

4/20/94

To The Editor, San Francisco Chronicle
From Earl R. Miller MD

re Gephardt Expects Weapons Ban to Pass. 4/19/94

Richard Gephardt is quoted as follows: "if we can just figure out how to control guns, we can solve crime."

There is a way. If a legislator accepts more than \$1 from the NRA he should be barred from voting on any bill that deals with guns since that constitutes a conflict of interest and should be illegal.

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**Gephardt Expects
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4/19

Feinstein legislation is part of House crime bill

*By Susan Yoachum
Chronicle Political Writer*

Despite assertions to the contrary from some key Democrats, House majority leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., predicted in an interview that the controversial assault weapons ban initiated by California Senator Dianne Feinstein will pass the House of Representatives.

"When you have people walking into a supermarket and blowing people away, and when you have passed the Brady bill," which mandates a five-day waiting period for the purchase of a handgun, Gephardt said, the political will is created to ban assault-style weapons.

"The assault weapons ban will be part of the final crime bill, and the crime bill will pass," Gephardt told a handful of reporters at the state Democratic Party convention in Los Angeles. The forecast came a day before Representative Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said the ban was 15 to 20 votes short of passage.

The ban was an amendment by Feinstein to the overall crime bill that President Clinton hopes to sign before the November congressional elections.

The crime bill, as amended by Feinstein, passed the Senate months ago, but has so far stalled in the House.

The assault weapons ban in the bill that has passed the Senate would outlaw assault-style weapons such as Uzis and AK-47s.

Although Gephardt offered no timetable for passage of the assault weapons ban or the overall crime bill, he indicated that Feinstein could probably count on what would be a crucial legislative victory for her campaign for reelection in the fall.

While Schumer, chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, blamed aggressive lobbying by the National Rifle Association for the lack of a House majority, Gephardt told California reporters that the changing political climate surrounding crime is what will get the assault weapons ban approved.

He described the crime bill that is now in the House as "multidimensional," and added that "if we can just figure out how to control guns, we can solve crime."

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