

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 25, 1968

GENE J. MCCARTHY  
MINNESOTA

Dr. Henry Blackburn  
School of Public Health  
Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene  
University of Minnesota  
Stadium Gate 27  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

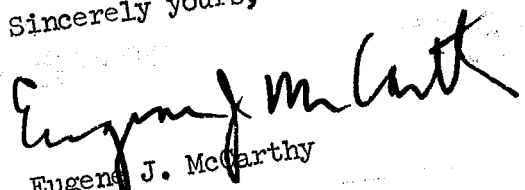
I appreciate having your views and recommendations concerning gun controls.

Although I am not a member of the committee which considers specific legislation in this area, I have been for reasonable federal gun control legislation and was prepared to vote for it when it was first introduced. In my judgment there is no question of a violation of constitutional rights involved in registration of guns or in other controls to prevent irresponsible persons from obtaining them. It is rather a matter of practical and administrative problems which should be worked out in an orderly fashion. It has been my position that federal legislation is needed, but that the concentration ought to be on improving the state laws because of the great variation among the states on this particular issue.

I have supported registration of sidearms and heavy armaments and a ban on mail order sales. The new bill recently proposed by Senator Tydings would provide for registration and licensing of firearms with provision for federal procedures if the individual state does not enact an equally effective state law. My views are not very far away from what Senator Tydings is proposing in terms of the principles involved. As to the particular details it is my belief that the Senate committee ought to work them out and report its recommendations to the Senate for action.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

  
Eugene J. McCarthy