

ARLEN SPECTER
PENNSYLVANIA

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File 5-6-2005

United States Senate

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May 6, 2005

The Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
90 Pennsylvania Ave. N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General:

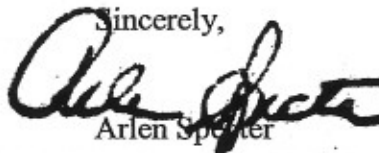
My office has been contacted by Kenneth K. Crane. I am forwarding to you a copy of the correspondence that I have received.

Your substantive findings and views, in duplicate form, along with the return of the enclosure, will be greatly appreciated. Please direct your reply to my assistant, Kenneth Evans, at the following address:

Senator Arlen Specter
9400 Federal Building
600 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Thank you for your assistance with the aforementioned matter.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS/ke
Enclosure

310 Sloan Street
Crum Lynne, PA 19022
April 24, 2005

The Honorable Arlen Specter
600 Arch Street
#9400
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Senator Specter:

I am writing this letter to ask that you consider requesting the Department of Justice Inspector General to audit the firearms registration database currently maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

While I understand that gun control issues are by definition controversial, I wanted to bring to your attention the fact that an anti-gun Democrat, Senator Paul S. Sarbanes of Maryland, has asked the Department of Justice to examine the problems created by this inaccurate database. Accordingly, I have attached a letter from Eric M. Larson to Senator Sarbanes' and Senator Sarbanes' response. The thrust of Mr. Larson's letter concerns problems with the accuracy and completeness of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record (NFRTR), a database maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

Mr. Larson has given numerous Congressional statements and testimonies about the NFRTR problems. He has also spent a considerable amount of his time and personal finances in trying to encourage ATF to render the NFRTR accurate and complete.

Because of subsequent audits by the Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General, and further examination by other experts (such as Dr. Fritz J. Scheuren, the current President of the American Statistical Association), it is now well documented that the NFRTR is a shambles, inaccurate, and definitely not properly maintained by ATF. Congress appropriated \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003 and requested ATF to use those funds to ensure that the NFRTR is accurate and complete. You and your staff can read more about these details, including documentation of Congressional involvement, in the "NFRTR document package" in the "Resources" section of www.nfaoa.org

Unfortunately, these problems have not been adequately addressed, and the NFRTR is still incomplete and inaccurate. What did ATF do with the \$1 million the Congress appropriated and directed be used to correct these problems?

I have a vested interest in this situation, because I attempted to have a DEWAT Thompson Sub-Machine Gun transferred from the owner, an 80-year-old widow, to myself. Despite the fact that I provided ATF with official documents from the Department of Treasury attesting that this DEWAT was in the NFRTR, ATF denied my

application claiming and continuing to maintain that this DEWAT was not registered. After an almost two-year struggle with ATF, including my writing to you requesting your assistance and ATF responding to you with outright lies, my attorney, Scott Shields, and I decided to sue ATF.

The ATF attorney in Philadelphia was put on notice in the beginning of January 2003 of our decision to sue them. Immediately, Scott Shields was asked to hold off until the end of the week. Within a matter of days the attorney for ATF informed Scott Shields that my application to transfer the DEWAT Thompson Sub- Machine Gun would be approved. ATF used the exact same section of law to approve the transfer as it did to justify denying the transfer.

Had the NFRTR been properly maintained, this transfer would have been routinely approved within a reasonable time limit.

ATF lied to me and ATF lied to you.

They sent ATF Special Agents over to the home of the 80-year-old widow and illegally attempted to coerce her into surrendering the DEWAT to ATF without any compensation. ATF cost me a great deal of money, time, and consternation. I can only find that ATF's records were not accurate or that they just blatantly lied over this matter.

I would very much appreciate it if you would carefully review this letter, and the information on the Internet referred to above, and direct the Department of Justice Inspector General to audit the NFRTR, and to require ATF to render this sensitive law enforcement data base accurate and complete.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth K. Crane". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kenneth K. Crane