

66: legal affairs -  
gun control

October 19, 1966

Mr. Ernest Henriques  
2814 Grandeur Avenue  
Altadena, California

Dear Mr. Henriques:

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment on this important issue.

I know there is a strong movement toward rigid control of the use and purchase of guns; however, any regulatory measure regarding firearms should be devised only after consultation with law enforcement officials and recognized sportsmen's associations.

First consideration is the Constitutional right of a citizen to own and bear arms.

The CRPA's point that illegal use of and not the ownership of guns should be the subject of legislative controls is a good one. Persons with criminal records or juveniles could well be subject to restrictions.

We need both education and safety laws to reduce gun accidents and the misuse of firearms while at the same time, protecting the traditional right to possess firearms. The legitimate use of arms in hunting, target shooting and gun collecting should not be forgotten, or the right for a person to protect his home and family.

A proposal to aid the hunter-sportsman by my running mate, Robert Finch, has merit. Requirement of mandatory hunter safety instruction prior to issuance of the first California hunting license would be comparable to our present regulations for a young driver.

I reiterate that laws aimed at reducing crime require careful consideration so that government does not infringe on legitimate ownership and use of firearms.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

RR:pw

guns

# Reagan Will Fight for Gun Ownership

## Opposes Firearms Ban, Says Issue Not Involved in Texas Shootings

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ

Times Political Writer

Ronald Reagan, Republican nominee for governor, promised Tuesday to "resist any effort that would take from the American citizen his right to own and possess firearms."

He also said he would oppose any law requiring registration of firearms.

Reagan spoke out on the subject at a news conference in East Los Angeles at which he was asked to comment on the shooting tragedy Monday at the University of Texas and specifically to say whether he felt greater control of firearms was needed.

The GOP candidate said he does not believe firearms control is really involved in the mass Texas shootings.

### Outlines His Position

However, Reagan said, he believes some control of mail-order gun sales would be in order.

The candidate said he could not comment on the relative adequacy of California's laws on firearms control or what changes, if any, he would advocate if elected governor.

The news conference had been called to announce that Dr. Francisco Bravo, businessman, physician and member of the city police commission, was supporting Reagan for governor.

The doctor said Gov. Brown has disregarded his pleas for more involvement of Mexican-Americans in state government. Only insignificant or "crumb" appointments have been forthcoming, Bravo said.

Significant appointments are made only at election time in "an obvious attempt to buy us in his time of need," he said.

"We do not sell cheap."

Bravo said he worked for President Kennedy in the 1960 election and for Brown in 1962. He worked against Brown and for Mayor Samuel W. Yorty in this year's Democratic gubernatorial primary.

In answer to a question, Bravo said Reagan has not done anything

to date to encourage Mexican-American support "but neither has Brown."

"So we can't do any worse," he said.

He said he has not attempted to extract any promises from Reagan in return for his support, and Reagan interjected that "after this election is over, nobody will have to show me any precinct (voting) lists—to get my attention."

"The fact still remains that they've been neglected."