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THE UNITED STATES AND THE GUN ISSUE

The NRA Blacklist : TEXT

Documents on the recent revelation of an NRA blacklist i.e. a list of those who oppose the NRA. New York Times columnist Bob Herbert uncovered the news in October.

A pro gun-control retaliation[1] was soon organized.

The N.R.A. Is Naming Names
by Bob Herbert
Monday, October 13, 2003
New York Times

The National Rifle Association doesn't call it an enemies list, but deep in the recesses of the organization's Web site is a long, long compilation of the names of groups and individuals that the N.R.A. considers unfriendly.

I'm happy to report that I'm on the list, but my name is truly one among very many. The A.F.L.-C.I.O[2]. is there, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Children's Defense Fund and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs are there. The United States Catholic Conference, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Y.W.C.A. of the U.S.A. are all there. Among the celebrities on the list are Dr. Joyce Brothers, Candice Bergen, Walter Cronkite[3], Doug Flutie, Michelle Pfeiffer, Vinny Testaverde, Moon Zappa and the Temptations. Also on the list are the Kansas City Chiefs, Hallmark Cards, the Sara Lee Corporation, Ben & Jerry's, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City.

I'm sure there's a method to the N.R.A. madness, but to tell you the truth, all I can see is the madness.

All of the groups and individuals listed are supposed to be anti-gun. I can't speak for the Kansas City Chiefs or Moon Zappa, but I'm not anti-gun. I think soldiers, the police and certain other law enforcement officials should have guns. Civilians[4], however, should be required to demonstrate a good reason for having firearms. We should go to great lengths to keep guns out of the hands of children, criminals and insane[5] people. All guns should be registered[6]. And all gun owners should be properly trained and licensed.

The N.R.A. sees this as a radical, even lunatic position. So I guess we're at odds[7].

I asked Andrew Arulanandam, the N.R.A.'s director of public affairs, why the list had been compiled and displayed on the Web site. He said, "We put the list together in

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[1] retaliation = vengeance

[2] AFL-CIO : American's main union trade [=syndicat]

[3] Walter Cronkite is a famous television anchorman [=présentateur de journal]

[4] civilians : les civils

[5] to be insane (or lunatic) : être fou

[6] registered : officiellement enregistré. C'est le problème aux Etats-Unis des « Guns Shows », sorte de « foires aux armes », où les particuliers peuvent vendre et acheter des armes en dehors de tout contrôle des autorités.

[7] to be at odds, to be at loggerheads : être aux antipodes, ne pas être d'accord.

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