The underlying premise of nearly every type of gun control is that crime will be reduced. This is not necessarily the case. Gun control inevitably delays the purchase of a weapon by honest people who need a gun for self-defense. Sometimes extreme circumstances require quick response. For instance, a few weeks ago, a serial killer was on the loose in Gainesville, Florida. Naturally, people who wanted to defend themselves chose to be armed with guns, knives, or baseball bats. A 1985 National Institute of Justice report by professors James Wight and Peter Rosan found that "the armed citizen or the threat of the armed citizen is possibly the most effective deterrent to crime and the notion." More than 1,800 prisoners were interviewed, and it was found that "95 percent agreed that the "smart criminal" would attempt to find out if a potential victim is armed, 75 percent feltburglars avoided occupied dwellings for fear of being shot; 53 percent did not commit a specific crime for fear the victim was armed, and 57 percent of "handgun precautions" were worn or shot at by armed victims."

Many acts of violence, including rape and robbery, have been prevented through effective and proper use of a firearm. According to "Gun Facts Right Book" by Alan Gottlieb, handgun use in self-defense was the best prevention against crime (66 percent rate) from results of Chicago robberies in the 1970s. However, it is true that violethave used guns incorrectly; for instance, shot someone without proper justification, shot to kill when not necessary. It is thus logical that any person who purchases a gun should have his entire family go through a gun education and handling seminar series. Whether the "rules of the family gun" are taught within the household or by an authority, it is vital that those around a gun know how it is to be used. Such programs surely would be an effective way of promoting gun policy and awareness, and a better use of public funds than paying for background checks. The simple fact is that criminals will find a way to commit crimes. While it is a logical idea that background checks be made to deterwhomever a person is trustworthy of owning a gun, they do not justify the vast amounts of effort and money required to establish an effective system. If an implemented system were ideal, the results would be obtainable instantly. This means that gun dealers or police stations would have established databases and advanced computing systems. In emergency cases, police officials would have authorization to allow gun purchases if the usual route of procedure is blocked. However, if this ideal system were in place, criminals would become aware of it and obtain their guns elsewhere. In the unlikely case that all firearms in the world were confiscated, they would use different weapons or even fabricate their own guns. There is little evidence that gun control is effective in curbing crime. In fact, in the 1960s, New Jersey and Hawaii implemented strict gun control laws only to see murders, rapes, and robberies soar by staggering amounts up to 320 percent over the following five years. Therefore, implementation and maintenance of waiting periods and backround check equipment will cost large amounts of time, money, and taxpayers' dollars, not to mention an effectually useless weapon. Such resources would be better used in punishing convicted criminals more severely so that further crime is prevented, as "60 percent of violent offenses were re-arrested for a felony or misdemeanor," according to James Wooston, president of the Safe Streets Alliance in Washington, D.C.

Now imposing a waiting period and raising license fees for gun dealers will be ineffective in reducing violent crime in the U.S.

Focus Must Shift Toward Providing Public Transportation

national freeway system. But what would happen if all these freeways were to disappear? What would today's policy makers do if they had to start all over again, without the wide-open space that surroundsthe most cities before 1950? As post-quake Los Angeles indicates, some changes would be made.

According to the Department of Transportation, it will take more than six months before LA's five severely damaged freeways can be rebuilt. Meanwhile, some lucky commuters may avoid the automotive gridlock. However, the purchase of a weapon necessitates careful planning. Before LA's five severely damaged freeways can be rebuilt. Meanwhile, some lucky commuters may avoid the automotive gridlock. However, the purchase of a weapon necessitates careful planning. A 1985 Justice Department study. According to this report, "only 21 percent of felons' hand gun purchases are from legitimate gun dealers or police stations." This report, "only 21 percent of felons' handgun purchases are from legitimate gun dealers or police stations." Thus, the problem.

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