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Each year, those of us who believe in the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms face a series of regulations proposed by anti-gun officials here in Washington who are determined to prohibit or register firearms by bureaucratic decree. Congress has rejected gun control schemes twelve times in the last decade, and I predict will resoundingly defeat any Administration bill this year. Nevertheless, Administration officials are now proposing regulation changes which circumvent this legislative mandate.

The present administration appears to be particularly anti-gun. A quick rundown of the President's 1980 budget proposal illustrates an attitude of strict regulation of private gun ownership.

Last year, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms proposed regulations which would have resulted in the computerization of all firearms records here in Washington. The cost of this project was estimated at \$5 million to \$7 million. Although BATF referred to this as a "centralization plan," it was clear to many of us that this was a backdoor attempt at firearm registration. BATF attempted this scheme through agency regulations because such language automatically becomes law if not withdrawn -- in other words, Congress would not have a chance to vote on the rulings. However, Senator McClure and I, as well as some House members, were able to add restrictive language to the BATF appropriation bill which prevented them from enacting gun registration.

This year, the administration has omitted that restrictive language, and, in addition, has proposed \$8 million in additional funds for the BATF. Without the restrictive language, the additional money could be used to enact new regulations to register firearms. This is a serious attempt by BATF to exceed powers which were conferred by Congress and I intend to see that restrictive language is again added to the appropriations legislation.

The President also deleted funds for the civilian marksmanship training program which provides safety training to gun clubs nationwide, including 17 clubs in Alaska. Although anti-gun forces have tried to cut these funds on the Senate floor for many years, members of the Senate, at my urging, have continued to support this worthwhile undertaking. Now, the administration is trying to phase out the program by refusing to recommend funding. I will do everything I can to restore the funds.

The administration also deleted other legislative language which prevents OSHA from regulating fishing and hunting on private lands and prevents the federal government from mandating steel shot without state approval. Congress passed this restrictive language last year, despite administration opposition, to prevent OSHA and the Department of Interior from harassing hunters.

Of course, the most illustrative example of the anti-hunting attitude is the administration's closing of 56 million acres of Alaskan land to sport hunting by executive order. Again, this was an attempt to bypass Congress.

There is no doubt that those who favor gun control have the right to introduce legislation or support a constitutional amendment but there is nothing in our Constitution which allows anti-gun officials to impose their views on law-abiding citizens by bureaucratic decree. One of my priorities again this Congress will be to insure that these officials do not succeed in impinging on each Alaskan's rights.