

10 California Schemin'

Bad Vibes in the City by the Bay

By Peter Caroline

There's trouble brewing in California. So, you say, what else is new? California is to bad news as the African coast is to hurricanes, a breeding ground. The problem is, when Californians adopt a nutty idea, it tends to spread – remember the 'Sixties?

Last December, members of San Francisco's board of supervisors proposed a law, entitled Proposition H [*Perhaps inspired by Preparation H? – editor*], that would ban the possession of handguns and the sale, manufacture and transfer of all firearms and ammo in the city and county of San Francisco. There will be a referendum on November 8, 2005, and if passed, the law will go into effect on January 1, 2006.

If you live in San Francisco, you would then have 90 days in which to turn in your handguns to the police. Thinking of ignoring the law? If you live in California, your handguns are registered, which means that the authorities would soon thereafter be at your door with a list of guns and a search warrant.

The principal author of this potential mischief is a 29-year-old county supervisor named Chris Daly. In a bizarre city where eccentricity is unremarkable, Mr. Daly has acquired a reputation as a loose cannon. He hit the headlines last year when he shouted obscenities at members of the public who were attending a committee hearing. Daly has publicly admitted that he needs anger management classes. So, Daly's fear and loathing of firearms is understandable. It's a clear case of what psychiatrists call "projection," that is, "I'm so out of control that, if I had a gun, I'd kill people. Therefore, no one else should have a gun, either." Mr. Daly is sick, so he wants us to take his medicine.

At present, San Francisco has more local gun control regulations than any other city in California. If you live in San Francisco, you cannot legally possess a .50 caliber rifle, a "Saturday Night Special" (whatever that is) or an "ultra-compact handgun." When you buy a firearm – any firearm – you must undergo a 10-day waiting period. If you want to swap guns with a buddy or give a gun to a relative, the transfer must go through a state- and federally licensed dealer. Best of all, if you legally own a handgun, your name is on file with the California Department of Justice. Gun shows? They're still legal so far, but you don't want to go to a gun show in San Francisco or, for that matter, anywhere else in California. There are nearly as many uniformed and

plainclothes cops in attendance as there are buyers and sellers. If you buy or sell a gun at one of these shows, you **WILL** be on record as having done so.

With all this gun control, one might think that San Francisco is one of America's safest cities. Wrong. After an extensive computer analysis of the San Francisco Police Department records, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that "Violent criminals who prey on San Francisco's residents and visitors have a better chance of getting away with their crimes than predators in any other large American city." Clearly, gun control has no effect on criminal behavior, other than to make it more safe and profitable.

Why, you might ask, should we give a rat's ass what happens to a few gun owners in one of the most left-leaning cities of the most leftist state on the left coast? First of all, because they are fellow gun owners, and have rights under the Second Amendment, even if they do live in California. Second, because what happens in California tends to metastasize across the country. You don't have to look far to find big-city mayors, like Chicago's Richard Daley, anti-gun state legislatures, as in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, that would happily simplify their state's complex gun laws to two words: No Guns. Period. You say it can't happen in your city or state? A few votes one way or another in your city government or state legislature could severely impact your rights and restrict what guns you could own. In Massachusetts, for example, one man – an attorney general who wants to be governor – has the final say on what brand or model of handgun you can buy in that dreary commonwealth.

According to Chuck Michel, an attorney for the California Rifle and Pistol Association, "California is the source of a lot of the anti-gun strategies we see all over the country. Anti-gun lawyers in San Francisco are using millions of dollars in block grants from leftist foundations to come up with creative legal theories and then market those theories and offer their assistance to anti-gun groups in other states."

Will Proposition H be accepted by San Francisco's voters and become law? Will this insanity spread, Ebola-like, to your neighborhood? There are good people in San Francisco – gun owners who are straight, gay, black, white, Asian and Hispanic – who are speaking out against this outrage. Let us pray that they are successful. 

