

Anti-Tydings Gun Raffle Was Illegal

By Jack Anderson

Some of America's most famous gun manufacturers apparently have violated the law in their campaign to unseat Sen. Joseph Tydings (D-Md.), the champion of gun controls.

The firearms firms donated almost \$3,000 in prizes to a raffle whose advertised purpose was to "Help Defeat Senator Tydings." The Corrupt Practices Act bars corporate gifts "in connection with any (federal) election." The criminal penalties range up to a \$1,000 fine and two years in jail.

The anti-Tydings raffle was promoted by a gun lobby group called FAIR (Firearms and Individual Rights), which mailed advertisements in violation of another federal law. A confidential ruling by the Post Office says the mailing "clearly violates the provisions of the postal lottery law. We are referring the matter to the Chief Postal Inspector for appropriate attention."

Lobbyist's Confession

FAIR is based in North Hollywood, Calif., a long way from Tydings' home state of Maryland. The drawing was held at the Culver City, Calif., Gun Show, a two-day event that had the blessing of Gov. Ronald Reagan and Sen. George Murphy, both California Republicans.

The raffle tickets brought in \$876, which was then hustled

across the country to Maryland to the "Citizens Against Tydings" organization.

FAIR director Frank Barnyak was bluntly honest about the raffle. "The leaders of industry donated these raffle prizes," he said. Asked whether they knew it was for an anti-Tydings raffle, he said: "Sure. We sent them literature."

He reached some of the manufacturers through their California outlets and others at their national headquarters, he said. He mentioned Browning as one firm that "came in with both feet solid."

Browning, which gave a .22 rifle worth \$60 and joined a dealer in contributing a \$435 shotgun, denied any knowledge that the raffle proceeds would be used to defeat Tydings. H. G. Williams, the company's executive vice president, said from Ogden, Utah, that he was "upset" about the incident and that he understood the raffle money would be used to fight gun laws.

Weatherby, Inc., which donated a \$330 Mark V rifle, had a better understanding of the raffle's purpose. Roy Weatherby, the company's bluff president, said he thought Barnyak "may have mentioned" to him that the raffle was to defeat Tydings. Weatherby made no bones about his dislike for the Maryland Senator.

Frank Pachmayr, owner of the Pachmayr Gun Shops, gave a \$50 custom pistol case

and some recoil pads. He conceded after much hedging that he knew the raffle was to fight members of Congress "who are trying to put bad laws through." One of them, he acknowledged, was Tydings.

At least two listed donors, Winchester and Remington, denied making any donations—despite Barnyak's insistence that he received rifles from both companies for the raffle.

A life membership in the National Rifle Association was donated, according to Barnyak, by NRA clubs and not by the national headquarters.

It will be interesting to see whether the Justice Department will be as quick to act against corporations that made donations to oppose a Democrat as it has been to indict corporations that made contributions to help Democrats.

Cutting Off Ears

The FBI has learned from undercover sources that a black extremist group, which calls itself the True Black Family, requires recruits to bring in two white ears as the grisly price of membership.

The FBI has received a report that at least one victim, a 16-year-old white hitchhiker in Michigan, was slain by True Black Family believers. The body was found with no ears.

Footnote: There is speculation that the black extremists, because of their pro-Hanoi sympathies, are retaliating

against the practice of a few GIs who have shorn the ears off Vietcong corpses in Vietnam as ghoulish souvenirs. The FBI's investigation, however, has uncovered no link between the ear collections in Vietnam and Michigan.

Nixon Settles Ears

President Nixon had to step in personally to settle a feud between the Treasury's Customs Bureau and Justice's Narcotics Bureau over which agency should chase drug smugglers.

Sometimes the two agencies seemed to spend more time squabbling over narcotics than hunting for the smugglers. Meanwhile, the drug menace has grown alarmingly in the United States.

The President issued a directive giving the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, as it is known formally, the primary jurisdiction over narcotics.

"A difference of opinion has existed between the Justice and Treasury Departments as to the responsibility for dealing with the international traffic in narcotics," said the private directive.

"BNDD should be designated the agency to control the narcotics area. Customs should support BNDD's efforts to reduce and eliminate the flow of narcotics into the United States, and its intelligence network should be used to assist in the over-all effort."

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