



Oregon Firearms Federation
Oregonfirearms.org

Testimony on HB 2005
Kevin Starrett Director

Additional testimony on HB 2005.

I have attached an article written in 1987 by Phil Caruso.

He was then the president of the NY Police Benevolent Association, the NYPD's police union.

As you can see, Caruso lashes out at “undetectable firearms.”

In addition to attacking “cop killer bullets” (rounds that were designed by a retired police officer and never killed a single cop) Caruso lambasts “plastic handguns” and asserts that they can *“escape detection at a whole host of sensitive places...”*

He claims that the Glock 17 pistol, which he used to illustrate his article, is an *“ill-conceived, devious weapon intended for nothing but wanton destruction”* that can

“readily assist kooks and terrorists to carry out their maniacal deeds.”

As you can see, the debate over “undetectable” firearms is not new.

At the time this article was written, persons with New York City pistol permits were forbidden from buying or owning Glock pistols. Until it was revealed that Ben Ward, the City’s Police Commissioner, was carrying one.

The Glock 17 pistol, which Caruso said was for “kooks and terrorists” is now the single most carried and issued duty weapon for police in America.

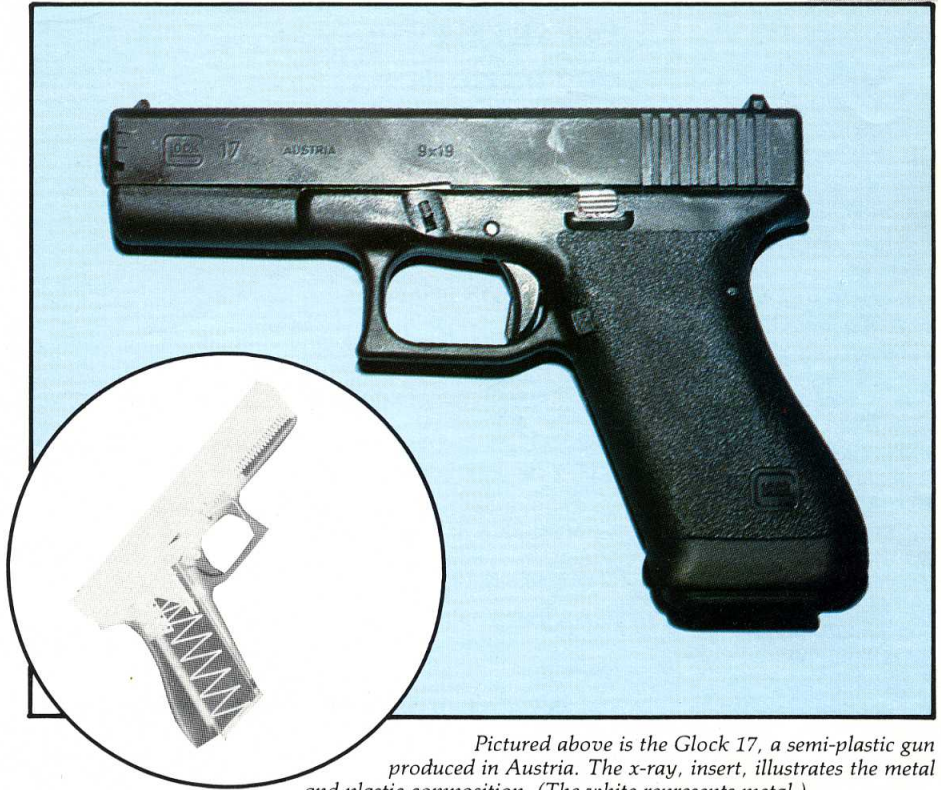
But what is far more interesting, and not a little bit amusing, is Caruso’s choice of illustrations.

To demonstrate that the Glock is “undetectable” he includes an XRAY image of a Glock pistol which clearly shows the entire gun, which by the way, is made mostly of steel.



From The President

The NRA And Us



Pictured above is the Glock 17, a semi-plastic gun produced in Austria. The x-ray, insert, illustrates the metal and plastic composition. (The white represents metal.)

—Photos courtesy of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency

Guns don't kill, people kill! If you subscribe to that well-founded theory, then you would have no problem with accepting the fundamental tenet embraced by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which essentially maintains that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

And, with evangelical zeal, the National Rifle Association has strenuously defended that Constitutional right with — in most instances — justifiable reason. However, there have been certain issues wherein the expressed reason of the NRA has defied all manner of sound logic, as with the controversy surrounding the so-called cop killer bullets.

In that issue they staunchly defended the absolutely inalienable, God-given right of ammunition manufacturers to produce armor-piercing handgun ammo that at once possessed no valid sporting purpose and could penetrate with fatal ease the soft body armor worn by police officers. Having locked horns with NRA lobbyists down in Washington over the

cop killer bullet legislation, I can attest to the awesome strength of their legislative power. While we, in the last analysis, prevailed in imposing a bill that provides police officers with a measure of necessary protection, it wasn't easy.

Now, the latest confrontation relates to the NRA vigorously backing the sanctity of the manufacture, sale and distribution of plastic handguns that can escape detection at a whole host of sensitive areas where firearms control is essential to public safety, such as airports and courthouses. In this particular issue, assuming the NRA's position remains intransigent, their many anti-gun detractors will be able to successfully affix the ignominious mantle of "lunatic fringe" to the NRA leadership.

In this one the NRA has outdone itself with totally unfathomable posturing. Can a plastic handgun enhance the accuracy of a rabbit hunter, tin can plinker or serious target shooter? I think not. On the other hand, these ill-conceived, devious weapons intended for nothing but wanton des-

truction of human life can readily assist kooks and terrorists to carry out their maniacal deeds.

As a shooting sports enthusiast, I have firmly supported the NRA's basic advocacy of gun ownership because a police officer has never been killed by a decent, law abiding citizen. But, as with all other laws, sensibly rational constraints must be leveled in order to protect the society from those who seek to exploit and abuse a privilege.

I know for a fact that a sizable number of police officers in this city and elsewhere are NRA members, a large enough and strong enough segment of NRA membership that should stridently evoke their sentiments in this plastic gun issue. On this one, the NRA has truly gone off half-cocked.

Phil Caruso, President, PBA