

Hold Your Nose and Vote,⁵⁹ or Turn in Your Guns... it's That Simple.

By Peter Caroline

Okay, I agree, it's an odious choice, and thanks to the media and our two-party system, we have to make a difficult decision. But your freedom and your right to keep and bear arms are in the balance. If you stay home, or vote the way your union tells you to, or vote for "change," you will get screwed in a place you will find very uncomfortable. Let me explain why.

The two contenders are Barack Obama and John McCain. McCain has not always, admittedly, been the best friend of America's gun owners.

Obama, on the other hand, has a long, documented and consistent record of being the legitimate gun owner's worst enemy. Let's look at his record: Obama wants to bring back the failed Clinton Gun Ban; Obama has endorsed a complete ban on handgun ownership; Obama supports local gun bans, such as the one recently vacated by the Supreme Court; Obama supports owner licensing and gun registration, and opposes Right to Carry laws; Obama supported a proposal to ban gun stores within five miles of a school or park, and wants to ban the manufacture and sale of inexpensive handguns; Obama supports mandatory micro-stamping, mandatory waiting periods and one-gun-a-month sales restrictions. And that's just a sample. When Obama was campaigning in the "fly-over states," he posed as a friend of hunters, although he would not go so far as to put on hunting garb, a la Kerry. Then, in front of a

group of wealthy California urbanites, he spoke of those same middle-America folk as "clinging to guns and religion" because they were embittered by the economy. Now, Obama's supporters would probably say that he was simply tailoring his message to the specific audience. From a more jaundiced perspective, he's a phony, elitist asshole.

McCain troubles me, but not as much as Obama does. John McCain has pushed through legislation that would make it illegal for an organization such as the NRA to air advertising critical of a candidate prior to an election. He has argued

for legislation to "close the gun-show loophole," whatever that is. On the positive side, McCain has supported gun owners on Emergency Powers (as in the New Orleans gun-seizure outrage) and on firearms industry lawsuit preemption. He was against Ted Kennedy's proposed ammunition ban, against the initial Clinton Gun Ban and subsequent attempts at its renewal, against government-funded "gun buybacks," against the hi-cap magazine import ban, and against mandated

waiting periods.

McCain opposed the Brady

Bill, and has spoken out in favor of hunting in the Mohave National Monument. McCain might not be your first choice as President of the NRA, but as President of the United States, he would be a far more acceptable choice for gun owners than Obama. How about a third-party candidate? Don't even go there. Remember Ross Perot and Ralph Nader? They pulled enough votes to spoil the

...continued on Page 64

