical Engineering Professor George Elliott struggled to argue why the tools of self-defense have no place in civilized society and are unworthy of constitutional protection. Unsurprisingly, some of the academic's own statements refute his thesis.

At the outset of his case, the professor lamented, "The U.S. is awash in handguns. Their numbers have been steadily increasing from an estimated 65 million in 1994 to about 111 million in 2015, an increase of around 71 percent." Elliot is right, there has been a significant increase in the number of handguns owned by civilians since 1994. However, his implication that this has fueled violent crime is wrong.

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting data, from 1994 to 2017, the murder rate declined by more than 40 percent. Over the same time period, the violent crime rate has decreased more than 45 percent. So America is more awash in guns than 1994 and experiences just about half as much violent crime.

Elliott went on to ponder, "Why so many handguns? My best guess is that many people believe that handguns provide some self-protection and they are readily accessible." The professor later dismisses any utility handguns might provide, stating, "people need to ignore the NRA's "stand-your-ground" and 'only-a-good-guy-with-a-gun-can-stop-a-bad-guy-with-a gun' nonsense and realize that during a hostile confrontation with another person, remaining non-aggressive and removing oneself from the situation is a much better way to remain safe than using a gun." The latter remark runs directly counter to the best evidence on the subject.

Many people believe that handguns provide some self-protection because they in fact do provide the means of self-protection. Earlier this year, Florida State University Professor of Criminology Gary Kleck analyzed the Centers for

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Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data and found that Americans frequently use firearms for self-defense.

The data shows that the number of defensive gun uses per year is about 1 million. The figure dwarves that of firearm homicides and suicides.

Moreover, Kleck's earlier research on violent encounters shows that the most effective means of resisting criminal assault is armed self-defense. In his book Armed: New Perspectives on Gun Control, Kleck analyzed survey data to find that "Victims who used guns were less likely to be injured than crime victims who did not resist…"

After a few clumsy applications of the typical anti-gun talking points, our cocksure electrical engineering professor was confident enough to fancy himself a constitutional scholar. According to the would-be jurist, the Supreme Court "erred" in ruling against Washington, D.C.'s handgun ban in the landmark Second Amendment case District of Columbia v. Heller.

Rather than grapple with the finer points of Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion, Elliott exclaimed, "If it can be shown that handguns do not, in general, provide protection, then banning their private ownership is not a violation of the Second Amendment."

As previously explained, it has not been shown that handguns do not provide protection "in general." However, Elliott's core misunderstanding seems to be with the nature of individual rights.

Of course, in Heller the Court found that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes and that the purpose of self-defense was at the core of the Second Amendment protection. The test for respecting an individual right has never been a mere public policy argument over whether on balance an exercise of a particular right accrues more societal benefits than costs (however such benefits and costs might be defined and measured).

Interpretation of our founding document isn't a battlefield of social scientists with competing theories. It is a careful deliberation of the text and history of the document under which Americans provide their continuing consent to be governed. Elliott's statement attacks a fundamental legal concept whereby the rights of the individual are placed paramount, even if respect for that right may impose some cost to society.

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS WARNS INVESTORS THAT DECISION TO GET RID OF GUNS COST COMPANY DEARLY

Dick's Sporting Goods is warning investors that its decision to remove certain "assault-style" weapons from its Field & Stream stores cost it dearly and may limit its future gains.

The sporting goods retailer was forced to confront angry shareholders late last week after its stocks tanked more than 4.5% and financial conglomerate J.P. Morgan Chase downgraded Dick's shares, saying the company was "overweight."

https://www.dailywire.com/news/38935/dicks-sporting-goods-warns-investors-our-decision-emily-zanotti

Dick's has reaped what they have sewn.

Richard Stouder *– oakridger48@msn.com*

THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

The Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA) column is now available each month on the ORSAONLINE web site at (www.orsaonline.org/rkba.asp). From time to time, the RKBA column will be included in the printed version which is mailed to members' homes when space permits.

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