

Opinion Statistics wrong

Well, a new fact has been introduced into the never ending controversy over American gun control laws. The Police Foundation, a non-partisan research group that is funded by the Ford Foundation, has published a report that is the product of two years of research, stating that criminals use high priced pistols just as frequently as they use cheap "Saturday Night Specials."

This is a radical change in a general belief about crime and firearms. An earlier Federal study reached the conclusion that 80% of the guns used in street crimes in major cities were of the cheaper variety. And this fact was readily accepted by the public as well as legislators to be a well founded, credible belief.

A closer look at that statistic shows us that, like much other statistical jargon, the figure is inaccurate. It seems the Federal researchers had arrived on the 80% figure by having their calculations on handguns confiscated by police rather than those actually used in street crime.

If this new report is uniformly accepted by legislators, it will probably mean a change in the whole concept of gun control bills. While many proponents of controlling laws have been arguing on the hope that the "Saturday Night Specials" will take the brunt of any early political action, the new report on gun control, it now appears that there could be a change against all handguns in general.

Current gun laws in Kentucky prohibit the carrying of a concealed deadly weapon. In the new Criminal Code of 1975, the offense was moved from a misdemeanor, from a felony offense as it had been in earlier years.

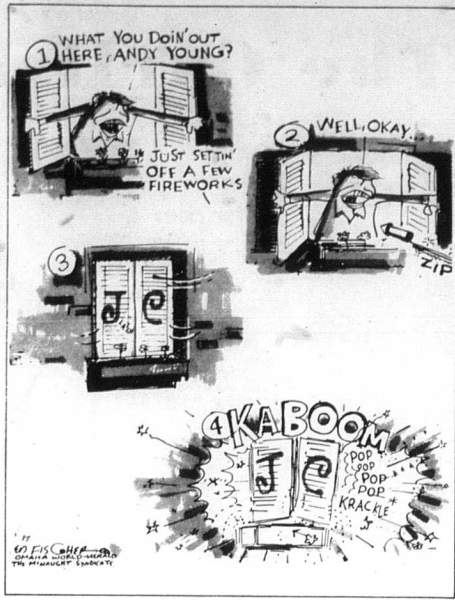
Recently, Massachusetts adopted a law that called for a minimum jail term for possession of a concealed handgun, an interesting and interesting weapon; an interesting set of state values and bureaucratic stances since there is no statute for such a sentence in relation to such an offense as burglary, armed robbery, rape, or even murder in that state.

Almost everyone will agree that there are two types of crime weapons, but virtually no one will agree on how this gun control will be achieved. Most people would accept licensing as entirely reasonable, but this outlet doesn't seem to be a possibility, because since 1931 Federal laws have required that all new weapons should be registered in a national inventory in which liability of a non-licensee would be a form of crime deterrent may be only marginally successful, if it is our observation that strict, registered control of firearms would certainly bring about no utopian society simply by taking guns out of the people's hands. The statement of violent crimes can only come about by changes made within the crime system, and within the society in which they live. As long as people live in a society which is capable of producing such feelings as anger and hatred, and such feelings as a sense of despair and hopelessness, there is no realistic possibility of creating a more utopian society. To create a type of Neo-type gun control laws would be a classic example of treating a symptom rather than the cause of the problem.

Prohibition didn't rid the United States of alcoholism.

Institute sums up the differing sides in the "gun war" like this: "We have a very real and very serious problem. It is a pervasive view of what America is and ought to be. On one side are those who believe in a free society and a model of civilized society, to them hunting is a sport and a part of our heritage. On the other side are those who believe in a society where ownership is a right and control is a duty. On the other side is a group whose views are quite different. Their model is that of the independent frontiersman who takes care of himself and his family with no interference from the State. They are conservative that they cling to America's unique pre-modern tradition of a non-regulated industry in which liberty of a non-licensee would be a form of crime deterrent may be only marginally successful, if it is our observation that strict, registered control of firearms would certainly bring about no utopian society simply by taking guns out of the people's hands. The statement of violent crimes can only come about by changes made within the crime system, and within the society in which they live. As long as people live in a society which is capable of producing such feelings as anger and hatred, and such feelings as a sense of despair and hopelessness, there is no realistic possibility of creating a more utopian society. To create a type of Neo-type gun control laws would be a classic example of treating a symptom rather than the cause of the problem.

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Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT—The candidates for statewide offices are not waiting until after the 1978 legislative session to announce their intentions.

The last time the Republicans won was when Louis Nelson was elected Governor. However, this is the only time that a gubernatorial candidate has gotten into the White House. This is the only time that a Republican has won the U.S. Senatorial race for the Democratic Gov. Edward T. Brummett was pushed as a hard-core Administration candidate for Governor Derby Day of 1962 which is a full month in the time period ahead of the virtual announcement of George Atkins and Thelma Stovall as candidates for governor.

Although Commerce Commissioner Terry McBrayer has not officially announced yet as a candidate for governor, he is considered Gov. Julian Carr's choice to inherit the governor's chair for the Democrats in 1978.

Almost unprecedented in Kentucky politics the accompaniment of Republican Rep. Raymond Overstreet, Liberty, this last week that he is having organization meetings to perfect his campaign machinery for the Republican nomination for governor in 1978.

Overstreet was considered somewhat of a rebel to the regular GOP organization in Kentucky when he disagreed with the leadership more than a year ago.

However, he said last week that it isn't going to be necessary this year for the Republicans to change their strategy to find a winner to oppose the Democrats. He said he didn't want this

Lexington youth receives honors at Tates Creek

John Darwin Jacobs of Lexington, was named Valedictorian of the eighth grade Graduating class of the Blue Grass Baptist School in Lexington. Graduation exercises were conducted on June 3 at the Tates Creek Junior High School.

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Generally speaking, the potential candidates for statewide office announced near the end of the second legislative session of a governor's term to announce for office.

The minor constitutional officers haven't made known their intentions for 1979, but the practice in years past is to play the musical chairs game, switching to another minor constitutional office since the constitution does not permit a person to serve two successive terms in the same office.

For example, Mrs. Stovall related between the offices of Secretary of State and State Treasurer before she ran for lieutenant governor.

Secretary of State Drexel Davis first was elected to the office of Clerk of the Court of Appeals, then treasurer and then Secretary of State.

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WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NEW LAW, OUR OFFICE IS ALSO WORKING ON A PROGRAM TO INVOLVE MORE OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTING SERVICE IN THE WORK OF OUR STATE AND FEDERAL AUDITORS TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, TO MAKE BETTER USE OF TAXPAYER MONEY AND TO MAKE THE LETTER AUDIT COVERAGE FOR THE TAXPAYER.

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Sounding board

The Kentucky Observance of International Women's Year three-day meeting held at Lexington last week succeeded at first like an excellent idea. In reality, it turned out to be a sounding board for activist women who support proposals which the majority of women, Kentucky women included, do not want.

At the top of the list of resolutions passed at this meeting were proposals urging ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), elimination of a nuclear weapons arms race, equal abortion (support of control), and decriminalization of the prostitution and of all private adult behavior between consenting adults (homosexuality).

The 34 women who organized the meeting, beginning in January of this year, were chosen for their back-

Smith achieves perfect standing; work progressing rapidly on dam

Thursday, June 21, 1977
Miss Bea Bromberg, resigned as a member of the teaching staff of the City School and plans to retire. She has taught seven years at the Bethel Grade School, and 31 years in Nicholas County Schools, 26 of those years in the Moorefield Grade School.

Rev. Delbert Butts, a native of Louisville, has accepted the call to become the new pastor of the Carlisle Baptist Church.

Ed Wells, football and basketball coach at Carlisle High School for the past two years has resigned to accept a similar position in Chewarts, Pa.

Samuel Warren Smith, a University of Kentucky engineering student, and son of Everett D. Smith, achieved a perfect A standing during the spring semester.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Hanley Tucker of Bartlesville, a son, William Fields, twin sons, and Mrs. Charles Crump of Millersburg, a daughter, Jo Ann, June 20.—To Mr. and Mrs. James Wade, Buffalo, N.Y., a daughter, June 18.—To Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Duncan, Myers, a daughter, Kathy Lynn, June 19 in Paris.—To Dr. and Mrs. Jack E. Early, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, a daughter, Lela Katherine, June 21.

MARRIED—Miss Betty Carole Waggoner to Mr. Bobby Jackson James, Thursday at the Carlisle Baptist Church.

DIED—William Elliot Tucker, one-day-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hanley Tucker of Bartlesville, last Thursday.

Thursday, July 1, 1977
Work is progressing rapidly on the long bridge over the dam at the water works lake. A wall four feet high and eight inches thick has been poured for a distance of 36 feet of the 200 foot wall. With favorable weather the remainder of the dam will have a four foot wall by the end of the month when, completed, will average approximately 60 feet high.

Each wall will make sufficient tests to determine:

(1) Whether statutory records have been collected, accounted for and distributed to the state.

(2) The amount of "excess fees" if any, of the officials and the amounts otherwise payable to the county and to the state.

(4) Whether the official is complying with all other legal requirements relating to the management of public funds by his office, including but not limited to requirements of the uniform system of accounts adopted under KRS 68.210 and all publication requirements.

Mr. Atkins, State Auditor of Public Accounts, received correspondence in excess of 100 letters in the past few days.

Mercury vapors

Warren R. Fisher

Over the years I've noticed over the years that we of the Carlisle Mercury tend to think of the Carlisle Mercury as a being. In fact it is a room in the basement of the library building—I don't know the name of a newspaper. It has no powers of reason, it can not write an article or editorial. It is just a vehicle for the rendering of opinions of others, whether by the editor, the publisher or a reporter. The fact that it has been and is a good vehicle has been proven over the years, and so are elated that the newspaper was awarded a first, two seconds and a third in contents at the 1969 Annual Summer Kentucky Treas Association meeting.

Having said this, I am proud of the products of the Alabama Press Association, and having judged this newspaper, makes the fact that we received these awards more gratifying. One always likes to be judged by a peer.

June 9, 1977
Dear Warren Fisher
I want to express to you the appreciation of the Alabama Press Association for taking time out of your busy schedule to judge our 1977 entries. Newspaper Contest recently in Lexington, you did a very thorough job. We are very pleased with the concern and attention to detail each judge gave our contest entries. We look forward to reciprocating with KPA in the several years in our future contests.

Sincerely,
Stephen Bradley
Executive Director

If the fault?—
How anyone can draw the conclusion

Reason Enough
"I MARRIED her because she saved my life."
"How did she do that?"
"She told her dad not to shoot."
—Earl Bell, Union County Advocate

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In the Public Trust

By George Atkins, State Auditor of Public Accounts

A Standard Procedure for Auditing which the auditor's report will indicate whether the audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the "Audit Guide of County Fee Officials."

Not only will these new guidelines county officials know exactly what we expect, they will insure you will get the same fair, objective and unbiased auditing, no preference, no favoritism, no "palming" or "padding" of figures.

The taxpayers can more easily understand what is being done and how the books are being kept. More CPAs can effectively participate in the standardized auditing of county fee officials.

The present audit coverage has been insufficient in that millions of dollars of expenditures of taxpayer money are going unaudited each year because we don't have honorable tax auditors to do the job and because many individuals feel that we don't want to cope with the previously public accountants have found auditing government officials is often more difficult than auditing a commercial firm in that there are no many laws and regulations affecting government officials. If we had more honorable tax auditors who would serve as a guideline for both the CPAs and the county and the taxpayer.

With the implementation of this new law, our office is also working on a program to involve more of the public accounting service in the work of our state and federal auditors to eliminate duplication of effort, to make better use of taxpayer money and to make the letter audit coverage for the taxpayer.

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A RARE BOOK IS ONE THAT COMES BACK AFTER YOU LEND IT OUT