

# The Stupid Party masses under the leadership of El Stupido Supremo

After a breathtakingly stupid performance on the crime bill in the House of Representatives last week, the Stupid Party was so impressed with itself that it decided to provide an encore for all the world to watch in the Senate. "I think it is a non-issue," said Minority Leader Bob Dole of the unconstitutional assault weapons ban the bill contains. Do you indeed think so, Bob?

While El Stupido Supremo was exposing his cogitations to an astonished nation, the news crept out of Sen. Arlen Specter's office that the Pennsylvania Republican had received no fewer than 3,000 spontaneous calls and letters urging him to oppose the assault guns ban. Pennsylvania is not exactly a hotbed of pick-up trucks with Con-

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federate Flag license plates and gun racks, and not even President Clinton can claim that the National Rifle Association engineered those calls and letters.



**Samuel Francis**

But did the massive grassroots hatred of gun control in his own state move Mr. Specter to oppose the crime bill? Of course not. Even as his own office confirmed his constituents' opposition, he announced his support of the bill.

Nevertheless, while the Republicans decide that the year's most powerful grassroots issue is a non-issue, the gun gestapo is already polishing its boots for yet another goosetep toward more gun control. Guess what, my friends? The assault weapons ban just doesn't go far enough.

On Aug. 10, the day before the House voted on the crime bill the first time, the American Bar Association emerged from one of its conclaves to call for yet more gun control. What the ABA mainly urged was enactment of some of the worst provisions of the gun banners' notorious flagship legislation known as "Brady II."

While most gun control measures at least pretend to keep guns away from criminals, Brady II largely ignores criminals and gun crimes and punishes law-abiding gun owners. It requires national licensing and registration of handguns, regardless of the criminal records of their owners, and slams restrictions on legitimate gun dealers.

Thus, the crusade for even more gun restrictions has already begun. Last week, Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen dismissed the usefulness of the assault weapons ban in the current bill. Assault guns, he wrote, "are

not what makes us stay home at night. Handguns are." The assault guns ban is useful only as a lead-in to a handgun ban. "True," Mr. Cohen acknowledged, "as the National Rifle Association understands, the proposed ban [on assault weapons] is just a beginning. I agree." The great thing about Mr. Cohen is that he always lets the real but hidden agenda out of the liberal bag.

Then there was the column by Osha Gray Davidson in The New York Times a few days after the House passed the crime bill. Mr. Davidson, the author of a forthcoming book on the NRA, wrote to instruct us on all the mythologies that surround guns. Like what mythologies exactly? Well, like the myth that banning assault weapons will reduce crime.

"Such a ban," writes the pro-gun-control Mr. Davidson, "would not make our streets safer, and it would not reduce gun violence." That, of course, is precisely what opponents

of the gun ban said during the debate on it.

Mr. Davidson, who seems to know when it's wise to keep his trap shut, refrains from calling for total gun prohibition, but he does call for requiring all gun owners to "train

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in use and safety and to prove annually that they retain the skills necessary for this most dangerous of all martial arts" — a requirement that presupposes universal registration of all guns and would eventually

lead to universal confiscation — and he too ends up endorsing "Brady II." That, of course, is the next Great Leap Forward.

But now, with Republicans having rolled over on the assault weapons ban — the most extreme gun control measure in American history — with Stupid Party stalwarts like Reps. Henry Hyde and Bob Michel having voted for the ban last spring, with Stupid Party leader Bob Dole declaring this blatant violation of the Constitution a "non-issue," with Mr. Specter and other stupidos declaring their support even as their own constituents scream their opposition, now the floodgates are open.

Now the Republicans themselves have helped remove the need for the gun gestapo to tiptoe its way towards its real goal of total gun prohibition. Those who want to keep their rights and their guns need to remember that in November — because neither party can be relied upon to protect them.