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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

# ffice Memorandum • united states governmen

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SUBJECT:

DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS ANTITAUST

This is to advise that the antitrust Division by memor dated January 31, 1955, has requested investigation of alleged . in the captioned matter. The investigation requested involves of with several well known sportsmen's magazines as well as contact give companies engaged in manufacturing rifle scopes and mounts.

The investigation is based on the allegation that cer's manufacturers of rifle scopes and mounts have conspired with the publishers of several sporting magazines to control prices at w. these products are distributed and sold to the public. It is a that the magazine publishers, acting in collusion with the manunave refused to accept advertising of those firms which attempt these products at cut prices. Such concerted action to boycott advertising of price cutting retailers would apparently constit Wiolation of the Sherman Act.

The Department has requested that we contact the foll magazines, and their publishing companies:

Field and Stream, Hugh Grey, Editor, published by Henry H and Company, New York City Outdoor Life, William E. Roe, Editor, published by Popula: Science Publishing Company, New York Ci-Hunting and Fishing, Bob Becker, Editor, published by Hun: and Fishing Fublishing Corporation, Chi Sports Afield, Ted Hesting, Editor, published by The Hears Corporation, New York City Fur-Fish-Game (Harding's Magazine), A. V. Harding, Editor published by A. R. Harding Publishing ( Columbus, Onio

In addition to the above-named magazines, we are ask tact five companies engaged in the manufacture and distribution scopes and mounts. At all these companies, the investigation the purpose of locating any evidence that the magazines and to facturers have constilled to boycott the advertising of price ( retailers.

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

### ACTION

This is submitted for your information.

Copies of the Antitrust Division request are being prepared and appropriate instructions will be forwarded to the field immediately.

JEP

60-4616 -

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BEST COPY AVAILABLE Street No. 1 PAN NEW YORK THE CASE ORIGINATED AT PORT MADE AT 57C EUFFALO CHARACTER OF CASE DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING ANTITRUST OF RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS and SYNCPSIS OF FACTS: Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., made available annual reports showing financial statements, asset value and quantum of business transacted annually by this company from 1949 through 1954 as well as information showing the proportion of valiness in scopes and mounts compared to total business transacted during those years. According to these individuals, scopes and mounts form a relatively small tertion of their total business. Price list was furnished by E and L Company for scopes and mounts as well as conditions of sale. Statistical data was obtained reflecting number and dollar value of scopes and mounts sold in 1949 through 1954. Bausch and Lomb College Co. does not "fair trade" these products. Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., advised that no attended the meeting held at National Rifle Association Headquarters, Washington, D. C., on 4/20/53, at which time. other manufacturers issued complaints that the American Rifleman was relaxing its long established policy of protecting its readers from false claims in advertising. claims meeting had no effect in the attitude or performance by Bausch and Lomb Optical Co., and further that no conclusions were reached and no actions were declided upon as a result of this meeting to his knowledger 1 CC ARTITICET DIVISION With more JK ? . . . - RUC -MAR 2.2 1955 60-4616 7 722 Bureau (Encls. 13) CL New York MAR = Buffalo\_[60-200]

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DEMAILS:

### AT ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, advised that the amount of business transacted by his company in scopes and mounts is relatively small as compared with the overall quantum of business transacted annually.

Was interviewed on March 2, 1955.

He made available annual reports of the Bausch and Lomb Company for the years 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953 and 1954. He stated that the copies of the annual report for 1951 are not available, however, the annual report for 1952 does include the financial status including the assets and the sales for the year 1951.

These annual reports are being furnished as enclosures with this report to the Bureau.

The total asset value of the Bausch and Lord Company as well as sales for the years 1949 through 1954 are set out:

Year	Salec	Tobal Assets
1949	\$35,307,100	039,195,535
1950	\$38,027,193	\$40,443,023
1951	\$48,530,912	\$43,660,298
1952	\$52,150,812	\$43,498,758
1953	\$51,077,282	\$43,097,805
1954	\$48,927,947 60	-46,580,364

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publication of the bausch and Lomb Optical Company, entitled, "Facts About Hunting Sights" which is described as a manual of technical and practical information on the design and construction of telescopic hunting sights and their performance and dependability. He described this publication as the best descriptive information of the various types of rifle scopes and mounts produced by the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company.

This manual is being forwarded as an enclosure with this report to the Bureau.

On February 14, 1954,

Bausch and Lomb Optical Company,
advised that because of the relatively small amount of
business transacted by this company in scopes and
mounts, no separate files are maintained on the
competitors of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company
in this field. He stated that any correspondence
relating to any of the competitors would be contained
in the general files and because of the small amount
of correspondence he does not feel that a general
file review would be feasible.

made available the files
concerning the National Rifle Association of America,
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C., which
include a letter dated April 7, 1953 from MERRITT A.
EDSON, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association of America to
attend a meeting on April 20, 1953 at 10:00 a.m.,
"to explore all the factors involved in our advertising
policy as it pertains to enforcing the provisions of
the several Fair Trade Acts."

In this file there is contained a letter

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dated Apr accepting but point does not In this I American mediums I scopes, a discussion magazine.

from stion to attend the above meeting, at the Bausch and Lomb Company leafs contracts with its dealers. states, "however, since the sone of the principal advertising noculars, rifle sights, and spotting initely interested in any general at the advertising policies of the

National changing

The also is a letter dated April 13, Theorem of America to the above meeting.

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dealers

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list by models of scores and mounts
list by models of scores and mounts
list by models of scores and mounts
the fact since January 1, 1949 and are
the stated that with this price list,
also sent to dealers and prospective
the conditions of sale.

letter

; of the above price list and form sing forwarded as an enclosure.

advise partic years number which Compar throu: ruary 23, 1955, litistics are not available as to the els produced and sold by units from the righ 1954. He made available the total and the dollar amount of rifle scopes wified by the Bausch and Lomb Optical is sights and mounts for the years 1949

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The following chart sets forth the number of units, the dollar value of sales of these items during those years

### SALES OF RIFLE SIGHTS AND MOUNTS FOR YEAR'S 1949 THROUGH 1954

### RIFLE SIGHTS #

<u> </u>			EXPORTS		
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Arrount	
1954	1747	84,302.70	6	325.00	
1953	2162	105,620.89	8	437.00	
1952	3095	154,443.11	7	414.25	
1951	3672	184,673.20	10	498.87	
1950	3294	168,039.74	21	1,165.36	
1949	3315	167,267.99			

### MOUNTS

DOMESTIC			EXPORTS			
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Amount		
1954	1947	31,482.40	8	134.59		
1953	2723	44,141.92	9.	166.71		
1952	3047	49,152.69	8	147.35		
		Ò	U-461	6 -		

#### MOUNTS

#### Cont'd

DOMESTIC			EXPORTS		
Year	Units	Amount	Units	Amount	
1991	6025	65,142.86	ò	146.25	
1950	3743	90,129. <i>82</i>	23	391.25	
1945	2958	48,076.95	No. 444		

\* FXCLUDES IRON RIFLE SIGHTS

On February 15, 1955. , Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, advised that he was invited by General EDSON to a meeting held at the National Rifle Association Headquarters in Washington, D. C., on April 20, 1953. He stated that from his files he recalls that he received a letter dated April 7, 1953 from General EDSON, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association of America, inviting him to the meeting to explore all the factors involved in the advertising policies of the National Rifleman as it pertains to the enforcing and provisions of the Fair Trade Acts. He stated that he accepted the invitation on behalf of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company with reservation and pointing out that the Bausch and Lomb Company does not have Feir Trade contracts with its dealers. He stated that the meeting was apparently motivated by the W. R. Weaver Company, which does have Fair Trade contracts with its dealers and

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of the W. R. Waavan Johnson, felt that the American Rifleman should not account the advertising which offered Weaver products at less then the Fair Trade prices. He stated that the other manufacturers entered complaints that the American Billoman wer relaxing its long existing policy of probabiling the readers from false claims in advertising and the like. He recalls that Gen. EDSON pointed out that the National Rifle Association people could not possibly undertake to check all ads to make sure that the prices for Weaver scopes were within the Fair Trade contracts and it was up to the W. R. Weaver Company to enforce the contracts of Mirest estion with the individual dealers. arguet on the other hand that they would sine . Tery good record of having taken immediate action on any complaints received from readers concerning false claims and other types of dishonest advertising. He stated that to the best of his knowledge no conclusions were reached and no actions were decided upon. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, nothing was accomplished except it gave the individual advertisers a chance to make known their complaints. He added that to the best of his knowledge the meeting resulted in no conclusions and no action of any kind was taken as a result of this meeting. Stated that he could say with certainty that this meeting had no effect in the attitude or performance of the Eausch and Lomb lomnany.

stated that to the best of his knowledge or observation there never has been any kind of an understanding between the manufacturers in the scope and mount field on any subject. He pointed out that the rifle sight manufacturing field is known for the complete isolation of each manufacturer on all matters. He stated that he has no correspondence with the other manufacturers in this field and his only source of information concerning their activities comes from salesmen

sales outlets. also pointed car that the American Rifleman is the best source of advertising by a manufacturer of scopes and mounts, and for this reason he does not think 1t would be probable that any manufacturer would refuse or threaten to refuse to advertise in this publication. He states that this would also be true to a lesser degree in all outdoor type publications and added he knows of no threats by manufacturers to withhold advertising from any magazine because of retail prices quoted on mones and mounts in the retail advertisements of periodicals. He added that except for the incident that occurred on April 20, 1953, he knows of no complaints or objections made by any of the five manufacturers or by any distributor to a magazine because that magazine was carrying retail advertisements which offered to sell scopes and mounts at cut prices.

stated that because of the highly competitive field, he knows of the existence of no contracts or understandings between any of the five manufacturers and distributors or retailers of scopes and mounts which relate to:

- (a) Division of sales territories.
- (b) Price fixing or resale price maintenance.
- (c) Exclusive dealerships.
- (d) Other regulations of business activities conducted by independent resellers.

stated that he is not in"

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possession or does he know of any documents relating or referring to scopes and mounts which disclose refusals by any of the five manufacturers to sell or deliver their products upon order of any distributor or the discontinuance of supplies to distributors or resale outlets or the reinstatement of retail outlets subsequent to termination of distributorships.

stated that he knows of no general understandings between magazine publishers or publishers and manufacturers that a particular course of action in the form of boycott was being pursued with regard to cut rate advertising of rifle scopes and manufactures.

on March 3, 1955,

available a memorandum prepared by

to him concerning his recollection of the meeting
held at the National Rifle Association Headquarters
in Washington, D. C., on April 20, 1953. This memorandum
is dated February 22, 1955 and is being forwarded as
enclosure.

The following exhibits were obtained and are being forwarded with this report as enclosures:

Exhibit I Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1949

Exhibit II Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1950

Exhibit III Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1952

Exhibit IV Annual report of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1953

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Exhibit V Annual report of the Eausch and Lomb Optical Company, 1954

Exhibit VI A manual of technical and practical information on the design and construction of telescopic hunting sights ... their performance and dependability

Exhibit VII Enviol. and Good Rifle Sight price list dated May 22, 1951

Exhibit VIII Form Letter #86 of the Specialty Sales Department

Exhibit IX Chart of sales of Rifle Sights and Mounts for years 1949 through 1954

Exhibit X Letter of Major General MERRITT A. EDSON to Bausch and Lomo Optical Company

Exhibit XI Letter dated April 15, 1953 from to Gen. M. A. EDSON, Executive Director, National Rifle Association of America

Exhibit XII Letter dated Arril 13, 1953 to from Maj. Gen. MERRITT A. EDSON

Exhibit XIII Memo of dated February 22;

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ADMINISTRATIVE

REFERENCE

Bureau letter to New York dated 2/0/55-4616

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	DATE WHEN		REPORT MADE BY	_ b7C
SAN FRANCISCO	3/24/55	3/18,21/55		(A) nat
- Cuistrieu.	fich and retail ad Sootes and mounts	Vertes inc	CHARACTER OF CASE ANTITIONS	
SYNOPS S OF FACT	`S:		Commence of the second of the	
4	San Francis	sco, Calif., advert	ised rifle scopes an	d mounts
1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	merican militeman in June, 1953 adverti	rom about Dec., 195	l to April, 1953 at	cut rate
anvertisi	was indicated rejecting was in the best into	ection for reason to terests of stortsmer	hat magazine did not	fool
from seal.	ing or <u>movemble in</u>	7 45 520 10 3030 3	enjoining opes and mounts at 1	
man throu	ngh Oct., 1953 usin	continued adve	ertising in American	Rifle-
products.	No knowledge and	By discontinued enti	irely the handling of in this matter by m	f those
facturers	and publishers.			
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in the American Rifleran advertisements always listunder those suggested by the manufacturers.

until May, 1953 when the W. E. Weaver Company obtained an 1in Superior Court, San Francisco, California, which enjoined
selling or advertising for sale at less than prices stated 1
injunction certain file spores and mounts. There was a hear
this injunction attempt to fight it and
could not sell weaver products at less than the fair trade

advised that prior to the above mentioned s.

received a letter from the American Rifleman magazine
they had indicated that they were not going to run
adver
in the June, 1953 issue as they did not feel that to do so w
the best interests of sportsren

stated that after receiving this rejection a following the injunction obtained by Weaver they placed new accounts with the American Rifleman for the months of July throu October, 1953 in which the established retail prices were quot They discontinued these after October, 1953 as they received few responses and their sales fell off to the point where the continued this business entirely and they have not resumed it had to write back to their customers and tell them that they not sell them at a discount and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business entirely and they are soon lost all of the business enti

advised that the above is the only trouble refuse merchandise but bought only rom the distributors and not dire.

from any manufacturer, never received any suggestions, or explanation from any rabilsher regarding advertisements to had no contacts with the man...

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and few contacts with other dealers in this equipment and had no knowledge of any collective action on the part of manufacturers and publishers with respect to the maintenance of retail prices on this equipment. The had only attempted to advertise in the one magazine.

**170** 

and.

that he has had no similar experience with this business.

-RUC-

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Buist to New York dated Printed

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### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK

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PEPGRI	MADE AT	DATE WHEN	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY	<u> </u>
	SPRINGFILLD	3-30-55	3-23-55	SA	ojs
TITLE	**************************************	<u> </u>		CHARACTER OF CASE	
	DISTRIBUTION AN OF RIFLL SOCPES			ANTITHUST	

SYNDPSIS OF FACTS:

interviewed at Springfield, Illinois, on 3-23-55 and signed statement obtained in which he advised he has been unable to have advertising inserted in "The American Rifleman" since April, 1953, with one exception which was Several pertinent items of apparently due to an error. correspondence obtained from the files of the "Rifleman" states the ads were refused because they were "not in the best interests of the National Hifle Association or shocting in general"; also because "it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less than established retail prices are detrimental to the orderly movement of such merchandise through regular retail channels, are a disturbing factor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the National Rifle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and the Association, and shooting in general". says
"I believe that the 'American Rifleman' was forced to not accept my advertising because of pressure put on the publication by large manufacturers and jothers of scopes and However, I am unable to prove this by any documentar evidence."

-RUC-

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1	APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT	ENCLOSUA DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SP	
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DETAILS: AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Illinois (permanent address

Illinois) was interviewed on March 23, 1955. at that time he furnished the following signed statement:

"Springfield, III. March 23, 1955.

"I, statement to who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice. No threats
or promises have been made to cause me to give this
statement.

at Illinois. I can read and write the English language. I consider my permanent residence to be but also reside at Illinois. I am presently employed as at Illinois.

"Since the latter part of 1947 I have been operating a small mail order business buying and selling telescopic sights and mounts for guns. In furtherance of this business, I regularly advertised in 'The American Rifleman', the official monthly magazine of the National Rifle Association. My ads were not too big, usually, and were placed in the classified ad section of the magazine.

"Most of the ads placed in the 'American Billeman' or This was a firm name I adopted for the following reasons: (1) To keep the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas (from whom I was purchasing scopes and mounts) from knowing that their customer, was in turn selling their product at less than their established list prices through the use of the name (2) I considered to be a good name to sell under inasmuch as it is easy to remember, at least much easier than

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"In June, 1950 I received a letter from Mr. F. A. Moulton of 'The American Rifleman' stating that they would no longer accept advertising from me inasmuch as they had received information from 'reliable sources' that I was operating a number of supply businesses under the names of several different individuals and firms. The letter stated further that 'we do not feel that it is in the best interests of the Association and its members for us to continue to accept advertising for the Rifleman from anyone who consistently operates under a number of aliases.'

"After several letters back and forth I managed to explain, apparently to the satisfaction of the 'American Rifleman', that I had from time to time used other names and addresses in carrying on my business but that practically all my advertising in the 'American Rifleman' had been under the name of the name I wanted to build up.

"In September, 1950 I received a letter from Mr. I.
F. Lucas, Eusiness Manager, National Rifle Association
of America, in which he advised the 'American Rifleman'
would again accept my advertising, beginning with the
November, 1950 issue, provided I would advertise only
under the name of
that I would 'remodel' a portion of my selling practices
in order to meet requirements of Fair Trade Laws.

"Things went along smoothly from that point until May, 1953 when the American Rifleman again refused to accept my advertising stating: 'The advertisement outlined in your letter of April 30th is not in the best interests of the National Rifle Association, or shooting in general.'

"When I asked for more specific details as to why my advertising was unacceptable to the magazine I received another letter from Mr. F. A. Moulton of the American Rifleman' in which he stated:

As to the reasons for our letter to you of May 5th, it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less than established retail prices are detrimental to the orderly movement of such merchandise through regular retail channels, are

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'a disturbing factor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the Mational Rifle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and objective of the Association, and shooting in general.'

"I thereafter sent in several ads to be placed in the American Rifleman' but they were all returned, with one exception which apparently was an oversight on the part of someone. On May 3, 1954 I received another letter from Mr. Moulton in which he reiterated the policy of not accepting advertising from anyone who sold at less than established retail prices. A paragraph is quoted from this letter:

However, If we continue to make appoint exceptions to our current general policy of not accepting any alvertisements in the Rifleman offering scopes at less than established retail prices we shall always be running into special circumstances such as outlined in your letter! I have not been able to advertise in this magazine since then.

to reach potential customers for my scopes and mounts since it has the widest circulation among the gun enthusiasts who might be in the market for scopes and mounts. Therefore, when the magazine refused to take my advertising any longer, a great percentage of my coff from contact with me. As a result I have been caught with a considerable number of scopes and mounts which I cosolete. This has caused me considerable financial

"I believe that the 'American Rifleman' was forced to not accept my advertising because of pressure put on the publication by large manufacturers and jobbers of scopes and mounts. However, I am unable to prove this by any documentary evidence. The 'American Rifleman' R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas in which that company objects to my selling their product below their established

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"list prices. I have every reason to believe the objections filed by the W. R. Weaver Company with the 'American Rifleman' were the prime factors in the decision of the magazine not to accept my advertising any more. I recall a conversation I had in approximately 1951 with an official of the Morenouse and Wells company of Decatur, Itlinois in which this official stated in substance that he had been instructed by the W. R. Weaver Company not to sell me any more Weaver scopes as I had been cutting the price below the established list price. I cannot recall the name of this official of the Morehouse and Wells firm.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this page and three other pages and it is true.

Witness:

, Special Agent, FEI, springfield, Illinois, Special Agent, F.D.I.Springfield, Illinois!

The original of this statement is being retained in the Springfield file on this matter.

business of ruying and selling scopes and mounts quite by accident. He explained that some time in the wanted a scope for his own rifle and sent an inquiry for a price list direct to the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas. When he received the price list he noted that the price per unit for three scopes was less than the price for one; that the price per unit for an order of eighteen scopes was even scopes with the thought in mind that would probably a profit, through the classified advertising section of "The American Rifleman".

related this idea worked out even better than expected inasmuch as he was able to sell all of the eighteen scopes which he obtained from the weaver Company and, in fact, received orders for more scopes than the eighteen he had advertised. He therefore, ordered more scopes to fill these excess orders and again advertised these and others in the "Rifleman". From that point is business "snowballed".

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to the point where he was regularly running an ad every month in the "Rifleman" until the difficulties arose outlined in the above statement.

as "brand new" and at less than the established retail prices the manufacturers would soon refuse to sell to him any more. Therefore, he adopted the subterfuse of using "aliases" in ordering his scopes from the manufacturers.

"used, perfect" and then quoted a price a few dollars less than the established list price for a similar "brand new" scope. Actually, however, he filled the orders for "used, perfect" scopes from his "brand new" stock in most cases as he was still able to realize a satisfactory profit by this method of operation.

However, Weaver apparently found out what was doing and began returning his purchase orders unfilled but with no explanation as to why his business was being refused. Not long after this he began to have his first difficulties with the "Rifleman".

was unable to locate any of the orders he had sent to weaver which had been returned unfilled nor could he locate any correspondence with Weaver on this matter. However said he distinctly recalled receiving a letter at one time from Weaver's attorneys asking him in effect to cease and desist his "unfair practices".

had a file of correspondence he has had back and forth with the "Rifleman" which file dates back to 1950. Pertinent documents from this file were photostated and are enclosed as exhibits with conies of this report going to the Eureau. It is noted to relinquish possession of the original documents at this time:

#### Exhibit Number.

#### Description

Letter to from "The American
Rifleman" dated June 2, 1950 beginning: "Information
has been submitted to us..." This letter refuses
to handle any more of advertisement
because of his use of agrees.

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Exhibit Number	Description
1-A	Copy of "Ad for July, 1950 - 'The American Hifleman'" which was refused by the magazine.
2	Five page handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MCULTON from dated June 29, 1950, beginning: "In reply to your letter of June 2, I wish to say" In this letter offers a explanation as to his use of "aliases" in carrying on his business.
2-1	"Ad for August, 1950 issue of 'The American Hifle-man'" publication of which was refused.
3	dated July 6, 1950, which begins: Ar. Moulton has passed along to me your friendly letter of June 29th as it involves a matter of policy" In this letter additional explanation is requested of the as to why he used "aliases" in the operation of his husiness.
# /////	Letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated July 31, 1950, which begins: "Although we recently received a very fine and interesting report from encourages to write concerning "the questions raised in letter to you of the 6th".
5	Four page handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MCULTUN from dated August 31, 1950, beginning: "This refers to letter of July 6 and to your letter of July 31" In this letter offers further explanation as to his use of "allases" in the operation of his business.
6	Letter from National Rifle Association of America to dated September 18, 1950, which begins: "Your file pertaining to advertising in The American Rifleman' under the names of several different individuals and firms" "Phis letter

different individuals and firms..." This letter

٠,٠	BEOF AND SUMMADIC
Exhibit Number	Description BEST COPY AVAILABLE
	states in substance that further advertising will be accepted from since he had agreed to "remodel" a portion of his selling practices in order to meet requirements of Fair Trade laws.
7	One pare handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MOULTON dated April 30, 1952 and which begins: Attached is my ad for June, 1952"
7-A	"Add for June, 1952, The American Rifleman". This is considered as a typical example of the type of advertisement acceptable to the "American Rifleman".
<sub>2</sub> 7-B	Postal card dated May 5. 1952 showing acceptance of this ad by the "Firleman".
9 3.	One page handwritten letter from Mr. FRED A. MOULTON dated March 29, 1953 which begins: "Attached is my ad for May, 1953"
8-A 3-3 A 3-3 A	"Ad for May, 1952 The American Rifleman". This is considered another typical example of the type of ad acceptable to the "Rifleman".
8-B	Postal card dated April 2, 1953 showing acceptance of this ad by the "Rifleman".
9	One page handwritten letter to Mr. FRED A. MOULTON from dated April 30, 1953, which begins: "Attached is my ad for June, 1953" Written across this is the word "Refused".
9-4	"Ad for June, 1953, "The American Rifleman!". Written across this is the word "Refused".
10	Letter from "The American Rifleman" to dated May 5, 1953 beginning: "The advertise-ment outlined in your letter of April 30th is not in the Westional Rifle Association.
	or shooting in general." It is noted, according to the rate card mentioned in the letter was not enclosed as indicated.
	60-4616 = 7

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		DE01 001 1 1111 1111 1111	
	Exhibit Number	Description	
		Two page typewritter letter to "The American Airleman" from dated hay 9, last and teginning: "When I returned from a field trip today I found your letter of May 2, 1923," In this letter requests "just what way may I word my advertising to be acceptable by the 'American Rifleman'"	
	12	One page typewritter letter from "The American Rifleman" to deted May 15, 1953 which begins: "We are extremely sorry for omission of copy of our current rate card from our letter to you of May 5th" The second paragraph of this letter states: "As to the reasons for our letter to you of May 5th, it is our feeling that offerings of shooting equipment at less that every interest retail prices are cerrimental to the property movement of such resonancies, through regular channels, are a disjurbing lactor in the friendly relationships between established distributors and the National Alfle Association, and are otherwise contrary to the best interests and objectives of the Association, and shooting in general.	
	12-A V	Letter from F. A. MCULTON to letter from Furely on a personal lasis I am inclined to believe that the manufacturers of the scopes you still have on hand, in new factory condition, would be willing to purchase these scopes from you at exactly what you paid for them	ı
	13	One page hardwritten letter to "The harden diffemen" dated May 30, 1300 white segins: "Attached is my check, amt. 010.00 for small July ad, 1955".	
	13-A	"AD for July, 1953, 'The American Bifleman'". This ad was enclosure to exhibit #12 and was refused by the magazine.	
	14	One page typewritten letter from National Fills Association to dated July 2, 1953	
· 1		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

60-4616 = 744

SI 60-154

	2						
Exhi Numb					BEST CO	PY AVAILA	BLE
William Commission			Descri				
	reiter for '	begins: 'copy of an cates that The America National	"the acc n Rifler Rifle As	coptance nan' is resociation	of your of in the	s letter advartise e best in	ementa iterest
15)	One pa Americ 1953 w \$10.80	ge handwri an Riflema hich begin , for ad b	tten let n" from s: "Enc elow, fo	ter to T losed is r Sept.	the Arms  my check  desue."	Chest, "Tated Jul Lated Jul K, amount	The 31,
15-A	Postel	card date	d August	11, 195		s accepta "Killen: pting th	nce en! . is
16 0	of July adverti	"In line 2, indica sements for interest omitting	with Genting the transfer the 'A's of the	eneral Edet the ac American Nationa	lson's le ceptance Rifleman	which ther to the control of your is not Associati	h you
16- <u>A</u>	Copy of Eiflema (Exhibi	the "Ad f n'" which t #16).	or Octob ad was r	er, 1953 efused p	, 'The An er the al	merican Sove lett	er
17	Four pa man" fr begins: In this the "PAN issues.	ge handwri "I am atta letter "Ieman" "ju	tten let sching a plea st for	ter to "dated Apsil acades to he the one i	The Ameri pril 29, i with th ave an ad issue, if	can Rifl 1954 whi is lette run in not two	e- ch r"
17-A	"Arms Cl	nest Ad for	June, 1	.954".		-	
18	One page man" to	typewritt	en lette da	r from " ted May	The Amer: 3, 1954 t	ican Rifl which beg	.e- ;ins:
		1 .		211	.3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•

60-4616 - 41

S1 60-154:

Exhibit Number

#### Description

"I can assure you that we are fully appreciative of the circumstances..." The second paragraph of this letter states: "However, if we continue to make special exceptions to our current general policy of not accepting any advertisements in The Rifleman' offering scopes at less than established retail prices we shall always be running into special circumstances such as outlined in your letter."

said that the only other magazine he had acvertised in was but had had very little response from these aus and so discontinued them. He also found ads run in other sporting magazines were unprofitable. He never had an ad refused by any magazine, however, except "The American mifleman".

ceal of the money he had invested in his scope stock and there speared to be little chance of selling these scopes since the readers of "The American Rifleman" were his principal, and, in fact, his only sales outlet.

ENGLOSURES TO BUREAU.

Exhibits numbers 1 through 18, as above described.

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60-4616 = 41

SI 60-154

### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

#### REFERENCE:

Eureau letter to New York dated 3-10-55. Springfield letter to Bureau dated 3-23-55.

60-4616 = -41

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MS CASE ORIGINATED AT			Y AVAILABLE
EPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN PERIOD FOR W		- bk
SAN AMTONTO, TEXAS	6/11/55 6/8-10/5		Ŀij
me ·		CHARACTER OF CASE	
DISTRIBUTION AND RET	MYD ADVERTISING	AUTITHUST	
or alfie source and	EURIS 7.	- 1	7,
M - 1.00			· .
YNOPSIS OF FACTS			
	of WATT ADVER	TISING ACENCY, San An	tonio, Temas,
whiten company har	dies advertising for	STITH SCOPES & MOUNTS	, advised he
littled no knowledge	of any agreements by	STITH with other manu	iacturers.
regarding out rat	e auvertisers; also e	tates had no direct k tatic codes of perti	nonteage of the
obtained:	on rate block in the Endude		
	~ <u>,</u>	50 <b>-</b>	*
		•	• •
DETAILS: AT SAN	كلاست ولالمانا والمانا والمانا		*
On Jure	8, 1955,		ADVERTISING
AGENOY, LOL Nava:	ro Street race avail	able his file with re	
STITH SCOPES AND	ATOMATS (M	been handling t	ne advertising
Tor this concern	for the last invecor	PTY AGOTA ( Call Land	
After	eviswing this file, d	he following correspo	ndence was
photostated and a	copy of each is bein	ig enclosed with this	
be transmitted to	the Department of J	istice:	
	y of a letter to	, dated Sept	ombon, 30
10	E27 from HDPTHG ARD	TISHING magazine, rega	
No.	ints, beginning, "You	will be interested in	the following
. Etc	erpt from a memorand	m of instructions fro	m our publisher,
	F. MCCLURE, to burge	lassified advertising,	editorial
	TOLOGUOJON GEDARIME	its 1" Waalu T	Whenels re-
	Jes untille	CIRTAR	
LIPO GOVED AND	50 dietel	のアイナリー	
PPROVED AND	IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THE	HERORSED
	Company of the same	34V-TULOTO	
COPIES CRITHIST			EX-126
Bureau (60-L	\$16) (encl. 40)		1,170
LZ - New Tork: (60	=1107)	NUN D	San Mark
7-1 - Sen Intonio	660-199)		1/1/18
的经验的特别是不是以他们的特别的	<b>《公司》的《公司》,一个公司</b>	File and the second of the sec	

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#### ia 80-133

The second second second

- 2. Letter to MELAN, and a September 30, 1000, from beginning, "Your politics against one prior alreadisting are your own craineer, but win a polyphococar chient's advertis a confinitely are brokenes."
- 3. Letter to Survival had a pril 17, 1953, iron beginning, "I am opposed to our advertusing in adjutants which carry "out-rate" cupy for the following reasons:"
- daked November 5, 1953, from Malana retained to make the malana second control of the malana second con
- dated November 10, 1953, from of STITH SCOPES AND MOUNTS, beginning, "Your letter directed to the Wyatt Advertising Agency is before me."
- dated November 19, 1953, from ARIZOMA WILDLIFE SPORTSHALL beginning, will am enclosing copy of my reply to be STITH who wrote me in the 16th re tis-ins.

With respect to the above-listed correspondence, he was opposed to advertising in magazines which carried observate advertising from strictly an advertising man's point of view. He pointed out that advertising fell short of its mark when it was carried in a publication which carried advertising of a similar line of sorchandise quoting prices at less than client's prices. He said that in such a case, naturally client were not best surved because the reader of the the interests magazines could compare the prices and, naturally, would buy from the company listing the cheener price. He said that he did not know of any SCUPES AND FOURTS with any of the agreements between other manufacturers with respect to policies to be followed by the manufacturers and/or the magazines with respect to persons and companies who listed their products at a price less than that suggested by the manufacturer. He said he did now, however, that He said he did know, however, that was strongly opposed to cut-rate advertisers; this subject and

With respect to the letter of September 10, 1952, from HUNTING AND FISHING magazine said that the was an unsolicited letter.

SL 60-133

# BEST COPY AVAILABLE

With respect to its larger of September 30, 1952, to F. A.

NYTHY of the AMERICAN MILLION, and could that this letter was written
by him from strictly an adverticity of view. He said that the
quarter-page ad referred to its its letter was placed in the cassaring of exactly the same page as a wire of a wordser's ad which to scopes. He said that the coverthing all his client, the HID MOUNTS, listed a prove lies as an incre than that li use by the our rate advertiser. For this mace, he protected the plant of die ad and not the carming of and the rate advertion of the Martine RIFLEMAN.

advertisors

SPC. 100 in the correspondence to and the special section of the spe with regard to a correspondence to set or a two will will

Mitting of Langertion, anyone could an assed 

and that he did now lonow of thethy of any of the same of the same of the same of the the magazine care out-He points at this 

S& 60-13.

REFERENCE dated 3/28/55 at San Antonio

Bollet to San Antonio Cated 5/11/55

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60-4616 5# 60

PD-36

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FET, DETROIT (60-433)

6/30/55

DIRECTOR, FBI (60-4616)

DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF KIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS; ANTI-TRUST

Re Minneapolis airtel to New York, 23 instant, cc Bureau and Detroit.

Threstigation at

Michigan. This company is a partnership

consisting of

not manufacture any rille scopes but loss manufacture
such items as scope mounts, receiver sights, open sight
bases and gun cleaning equipment. They also operate as
jobbers of rifle scopes, guns, ammunition, and other items
to make up a complete line of shooting accessories.

They have a mailing list of approximately 10,000 dealers, among the estimated 17,000 dealers in these lines in the U.S., selling both to jobbers and dealers.

handles scopes of Weaver, Stith, Lyman, and Unertal. Freliminary investigation reflects no pertinent data re alleged anti-trust violation; however, time available prior to Buded 7/1/55 not sufficient to search 24 drawers of correspondence. It is estimated that this can be done and report submitted 7/14/55.

Re paragraph 3 of letter from Precision Tool and Gun Gompany, to Copper Shooters Supplies dated 5/21/55

for approximately 400 dealers, at which program included no discussion of price fixing.

AIR MATL CPD:EAE

CG: New York 60-1107

10 - 203 at

RECORDED 7 616 4616

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

SEST COPY

PAGE TWO

He recalls mentioning in casual conversation discount selling by and Company but states that made no agreement to cease doing business with them.

states no orders have been received from but has been and continues to be a customer of exhibited ledger sheets showing 24 shipments of orders from between 4/15/55 and 6/28/55.

6U-4616 -

3

	RAL BURE	AU OF IN		0	
m No. 1	EW YORK	I want - we	BEST COPY	AVAILABLE	
HOUSTON		0,-23/55	REPORT MADE BY		A)
DISTRIBUTION OF RIFLE SCOP	AND RETAIL ADV ES AND MOUNTS	ERTISING	CHARACTER OF CASE ANTIT	B1C RUST	
YNOPSIS OF FACTS:					
	Houston, advi	sed he had	f the been d/b/a		- 47
. Scopes and mo	nce around unts supplying	set	Manufacturer forth.	denied	
retailers".	ers for scopes	Sight Corp.	is the only	manufactur manufactur	er er
requesting the prices.	denied having	any fair t	ere to sugge rade agreeme	nts with	
that the		r its custo	mers were se	lling below	
for th	' suggested li e years 1954 a	ind 1955 wer	e made avail	able, were	•
reviewed, and	correspondenc	e deemed pe	rtinent set	forth.	
	- R	NUC -	·		
DETAILS: AT	HOUSTON, TEXAS				
Eff	orts were made of the	to contact	and intervi	ew	
Houston, on June 23, 1955	une 20. 21, an	na 22, 1955,	without res	ourts. On	
	4:50 FM that d				
J. W.	140	£	*	20 A	
, ch	N. J.	ž,	50-461	6-	71
BI MA	87	•			-
POPMARDED.	SPECIAL AGENT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE	SPACES	
COPIES OF THE		120-1	-f-lo- / la	1/	
2 Bureau (60	%4616)(encls: 8	PINCIL,		RECORD	<b>S</b> 3
1 Houston (6	50-126)	13 JUN 2	g 1955	M. M.	- 103
71	181955				
TELTY OF THE THIS REPORT	E LOAKED TO YOU BY THE FEI	L'AON-TI ABHTIBN CHA	TS CONTENTS O BE	DISTRIBUTED (OUTSIDE	THE XDEN
	A abress	in the wing de-	The state of the s		1

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was no listing in the telephone directory for the however, it was determined that this organization was needed, Texas.

On June 23, 1955 was contacted at by SA's and

stated that , and that the business known as the was started sometime around that he had been collecting guns, scopes, mounts, etc. -It is to be noted that hobby prior to Houston, Texas, and employed by the He also stated his business was on a nationwide scale, but that only about 30% of his business was obtained outside of a hundred mile radius of stated most of his lusiness was obtained Houston, Texas. through personal contacts, and that he had previously advertised in the American Rifleman and the Sporting Goods Dealer, but that he had voluntarily withdrawn his advertising about year ago because marital difficulties had arisen

for the following manufacturers of rifle scopes, and furnished the following approximate percentage of each brand sold to the total of all brands:

The Lyman Gun Sight Corporation ---- 80% Middlefield, Connecticut

The Pecar Gun Sight (Through Sumpter, South Carolina)

Hy-Score Arms Company - - - - 10% 25 Lafayette Street; Brooklyn 1, N.Y.

D. P. Bushnell & Company, Inc 4 6 16 - 5 - 557 260 Bushnell Building, Pasadena, Calif.

Unertl Optical Company 3551 East Street Pithsburgh Fennsylvania only on sold in

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advised that of the above mentioned rifle scope manufacturers, only the Lyman Gun Sight Jorporation and the D. P. Bushnell and Company, Inc. are competitive pricewise. He stated the "Hy-Score" scope is a higher priced scope and that "Pecar" scope is of German manufacture, is of a different type of construction, and is therefore not competitive with the others.

of scope mounts were suppliers and save the following approximate percentages of sales:

Orinda, California.

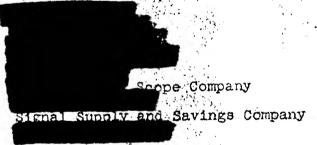
(Echo mounts)

Boise, Idaho

Gun Sight Company Davison, Michigan

Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

denied receiving orders for acopes from and of the following "so-called price cutting retailers":



He denied that he has ever refused to sell scopes to any retailer because that dealer was selling or advertising at prices below those suggested by the manufacturer.

denied having any fair "trade agreements" with any of the aforementioned manufacturers, who supply him with acopes and mounts. He stated that all of his manufacturers is furnished him with a suggested list price either by stating the actual suggested list price or showing the retail price less the fobber's discount. However, the D. P. Bushnell & Company in the same for the hushnell scores at the retail of his manufacturers.

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stated that at it. is the above only the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation would require the alhere to the suggested list price. This opinion of was based on the fact that he heard the Peden Iron and I Steel Company, Houston, which deals in hardware and sporting goods, complained to the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation when he was given a Lyman distributorship. He further state to the Lyman Cun Sight Corporation informed him that if he nace to sell at less than the suggested list price which the Pater Tron and Steel Company was following, they would have to all dealership rather than lose the Peden account stated he had heard rumors, the source of which recall, that Peden and other jobbers have sold at less than list price on several occasions.

advised that resale prices are subject to mutual understanding and there are no agreements with the manufacturers to control resale prices.

is conveyed to them by the manufacturers' consumers print lists, and when specifically asked by the retailer, he would tell them what the consumer's price should be.

does not "police" retailers' prices.

He maintained that if retailers sold at less than list price, he would tell them they were silly to do so because they were losing money, and that they should limit their competition to services rendered. He further stated he would not take any action, and amplified this remark by saying in the past it has bean brought to his attention that retailers have sold at lower than list price and when he received this information, he did not take any action nor did he report it to the manufacturer.

denied he has ever been warned by the manufacturer that the or its customers were selling below the manufacturer's list price. He denied corresponding with manufacturers regarding retailers selling "off list", and he also denied that any understandings exist between the and the manufacturers that the jobbers will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested list prices.

to give stated the following manufacturers have refused

Redfield Gun Sight Compans (8317 61pt Street, 7)

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permit for this company was that in May, 1905, they informed him that they felt they were adequately represented stated, nowever, that in February, 1955, he had received correspondence from the Redfield Gun Sight Company in which they stated they were satisfied with the present distribution of their products in the Houston area. He was unable to explain their sudden change in plans.

Fachmeyer Gun Works, 1220 South Grant Avenue, Los Angeles, California

This company refused to sell transplas a jobber, and would only sell to him as a dealer; was at a loss to understand this viewpoint since he deals strictly on a wholesale basis.

W. R. Weaver Company El Paso, Texas

The reason given by the Weaver Company for refusing was that they had sufficient distribut-

his files for the years 1904 and 1955. The correspondence contained in those files which was deemed pertinent to this investigation is set forth as enclosures herewith.

ENCLOSURES: TO BUREAU - Photostatic copies of the following:

Six (5) letters from the Redfield Gun Sight Company to the Texas Gun Clinic dated 9/3/52; 7/8/54; 9/8/54; 1/31/55; 2/9/55; 5/13/55.

Electron from to the Redfield day sight Company dated 6/25/54; 7/28/54; 9/3/54; 1/3/55; 1/21/55; 3-page letter 2/5/65 3/25/55 (and attached list of lines handled by the basis); 3/18/55; 4/21/55; 5/14/55; b/16/55:

One (1) 6-page petition circulated by during the month of June, 1955, Covarious recallers in the

HO 60-126

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Houston area re availability of Redfield Gun Sig products in the Monaton area; availability of proby the by the and opinions of the ret Redfield products were jobbed by the Texas Gun C

.bed

Three (3) letters from W. R. Weaver Co. date: 9/4/52; 7/1/54; 1/31/55.

Three (3) letters from the W. R. Weaver Company daved 6/25/54; 12/10/54; 1/

RUC

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#### REFERENCES

Bureau letter to New York, 6/13/55
Bureau airtel to New York, 6/22/55

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

60-4616 = 3

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK DATE WHEN TA BOAM TROPER PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE REPORT MADE BY 6-27-55 6-16,20,21-55MILWAUKEE, WIS. CHARACTER OF CASE DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF ANTITRUST RIFLE SCOPES AND MOUNTS SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: ARMS CO., Milwaukee, are authorized jobbers for the Lyman scope and the Norman Ford, but obtains Weaver scopes for its retail trade from an authorized Weaver jobber in Red Wing, Minn. Weaver scopes comprise 95% of sales; Lyman 4% and Norman Ford 1%. has no knowledge that his retailers engage in cut-price sales.

has no agreement with manufacturers, and manufacturers have placed no restrictions on him.

has no knowledge that have placed no restrictions on him. has no knowledge retailers have been refused advertising in sports magazines. evidentiary correspondence obtained. - RUC -DETAILS: AT MINWAUKEE, WISCONSIN By letter dated June 13, 1955 the Bureau transmitted a copy of a memorandum dated June 9, 1955 from the Antitrust Division of the U. S Department of Justice, which requested that certain information and evidentiary material be obtained from a jobber or dealer in rifle scopes, inasmuch as allegations have been made that possible violations of the antitrust laws may exist in connection with the distribution and advertising of rifle scopes by five of the largest manufacturers of such rifle scopes. 60-4616 HOVED AND COPIES DES APR COCIES STATIS REPORT RECORDED-39 3 - Bureau (60-4616) 2 - New York (60-1107) M11waukee (60-180)

PROPERTY OF FEITHIS REPORT IS COANED TO YOU BY THE FRI, AND REITHER IT NOR ITS CONTENTS ARE TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE AGENCY.

#### BEST CODY AND

dous iness 4435 W. 3 April 1,

the sporting goods business and the firearms east 15 years. He previously had his shop at ve., but has been at his present location si

and deale an author approximat scopes, but

authorized w understanding many Weaver with as much that

come an autidealership stadditional job: Weaver scopes that he bills for the loading

of jobber and re

outlined on page

Ford rifle s is the Weave Ford brand. the Lyman Co. scope for \$49. stated that the considered con 4.00 power sco

The present ret is as follows:

stated that he has been authorized jobbe gran scopes for approximately three years, and and dealer for the Norman Ford (Texan scopes) ear. He stated that he also handles the Weaver direct basis nor as an authorized factory et he obtains his Weaver scopes from the Red Wing Minn, the latter being an stated that he has an furnishes him with as so that eding equipment as he requires. He stated the same price that the factory charges him ad that he applied to the Weaver Corp. to furnishes bobber, but the Weaver Corp. refused him a st their output was not big enough to add stated that bills him for the mough the Weaver co. would bill him, and

tame as though the Lyman Co. would bill him

stated that he acts in the dual capacit a the scopes line.

re the answers as requested from questions : nemo of the Attorney General:

the Lyman, the Weaver and the Norman te stated that 95% of his scope sales the Lyman brand, and 1% the Norman stated that about one year ago the market with their "All American" ader to meet Weaver competition. He Ford and the Lyman rifle scopes are price-wise, in the 2.5 and the

- list of the scopes which he handles

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MI 60-180

## BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Trade	Power	Retail	Date of Price List
Name	Model	Price	
Norman Ford	2.5	\$36.00	11-1-54
	4.00	42.50	11-1-54
Lyman	2.5	\$45.50 49.50	1-1-55 1-1-55
Weaver	2.5	\$37.50	3-1-54
	4.00	45.00	3-1-54

has never received any orders for rifle scopes from the so-called price-cutting retailers identified on page three of the Attorney General's memo to the Director dated June 19, 1955.

He stated that he has never had any trouble with retailers and at the present time he services primarily metropolitan Milwaukee area and occasionally has a retailer in up-state Wisconsin. He stated that he has approximately twenty to twentyfive retail accounts. He has no knowledge that the retailers whom he services sell rifle scopes other than at the fixed retail prices, which are fair traded, and which prices are fixed by the scope manufacturers. He stated that if the retailer wishes to sell the rifle scopes for less than the fair trade price, it does not concern him, and it merely means that the retailer is making a smaller profit. stated that he has never refused to sell rifle scopes to any retailer, whether or not this retailer abides by the fair trades price or whether he uses cut price methods. stated that he has never been told directly or indirectly by anyone to sell rifle scopes to certain exclusive retailers.

grand to purchase of rifle scopes from manufacturers, he stated that the Lyman and the Norman Ford manufacturers are not governed by the fair trade laws, but that the Weaver scopes are governed by the state fair trade agreements. With regard to sales of scopes, all three brands and all three companies send a suggested manufacturer's price list with their merchandise, and the manufacturer conveys this knowledge of this suggested resale price to the jobber by sending along price lists when merchandise is ordered by the jobber.

Stated that the jobbers' discount is based on the manufacturer's list price. He stated

60-4616 = 73

that the suggested manufacturer's price list is not binding on him at all, and that he is free to make his own price to the retailer if he is willing to take a cut in profit.

stated that no agreement exists between himself and the manufacturers. He stated that his position is that of a jobber, and that he places an order for rifle scopes at his pleasure and that no restrictions are placed on him as to whom he is to sell these rifle scopes stated that to his knowledge the manufacturers do not communicate with retailers, and retailers obtain the resale prices and suggested lists from the jobbers. He stated that to his knowledge manufacturing firms do not attempt to police retailers' prices. He stated that should any information reach him that certain retailers to whom he sells are selling rifle scopes at cut-rate prices, he would do nothing about these methods.

authorized jobber have never given him any warnings that it or its customers were selling below the manufacturer's suggested list price; he has never corresponded with manufacturers regarding retailers' selling "off list" and he denies emphatically that any understandings exist between him and the manufacturers that he will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested price list.

stated that he knows of no retailers who have ever been denied advertising in sporting magazines and periodicals because of the retailers practices of advertising rifle scopes "off list".

made available his files, and no correspondence letters of memoranda either from the manufacturers or to the manufacturers was located which has any bearing on this case.

stated that although he has the dual capacity he has never had the opportunity of engaging in advertising in such advertising space has ever been denied any other jobbers or

- RUC - 60-4616 - 73

MI 60-180

REFERENCES: Bulet to New York dated June 13, 1955, cc Milmaukee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

60-4616 - 73

	NEW YORK		BEST COPY AVAIL	ΔR
BALTIMORE	MADE	7:7/5/55	PORT MADE BY	Δ
DISTRIBUTION OF RIFLE SOC	AND FETAIL ADVER ES AND MOUNTS	1	ANTITURUST	U
51NOPSIS OF FACTS	NI		· · · · · ·	
transactions and has never tategory. Fi achtrol resal prices. Wils manufacturers suggested pri	Has no knowledge with any of the refused sale of rm has no agreeme e prices and make on and Pugh Compathat it or its ces and there is not resell to re	e or record o so-called pri scopes to an ent with the es no attempt any has never customers wer no agreement	de cutting retailer y retailer of that manufacturers to to police retailer been warned by	5 81
		- RUC -		
	CUMBERLAND, MARY	YLAND		
CETAILS: AT				
On June 27, 1	26 South George was the	only person	Wilson and sed that connected with the is or information	
On June 27, 1 Pres Company	26 South George was the	only person ailable record	sed that	
On June 27, 1	26 South George was the	only person allable record	sed that connected with the ds or information	

BA 60-156

concerning this matter. She said, was presently recuperating from a serious skull fracture and would not be available until July 5, 1955, at the earliest.

Wilson and Pugh Company, 26 South George Street, a wholesale hardware firm, advised on July 5, 1975, that his company has handled only Weaver Scopes, manufactured by the W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas, for general business since January 1, 1949. During this same period, he has written a very small number of special customer orders for Lyman Scopes, manufactured by the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Connecticut. He said that 98% of his sales are Weaver Scopes with the Lyman product making up the remaining 2%. The Weaver Scopes are considered competitive, pricewise.

stated that to the best of his knowledge, his firm has never received orders for scopes from any of the following so-called price cutting retailers:

Illinois
Colorado
Colorado
Scope Company, Illinois
San Francisco, California
Fennsylvania
Central Investment Company, Prineville, Oregon
San Francisco, Calif.
Colorado
New York
Pennsylvania
Maine
Maine
A 6 1 6 -

BA 60-166

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Massachusetts

Manchester, New Hampshire

Cumberland, Maryland.

None of the above firms, he advised, have been carried on the books of Wilson and Fugh Company and if any of them did deal with his firm such dealings would have been cash transactions over the counter and so no record of such dealings would be available. Wilson and Pugh has never refused to sell scopes to any retailer because that dealer was selling or advertising at prices below those suggested by the manufacturer, or for any other reason except possibly that of a retailer's inability to properly meet his financial obligations.

. Cumberland, As for the said he does not know operated by no to the best of his knowledge he has never seen him. nor are carried on Merrue, cue the books of warson and rugh Company. has never established his credit with the firm and so. if any sales have been they have been or the made to To the pest or inowledge, he has cash transactions. never refused business.

recalled that indirectly he had some trouble with approximately a year ago. At that time, he received a long distance telephone call from the W. R. Weaver Company and was advised that a second of Cumberland had notified them that Wilson and Pugh Company were belling Weaver products to the general public at wholesale prices. Acvised W. R. Weaver Company that sales were made only to those licensed to sell and a request was made for the names of those individuals to whom the firm reportedly sold and who were not properly licensed to buy at wholesale. No names were made available, he said, and no additional word was heard from Weaver concerning the matter.

further stated that although he recognizes Weaver product as fair trade items, he could not recall and he has no record of ever having entered into a fair trade agreement with the manufacture Both Weaver and Lyman scopes are sold by Wilson and Fugh Company under the manufacturers' suggested list or dealer prices. Suggested resale prices are conveyed to Wilson and Pugh Company by the manufacturers' dealer quotation sheets which are in no way binding

0 - 4616 = 3

EA 60-166

upon the wholesale firm. Resale prices are merely a matter of nutual understandings between manufacturer and Wilson and Pugh.

advised that he makes no attempt to police retailers' prices. In the past, when such action has been requested by a retailer, has advised them that Wilson and Pugh Company is not a police agency and cannot police retailers: prices. No action has ever been taken against any retailer by Wilson and Pugh Company when notice is received that the retailer is selling below list prices.

Wilson and Pugh Company has never been warned by either W. R. Weaver Company or the Lyman Gun Sight Corporation that it or its customers were selling below the manufacturers' suggested price. There has never been any correspondence with either of the manufacturers concerning retailers selling "off list", and there is no understanding with either of the manufacturers that Wilson and Fugh Company will not resell to retailers who deviate from the manufacturers' suggested prices.

advised that he has no documents or factual information in his files relevant to the subject matters discussed.

- RUC -

60-4616 = 75

इ.स. १८-११६

Bureau letter to
Bureau airtel to
Baltimore radiog:

Tated 6/13/55.
Tated 6/22/55.
Teau dated 6/27/55.

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60-4616 = 75

ADMINISTRATIVE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THE CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY		للسسنا	DEST CUPT AVAILABLE		
REPORT MADE AT LUUISVILLE	DATE WHEN MADE 6/29/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/24/55	REPORT MADE BY	(A) mmb	
DISTRIBUTION AND RIFLE SCOPES AND		CHARACTER OF CASE  ANTITRUST			
		,	1		

#### SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Belknap Hardws and Manufacturing Company, large wholesaler of hardware, tools, and sporting goods with 30,000 customers, purchased 2885 rifle scopes during 4 years ending 5/1/55. Most of these rifle scopes purchased from W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texas, and are resold by Belkmap on a "fair traded" basis. Search of available correspondence files (2 years), failed to reveal anything of interest.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

Investigation herein was conducted at the request of a letter from the Director dated June 13, 1955, which transmitted to this office a letter to the Director from STANLEY N. BARNES, Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, dated June 9, 1965. The investigation at Belknap Hardware and Manufacturing Company, 111 East Main Street, is in compliance with the June 9, 1955, Departmental request.

At Louisville, Kentucky

for Belkmap

85 DISTRIBOTED 'OU

Hardware and manufacturing Company, supplied the following information on June 24, 1955. This company is one of the country's largest wholesaler of

APPROVED AND SPECIAL ABBIT DO NOT WRITE INTHESS SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

COPIES OF TH

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hardware, tools, sporting goods, paints, plumbing materials, farm implements, electrical appliances, cutlery, dishes, furniture, and related items. They serve 30,000-customers throughout the central and southern states. Rifle scopes and mountings account for an infinitesimal portion of its sporting goods sales and consequently, they do not push the it or make any effort to "keep its finger on the pulse of this particular industry."

Belknap's available purchase records extend back only 4 years ending May 1, 1955. From these records reported Belknap's rifle scope purchases for these 4 years have been:

- 1. Lyman Gun Sight Corporation, Middlefield, Conn. They do not stock scopes from this company but order a few upon receiving orders from customers. They may have purchased 10 or so during the last 5 or 6 years, primarily the cheaper ones for -22 caliber rifles.
- Conn. This firm makes scopes for rifles they menufacture and Bel map's handle these rifles as well as the scopes. For the 4 years ended May 1, 1955, they purchased a total of 755 Mossberg scopes of two different kinds.
- 3. W. R. Weaver Company, El Paso, Texus, sold Belknap 2120 scopes of 19 different kinds during the 4 years ended May 1, 1955. This company's scopes are the only scopes which Belknap stocks for general use on various makes of rifles.

Belimap does not sell scopes to the price outting retailers since these firms attempt to buy them direct from manufacturers at cheaper prices than afforded by this jobber. Further, this firm has rejected no orders for scopes from any of its 30,000 customers except for credit reasons.

Belkmap handles the Weaver scopes on a "fair trade casis, notifying the customer by its printed catalogue as to the retail price but making no effort to ascertain if the purchaser charges its customers the proper price. Weaver notifies Belkmap by a price list the three different costs, i.e., cost to jobber, cost to retailer, and cost to ultimate purchaser. This price list is published by Weaver when price changes occur and in b. seved to have last been revised in August 1954.

60-4616 -

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doubts if they sell many scopes to retailers for stock but get riders only when the retailer has made a sale or has a good prospect. has never to his knowledge, been furnished a "fair traded" agreement

Belkmap depends upon its printed prices in its catalogue carried by all of their salesmen and supplied to many of their customers as a mesms of notifying their retail customers concerning the retail prices of rifle scopes. Belkmap makes no attempt to police the retailers in smy fashion. They have never been advised that their retailers are selling scopes at cutrate prices. Should they be so advised, they would be very hesitant about notifying the manufacturer and probably would not do so because they know that the first thing the manufacturer would do would be write a letter to the retailer advising him of his improper pricing practices and divulging the fact that Belkmap was the source of their information. This would cause Belkmap to jeopardize other business with such retailers which would be far too great a price to pay over such an insignificant item as rifle scopes.

recalls no correspondence from W. R. Weaver Company advising that any of its customers were selling below the manufacturer's suggested list price. Belknap does adhere to the manufacturer's published prices insofar as their purchase price is concerned and their jobber price to the retailer. It is the belief of that probably the retailers adhere to the price published by W. R. Meaver Company in selling to their customers. Belknap has no idea who, arong their 30,000 customers, have purchased scopes and could secure such information only by a search of their sales invoices which number several thousand each day.

Belkmap retains its correspondence with manufacturers for a period of two years only. The correspondence between W. R. Weaver Company and Belkmap for the two years ending May 1, 1955, was reviewed and nothing of significance to this investigation was found. In this correspondence were two letters from W. R. Weaver Company indicating that during 1953, Belkmap purchased a total of about \$24,000 in rifle scopes and during the year 1954, purchased approximately \$21,000 of rifle scopes.

- RUC '- 13 ( 3.2)

60-4616 =

LS 63-122

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFIRENCE: Bureau letter dated June 13, 1955.

60-4C16 =

8

Mr. Tolson Mr. Boardman Mr. Nichols Mr. Belmont DISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF Mr. Harbo SCOPES AND MOUNTE; ANTITRUST Mr. Mohr. Mr. Parsons Mr. Rosen. beasive invectd endo: condicted bared Mr. Tomm Asitrict Division request of 1/31/15.Mr. Sizoo lamental requests reclived and investiMr. Winterrowd an most recent request completed ration Tele. Room results of our investigation presented Mr. Holloman Tor, A, by Attorneys of Antitrust of case involves alleged efforts by Miss Gandy certain market others of rifle scopes and mount; to constant these products are distributed and sold to ble bublie. It appears that publishers from the magazines have it the request of manufacturers refuse to accerdivertisin of firm which attempted to sell these of their atout prices. From which attempted to sell these of their atout out prices. From this publication of the attempted to sell these of their attempted and fish "Field and Stream;" published by denry holt and Company, ew Yell "Cutdoor Life," published by Popular Colume Publishin Company, lew York; "Hunting and Fishing, published by Hearst Corporation, New York; and Times Herald Wash. Post and Tishing Co., Columbus, Chio. Hanufacturers Wash. Start I wash. Start and sold to blo bublic. It appears that publishers involved include W. R. Meaver, El Caso; Sausen and Y. Herold Lomb, Sconester, Ar., Stith Scones, San Antonio; Tribune Tribune Untertl Optical Company, Fittsburgh; and Lyman N. Y. Mirror . Gun Sight Corporation, Middletown, Connecticut, Daily Worker The Worker le Association Head THE EVENING STAR B-19 New Leader Washington, D.C. Date. ies Price-Fixina) Publishing Co. New York, publishers of "Outdoor Life," and Henry Folt & Co., publisher of "Field and Stream." indimiral Morton C. cepting advertising Hubbahitis Co. New York, publishing York, publishing Co. New York, publishing Co. 60-4616 ing in sporting magazines of the telescopic sights.

The telescopic sights are telescopic appliance are telescopic appliance. BEST COPY AVAILABLE NOT RECORDED miral Munima said. "I in-126 NOV 22 11955 ments dont the charges."
What possible motive bould non-mont public service as-6 8 NOV 3 01955

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Boordman

Mr. Nychols

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Harba

Mr. Rassons

Mr. Rassons

Mr. Rassons

Mr. Came

Mr. Same

Mr. Same

Mr. Winterrowd

Tele. Room

Mr. Holkeran

Mrss Ganly

8

(INDICTMENTS)

A FEDERAL GRAND JURY HERE INDICTED THREE PUBLISHING COMPANIES.
THREE MANUFACTURERS OF RIFLE SCOPES AND ONE DISTRIBUTOR TODAY ON CHARGES OF OPERATING ILLEGAL BOYCOTTS TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN RETAIL DEALERS FROM THE INDUSTRY.

THE INDICTMENT, ANNOUNCED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BROWNELL, SAID THE EFFECT OF THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY HAD BEEN TO STABILIZE RETAIL PRICES OF OPTICAL RIFLE SCOPES.

IT SAID THE MANUFACTURERS CONTROLLED SO PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL DEPTICAL RIFLE SCOPE MARKET. THE SCOPES -- TLESCOPIC SIGHT -- ARE MOUNTED ON RIFLES AND EMPLOY OPTICAL GLASSES FOR MAGNIFICATION.
PUBLISHING COMPANIES NAMED IN THE ACTION WERE THE MAILONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C., PUBLISHER OF AMERICAN COUTDOOR LIFE: AND HENRY HOLT AND CO., NEW YORK CITY, PUBLISHER OF FIELD AND STREAM.

LEVEL AND STREAM.

TOTHERS NAMED WERE LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP. MIDDLEFIELD, CONN.; W. R. MANUFACTURERS -- AND M. JACKSON STITH, SAN ANTONIO, TEX., A DISTRIBUTOR:

MANUFACTURERS -- AND M. JACKSON STITH, SAN ANTONIO, TEX., A DISTRIBUTOR:

60-461

2 EU 1 1955

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

# Office Memorandum • united states government

TO :

DATE: May. 15

FROM I

## BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUBJECT :

To the Company of the

ing modice entry of mortain medium on 11/1,755, letter of more in the following of ourse entry intillers on a following the following testing to the first claim of the parties of 11/1 of the more outside time bill will be not a

based on the original Antitrust Division request of 1/31/55. Several conclusion in this half based on the original Antitrust Division request of 1/31/55. Several conclusion is recent of usualty as completed 9,1/55. The results of our lives the new or appropriate of our lives of make a several conclusion of usual and otherwise conclusions.

This case involves alleged ellorts by certain mendiactic rifle scapes and mounts to control prices at which thise products distributed one sale for the public. It is ears that sublishers of certain respection have at the request of monufacturers refused to advertising of firms which ettempted to sail thise or butter it cat

publications involved include the Wherican Hiflemen', a lot publication of the National Hifle Association); "Field and Stream, whilish by Henry Holt and Company, New York; "Outdoor Life," nublished by Lord and Science Publishing Company, New York; "Hunting and Fishing," published by Hunting and Fishing, "published by Hunting and Fishing Company, Caicago; "Sports Afield," published by Hearst Company, New York; and "Fur-Fish-Game," published by Landing Publishing Company, Columbus, Onio.

end Low, Managacharine involved include W. A. Wenver, Aliceso; Butters end Low, Auchester, New York; Stith Scopes, San Antonio; Enterior Option Section, Pittsburgh; and Lynan Gun Sight Cornoration, Middletown, Connecticut.

The officent Division attorney aid not indicate which of the epows especials he thought would be included in the indictment by the Grand Jany.

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11/15/55 IT WAS Amounced - here it

None. Tais is for your information.

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(INDICTMENTS)

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PUBLISHING COMPANIES NAMED IN THE ACTION WERE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, D.C., PUBLIS
WOUTDOOR LIFE; AND VINRY MOLT AND CG., NEW YORK
WOUTDOOR LIFE; AND VINRY MOLT AND CG., NEW YORK
WOUTDOOR LIFE; AND VETE LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORD, MI
STAVER, EL PASO, TEY, AND JOUN UNERTEL, PITTSP
MAYUFACTURERS AND JACKSON STITH, SAN AND
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TOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOV 15 1955

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STATE AVAILABLE

Attorney General Herbert Brewnell, Jr., announced that a federal Trianglem Mr. Holleman Mr. Holleman Mr. Holleman Mr. Holleman Miss Gundy in Washington, D. C., today indicted four corporations and three in-dividuals on charges of violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act in connection with the sale and advertising of optical rifle scopes. Named as defendants are the following:

Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middlefield, Conn., a manufacturer;

W. R. Weaver, El Paso, Texas, a manufacturer;

John Unertl, Pittsburgh, Pa., a manufacturer;

M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a

manufacturer's exclusive distributor;

The Wational Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C.,

an incorporated association and publisher of the magazine

"American Rifleman";

Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City, [//

Publisher of the magazine Sutdoor Life"; and

Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York City, Sublisher of

the magazine "Field & Stream."

"Scopes" are described as telescopic sights, employing optical glasses for magnification, mounted on rifles to enable more accurate aim than would be possible with metallic sights. Used extensively in hunting and target shooting, they are becoming increasingly popular with sportsmen. During 1954, retail sales exceeded \$5,000,000, with defendant manufacturers accounting for approximately 90 percent of all scopes manufacturered in the United States.

60-4616 = 108

The grand jury charges the defendants with combining and conspiring among themselves and with others to exclude so-called "off-list" dealers from the industry and to boycott them in a manner which has resulted in rejection of their advertisements by outdoors magazines. "Off-list" dealers are those who sell to consumers at less than the manufacturers' list prices.

PRICE STATES

6

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Millies

The objectives of the conspiracy are alleged to have been accomplished by means of an understanding, among the defendants, effectuated by refusals to supply off-list dealers, coercion of distributors to adhere to resale prices and to refuse to sell to nonconforming dealers, and the advertising boycott. The over-all purpose of these activities is stated to be stabilization of retail prices.

Assistant Attorney General Stanley N. Barnes, head of the Antitrust Division, said:

"This case, which alleges exclusion of certain retail dealers from the rifle scopes business, presents issues involving both vertical price fixing imposed by the scope manufacturers and boycotts by the manufacturers and publishers against advertising of dealers who charge less than the manufacturers' list prices. Criminal action is instituted, in this instance, in line with the announced policy of the Department of Justice to seek indictments against violators wherever per se violations of the antitrust laws are considered to exist."

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SAC, New York (60-1107)

November 18, 1959

Director, FBI (60-4616)

PISTRIBUTION AND RETAIL ADVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES AND HOUNTS ANTITRUST

#### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Attorney General on 11/15/55 announced that a Grand Jury at washington, D. C., on that date indicted the following for violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act:

Lyman Gun Sight Corp., Middleffeld, Conn., a manufacturer;

W. R. Weaver, El Puso, Texas, a manufacturer; John Unertl, Pittsburgh, Pa., a manufacturer; M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a manufacturer's exclusive distributor;

The National Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C., an incorporated association and publisher of the magazine "American Rifleman";

Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Outdoor Life"; and

Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Field & Stream."

Washington Field, which has not conducted investigation in this matter, is being made office of origin to follow and report prosecution of this master in USDC, Washington, D. C.

New York, which has been origin, should submit an RUC report with the title changed to include names of above defendants. Furnish a opposit of pertinent serial to the new office of origin.

oo: 2-Washington Field RECORDED-112

16 NOV 21

COMM - FBI

			STIGATION	•
HIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW	YORK	-/.		
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA	DATE WHEN PERIOD MADE 12/21/55 12,	/19/55		7C vj.
DISTRIBUTION AN	D RETAIL ADVE		ANTITRUST	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:		K	70	
Letter received that he had pla Rifleman! in No received a lett advertisement i	aced advertises ovember and De ter from this	ment in the "cember, 1955; magazine refu	nowever, ne	had
DETAILS:	-	RUC - EE	ST COPY AVAIL	ABLE
On De	scember 19, 19 e Anchorage Of	55, the follo fice of the F	wing letter w	as A
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1 CC ANTITRUST DIV	ISION .	60-4	616 F	X <sub>a</sub>
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AN 60-26

Colo.

Dec. 14, 1955

"Agent

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"Dear Sir,

Rifleman for the months of November and December, 1955 both of which were run as requested. However I mailed in an ad. to be placed in January 1956 issue, which was not accepted.

"Am enclosing letter I received from the Riflemen this date.

"I moved back to Colorado in August due to ill health; if necessary for you to get in touch with me, my address is:

Colorado.

"Have noticed in December Rifleman magazine that they have been indicted along with several others. Will be glad to help in any way possible in this matter.

"Sincerely,

"/5/

The enclosed letter referred to by is dated December 7, 1955, and bears the signature F. A. MOULTON, "American Rifleman." The contents of the letter are as follows:

60-4616 = 114

AN 60-26

"We prefer not to accept your advertising for publication in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, so our Accounting Department is sending you under separate cover our own check for \$4.80 in reimbursement for the advance payment remittance enclosed with your letter of Hovember 26th."

ENCLOSURE TO THE BUREAU: (1)
(FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE ANTITRUST DIVISION)

A latter dated December 7, 1955, directed to Colorado, Colorado, American Rifleman."

- RUC -

60 - 4616 = 114

-3-

AN 60-26

#### REFERENCES

tter to New York dated Murch 10,

SA 3. 1955.

at Amenorage dated

ECC CAPY MAN PER

60-4616 = 114

-4-

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SAC, Vasaington Field

January 16, 1956

Director, FBI (60-4616)

LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORPORATION: ET AL. ANTI TRUST

BEST COPY AVAILABLE Attached for each office is a copy of an Antitrust Division memorandum dated 1/12/56 which requests certain investigation in preparation for the trial of this matter. Letters addressed to the companies to be contacted are also forwarded herewith.

> COMM - FE JAN 1 6 1958

MAILED 18

All offices except Portland have previously conducted investigation in this matter under the caption "Distribution and Retail Advertising of Rifle Scopes and Mounts; Antitrust." It appears that Portland Will not require any additional background information to handle the present request. As indicated in the attached memorandum, a Grand Jury in the District of Columbia on 11/15/55 indicted four manufacturers and three publishers. Washington Field has been made office of origin to follow and report prosecution. All persons contacted are to be advised that the investigation is being conducted at the request of AAG Barnes, Antitrust Division. The fact that they were so advised need not be set out in reports.

Attention of all offices is directed to the fact that this matter is scheduled for trial on 2/15/56. The investigation requested by the Antitrust Division must be given preferred and continuous attention to permit completion of all investigation and submission of reports to reach the Buresu not later than 2/8/55.

Enclose cc: 2-Dallas (60-237), with enclosures (2) 2-Indianapolis (60-219), with enclosures (2) 2-Los Angeles (60-471), with prologires (3) 2-New Heven (60-143), with enclosures (2) 2-New York (60-1107), with energouses. 2-Pittsburgh (60-343), with enclosures 2-Portland, with enclosures (2) 2-San Francisco (60-4/13), with enclosures

JKP:1ge, L (20).,

Sargons

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT Mr. Michols DATE: February SUBTECT : HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY, INC. BEST COPY AVAILABLE PUDPOLE: Per ir. Holloman's instructions to briefly set forth information concerning pending antitrast investigation in which captioned or anization is involved. DETAILS: In January 31, 1955, at the request of the Department the Surea: opened an antitrust investigation in which captioned organization is a subject. The investigation was completed and renorts were furnished to the Department. On November 15, 1955. an indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury, Washington, D. C., charging three publishers Wational Rifle Association publisher of The American Rifleman, Popular Science Publishing Company, publisher of Outdoor Life, and Henry Molt and Company. profisher of Field and Stream) and Jour manufacturers of rifle scopes for conspiracy to prevent retail price cutting in the sale of these rifle scopes. Since the indictment, the Bureau has been requested to conduct additional investigation. latest request having been received from the department February 13, 1950. This investigation is now being conducted. All subjects have entered pleas of not guilty, and the case is scheduled for trial in Vashington, J. C., on May 28, 1956, CONTENDATION: For information. 60-4616 cc - Mr. Holloman Fr. Bosen (R. 33 FEB 23 1956

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

	FORM No. 1 THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD						110			
	REPOR	LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 3/2/56	#ENIOD FOR WIT		REPORT MADE	by D'	(A)	JAD	
	TITLE	LYMAN GUN SIGHT	CORPORAT	rion; ET A	L	ANTITE				
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	SYNO	PSIS OF FACTS:			- 40					
	signed statement loss, he had expensive guns which he desired to turn into cash. He traded guns for rifle scopes and other shoeting equipment to facilitate sales. He ran ad in March, 1954 and November, 1954 editions of the American Rifleman; however, in November edition, he was not permitted to advertise scopes as new. American Rifleman refused to accept his copy in about January, 1955. Las no correspondents regarding the placing of these ads. In 1955 W E Weaver Company (Weaver), through their attorney of Los Angeles. California, filed judgment and permanent injunction against under California Fair Trade Act. Photostatic copies of pertinant documents relating to this suit obtained. As result of suit, sold directly to Weaver twenty-six Weaver scopes at the jobbers list price. He estimated he lost approximately \$150 as a result of this sale. has maintained no records of the sales of other scopes, all of which were made through mail orders.									
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2		(REG 2 - Washington 1 - Los Angeles	ISTERED) Field (6	0-531)17	66	461	GY	448		
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LA 60-471

#### DETAILS:

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On
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that to date
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Ruediger rif;
Otto of Hilde
scope is a hu
market on Apr

vaomi Avenue, Arcadia, talliornia, advised many has not sold any rifle scopes. It the present time, he is promoting the which is manufactured wholly by Otto and est Germany. He stated that the Ruediger are and that he expects it to go on the

be of assista.

inable to furnish any information that would is investigation.

On } was interviewe lowing signed

24, 27, 29, 1956, February 29, 1956, he furnished the fol-

> "Pasadena, California February 29, 1956

free and identifie Federal Bushave been I realize

make the following
who has
to me to be a Special Agent of the
Investigation. No threats or promises
me in order to obtain this statement, and
atement can be used in a court of law.

resently employed by

At

and I presently reside California.

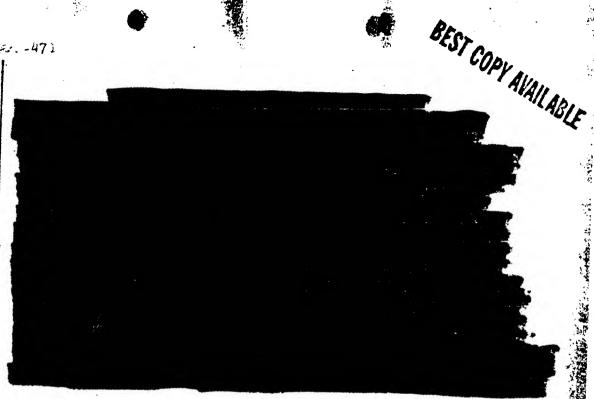
california items. My was in the

Pasadena Firearms Company, Pasadena, company dealt in firearms and related nterest at Pasadena Firearms Company

factured si domestic bri any difficulties sales ; the United States, and they carried all do not recall that this company had the various manufacturers regarding regarding these scopes.

80-4616.

Es. Feb. -471



"It was my intention of disposing of these impression through mail orders I noped to receive through the product of ads in trade magazines. At that time : did not communer myself to be a dealer in rifle stopes and was only immediate in turning my guns into cash. During the early part m I had accumulated several scopes which I had obtained the trades for guns. I placed an so in the American Rifleman. This ad was run in the edition and appeared we

It read as follows:

Calliornia.

result of this ad I received inquiries at all hours of the night, and as a result I decided never to place an ad reflecting my true name or home address.

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-3-60-46

LA 60-471

more rifle scopes, and I again sent in an ad to the American Rifleman. This ad was the same as the previous one which was run in the edition; however, on this occasion the ad was refused by the American Rifleman. They told me I could not advertise the rifle scopes as new ones despite the fact that all of the scopes I was advertising were brand new. When I agreed to run the rifle scopes as second hand articles and described them as perfect the American Rifleman accepted the ad. This ad was run on and read as follows:



"For the purposes of this ad I rented a box in California, and used name."

"In about I again tried to run an ad in the American Rifleman. This time they sent back my check and told me they would not run my ad under a conditions stating that my ad was in violation of Article IV of the General requirements applicable to classified advertising. According to the March, 1954 edition of the American Rifleman, Article IV reads as follows:

"'Transactions Based on Good Faith: Deliberate misrepresentation, or violation of the codes of good sportsmanship and good business ethics, will constitute grounds for refusal of advertising, and may result in disbarment from N.R.A. membership."

"I do not have any of the correspondence relating to the placing of these ads in the American Rifleman. I believe I must have destroyed all documents relating to this advertisement; however, I recall corresponding with FRED A. MOULTON who was in charge of advertising for the American Rifleman.

"During the same period I also placed ads similar to the one I placed in the Rifleman in the Shotgun News, I had absolutely no difficulty in placing these ads.

LA Game?

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attorney and had been retained by W. A. Weaver wasput to file suit against we under the fair trade I corresponded with State of California. Appeared to the office to: conference regarding unis matter While this consecuent I was given the a ternative of the role all of the mosni Weaver scopes I rad in my lissess in or states to court. I appred to return the se es low much well did not wer to go to the expense of . 3.7 sell reaver the scores country . Jobbe: 'S TIME price : : the matter I accepted such as some

At later received a letter cased in which he enclosed a tiny of a sour lame original and two copies of a stipulation and a copy of judement and permanent injunction. I executed the and copy of the stipulation and returne: it to office, together with the 26 weaver scopes which I had possession. I received a sweak in the amount of \$579.2 these scopes. At this time I so set have any records in nosensation reflecting a breakdout on the scopes Ligave to but I estimate that I lost epocarimately \$150. T selling these scores to weaver at the Jobber's list price instead of the price at which I was invertising these not know if ever filed the about mentioned legal dose ments in any court. Personally did not appear is court, and told me that he would hardle the entire matter. I have made available to for photostating pur the pertinent documents pertaining to the suit brought again me by for W. R. Weaver Company.

"I have maintained no records covering the sales of the above-described rifle scopes. All of my sales were made through mail orders.

"At this time I do not know how much money war received from the mail order sales of these scopes."

### BEST COPY AVAILABLE

60-4616 - 148

LA 60-471

"I have read this statement which consists of this and four other pages. I have initiated each page and the last two paragraphs of this statement are in my own handwriting. The information I have furnished in this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7/8/

"Witnessed: Special Agent, F.B.I., Los Angeres - 2/29/55."

ads in the editions of the American Rifleman together with Article IV as set forth in statement, were copied from conies of these publications has in his possession. did not desire to lose custody of these publications at this time.

advised that sometime prior to May, 1955 he sold a weaver rice scope to through a mail order. Sold construction of this sale but stated that when the received first letter regarding the suit, he recalled naving sold a weaver scope through a mail order.

The documents pertaining to the suit made available by for photostating purposes are the photostats described as enclosures to this report.

During the course of the interview with the interviewing Agent observed no data which would cause him to be lieve that would be anything but a reliable witness in this case.

On February 28, 1956, the records of the county clerk for Los Angeles County reflected that in Civil Case # a complaint under California Fair Trade Act - Injunction was filed by W. R. WEAVER, dba W. R. Weaver Company, against on in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles. On the County of Los Angeles. On the County of Los Angeles. On the County of Los Angeles.

signed the judgment and permanent injunction and this deciment was filed on the following the last photostatic copies of all of these documents are being made available to the Department.

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 $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-6}$   $^{-148}$ 

### ENCLOSURES:

## BEST COPY AVAILABLE

- To the Bureau for transmittal to the Antitrust Division
- 1) One copy of the signed statement of
- 2) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 3, 25/55 from to
- 3) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 4,7 55 from to
- 4) Two rhotostatic copies of a letter dated 4/12 55 from to
- 5) Two photostatic copies of a letter dated 5/2 22 from to
- 6) Two photostatic copies of the complaint file: 11 WEAVER against under California Pair Trade Av
- 7) Two photostatic copies of stipulation regarding injunction.
- 6) Two photostatic copies of a summons.
- 1) Two photostatic copies of judgment and personal injunction.

.. Rus. -

LA 60-471

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

It is being noted that there is only one without to signed statement. No other witness was available at this time.

It is being noted that in their letter dated 2/10/56, regarding the interview of the Department requested that the interviewing Agent make a statement regarding the reliability of as a witness in this case.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated 2/16/56.

Bureau letter to Washington Pield dated 2/16/56.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEL	ERAL BUREAU	OF INVES	·	•
ASHINGTON FIELD	WASHINGTON FIELD	1/30/57	1/18/57	
TIRE OF CASE  O'AN GUNSIGHT CORPO  SAVER; JOHN UNERTL;	PRATION; W. R.	Report made by	(A	) ME
PRICA: POPULAR SCI	SSOCIATION OF ENCE PUBLISHING	CHARACTER OF CAS	ь Titrust	
Distribution a Rifle Scopes and	HOLT AND COMPANY, and Retail Advertisi Mounts	g	BEST COPY A	VAII ARIE
1/4/57, the seven Jury in the after enter were paid	ocket of the US DC ne Court imposed fin defendents, who were the District of Column ared a plea of Noloto the Clerk of the AT WASHINGTON. D. C. A check of the Crimitict Court for the Inuary 4, 1957, Judgmainst the seven defindicted by a Feder a on November 15, 1 were entered on be a sand the amounts of the Court for the co	es totaling e Indicted b bia on 11/15 contendere. Court. C	\$18.500 against y a Federal Gran /55 and there- These fines  #1116-55 of the	
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WF0 60-531

Lyman Gunsight 100 \$4000
W. R. Weaver 4000
John Unertl 2500
M. Jackson Stit 1500
The National Rif ociation 2500
of America
Popular Science ning 2000
Company, Inc.
Henry Holt and Company Inc.

The above am of \$18500 has been paid in to

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13:6 - 160

WFO 60-531

### ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

A copy of this report is being designated for the New York Division for info purposes.

REFERENCE:

57C

Report of 1956, at Washington, D. C.

dated February 7,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

60-4816 - 160

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Rifle Sight Trust Suit Is Settled

Attender General William P. Rogers announced Friday the entry of civil antitrust consent judgment which he described as "successfully terminating a civil antitrust suit in which the Government alleged moneralistic practices in the manufacture, distribution and advertising of telescopic sights for times.

The Government charged in an action filed in February, 1956, that a group of manufacturers and the publishers of the outdoor magazines had an agreement to eliminate them the business so-called contains the consent judgment of the publishers are precifically prohibited from recipied advertisements of the consent judgment of the consent judgm

The decree was entiped against these publishers. National Rifle Association of America, Washington, publishing "American Rifleman Poblatar Science Publishing Canal Mew York, publishing Canada Rifleman Poblatar Science Publishing Canada Reny Holf Canada Reny Hol

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60-46164

Wash. Post and Vash. News Wash. News Wash. Star N. Y. Herald Tribune N. Y. Journal-American N. Y. Mirror N. Y. Daily News N. Y. Times Postly Worker.

N. Y. Times
Daily Worker
The Worker
New Leader

NOT RECORDED

Bate 11/10



# Department of Jusius

Attorney General William P. Rogers announced the entry today, in the Federal District Court in Washington, D. C., of a consent judgment successfully terminating a civil antitrust suit, filed on February 29, 1955, charging seven defendants with violating Section 1 of the Sherman Act in connection with the manufacture, distribution, sale and advertising of rifle scopes. Scopes are telescopic sights mounted on rifles for the purpose of siming more accurately.

The defendants in the complaint were:

Lyman Gun Sight Corporation; Middlefield, Connecticut,

W. R. Weaver, El Paso, Texas, a manufacturer;

John Unertl, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a manufacturer;

M. Jackson Stith, San Antonio, Texas, formerly a manufacturer's exclusive distributor;

National Rifle Association of America, Washington, D. C., an incorporated association, and publisher of the magazine

"American Rifleman";
Popular Science Publishing Company, Inc., New York City,

Dublisher of the magazine "Cutdoor Life"; and Henry Holt & Company, Inc., New York City, publisher of the magazine "Field & Stream."

The complaint charged that the defendants engaged in a combination to eliminate "off-list dealers," who do not adhere to the manufacturers' list prices, from the scope business. It rescalleged that the defendants agreed to deny off-list dealers access both to supplies of acopes and 61 appropriate advertising media, and that the defendants acted in implementation of these agreements.

The final consent judgment entered today enjoins the manufacturing defendants from any agreements to fix or maintain prices or to cut off

off-list dealers from their sources of supply or from advertising media, or to limit them in these respects; from any individual conduct aimed at price fixing or interfering with off-list dealers' access to supply and advertising; from all fair trade agreements for a period of seven years; from certain publicity and advertising for a two-year period. In addition, any manufacturing defendant who engages in consumer advertising is ordered to sell scopes, on non-discriminatory terms, to off-list dealers. The defendants publishing outdoors magazines are subject to injunctions against agreements aimed at refusing advertisements of off-list dealers; and, for a period of 10 years, against individual conduct for the same purpose.

Assistant Attorney General Victor R. Hansen, in charge of the Antitrust Division, in commenting on the judgment, said:

"Attempts to control prices and to exclude competitors by practices such as those alleged to have been employed by these defendants have long been held to be illegal and cannot be tolerated in our free enterprise system."

06-4616 - 161

### GUNSIGHT-CORPORATION LT AL ANTITRUST (Fufile 60-4516)

Hurea Frase closed. Seven defendants entered Not a Content of pleas and were sentenced 1-4-57 to fines ratalia, 548, 500.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
91. Mon*
Mr. Parsent
T. W.Mr. Hown L
Mr. Tarin
Mr. T.otter .
Mr. 'lease
Tels. Room
ar. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCE THE FILING OF A CONSENT DECREE OF ENDING CIVIL ANTI-TRUST CHARGES ACAIMST SEVEN DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF TOLATIONS IN MANUFACTURE, SALE AND ABVERTISING OF RIFLE SCOPES.

THE DEFENDANTS WERE ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN A COMBINATION TO BUT

THE DEPENDANTS WERE ACCUSED OF ENGINE IN A COMBINATION TO PUT "OFF-LIST DEALERS" -- TROSE WHO DO NOT ADPERE TO THE HANDFACTURER'S LIST PRICES -- CUT OF THE SCOPE RUSINESS. SCOPES APP. TELESCOPIC SIGHTS YOUNTED ON RIFLES FOR THE PURPOSE OF

AIMING GOFE ACCURATELY. LYMAN GUN SIGHT CORP. HIDDLEFIELD, CONN.; W.R. WEAVER, EL FASO
TEX. A MANUFACTURER; JOHN UMERIL. ELITSBURGH. PA. MANUFACTURERS;
M. JACKSON STITH, SAN ANTONIO, TEX. DISTRIBUTORID MATIONAL RIFLE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, WASHINTON, D.C.: UPOPULAR SCIINCE FURLISHING
CO. MET YORK CITY; AND HENRY ROLT & CO., INC., WEY YORK CITY,
PURLISHER OF THE MAGAZINE FIELD AND STREAM. THE DEFENDANTS NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT WERE:

THE CONSENT JUDGMENT, FILED IN DISTRICT COURT HERE, FORBIDS ANY ACREMENTS TO FIX OF MAINTAIN PRICES OF TO CUT OFF THE SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF OFF-LIST BEALERS.

DEFENDANT VACAZINES WERE ENJOINED FROM REFUSING ADS OF OFF-LIST

DEALERS.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Page(s) withheld entirely at explain this deletion.	this location in the file. One or more	e of the following statements, where indicated,
Deletions were made pursua release to you.	nt to the exemptions indicated below	with no segregable material available for
Section 5	52	Section 552a
□ <sub>.</sub> (b)(1)	□ (b)(7)(A)	□ (d)(5)
□ (b)(2)	□ (b)(7)(B)	□ (j)(2)
□ (b)(3)	□ (b)(7)(C)	□ (k)(1)
	(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)
	□ (b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)
	(b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)
□ (b)(4)	□ (b)(8)	□ (k)(5)
□ (b)(5)	□ (b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
□ (b)(6)		□ (k)(7)
request is listed in the title of	only. another Government agency(ies). The	ese documents were referred to that agency(ies
Pages contain information to the releasability of this	furnished by another Government age information following our consultation	ency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as with the other agency(ies).
Page(s) withheld inasmuch disposition at a later date.		not been made. You will be advised as to the
Pages were not considered	for release as they are duplicative of	
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57C

AIRTEL

SAC, Washington Field Office

From:

Director, FBI

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

BUDED: 10/31/68

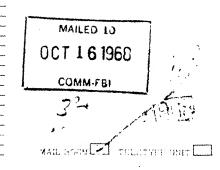
Enclosed for Washington Field are two copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 10/14/68 requesting investigation to determine whether the captioned organization should have registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives.

It will not be necessary to check with the clerk of the House of Representatives. According to the Criminal Division of the Department, this association is not registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives.

All interviews with officials of the National Rifle Association should be conducted by two mature Agents and persons interviewed should be advised that this investigation is being conducted at the request of Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. The requested investigation is to be expeditiously handled and a completed report submitted to reach the Bureau on or before 10/31/68.

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap



REC-28/19-64-2

TO: X-1.

SAC, Washington Field Office

From:

Director FBI

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

ReBusirtel 10/16/68 and Butelcall 10/23/68.

Enclosed are two Xerox copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 10/23/68 requesting that interviews of officers of the National Rifle Association be delayed until further advice is received from the Department. WFO should discontinue investigation pending Bureau advice. Surep reflecting investigation conducted to date.

Enclosures (2)

CTG:bap (4)

NOTE: Supervisor Washington Field Office, was telephonically advised on 10/23/68 by Supervisor

Toison DeLoach OCT 2 4 1968

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TELETYPE UNIT





# October 24, 1968 GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case where the Department, by letter dated 10-14-68, requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. Washington Field Office has been instructed to hold investigation in an an apparate pending further advice from the Department.

CTG: hw

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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	Deletions were made pursuant to the exercise release to you.	aptions indicated below v	with no segregable material available for
	Section 552		Section 552a
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		□ (b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)
		□ (b)(7)(F)	□ (k)(4)
	□ (b)(4)	□ (b)(8)	□ (k)(5)
	□ (b)(5)	□ (b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
	(b)(6)		□ (k)(7)
	request is listed in the title only.		se documents were referred to that agency(ies
		another Government age	ncy(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as with the other agency(ies).
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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1982 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOV. IMENT

# Memorandum

то

Director, FBI

DATE:

10/22/68

FROM

SAC, WFO (119-49) (P)

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

(00:WFO)

ReBuairtel dated 10/16/68.

Inquiry at National Rifle Association revealed FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Secretary, is with the Olympic Team in Mexico City and will not return until after 10/28/68.

WFO will submit report to reach Bureau by 11/7/68.

2 - Bureau 1 - WFO

REG 45

EVS:mer (3)

17 OCT 23 1968

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD	
WASHINGTON FIELD	WASHINGTON FIELD	10/29/68	10/17-28/68	
TITLE OF CASE		REPORT MADE BY		TYPED BY
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION		FEDERAL REC	GULATION OF LOBBYING	ejj ACT
REFERENCES:	Buairtel to WFO WFO letter to Bu Bureau airtel to	reau dated	10/22/68 上州	

- C -

### **ENCLOSURES**

### TO BUR FAU

1967 Operating Report NRA audit report dated 12/31/66 May 1967 issue of "The American Rifleman" NRA Bylaws

		ACC	COMPLISHMENT	S CLAIMED	IJN (Z∷	NE	ACQUIT-	CASE HAS BEEN:	
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			, )					PENDING OVER ONE YE PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	
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		0		C	OVER P	AGE		G	PO : 1968 O - 299-485

HEA 119-49

NRA Official Directory 1968-1966 3 Legislative Bulleptins 3 NRA Form Latters

### ADMINISTRATIVE

All persons interviewed were advised this investigation was being conducted at the remest of FPED M. VINGON, JR. . . Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Inquiry at National Rifle Association of America ravealed FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Vice President, was with the U.S. Olympic Team in Maxico City and would not return to Vashington. D.C., until after 10/28/58.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

17C

Report of: Date:

10/29/68

Field Office File #:

119-49

Office: Washington, D.C.

Bureou File #:

Title:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Character:

FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

FRANKLIN C. DANIEL, Secretary, NRA, advised their legal counsel informed them NRA contacts with members of Congress does not come under the Lobbying Act. He and FRANKLIN L. ORTH, Executive Vice President have contacted and been contacted by numerous members of Congress regarding legislative matters in the field of conservation, sport shooting and hunting, inasmuch as NRA is expected to have the technical. know-how in these fields. NRA has no outside lobyists but individual members of NRA are encouraged to contact their respective Congressmen and Senators.

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 10/23/68

PC

Mational Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised Mr. LUCAS of the nature of the inquiry. He was also advised that he did not have to make any statements; any statements that he might make could be used against him in the court of law; he had the right to consult with an attorney before making a statement and that he did not have to talk with the agents. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed.

Mr. LUCAS stated that in addition to himself, the other officers of the association are: HARGLD W. GLASSEN, President, WOODSUN D. SCOTT, Vice President, FRANKLIN L. CRTH, Executive Vice President, FRANK C. DANIEL, Secretary. He stated that Mr. GLASSEN and Mr. SCOTT are honor officers and serve without pay. Mr. CRTH would be in charge of the MRA.

Mr. LUCAS stated that regarding contacts with various Senators and Congressmen he could only speak for himself. He stated he has had no direct contacts with any Congressman or Senator regarding pending legislation. He pointeded out, however, that he is well acquainted with several Congressmen and Senators and has been in contact with them but not regarding legislative matters.

Mr. LUCAS stated that the NRA is a non-profit organization whose primary effort is in the behalf of social welfare. It is considered to be in group 501C-4 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. LUCAS stated that no person or company has been hired by the NRA to lobby against gun legislation. NRA hired Infoplan, 605 3rd Avenue, New York City from April, 1966 to

	ashington D.C.	File#VTC 1	19-49	
67C-SAS	and			
by	EVS:crb	Date dictated	10/23/58	

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is touned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WFO 119-49

March, 1968, to sell to the public the program of the NRA and to counteract unfavorable newspaper publicity. This organization was not in direct contact with any newspapers or Congress as representatives of NRA.

Mr. LUCAS advised that NRA notified members of NRA regarding the various pending legislation through a magazine entitled "The American Rifleman," speeches made by officers and Legislative Eulletins. Members of NRA are asked to do what they can to advance the program of N.A.

Mr. LUCAS made available the May, 1967 edition of "The American Rifleman," which on page 93 has a membership application. There is nothing in this advertisement wherein solicitation is made of members where they were informed that dues received would be used to support opposition to gun control legislation.

Mr. LUCAS also furnished the audit report of the association for the year 1966 made by STUY, MALONE and Company, CPA's, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D. C. He pointed out that this statement shows that for the calendar year 1966 \$150,083.19 were spent on a public relations campaign. amount, \$112,479.81 went to Infoplan for fees and expenses. \$10,000 was used for a float in the Rose Bowl Parade and \$10,954.98 was for sponsorship of a Freedom Foundation Gate at Vally Forge, Pennsylvania. The same financial statement indicated that \$58,204.14 was used for legislative expenses. \$22,598.18 of this amount was used for Legislative Bulletins and \$32,739.70 for salaries. The phamplet Legislative Bulletin is mailed to members in a certain area where there is pending legislation of a state or county in which NRA has an interest. These bulletins set forth the NRA's opinion regarding legislation. He further pointed out that the Public Relations Committee of NRA makes policy for NRA.

Mr. LUCAS further advised that several members of Congress are either past or present members of the association. Two of them are members of the Board of Directors. The NRA

WFO 119-49

3 has often appeared before various committees on proposed legislation and it is the opinion of the officers of NRA that they are not lobbying.

Mr. LUCAS furnished the following documents: Bylaws of The National Rifle Association of America; 1968-1969 official directory; May, 1967 issue of "The American Rifleman"; audit report of NRA as of December 31, 1966; 1970 Operating Report; three Legislative Bulletins; three letters sent to all members regarding proposed legislation. 1

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date\_10/23/68

FRANK C. DANIEL, Secretary, National Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised Mr. DANIEL of the nature of the inquiry; that he did not have to make any statement and any statement that he might make could be used against him in court of law, and he had the right to consult with an attorney before making any statement. He was also advised that he did not have to talk with the agents unless he so desired. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed.

Mr. DANIEL advised that the NRA is well aware of the lobbying act and on the advice of legal counsel, was informed that the activities of NRA did not require them to register with the Congress or Senate as lobbyists.

Mr. DANIEL stated that the MRA is expected to have technical know-how in the matters of conservation, sport shooting and hunting and are contacted on an almost regular basis by Congress. He pointed out that there are several members of Congress listed as members of the Board of Directors. He stated that he personally has contacted numerous members of Congress and in turn been contacted by numerous members of Congress regarding matters of pending legislation. These contacts were usually by telephone. Often Congressmen call and want to introduce certain legislation and request NRA's help. Other times Congressmen are contacted and furnished NRA's opinion regarding proposed legislation. The NRA has testified before various committees of Congress regarding matters within this field.

Mr. DANIEL stated that he and Mr. FRANKLIN L. CRTH, Executive Vice President, contacted members of Congress as part of their job to promote the beliefs of the MRA. They are not

On 10/22/53 at	Washington, D.		File#_WEG	119-49	
SAS	and				
by	<i>'</i>	EVS:crb	Date dictated	10/23/63	

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is launed to your agency; It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

WFO 119-49

2 paid for this other than their yearly salaries.

Mr. DANIEL stated that
Office of Public Relations, has no contacts as
such with members of Congress. He has, however, helped prepare speeches for numerous Congressmen when so requested. He
pointed out that any number of employees of NRA could be acquainted with Congressmen and receive request from Congressmen
for information. He and Mr. ORTH are the primary persons contacting members of Congress. He knew of no group of people
hired to lobby for NRA before Congress.

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1	2	10/24/68
1	eta	10/24/00

Public Relations, National Rifle Association of America (NRA), 16th and Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., was advised of the identity of the interviewing agents. SA advised of the nature of the inquiry and that he did not have to make any statements and any statements he might make could be used against him in a court of law. He was also advised that he could consult with an attorney before making any statements and he did not have to talk with the agents unless he so desired. He was furnished a Waiver of Rights form which he read and signed. He furnished the following information:

3

NRA is to get out news releases to newspapers, radios and the like to promote sport shooting, hunting, and conservation. General interest stories as well as speeches are prepared for dissemination to the news media. NRA has had a Public Relations Office for the past twenty years. Infoplan was given a contract in 1955 to get wider coverage in the fields of home and hunting safety. He advised that he did not contact any member of Congress and no employee in the Public Relations Section would regarding gun legislation. It is not their responsibility to solicit help from Congress so, therefore, it is not done. The NRA has no paid lobbyist. He did point out, however, that on request from various members of Congress the Public Relations Office would assist members of the legislature in preparing testimony.

On_10/22/53	ot Jashington D. C.	File#_VFC113-49
DC SAS	and EVS:crb	10/23/53
by	2.70.02.5	Date dictared

AIRTEL

1-670

To:

SAC, Washington, Field Office (119-49)

From:

Director, FBI (119-64) —5

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

ReBuairtel 10/24/68.

Enclosed for the Washington Field Office are two copies of a Criminal Division letter dated 11/19/68 requesting that National Rifle Association officials be interviewed on approximately 12/3/68 in the presence of the Association's General Counsel. The two requested interviews and record review should be handled in accordance with the request of the Criminal Division and a report submitted promptly thereafter.

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap (4)

NOTE: The Criminal Division of the Department by letter dated 10/14/68 previously requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should be registered with the clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. This investigation included interviews of officials of NRA. Shortly after the investigation was initiated, the Criminal Division by letter dated 10/23/68, requested the Bureau to hold the investigation in abeyance until the Criminal Division had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the General Counsel.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Pages were not considered  Page(s) withheld for the fo		es:

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To:

SAC, Washington Field Office (119-49)

From:

Director, FBI (119-64)

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

Reurairtel 12/9/68.

Washington Field Office should discontinue further investigation in captioned matter. The Criminal Division of the Department has advised that according to the General Counsel of the National Rifle Association, this Association has indicated it will register as a lobbyist with the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

CTG: bap (4) 504

NOTE: The above information was furnished to Supervisor on 12/10/68 by Criminal Division Attorney is forwarding a confirming

memorandum.

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COMM-FBI

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1. J. C. S.

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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		Mr. Mohr
	FB1	Mr. Dishop Mr. Casper Mr. Cellahan
	Date: 12/9/68	Mr. Conrad
Transmit the following		Mr. Gala
Transmit the following	(Type in plaintext or code)	Mr. Sullivan
Via AIRTEL	(Priority)	Mr. Trotter.
		Miss Helmes
TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (119-64)	
FROM:	SAC, WFO (119-49) (P)	·
	RIFLE ASSOCIATION EGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT	
i ·		
and Burea	Re WFO report of SA dated 10/ u airtel to WFO dated 11/22/68.	/29/68
	Enclosed are four copies of LHM dated and capt	ioned
as above.		
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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington Field Office, Room 506 Old Post Office Building

> Washington, D.C. 20535 December 9, 1968

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

On December 9, 1968,
National Rifle Association, advised a Special Agent
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he has been
trying to contact Fred M. Vinson, Jr., and
of the Department of Justice, regarding instant matter and
has been unsuccessful in contacting them. He advised he
would notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 10,
1968, when the interviews with Franklin L. Orth and Harold
Glassen of the National Rifle Association will take place.

December 13, 1968

Washington Dear

> This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter on December 11, 1968, and to thank you for your offer of assistance.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

MAILED 20 DEC 1 3 1968

COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

I Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

CTG/1rk (3)

3E 119-64 C

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

DEC24 1968

MAIL R. M. PELETTYER ENET

### NOTE

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.

### TRUE COPY

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I understand that you are investigating the National Rifle Association. As a member of that organization, I wish to inform you of my whole-hearted desire to cooperate with your investigation. I believe that neither the N.R.A. nor the vast majority of its members have anything to hide.

Sincerely,



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TRUE COPY

Down 7222. Hower, I understand that you are intestigating the national Rifle- association. Che a minter of that organization, I wish to inform you of my whole-himilar disme to cooperate with your incertigation. I be live that neither the n.R.C. mor the west majority of the monders have anothing to hide.

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# GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case, which recently received considerable press coverage, wherein the Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We have interviewed some officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The General Counsel of NRA is now delaying our further interview of two officials as well as examination of NRA financial records pending his consultation with the Department. The Department being advised of above in writing. Washington Field Office has been instructed to keep the Bureau advised of further developments.

CTG: bap

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	TO: DIRECTOR,	FBI (119-64)		
	FROM: SAC, WFO (	(119-49) (3)		
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	Enclose as above.	ed are four copies	s of LHM dated and ca	aptioned
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	In the Department of Jus	absence of any sp stice, no further	pecific request from investigation being	the conducted
			JAC .	
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•	Special Agent			



#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C. 20535 December 12, 1968

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT

On December 12, 1968, Benjamin J. Guthrie, Director of Legislative Processes, House of Representatives, advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on December 11, 1968, Franklin L. Orth registered the National Rifle Association as a lobbying group.

In the absence of any specific request from the Department of Justice, no further investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FEL It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

119-64-9

1

December 13, 1968

REC 13 1/9-64-10

1-670

Dear

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 10, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 20
DEC 1 3 1968
COMM-FBI

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

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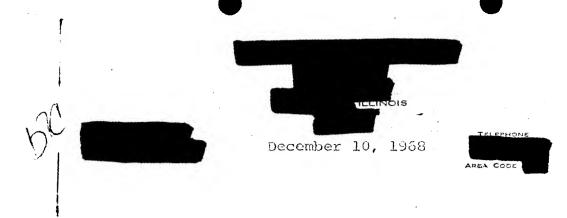
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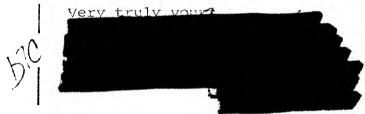
This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.



Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Pederal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am a member of the National Rifle Association and have been concerned about the F.B.I. investigation of this organization. I would like to know what you are investigating about the National Rifle Association and at whose request this investigation is being made.



DrR:pb

CC: Senator Everett Dirksen Senator Charles Percy Congressman Thomas Railsback

NEC 13 119-64-10

AR PHONE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

CORRECTION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO

Mr. DeLdach

DATE: December 10, 1968

FROM

A. Rosen/

- Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL REGULATION OF LOBBYING ACT 1 - 1 - 1 - Mr. Bishop

50

Division, telephonically advised this date that according to National Rifle Association (NRA) this Association will register today with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist. In view of this, requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued and he is forwarding a memorandum confirming this request.

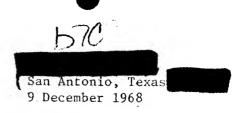
In this case the Criminal Division of the Department by letter dated 10/14/68 requested investigation to determine whether the NRA should be registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with activities concerning gun registration legislation. We previously interviewed three officials of NRA and interviews with other officials were held in abeyance on request of the Department.

ACTION: The above is submitted for information and you will be advised of further pertinent developments.

CTG: bap (7)

BEG 23 / 1/9-64-11

Min



Mr J. Edgar Hoover Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation Justice Department Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sir:

The San Antonio, Texas, Express Newspaper carried the attached article on 7 December 1968.

I would like to volunteer my services for whatever they may be worth to your organization. I do this only with a view in mind of assisting in an unbiased manner and to help in any way I can.

I am a Life Member of the National Rifle Association

DC

heen involved one way or another with small arms training and competitions since 1925, and in doing so, have of necessity, been involved with the National Rifle Association.

Recently, as you know, the integrity and intent of the NRA has become suspect in the eyes of the public. If the allegations are true, so be it. I am just as anxious as anyone to see the allegations brought out in the open, and if the NRA is working at cross purposes to the welfare of our country, then let the chips fall where they may. I have no so-called axe to grind, and, as stated above, I am unbiased. Anything I do, I hope will eventually help the soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman who has to carry a rifle in the interest of our country.

Sincerely yours,

dec :

119-64-10

CONTRACTOR DE MAR

# FBI Probing Rifle Group

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI confirmed Friday it is investigating the National Rifle Association, an influential group that never has registered with Congress as a lebby.

The NRA, which has fought fiercely against gun-control legislation, contends it is an educational organization and does not engage in lobbying.

December 16, 1968

21/9 - 64-/3 RFC-35

- b7C

Honorable Thomas F. Railsback House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your communication of December 12.

1968. enclosing a copy of a letter from , dated December 10, 1968, has been received.

I received letter previously and have replied thereto. There is enclosed for your information a copy of my letter to dated December 13, 1968.

In accordance with your request, I am returning the copy of letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edger Ecore

Enclosures (2)

CTG: bap (4)

119-64

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Honorable Thomas F. Railsback

### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a Tobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 adviæd that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with Congressman Railsback is on the Special Correspondent's List.

b7C

# SPECIAL

### Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Mashington, B.C.

December 12, 1968

Director of Congressional Relations FBI
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

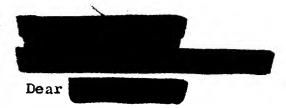
TOM RAILSBACK, M. C.

TR:ss

REC 119-64-13

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(6-M)



This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 9, 1968, with an attached news article, and to thank you for your offer of assistance.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

REC: TLA

J. Edgar Hooyer

John Edgar Hoover Director

(119-64)

CTG: bap (3)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

MAIL HOOM TELETYPE UNIT

PCA-20 (12-3-96)

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December 17, 1968

REC 13 119-64-14

1 -

Honorable Allen J. Ellender United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Senator:

Your communication of December 12, 1968, enclosing a copy of a telegram from Louisiana,

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

119-64

CTG:ph
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See Note Page Two

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Honorable Allen J. Ellender United States Senate Washington, D. C.

NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information have had previous limited cordial correspondence with

# United States Senate

December 12, 1968

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

National Pople Associate &

The attached communication is referred to you for such consideration as is warranted and for a report on it.

I will appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly.

UNITED STATES SENATOR

REC-19

Pole 12/17/15

Mr. Callahan. Mr. Conrad .... Mr. Felt .... Mr. Gale... Mr. Rosen Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel... Mr. Trotter .... Tele. Room.... Miss Holmes ... Miss Gandy\_

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SEM ALLEN J ELLENDER WASHDO

1 VICOROUSLY PROTEST THE FLAGRANT GESTAFO ATTORTY OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE NRA STOP HAS THIS COUNTRY REACHED THE POEMY THERE ANY GROUP OF CITIZENS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STAND WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THIS FEDERAL AXVO, AS MY REPRESENTATIVE I DEMAND YOU ACT NOW TO STOP THIS

ATTORNEY

December 17, 1968

1-57C

New Jersey
Dear

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 14, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI, together with enclosures.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Idar mover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

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119-64 — /5

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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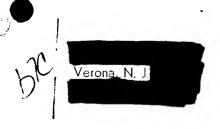
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#### NOTE:

(This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued.) Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent.



December 14, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you because I read in the New York Times that the FBI was conducting an investigation of the National Rifle Association to determine whether or not it was a lobbying group. I also understand from radio commentators' remarks that the question of whether or not the NRA is an educational group is pertinent.

I am not connected with the NRA in any way, but I am disconcerted by many things that are happening in our country, among which are recurring attempts to discredit persons (as you surely must know) and organizations which contribute to the well-being and security of this country.

If there is any question as to whether or not the NRA is an educational organization, the attached Xerocopies of clippings from our local newspaper should be enlightehing. They concern the death of Ed Fichter, who was a certified instructor of the National Rifle Association. The Verona Rifle Club, under his leadership and under the auspices of the NRA, has been one of the finest influences for the boys of Verona for twenty years.

was careful to select boys for his club who were emotionally stable, but aside from that, any boy who would earry his load was welcome. I have never heard of a boy who learned the use of firearms at the Verona Rifle Club who got into serious trouble or who misused the knowledge that he gained. Many have served and are now serving in the armed forces and have been outstanding marksmen.

I presume that the investigation of the NRA results from its opposition to gun control legislation. In my opinion, it is fortunate that one group spoke up in opposition to prevent emotionalism from

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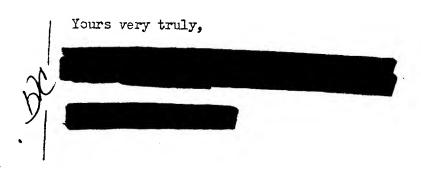
s. Character



holding sway over intelligence in this legislation. I do not believe that legislation or registration of guns could have prevented the events which led to the cry for gun control legislation, nor do I believe that it will prevent criminal and lawless elements from obtaining guns. It may, however, if the NRA is destroyed or discredited, mean that fewer decent, patriotic, law-abiding young men will know how to handle a gun.

I understand that the NRA has recently filed as a lobbying organization, apparently as a result of the proposed FBI investigation and as a protection against prosecution. I question why the NRA was selected at this particular time for investigation from among the 500,000 organizations which enjoy tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service regulations, and I question how many of these organizations could stand investigation as being non-profit and non-lobbying. In my opinion, the NRA is as much, and possibly more, concerned with education and the welfare of the country than many other so-called educational groups. In all fairness, it would be equitable to investigate all organizations enjoying tax-exempt status and to determine how many have refrained from attempting to influence legislation.

If you will accept the premise that education concerns more than facts from a book, I believe that you will conclude after reading the enclosed clippings that the NRA, through Ed Fichter and the Verona Rifle Club, was truly involved in education.



Copy to: National Rifle Association

## Edwin Fichter, Rifle Instructor

Services for Edwin L. Fichter of 48 Elmwood Rd., Verona, will be held this evening at 7:30 at the Arthur K. Brown, Inc., (Home for Services), 620 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, with the Rev. Walter M. Moore, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Verona, officiating. Interment will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Mr. Fichter died Sunday at Mountainside Hospital. He was 65.

Though he was born in Caldwell, Mr. Fichter had lived in Verona 64 years. He was employed as a brushmaker with Keifer Brushes, Verona.

A certified instructor of the National Rifle Association, Mr. Fichter organized the Verona Junior Rifle Club 20 years ago. He was a Boy Scout Leader for the Troop at the Verona Presbyteriaa Church for the same number of years.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. John Reeves of Cedar Grove

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UERONA - CEDAR GROUE TIHES

DERONA, N.J.

# High on a Hillop

Verona lost a "friend" last week. More specifically, Verona boys lost one of their best friends. Ed Fichter whose entire life was devoted to Scouting and in more recent years to the Verona Junior Rifle Club has passed from the scene. He was a quiet man and until the last retained that clusive quality which stamps the eternal young. His countenance bore a quizzical look always. At a moment his face could light up into a boyish grin. There was something implish about him. At times he resembled a fleeting leprechaun, ready to reveal hidden treasures to anyone who could keep in step with him.

He knew of many treasures that exist in the woods, on mountains, in the trees and in the sky. He had a cabin on a mountain, a tumble-down shack in a way, but a magical place where he would take his boys on weekends. By the light of an old stove, oil lamps, occasionally candles he would weave ghost stories to the delight of his followers as the moon cast eerie shadows outside the clearing and the wind whistled through the broken rafters. There were times when he arranged more sophisticated outings to the Maine woodlands. Once we asked him how many boys he could remember having been under his tutelage. He reflected a few seconds, "Hundreds,' he guessed, He was something like the fabled "Mr. Chips." He had many boys whose names he could recount one by one, placing them in certain categories, years and eras.

Among his prized possessions were letters from some of his "boys "who fought in World War II, in the Korcan War, in the War in Vietnam. They wrote as friends, which they were, and mostly they attested to the training he had given them while in the rifle erganization. I don't think I'd be around without having been privileged to learn everything you taught me," one wrote whose mastery of guns had saved him in a Vietnam ambush. He never thought of boys as being different in any age. "Outward appearances don't mean a thing," he said once in discussing to-day's prevailing dress and mannerisms. "Inside a boy is always a boy."

Youngsters who met him for the first time couldn't always figure him out But they learned quickly that was because they regarded him as one of the "grown-ups" and when they realized that he was one of "them," a bond of affection soon developed. He made them understand first of all that membership in the rifle club was contingent upon discipline and respect. He stressed care in the handling of all firearms and he took pride in the club's record of safety. He had hoped someday to have a clubhouse in the community and an indoor rifle range but his efforts towards this end were not achieved. Some day, perhaps, they will be. In recent years, he was successful in having others help him in his endeavors and the club which he headed for twenty years underwent more intensive organization. Those who worked with him are not apt to abandon his dream. His "boys" are not likely to forget. He was a patient man and he probably is still willing to wait, "When you aim for something like this," he said a couple of years ago in speaking of the possibility of a club headquarters,

119-64 - [class to him will continue his nim.]

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#### SPEARS FOR CLUP MEMBERS

Editor, The Times:

On Sunday, Nov. 24, Ed Fichter, rifle instructor of the Verena Junior Rifle Club died. Ed was like a second grandfather to me. I had many wonderful times with him.

I was fortunate to know him for three years. In these years I learned many things from him. He helped me at the gun club, teaching me the proper use of guns, but more important he taught me how to be a better pernon.

I spent three vacations with Ed and some of the other boys in the club during the Summer at Stokes Forest. It was Ed's two weeks vacation and he enjoyed spending them with us. On weekends during the year we would go to the cabin in West Milford. New Years Eve, Ed would ask some of us to the house to

colebrate the arrival of the new year.

I know I speak for all the boys in the club, and for anyone who knew Ed that our lives were made richer through our association with him.

I can remember when I first joined the club. I didn't do too well with my targets. Ed had patience and encouraged me when I would get discouraged. When at the end of the year some of us "poor" beginners would be awarded a trophy for doing well. I think Ed got just as much a thrill as we did.

The gun club will not be the same without him, and I'll miss him very much. I hope however, that somehow the club will continue as Ed would have wanted it to.

I hope that by reading this letter, people will come to know and appreciate what this man stood for and what he tried so hard to teach us by his exemplary

RICHARD FERGUSON Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1963

him was a unique experi-

Ed dedicated his life to youth. For twenty years he was Boy Scout Leader at the Presbyterian Church and later organized the Verona Junior Rifle Club for the same amount of years. For most men, once a week instructing the boys in the hundling of guns would be enough, but for Ed seven days a week wouldn't be too much.

Many nights boys would stop in at his house just to talk and hear about trips he had taken and experiences he had in previous 55 years. Considering Ed was 65 years old, you can see that the difference in age meant nothing to the boys. It was just being there with him that counted. He gained the respect of these boys, something many parents to-day wished they had.

How inexpensive time is if you are willing to give of yourself. Truthfully how many of us give time to anything unless we can see something in it for ourselves. Ed had time, it was free, and he didn't waste it. I know he always tried to help others. He never complained. This was the way this man lived. He spoke only good of people. We know things weren't always easy for him, but somehow he'd never let you know it.

Meet of us measure ourselves by the material posseadour we have in life, Ed was rich in the satisfaction of dedication and always lived life as best be could in the short time he had.

He was especially proud of the many letters he received from former club members now serving in Vietnam. There was no "generation gap" between Ed and these boys. He had gained their respect and they never forgot him.

It pleased us to ree so many pay their last respects to such a fine man. There were the young members in the club, previous members, and parents of boys showing their gratitude for all he had done for their sons.

Even the day he died he was with the boys, trying in some small way to help at their annual fund miser.

For those that didn't get to know him, I'm sorry, for there are not many Ed Fichters around. Our only regret is that after Ed gave so much to the youth of Verona, he never was able to obtain his wish for his own range in Verona.

MR. & MRS. J. FERGUSON Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1968

### mar.

GAVE LIFE TO YOUTH

Editor, The Times:
At Thanksgiving this year we were most grateful for our family and friends. We especially thanked God for having given us an Ed Fichter Whom He chose to call back to Him this week.

This humble man gave of himself, unselfishly, for over forty years to the service of youth during a most impressive and formative time of their lives. We were most fortunate to have had our son under Ed's guidance for the past five years. Please God, the high character of this man shall live on in the many boys and girls who were so fortunate as to have had Ed Fichter as their friend and guide.

JOAN and JIM CARROLL Verona, N.J., Dec. 2, 1968 FRIENDS PAY TRIBUTE Editor, The Times:

It has been a week since we heard that Ed Fichter had died and still we can't believe that he is gone. We are not writing just because Ed was our friend, but to try in some way explain what this man meant to our three boys and to so many people.

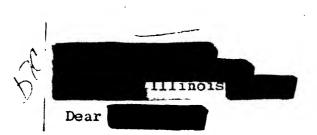
There are words that could simply describe him—kind, patient, dedicated, humble, appreciative—but they only tell a small fraction of the life he led, dust to know

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DEC 5, 1968

VERONA - CEDAR GROUE TIMES

DEROMA, M. J



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This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 14, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

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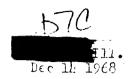
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correspondent.

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that an official of the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the correspondent. The November, 1968, telephone directory for the directory for telephone directory for the directory directory directory

... Illinois, and no first name is listed for the

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J Edgar Hoover F E I Washington, D C

Dear Sir:

I note you have been ordered to investigate the National Rifleman's Association or that is what our paper states.

The following are some of the observations I have made over the years and now it seems they are coming to a head. At the time Spain was taken over by the communists, Spain for some time had had a gin regristration law. I once saw a movie depicting the actual riots and take over of that country by the commiss. It showed private citizens being forced to give up their hand gins, rifles etc. It stated that there were lists of these gins so that it was made easy for the commiss to know where the gins were. What a deadly parallel to our country at present.

It might seem that we had three instances happened here which brought up the ideas that a µn law would be the thing in the US A. At first after these affairs it seemed public sentiment all was for this regristration and licensing. Later when the public had time to think the letters run against it. The Maticael Aifleman's Association carried on a bitter fight.

I also heard a speech about the year ago given by a small manufacturer. He had carried on a one man fight against some of the things which were being done in the manufacture of ammunitions and gins for our government for the war in Vietnam. It seems faulty workman ship was being ordered by someone higher up to do this. He was told to lay off or he would lose his orders from the government. He was patrictic and did not 19-64-16 lay off. He was harrassed, disgraced and finally ruined for his efforts.

There might be some connection of this investigation against the N R A because of their determined stance against the nun registration law. It would not surprise me. There have been other things come up lately where some one or some company has been brought up before the I E S for some fancied reasons when that individual or company had nun against things were not right but were being done because someone higher up favored doing them.

I doubt if you are at liberty to disclose who gave the order to investigate the N F A. But if you are I would like to know who gave the order. Just like the order given the Puebelo officers not to resist the hijacking of that boat. And also who gave the orders for the other U S boats close by not to interfere. It seems such orders were given.

Thanks for having patience to read this, if you were given the letter to read. After Jan. 1969 there might be some change, let us hope so.



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119-64-17

December 16, 1968

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Dear Dear

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter on December 13, 1968, concerning investigation of the National Rifle Association by the FBI.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further question concerning this matter you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edger Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

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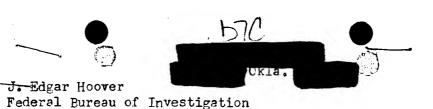
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# FEIGAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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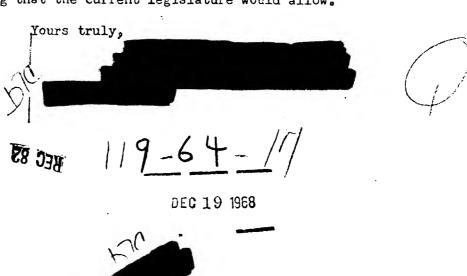


Dear Mr Hoover:

I believe I heard on radio that your office had been asked by a legislator to investigate the grounds on which the National Rifle Association claims tax exemption.

If you have not already done so, I suggest that you begin with Senator Tydings. That senator declared on national television—presumably a non-privileged utterance— that this organization is supported by the Arms manufactubers and he at least hinted that it had no right to claim tax exemption.

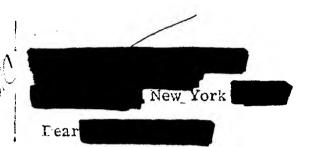
I know members of this association who unhesitatingly describe it as a "lobby." A local man guessed that Senator Monroney perhaps lost 100,000 votes in Oklahoma merely for his sponsoring to some extent the "fly-speck" Act which is the only thing that the current legislature would allow.



# 119-64-

December 17, 1968





Thank you for your letter of December 7th, with enclosure. It was kind of you to give me the benefit of your observations.

For your information, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation.

The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office. I can assure you that the FBI will continue to discharge its responsibilities with the same high degree of impartiality, thoroughness, and dispatch which have characterized our investigations in the past.

Sincerely yours.

J. Edgar Frouver

1 - Buffalo - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bufiles show one prior outgoing to correspondent in 1954 regarding a firearms identification matter. He is otherwise not identifiable in Bufiles. During our investigation of this matter, we

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NOTE continued Page Two.

July Johnson

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NOTE continued: interviewed three officials of National Rifle Association (NRA) and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10th, the Department advised that an official of NRA registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued.

December 7, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This morning, I picked up my copy of the Rochester DEMOCRAT Miss Ga CHRONICLE and glanced at the front page. As it is the "Day of Infamy", it was fully expected to find bold type pertaining to Pearl Harbor.

However, what I saw on the front page reaffirmed what the day is, and doubled it in spades...FBI Investigates NRA.

This letter is not being written as a slam against your organization, as I have a terrific amount of respect for the FBI, and from time to time,

It is realized that you are in the middle on this action involving NRA. It is obvious that there are people in high position that wish to see NRA die a quick death, in order to have little opposition to both restrictive firearm laws and total confiscation of all weapons. It is further obvious that some of these same people would back illegal overthrow of our government.

As a member of NRA, I resent this action involved, but realize that it has to be, to eliminate slams and innuendos against MRA. From articles and statements made by you, in the past, I believe that you realize fully what NRA is and what they do and what they have done.

The "nickel and dime" tax angle, from being labelled a possible lobby, is their, the "anti gun" people's, possible weapon against NRA. As a grass roots member of NRA, and thoroughly reading all of the items that they release to the public, it is strictly education of facts and legislative happenings. In New York State, a PRA Hunter Safety Course is the way to a hunting license. This is definitely an education to preserve freedom of our great country in all, respects.

What galls me probably the most is this. Some of the loudest people wanting NRA's hide are members of the largest "lobby" going, although not labelled. They and their organizations have meddled in politics for years. Much of their doings are directly responsible for crime in the streets, riots and murders. They hold billions in TAX FREE properties, and are corporations unto themselves. Some involved would take over government by any means, including screaming at NRA and sneak in where they can to grab what they can, while protective organizations are busy "ghost hunting". You know who I mean. THE CHURCHES! I wonder how many, tomorrow, will mention Pearl Harbor and then Monday, back to work!

The newspapers working over MRA whenever possible are the mouthpieces. Today, in my mail, another little gem came to light. Many papers
carried articles blaming the MYS Motor Vehicle Bureau for selling their
registration lists and are responsible for junk mail. An explanatory
letter, in answer to a letter I wrote, spelled out their involvement.
It directly charged the papers as twisting the facts. I have other letters
stating the same thing...twisting of facts by newspapers to suit their

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whims. Another, very portant one, involved a st ement that the Boy Scouts of America was considering dropping the warvamenship merit badge in their program. This was simply not true!

Written to the Boy Scouts, protesting this action

Another twisted bit. As days pass, the number of misinformation increases. I can see editorials blasting organizations and individuals, but to make NEWS ARTICLES editorials, this is not right, in any sense.

We wonder who is responsible for all this mayhem in the United States. Sir, it is obvious who plays what roles, despite the noisy ghost hunters, shifting blame wherever possible, other than at their doorstep. True, the involvement is numerous, so ALL chips should fall to the respective doorsteps.

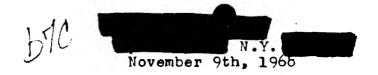
Mr. Hoover, I write this letter as a simple request. In the name of humanity and freedom, please be fair to whatever organization comes under attack or investigation. As in the past, continue to insure that you whole organization is fair and factual, despite political pressures and whims of individuals and money.

If MRA is a lobby, it can be only a lobby insuring freedom and return to sanity and common sense. MRA was the respect of many...the FBI has the respect of many. Are not both of the organizations working for the same roal, although from different positions? Has the FBI ever been called a lobby?

Please continue to just be fair.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours.



#### Fellow Sportsman:

We are in the midst of the hunting seasons and therefore our guns are foremost in our activities... AT THE MOMENT:

In three weeks, the deer sesson will be about done. Our guns will be oiled and returned to storage for next year. Our thoughts will turn to the hustle and bustle of Christmas, snowblowers, overtime at work and just about everything other than the shooting sports.

There are some people who do not forget about our sport! Each and every day it is in their minds. Many of these are the really dedicated of the hobby. Indoor target work, rabbits and fox pursuit in snowy fields, planning of next year's trip, looking to taking their sons on their first hunting are the thoughts.

However, another small, but dedicated group is about! These are the people with thoughts contrary to free use AND ownership of ALL guns. Like the one rotten apple in the barrel, it will spoil the whole barrel. It has to be removed before all is lost.

With apples, it can be spotted easily and quickly removed. However, with people, it takes longer to find and remove the spoilage. There are those of us who have worked long and hard to find these people, provide the factual education to alleviate the myths in their minds. Working for the best of legislation for all, we've managed to work in.

We are a very tired bunch! At times, we wonder whether we are really doing much to help our sport. We feel that we have done our part. We look for people to take over the load and fight! Very few come forward, so renewed dedication is our only answer!

YOU, the nimrod and experienced, can REALLY DO YOUR PART...NOW! You have all heard of the National Rifle Association. Many of you have thought of joining, from time to time, but have not. Some of you may only know of NRA through the daily press AND perhaps in a bad light.

MRA has been behind every gun owner and free citizen for NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS. They have trained shooters in accuracy and in the best of shooting safety. They have provided the best in open competition on ranges. Many of our nation's heroes in fighting for freedom and keeping it have been NRA trained. They have fought for decent legislation at all levels, favorable to ALL citizens. In essence, NRA is a MAJOR part of our great heritage. I think that it is safe to say, and history prove, that this one organization has been foremost in keeping America free.

Five past presidents of our great country have been NRA members. Now, a sixth is about to take office. Richard Nixon is a LIFE MEMBER of NRA. Another great hero can be spawned...with YOUR help.

119-64-18

How can you help? The best of legislation can be REALITY for YOU! The atrongest organization of responsible gun owners, ever, is here, ready to serve you. Your voice will join the loudest chorus ever conceived, for freedom for ALL.

NRA has ONE MILLION MEMBERS, from all walks of life, BUT WE NEED YOU! Your membership insures ONE MORE VOTE for decency and return to sanity in this country. Your thoughts and ideas to this end will join others to insure this reality.

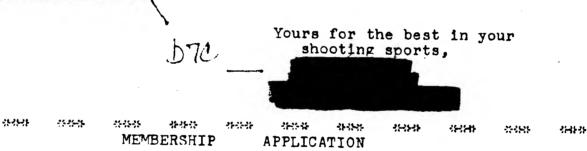
The yearly dues are YOUR insurance policy for that gun of YOURS to stay in YOUR home. Your monthly magazine, "THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN", is terrific and worth the cost of membership alone. How much is YOUR membership? Just \$6 regularly. However, I'm sending in a group of your fellow shooters...at ONLY \$5 per membership.

Drop s hint for Christmas, there is an ideal Or drop s line to NRA, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Or, drop s line or call me and I'll do the paperwork. Any NRA member will also help you.

1969 is the year of decision for us and whether we will be ALLOWED to OWN our guns. Join with Richard Nixon as your hunting partner and EACH AND EVERY responsible gun owner as YOUR friend.

Call me NOW: or drop a line. Sign up NOW and I'll hit you for the \$5 after January 1st should you wish...or any time inbetween.

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I hereby sooly for membership in the National Rifle Association, including a subscription to "THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN". I certify that I am a citizen of good repute of the United States of America; that I am not a member of any organization or group having as its purpose or one of its purposes the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the United States or any of the political subdivisions; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence; and that, if admitted to membership, I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and good citizenship.

		(Signsture)		
Name	Ad	Address		
City	State	Zip	Age	

Make checks payable to NRA.

119-64-19

December 19, 1963

Honorable Earle Cabell House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

1968, enclosing a Dallas, Texas, concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

You may also wish to advise your constituents that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not determine whether prosecutive action will be undertaken in any situation. Such decisions concerning violations of Federal law are within the province of the Attorney General. Voluminous data regarding riots and rioters have been furnished to the Attorney General.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituents and I am returning the constituents' letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

CTG/17k) SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Honorable Earle Cabell

#### Description of enclosures:

- (1) Statement of Director before the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68.
- (2) Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism."
- (3) Message from Director to all Law Enforcement Officials, May, 1968.

#### NOTE

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituents. We have had cordial relations with Congressman Cabell in the past.

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1121 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING PHONE: 225-2231

> ROOM 716 - 1114 COMMERCE PHONE: RI 9-3571

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 13, 1968

Mr. Conrad\_

Director Office of Congressional Liaison Federal Bureau of Investigation The Department of Justice Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a letter received in my office from in which they are protesting the FBI's investigation of the National Rifle Association.

I would greatly appreciate your comments on this matter so that I might know how to respond to their communication.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

Sincerely,

EARLE CABELL, M. C.

EC:jb **Enclosure** 

DEC **76** 1988

SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS SUBCOMMITTEE:

MANNED SPACE FLIGHT

HUGH G. HART, JR. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MRS. JENNIE GRINDBERG

## DEC 111968

Dallas, Texas
December 6, 1968

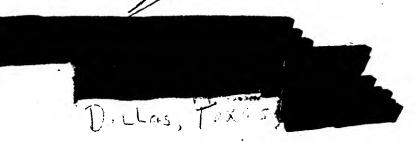
Hon. Earle Cabell United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Note Rife ansa

I must strongly protest the FBI investigation of the NRA. It is an insult to the organization and to the 1,063,355 members. When you investigate the NRA, you investigate me.

Let's be constructive. Let's get some effective legislation through. Let's investigate, and not whitewash the riots, rioters and especially the instigators of the riots. Let the law abiding citizens live in peace.



119-64-19

ENCLOSURE

December 20, 1963

Honorable Charles H. Percy United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Senator:

Your communication of December 15, 1968 enclosing a copy of a letter from , dated December 10, 1968, has been received.

I received letter previously and have replied thereto. There is enclosed for your information a copy of my letter to dated December 13, 1968.

In accordance with your request, I am returning the copy of letter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)

EX:103 CTG:DC (4)
REC- 51 119-64

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See note page 2

MAILED 21 DEC 20 1968 COMM-FBI

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MAII. RO: M TOBET FED UNIT

Honorable Charles H. Percy

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with Previous correspondence with Senator Percy has been cordial.

### Mnited States Senate

December 15, 1968

Federal Bureau of Investigation

for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report . thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

Charles H. Percy/bb

MU1-12

## FED LL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

☐ Deletions were made pursu release to you.	ant to the exemptions indicated belo	ow with no segregable material available for
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☐ Documents originated with for review and direct respons	another Government agency(ies). The se to you.	hese documents were referred to that agency(ies)
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119-64-21

Honorable William L. Scott House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

Your communication of December 13, 1968, enclosing a letter from concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

With respect to the other inquiries, I can tell you the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being strictly an investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we have furnished the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituent and, in addition, I am returning the constituent's letter pursuant to your request.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

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Enclosures (4)

CTG: ban (4)

Honorable William L. Scott Description of Enclosures: Statement of Director before the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68. Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism." (3) Turbulence on the Campus. NOTE: This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. We have had cordial relations with Congressman Scott in the past.

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Bashington, P.C.

<u>December 13</u> 196 8

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover Director, FBI Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration.

Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Yours truly.

Millian L. Bett

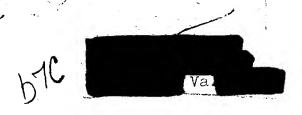
William L. Scott, M. C. 8th district, Virginia

What 12-16 LOT ENCLOSURE

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119-64216 14 DEC 16:563

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Dear Mr. Scott,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re election to Congress from this district.

I read in the news today that the FBI is investigating the National Rifle Association at the request of our so called Justice Dept. at the taxpayers expense, of course. I wonder if you have any information concerning the basis for this investigation?

In my opinion there are hundreds of subversive organizations in this country that seriously warrant a through investigation other than the N.R.A.

Has the Justice Dept. instigated any investigations of the Black Panthers, Blackstone Rangers, Black United front, American Civil Libertys Union or any of the organizations disrupting our colleges today? If not, can Congress direct the FBI to do this?

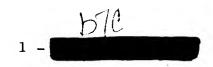
I haven't heard of any NRA members murdering policemen or staging battlefield type street demonstrations.

I only hope and pray that the Mixon administration, with the help of good Congressmen like yourself, can restore Americanism to this country.

119-64 21

Yours truly,

reproduced to comprise.



December 23, 1968

119-64-22

Honorable Joel T. Broyhill House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

1

Your letter of December 19, 1968, enclosing a letter from concerning our investigation of the National Rille Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Cierk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

In accordance with your request, I am returning Mr. Barthelow's letter.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

CTG:DC
(4)

FAREST TE

CONTEST

See note page 2

Honorable Joel T. Broyhill

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. Our relations with Congressman Broyhill have been generally satisfactory.

T. BROYHILL

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA, ARLINGTON, FALLS CHURCH, FAIRFAX CITY AND PART OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Congress of the United States

COMMITTEES: Ways and Means District of Columbia

HOMER LEE KROUT

### House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

December 19, 1968

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The attached communication, or pertinent extracts thereof, is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and forward me the necessary information for reply returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Any assistance you can properly render toward accomplishing the objective stated in the enclosure will be appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

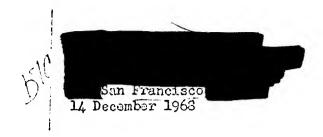
Sincerely,

Joel T. Broyhill, M. C.

119-64-22

والمداحة والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية والمتعادية وا

JTB/ck



Honorable Joel T. Broyhill U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

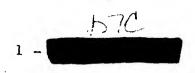
Sir

How is it that the Faderal Eureau of Investigation, an agency of the federal government, is allowed to harass the National Rifle Association with its intimidating investigations? The only "crime" which the NRA stands accused of is that it has the courage to defend the basic rights of Americans.

It appears highly contradictory to require a person to give up his time, fighting for rights in Southeast Asia, when these same rights are becoming non-existent in our own country.

Sincerely





December 24, 1968

mes 119-64 23

Honorable James C. Cleveland House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of December 20, 1968 enclosing a copy of a letter from the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

Sincerely yours,

J. Poper Hoover

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See note page 2

115

7.1

A MAIL BY THE TELETYPE UNIT

Honorable James C. Cleveland

#### NOTE:

This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68, advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. Bureau indices contain no derogatory information identifiable with the constituent. Our relations with Congressman Cleveland are limited but have been generally satisfactory.

JAMES C. CLEVELAND 20 DIST., NEW HAMPSHIRE

> COMMITTEES: PUBLIC WORKS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONGRESS

HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

Washington Office: 1112 Longworth House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515 Tel.: 225–5206

DISTRICT OFFICES:
316 FEDERAL BUILDING
55 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301
Tel.: 224-4187

15½ MAIN STREET
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03060
TEL.: 883-4525

December 20, 1968

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Dureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Hr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from a constituent who is concerned about the F.3.I.'s investigation of the National Rifle Association.

Any assistance you could give me in answering my constituent's inquiry would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

James C. Cleveland, M.C.

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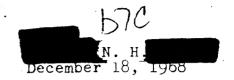
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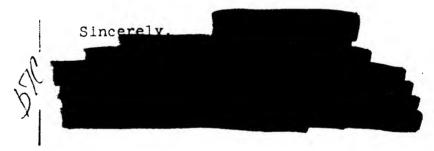


The Honorable James Cleveland 1112 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleveland:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched an investigation of the National Rifle Association. This inquiry reportedly is being made at the request of an unidentified member of Congress. As I have been a member of the National Rifle Association for the past twenty years, I would appreciate learning why such an inquiry.

The National Rifle Association has, in the past, opposed unwarranted and unreasonable laws pertaining to firearms; however, no subversive activity has ever come to my attention. Unfortunately, many people feel that investigation by a police authority, particularly the F.B.I., is indicative of wrong-doing; therefore, as both a member of the N.R.A. and citizen of the United States, I question the legitimacy of this inquiry.



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December 13, 1968

119-64-24

Honorable James Harvey House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of December 9, 1968, enclosing a copy of excerpts from a constituent's letter concerning our investigation of the National Rifle Association has been received.

The FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions concerning this matter, you may desire to contact that office relative thereto.

With respect to the other inquiries, I can tell you the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being strictly an investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we have furnished the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

I am enclosing some material which you may wish to send to your constituent.

MAILED 20 DEC 1 3 1966 COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours, J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

CTG: bap

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

ANROM SECTIPE UNIT

Honorable James Harvey Description of Enclosures: Testimony of Director before House Subcommittee on Appropriations 2/3/68. Statement of Director before the National Commission on (2) the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 9/18/68. Message from Director entitled "An Analysis of the (3) New Left: A Gospel of Nihilism." (4) Turbulence on The Campus. NOTE: This is the case which recently received considerable press coverage. The Department requested investigation to determine whether the National Rifle Association (NRA) should have registered as a lobbyist in connection with gun registration legislation. We interviewed three officials of NRA and furnished the Department with an investigative report. The Department on 12/10/68 advised that the NRA registered on 12/10/68 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist; and requested that any further investigation by this Bureau be discontinued. The constituent is not identified in the Congressman's correspondence. Harvey is on the Special Correspondent's List.

CK/X

JAMES HARVEY

410 CANNON OFFICE BUILDING TELEPHONE: 225-2806

COMMITTEE: INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 9, 1968

DISTRICT OFFICES:

10-11 Jefferson-Baum Court <sup>)</sup> Saginaw, Michigan 755-6565

409 FORT PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 982-0591

Miss 81

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Department of Justice Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

National Riple Assent 38

Enclosed you will find a copy of excerpts from a recent letter from a constituent in which an inquiry is made relative to FBI investigations. I would appreciate any comments you care to make and any information you can provide.

 $$\operatorname{\textbf{Thank}}$$  you for your assistance and cooperation. With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

JAMES HARVEY, M. C.

JH/dl

REC-63

119-64 20

12 DEC <u>11 1968</u>

CORRESPONDENCE

1- 32

July 12/12/6 1 22 2

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## Dec. 6, 1968

Dear Rep James Harvey,

I just heard on the news, the F. B. I is requested by an Idenlefied congressman to investigate the National Rifle association. I am teying to serve my country by demonding that you please do something about getting the I.B. I. to investigate the "Black Panthees."

I.D. S. etc. etc. etc. Communish argungatione led by prafferiend leaders, lete get on the ball and passesome legislation that will make a few wrong though Throng I also

ENTOT OSTIRE 119 - 6424

#### TRUE COPY

Dec. 6, 1968

Dear Rep James Harvey,

I just heard on the news, the F. B. I. is requested by an unidentified congressman to investigate the National Rifle Association. I am trying to serve my country by demanding that you please do some thing about getting the F.B.I. to investigate the "Black Panthers" S.D.S. etc. etc. etc. Communist organizations led by proffesional leaders, lets get on the ball and pass some legislation that will make a few wrong things "Wrong" I also

TRUE COPY

THE IN JE

December 26, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D.C. meH. 9-1

Dear Sir:

After receiving your reply to my letter of December 14, 1968, I concluded that it had been addressed to the wrong person and I have redirected my questions to Mr. Fred Vinson, Jr.

Thank you for your consideration in answering so promptly. I believe that if all our government agencies were run as ably as the Federal Bureau of Investigation we would have fewer problems and a more stable and respected government.

FS. Dam allaching a copy of the Letter to
This Denson. There is no intention to cause
any eminerasmical to your

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CORRESTONDENCE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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	Information pertained only to a third party request is listed in the title only.	with	no reference to t	ne subject of your request or the subject of your		
<b>₽</b>	Documents originated with another Governor for review and direct response to you.	nment	agency(ies). Th	ese documents were referred to that agency(ies)		
Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).						
	Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.					
	Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of					
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Tolson Casper Trotter \_ Tele. Room -Holmes \_ Gandy

UPI-85

(GUNS) WASHINGTON -- THE FBI IS INVESTIGATING THE STATUS OF RIFLE ASSOCIATION, THE POWERFUL ANTIGUN CONTROL ORGAN RIFLE ASSOCAATION, THE POWERFUL ANTIGUN CONTROL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS NEVER REGISTERED AS A DOMESTIC LOBBY BECAUSE IT CONTENDS IT IS NOT A

A SPOKESMAN SAID THE FBI WAS ASKED TO INVESTIGATE NRA AT THE REQUE OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAD NO COMMENT, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THAT DOMESTIC LOBBYISTS TO REGISTER WITH THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR NRA SAID THE QUESTION OF REGISTRATION WOULD BE NRA AT THE REQUEST

REVIEWED SOON BY THE ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD.

A PUBLISHED REPORT TODAY SAID THE FBI INVESTIGATION WAS SPARKED BY COMPLAINTS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

SEN. THOMAS D. DODD. D-CONN., LONG TIME PROPONENT OF STRONG GUI CONTROLS, FORMALLY REQUESTED A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION DURING SENATE DÉBATE ON THE GUN CONTROL BILL LAST SEPT. 12. HE SAID THE NRA'S TAX EXEMPT STATUS SHOULD BE LISTED AND THE LONG TIME PROPONENT OF STRONG GUN

ASSOCIATION SHOULD BE FORCED TO REGISTER AS A LOBBY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SENATOR SAID TODAY, HOWEVER, HE HAD NEVER ANY REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OR ANY OF HAD NEVER MADE ITS AGENTS.

12/6--EG237PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



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wo FBI agents. The agents, who conducted interviews at the NRA headquarters at 1900 Rhode Island ave, nw., said they were there under Justice Department orders as the result of a complaint by an unidentified member of Congress, officials said.

The National Rifle Associa

ion is under Justice Depart-

ment investigation as a pussible violator of the Federal

NRA officials insisting that the lobbying law didn't apply to its efforts a since grace : trol legislation on Labolt of apportuned and four groups, |confirmed yesterday that they were virited a month ago by

Regulation of Lobbyung Act.

Charges that the NRA has engaged in uncegistered tobbying have been made throughout Congressional hearings on gun-control legislation.

Chief critics of the NRA have included Sen. Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.) and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Aides to both Senators said they did not know the source of the specific complaint under investigation.

It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a year in prison and \$5000 fine, to engage "for pay" influencing legislation without registering with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and filing regular reports.

The FBI would not say whether it had turned up any evidence of such activity.

NRA officials frequently testify at gun-centrol hearings but they contend that they do so only to "present the views of members." They also maintain the legal right to "inform" the membership of one million of the status of proposed laws affecting their in-

The Washington Post Times Herald	A
The Washington Daily N	ews

The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_ The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_

Daily News (New York) \_\_\_

Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_ New York Post

The New York Times \_

The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_ The Daily World\_

The New Leader \_

The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_ The National Observer \_

People's World \_

Examiner (Washington) \_

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January 7, 1969

Honorable Sam Steiger House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

I have received your communication of January 3rd enclosing a copy of a letter from Phoenix. Arizona.

With respect to your constituent's comment, you may wish to advise him that the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office.

You may also wish to inform that the FBI has conducted a considerable amount of investigation regarding the subversive movement which threatens our country today. Being a strictly investigative agency of the Department of Justice, we furnish the results of our inquiries to the Attorney General for his opinion with respect to prosecution in these matters.

Sincerely yours,

1 - Phoenix - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of Congressman Steiger (R-Arizona) was elected to Congress in November, 1966, and we have enjoyed very limited, but cordial relations with him. During our investigation of this matter, we interviewed three officials of National Rifle Association (NRA) and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10th, the Department advised that an official of NRA registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobby ist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by

the Bureau be discontinued.

FMG:mrm (6)

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S. WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison FBI Justice

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ENCLOSIT

Very respectfully,

Sam Steiger, M. C. Arizona - 3 126 Cannon HOB

M.C., District.

119-64-21

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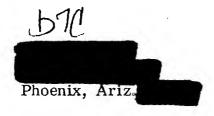


Mr. Tavel
Mr. Tretter
Tele, Room

Miss Gandy.....

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(Dec 26 1968)



Dear Representative Steiger:

I will start this letter by saying that I am a law abiding American citizen, who is washed, has a haircut and works every day to feed and support my family.

I was shocked Sir, to read in Saturday's Ariz. Republic that the National Rifle Ass. is being investigated by the F.B.I. It is my opinion that when we bring patriotic, loyal American organizations such as this one under investigation, our country is in serious trouble.

It would make more sense to me to investigate such organizations as A. D. A., S. D. S., and some of the other militants who make no secret of their intentions to rearrange our country by violence.

I will conclude this letter by saying that I supported and voted for you during the election, and would sincerely appreciate any efforts on your behalf to bring this unreasonable investigation to a quick end.

Respectfully Yours

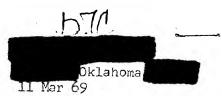
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Dear Représentation et leigen: I will start this letter by saying that I am a law whiling Umerican citizen, who is washed, has a however and works werey day to ful and support my family.

I was should she, to read in Saturdays Ariz. Republic that the Mational Right Coc. is being investigated by the F. B.I. It is my opinion that when we bring patriotic , doyal American organization such as this one under investigation, our country in in serious trouble. It would make more sense to me to innestige such organizations as A.D.A., S.D.S., and some of the other militants who make me sucret of their intentions to rearrange our country by michanic. I will conclude this letter by raying that I supported and voted for you during the election, and would sincerely appreciate any efforts on your to a quick end. Respectfully yours 21 199

MY.



The Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, P.C.

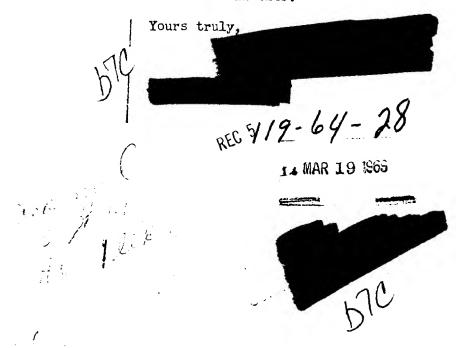
Dear Mr Hoover:

I was just looking at a clipping I took from a newspaper some time ago to the effect that the Quantico Marines complain that they are compelled to serve as markers at rifle ranges on their off-days whether they want to or not.

Is that a consequence of the National Rifle Association's lobbying activity?

I have not seen in The "ew York Times or other newspaper any report ,interim or otherwise, of your investigation into the question of whether the National Rifle Association is a lobby or notm If it is, it ought to be registered as such. Further it should lose its tax-exempt status.

There is to be a general overhaul of the tax-exempt status of Foundations and I hope the National Rifle Association will be included in this.



April 8, 1969

119-64-29

Honorable Jacob K. Javits United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Internal Revenue Service by letter of April 2nd referred to us your communication enclosing a letter from and it was received on April 4th.

With respect to your constituent's inquiries, you may wish to advise her that the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., the then Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice.

I am returning the enclosure as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

NOTE: Bufiles disclose we have enjoyed cordial correspondence with Senator Javits but contain no information identifiable with

During our investigation of National Rifle Association (NRA) we interviewed three officials and furnished the Department with an investigative report. On December 10, 1968, the Department advised that an official of NRA, registered on that date with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued. LMG:rk (4) /

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#### Mniled States Senate

#### Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison Internal Revenue Service

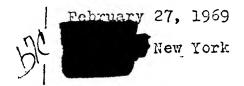
for such consideration as the communication herewith submitted may warrant, and <u>for a report</u> thereon, <u>in duplicate</u> to accompany <u>return of inclosure</u>.

By direction of

Jacob K. Javits, U. S. S.

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Senator Jacob Javits Senate Office Building Washington, D.C.

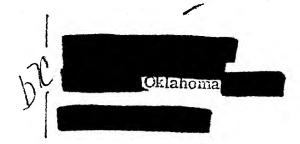
Sir:

I read, very happily, several weeks ago that the F.B.I. intended to investigate the lobbying activities of the National Rifle Association. Is the investigation continuing, or has someone managed to turn it off? Or, hopefully, has it finally been decided that the N.R.A. is now, and has been for more than thirty years, a lobby?

I, as a Republican, am pleased with your basic scepticism of the Nixon Administration. I think you reflect the thinking of many Republicans. I admire you for being willing to stand up and say what many seemed to be afraid to say.



119-64-29



In reply to your letter of March 11th, I cannot comment relative to the work of the Marines at Quantico, Virginia. I am, however, referring a copy of your letter to the Secretary, Department of Defense, Washington, D. C., for any assistance he may be able to afford you.

As I advised you on December 16, 1968, the FBI, at the request of Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., the then Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, conducted a limited investigation to determine if the National Rifle Association should have registered with the Clerk of the House of Representatives as a lobbyist in connection with gun control legislation. The results of our investigation have been furnished to the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, and you may wish to contact that office.

MAILED 22 MAR 1 8 1969 COMM-FBI

Contact

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bufiles disclose we wrote correspondent on 12/16/68 in response to his letter concerning the activities of the National Rifle Association, its tax exempt status and we advised him as above. During our investigation of the National Rifle Association (NRA) we interviewed three officials and furnished the Department our investigative report. On 12/10/68, the Department advised an official of NRA registered, on that date, with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Department requested that any further investigation by the Bureau be discontinued. Copy of correspondent's letter furnished to the Secretary of Defense by form referral, same date.

ALA:llk (3)

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

P. U. Box #1525 Pittsburgh, Pa.

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James 21, 1936

Special Agent in Charge Fashington, D. C.

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orling at this office on James; at the college of the writer.

which had in its possession but will springistic Rifles. As calibre, and ton 30.06 Springistic rifles, which had been lent to the sinh by the ERA of the V. R. Osvorosent. Early year the club paid a \$10 fee to kin ERA in Mechington, and it was necessary for the game to be insured by the ERA of this latest the Lorent building Pittsburgh. Re. . So this bond was

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About two years and the Consequent salled in these game and a short-to revaled that one 50.06 hitle was signing.
This was supported and salibre 30.06 highlightid, motel of 1903.
The rest stated that he had lent the gas to a man to go over manage. Letter in sale the man had gone to California and they would have to upit satisfue to managed. Laber he stated his brother-in-law stated he could not social. And its admitted the brother-in-law, whose region he could not social. And its admitted having had the rifle but stated he lest it to manifer man who had died, and he die not know above the gam had gone.

reported the matter to this africe as a possible that of economics of Government property. He exhibited a latter from the Siene Fella Industry Sumpany dated Siene Fella Industry Sumpany dated that the Government claim of \$120, as some more to us paid by January 30, 1988.

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stated that the price of the rifle is approximately \$54.00, and that the rest of the \$120.38 is for other things that were missing on which there is no kick by the club.

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instituted to assertain the facts at the EEA at Fashington, S. C., after which the case would be prosented to the United States at torney for his opinion as to whather the taking of the gun by resumted to a theft of Government property, after which his advice would be fellowed.

It is requested that the Tashington Field Office make an appropriate chack at the RRA to execute the Circumstances of the leading of these game to the Carlo Club and to accordain if the title to said game recained in the name of the United Status Government.

YOUR TRUNK YOUR A.

e. J. Vergelber Special agent in Charge

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# BEST COPY AVAILABLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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*	stant rifle achisetts. Ar	Rifle Club. Threere received at 27, 1947.	t springfield ith other squi se other rifle the Springfiel	rifle, 30 callbre, ment to the service which were insued directly, Springfie	edel 190
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	by the Glenn	CCOSMIC TOT BEFORE	the D S Co	# / A S   Mark   Mark	

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issued by his office, is received from the Ordnance Department, U.S. Army, and that it remains the property of the U.S. Toverwent unless it is sold, and his records failed to show that instant rifle was sold or returned. His records further indicated that one of the Pennsylvania Rifle

63101

At the office of the Mational Rifle Association. In Secretary, was interviewed and stated that the Fennsylvania Rifle Club is an affiliated club of the national Rifle Association, for which affiliation a \$10.00 a smual charter fee is paid. Mr. Lister stated that clubs so affiliated with the N.R.A. are afforded the oppositualty of drawing pertain Government property from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, but that this property does not in any way belong to the Mational Rifle Association, and insofar as he knows, remains Government property unless sold by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# BEST COPY AVAILABLE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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the min to a sen for the purpose of deer hunting, stated that a sen for the purpose of deer hunting, stated that a ser changed his story and stated that his brother-in-law has the gun; that when contacted trother-in-law whose mane he did not know, the trother-in-law summitted that he had the rifle, but that he had leaned it to another sen who had since alied, and that did not know the present whereabouts of the gun.

It should be noted that this matter had not been called to the attention of suthorities for more than two years, and that it was not until the Glenn Falls Indemnity Company, who exparently paid the loss on this rifle to the United States Covernment, wrote to the Rifle Glub at for reimbursement that he submitted the facts of this case to this Arean on the possibility of a thaft or embessionent of Government property.

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At the time this report was made to the Pittsburgh Office is letter was directed to the Vashington Field Division embodying the facts as set out above with request that the Mashington Field Division make an appropriate check at the Mational Rifle Association to masses the Ciferences of the lain of these guis to the Eifle Club, and to determine if title to the maid guas formatted in the name of the United States Government.

The Washington Field Division covered the lead suggested, by: the letter directed to it as is reflected in the report of reference.

In his Inspection Report dated March 7, 1936, Agent discussed the facts in this case with Assistant United States Attorney George Mashank, who declined presecution for the reason that the facts did not indicate a criminal intent, inascach as there was no evidence of any theft; and in view of the fact that the United States Covernment was indemnified by the Glenn Falls Indemnity Company on a bond for that purpose there was no loss to the Government and accordingly, this case is being closed.

CLOSED

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believed it possible that some inquiry might be made at a later date concerning the drill.

AT PROVO. UTAE.

Deputy Exeriff Christenson was interviewed at the Cheriff's Coffice, Proto, Utah on January 24, 1938 and informed Agent that he, together with Deputy Exeriff welt Current, had conducted an exhaustive investigation pertaining to the theft of the instant drill and had developed no suspects. On January 25 Deputy Cheriff wait Durrent was interviewed at Proto, Utah and stated that in the apring they will again commute an investigation pertaining to the theft of the instant drill as they believed at that time whoever had stolen it would use it for prospecting. Deputy Sheriff current promised Agent that in the spring he will again conduct an investigation and he stoted that through his contacts he will know whether or not that drill was ever used for prospecting in that vicin-

It may be noted that letters have been addressed to all Police Departments and Sheriffs' Offices in Utah where second-hand shops are located to notify their Paunshop Datails of the theft of the instant hanner drill. It is believed that in the event the Uninoun Subjects attempt to pays or sell the instant drill, this information will be immediately furnished to the Salt Lake City Field Division.

In view of the fact that there are no leads outstanding, this case is being closed subject to being reopened upon receipt of subsequent information which may lead to the identity and apprehension of the Unknown Subjects in the above-cattled case.

CLOSED

### **BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

52-234

Impoctor

This investigation is delinquest in the Pittsburgh district. It is noted from a review of the initial reports that the end was leased by the second of the and has subsequently begins lest. Store my further investigation is conducted in this matter, it is suggested that the flocks in this case be presented to the United States Attorney for his epinion as to presentates should the facts aliquit be proved type.

The second secon

Sid Untrelacti

This will be done.

Inspection Report Pittsburgh Office Inspector March 7, 1988

**570** 

20-137

(6)

Transmitted.

Investigation continuing

(Number)

(Time)

FBIÝDOJ

NF 174C-529

#### Request of the FBI Laboratory

Per MIOG, Part 1, 174-3.2.5, page 800, postcard furnished to Laboratory for document and latent fingerprint examination.



#### U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. NF 174C-529

Norfolk, Virginia

April 17, 1981

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
THREAT TO BOMB
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA)
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APRIL 2, 1981

On April 8, 1981,
Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President, National
Rifle Association (NRA), Washington, D. C., forwarded a postcard
addressed to that association to the Chief of Police, Virginia
Beach, Virginia.

The postcard was addressed to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036, and was postmarked in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on April 2, 1981. The front of the postcard bore the notation:

"'N. R. A.'
MAN OF THE YEAR
HINCKLEY"

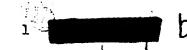
The back of the postcard contained the following printed message:

"CURSE OF USA LOBBIES
I WOULD GIVE \$100
NOW TO HELP EOMB
YOUR OFFICES PLUTOS - WEALTH OF LOBBIES"

This postcard was in turn forwarded to the Norfolk Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation where it was received on April 17, 1981. The postcard has been fowarded to the FBI Laboratory for examination. No additional investigation is being initiated at Norfolk.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1174-> (//





### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

May 21, 1981

From: Director, FBI

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911

LAB. NO.

10421025 D VE

National Rifle Association (NRA)
Washington D. G.
4/2/81

Examination requested by:

Norfolk

Reference:

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Examination requested:

Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

0

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

7 MAY 21 1881

DO NOT THE TOTAL STRATIVE
PAGE OF NATIVE REPORT
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

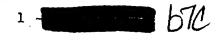


MAIL ROOM

FBI/DOJ

### REPORT of the





### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To:

SAC, Norfolk (1740-529)

May 21, 1931

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911

LAB. NO.

10421025 D VD

Re:UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (MRA) Washington, D. C. 4/2/81

Specimens received

April 20, 1931

Ql Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN..."

Result of examination:

Specimen Q1 was searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Copies have been added to this file for future reference.

No watermarks, indented writing or other identifying characteristics were noted on specimen Q1 which would indicate the immediate source of this item.

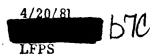
Specimen Q1, which has been photographed, will be returned separately with the results of the latent fingerprint examination.

JBM: pmg (4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RECORDED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 4/27/81

pmg\*

Laboratory Work Sheet



To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

FBI FILE NO. 174-8911-

Re:

UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (NRA)

10421025 D VE

Washington, D. C.

4/2/81

YOUR NO.

LAB. NO.

Examination by:

Examination requested by:

Norfolk

Reference:

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Examination requested: Specimens received:

Document - Fingerprint

April 20, 1981

Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR Q1 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN...."

1.5 - 21 C. 1.7 1. C. Va., 22. 2. 2. 1. 2.

- The value ash a month of the

Results of examination:

Specimen Ql was searched through the Anonymous Letter File without effecting an identification. Copies have been added to this file for future reference.

No watermarks, indented writing or other identifying characteristics were noted on specimen Ql which would indicate the imediate sourace of this item.

Specimen Q1, which has been photographed, will be returned separately with the results of the latent fingerprint examination.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

	Page(s) withheld entirely at the explain this deletion.	is location in the file. One or n	nore of the following statements, where indicated,
<b>6</b>	Deletions were made pursuant release to you.	to the exemptions indicated belo	ow with no segregable material available for
	Section 552	•	Section 552a
	□ (b)(1)	□ (b)(7)(A)	□ (d)(5)
	□ (b)(2) ·	□ (b)(7)(B)	□ (j)(2)
	□ (b)(3)	□ (b)(7)(C)	□ (k)(1)
		□ <b>(</b> b)(7)(D)	$\square$ (k)(2)
		□ <b>(</b> b)(7)(E)	$\square$ (k)(3)
		□ (b)(7)(F)	$\square$ (k)(4)
	□ (b)(4)	□ (b)(8)	□ (k)(5)
	(b)(5)	· □ (b)(9)	□ (k)(6)
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2	disposition at a later date.  Pages were not considered for	release as they are duplicative	of 174-HQ-8911-1(fas. 1+2) irtel dated 4-17-81
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<b>e</b>	The following number is to be u	sed for reference regarding thes	e pages:
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(Attn: FBI Laboratory)	_
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Forfolk File No. 174C-529	_
File Fo.	
Rai UNSUB; Threat to Bomb	
Nation   Rifle Association	
Washington, D. C.	•
4/2/81	

Anonymous postcard containing bomb threat

CONTENTS: LAB WORKSHIET ITEMS

DO NOT STAMP OR HANDLE AS ENCLOSURE

E V I STEAL BURE WASH D.C. T. Z.

N C E

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a.I

#71

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NRA"

MAN OF THE YEAR

HINCRLEY

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN.
1600
RHODE ISLAND AUE
NW
WASHINGTON
DC. 20036

1042/025 DVEQI

(NRSE OF USA LOBBIES INCOLD GIVE \$100-NOW TO HELP BOIMD YOUR OFFICES-PLUTUS WEALTH OF Lobbies

104/2/025 ->

VE





### RECORDED UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 4/27/81

pmg\*

Laboratory Work Sheet

LFPS D

Recorded:

5-19-81 7:15 a.m., ljw

Received: 5-18-81

To:

SAC, Norfolk (174C-529)

FBI FILE NO.

174-8911 —

Re:

UNSUB; Threat to Bomb National Rifle Association (NRA) Washington, D. C.

4/2/81

LAB. NO.

YOUR NO. 10421025 D VE

LC#B-99610

Examination by:

Noted By:

570

Examination requested by:

Reference:

Norfolk

Examination requested:

Airtel dated April 17, 1981

Specimens received:

Document - Fingerprint

April 20, 1981

W.

Ql Postcard postmarked "VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. PM 2 APR 1981" addressed to "NATIONAL RIFLE ASSN...."

5/27 No bet pris qual der Nins

Sport greet.

1-cold 6-17-6: il

(12 md)

Examination completed

1:30 PiN

5/2781

Dictated 5 /276 /

Date

Date



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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		(b)(7)(D)	□ (k)(2)
		(b)(7)(E)	□ (k)(3)
		(b)(7)(F)	$\square$ (k)(4)
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(b)(6)			$\square$ (k)(7)
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Pages contain information to the releasability of this	furnished by another information following	Government agency gour consultation w	y(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as ith the other agency(ies).
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	•	UNCLAS	
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r		Date	
· TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI		
FROM:	SAC, WFO (174C-885)	(RUC)	
UNSUB; TH \ NATIONAL WASHINGTO 4/2/81	REAT TO BOMB RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA	7)	
	ReNorfolk airtel date	ed 4/17/81.	
	on 5/7/81. a WFO repr	resentative co	ntacted
National	Rifle Association, was	snington, D.C.	· ·
Virginia.	the subject post card it to the Chief of Po for information only that the NRA receives i	olice. Virgini f	hat he a Beach, urther
	WFO considers this ma	atter RUC.	
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(Number) (Time)

★ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980-305-750/5402



#### LEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIG. JON

Washington, D. C. 20537

#### REPORT

of the

### LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

YOUR FILE NO. 1740-529 FBI FILE NO. 174-8911 LATENT CASE NO.B-99610

June 17, 1981

TO:SAC. Horfolk

UNSUB.;
THELAT TO YOUR
RECATIONAL RIFTH ASSOCIATION (WRA)
WASHINGTON, D.C.
4-2-81

REFERENCE: Airtel 4-17-81 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Norfolk SPECIMENS: (ne postcard, 1/1)

The result of the laboratory examination is being furnished separately.

No latent prints of value were developed on the enchosed specimen.

Enc.

