

NOW Your Guns Are [^] Their Guns!

The 2004 Utah Gun Confiscation Team



Sen. Chris Butters:
Sponsor of Senate
Bills 175 & 140



AG Mark Shurtleff:
Chief Law Enforcement
Officer & Confiscation
Lobbyist



Rep. Stephen Urquhart:
House Sponsor of
Senate Bill 175



Gov. Olene Walker:
Signer of Senate
Bill 175



King George III:
Providing Inspiration
for Modern Day Gun
Confiscators

“...Sixty-nine percent of [Utah voters] cast their ballots in the 2000 election to rein in asset forfeitures to law enforcement agencies. The Legislature undermined that initiative this session, and Walker signed their dirty work.”— Salt Lake Tribune, Mar. 25, 2004

“...The claimant [property owner] shall have the burden of proving that the claimant is an innocent owner by a preponderance of the evidence.”— Title 18, Section 983, U.S. Code

This session, Accountability Utah, the National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action, GOUtah!, Utah Shooting Sports Council (USSC), other organizations, and thousands of citizens opposed Senate Bill 175 (Substitute 2).

SB 175 effectively repealed forfeiture reform Initiative B, passed by 69% of Utah’s voters in 2000. Police will again be allowed to profit from property confiscated directly or indirectly from innocent owners. Forfeitures are now authorized and encouraged to be performed at the federal level, *where property owners are presumed to be guilty and no proof of criminal conduct is required*. If, in a family, one child were alleged to be using or transacting in drugs, an entire firearms collection (and the family home as well) could be taken from completely innocent and disapproving parents.

In addition to SB 175, the senate also passed Senate Bill 140 (Substitute 2), which would have empowered the Office of Licensing within the Department of Human Services to regulate gun owners, including foster parents and businesses, by establishing rules regulating “access to firearms.” Firearms-hating bureaucrats would have had unchecked authority to harass and threaten the safety of responsible and law-abiding gun owners. Fortunately, citizens stalled this bill in the house.

Note: Sen. Butters amended his own bill on senate floor to insert this insidious gun control expansion.

Protect yourself from these political officeholders whose actions establish fundamental contempt for your rights. Hold these anti-gun politicians accountable this election season! For detailed voting records and more information on these and other attacks on your rights, visit www.accountabilityutah.org or e-mail info@accountabilityutah.org.