

# Brady Bill delays break of Congress

## Lawmakers to debate gun sale waiting period next week

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Deadlock over the Brady handgun-control bill stymied Congress' adjournment, and the Senate Democratic leader summoned lawmakers for a post-Thanksgiving effort to salvage the bill this year.

Senators negotiated in the early evening Tuesday and then quit for the night, but scheduled another session for Wednesday.

There was a glimmer of hope for Brady backers and senators who don't want to be dragged back before the end of the year.

"What we can do, if Republicans agree, is pass the conference report, as is, with an understanding we would have a supplemental piece of legislation when we come back" in January, said Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, the Senate's chief sponsor of the bill.

He would not disclose any specifics of the discussions or even if that scenario were on the table.

Earlier in the day, President Clinton held out hope for compromise on what was to be the last day of the 1993 session, saying, "I believe in miracles."

After fruitless debate, Majority Leader George Mitchell said, "I expect as of now the Senate will return next week to renew efforts to pass the bill, which calls for a five-business-day waiting period and background check on people who want to buy handguns."

"We will try again on next Tuesday, and in all likelihood again on next Wednesday," he said, reflecting the difficulty that Brady bill supporters have had in putting together the 60 votes needed to cut off debate.

The Republicans were chafing anew from headlines blaming them for blocking the bill Monday, but Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole said at a news

conference, "I don't know of any political fallout."

It was the negative headlines, followed by phone calls and letters from constituents that helped push a number of Republicans last week to seek a compromise after they had blocked the bill from an up-or-down vote twice.

Ultimately, a version of the bill passed the Senate late Saturday, 63-36. That bill said the waiting period would phase out after four years, unless the attorney general extended it to five years. The House passed a five-year "sunset" provision.

Then came the fractious House-Senate conference that chose the five-year House version.

Mitchell called the five-year versus four-plus-one year sunset provision is "a distinction without a difference in practical terms."

Dole said he would try to amend the bill, something that would require the full House to

return and vote.

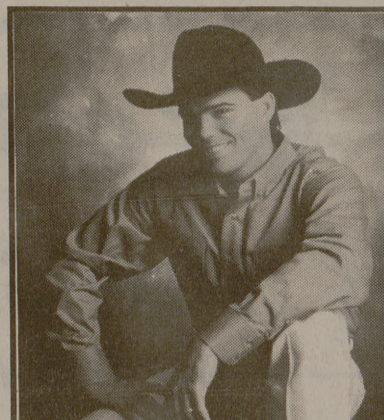
If the "people on the other side really want the Brady bill, it can be gotten very quickly," Dole said. "We were quite flexible on Saturday, and for being flexible, we got shafted."

The Senate version also lost a provision that would have allowed the waiting period to phase out even earlier if the attorney general, using specified standards, deemed a national instant background check system sufficiently operational.

Ironically, that came from a National Rifle Association-backed amendment to the House bill that also ended the waiting period after five years. Originally, neither chamber's legislation had a "sunset" provision.

Earlier, Clinton met with Dole and Mitchell at the White House and said, "We're working on something today."

"I believe in miracles," he said. "I believe we may still get this worked out."



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# Russian leaders to vote on new national emblem

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Communist hammer-and-sickle may be replaced with a new national emblem reaching even further back into Russian history: a double-headed eagle that for centuries proclaimed the military might of the czars.

A commission to name a new national emblem rejected proposals such as bears and birch trees in favor of the golden, double-headed eagle on red background.

"The idea was to restore Russia's historical heraldry, even if its elements were unrelated to the current political situation," Georgy Vilinbakhov, head of the national heraldic service, said Tuesday.

The design must now be approved by President Boris Yeltsin and parliament.

The government has wanted a new crest to replace the hammer-and-sickle, symbol of the peasants and workers, since the Soviet collapse more than two years ago.

After the abortive hard-line coup in 1991, elated citizens pulled down statues of Lenin and other Communist luminaries.

There have also been proposals to remove Lenin's embalmed body from its Red Square mausoleum.

Yeltsin also replaced the red Soviet flag with a white, red and blue banner that also dates back to pre-revolutionary Russia.

In the spirit of the new, capitalist times, the government hopes to make money by selling the right to use the new crest in trademarks and commercial logos, said commission chairman Rudolf Pikhoya.

The eagle holds a scepter in its right talon and an orb in its left, he said. In the center of the crest is an image of Russia's historic guardian, St. George, slaying the dragon.

The double-headed eagle has already made an unofficial comeback, adorning many business logos and even appearing — without its crowns — on some Russian coins.

Pikhoya said the historic bird would replace the hammer-and-sickle that still adorns the badges and buttons of millions of Russian servicemen and police officers. It will also be emblazoned on flags flown at Russian embassies abroad and on the president's official flag.



Yeltsin and the Russian Parliament could do away with the Communist hammer-and-sickle with a vote for a new national emblem.

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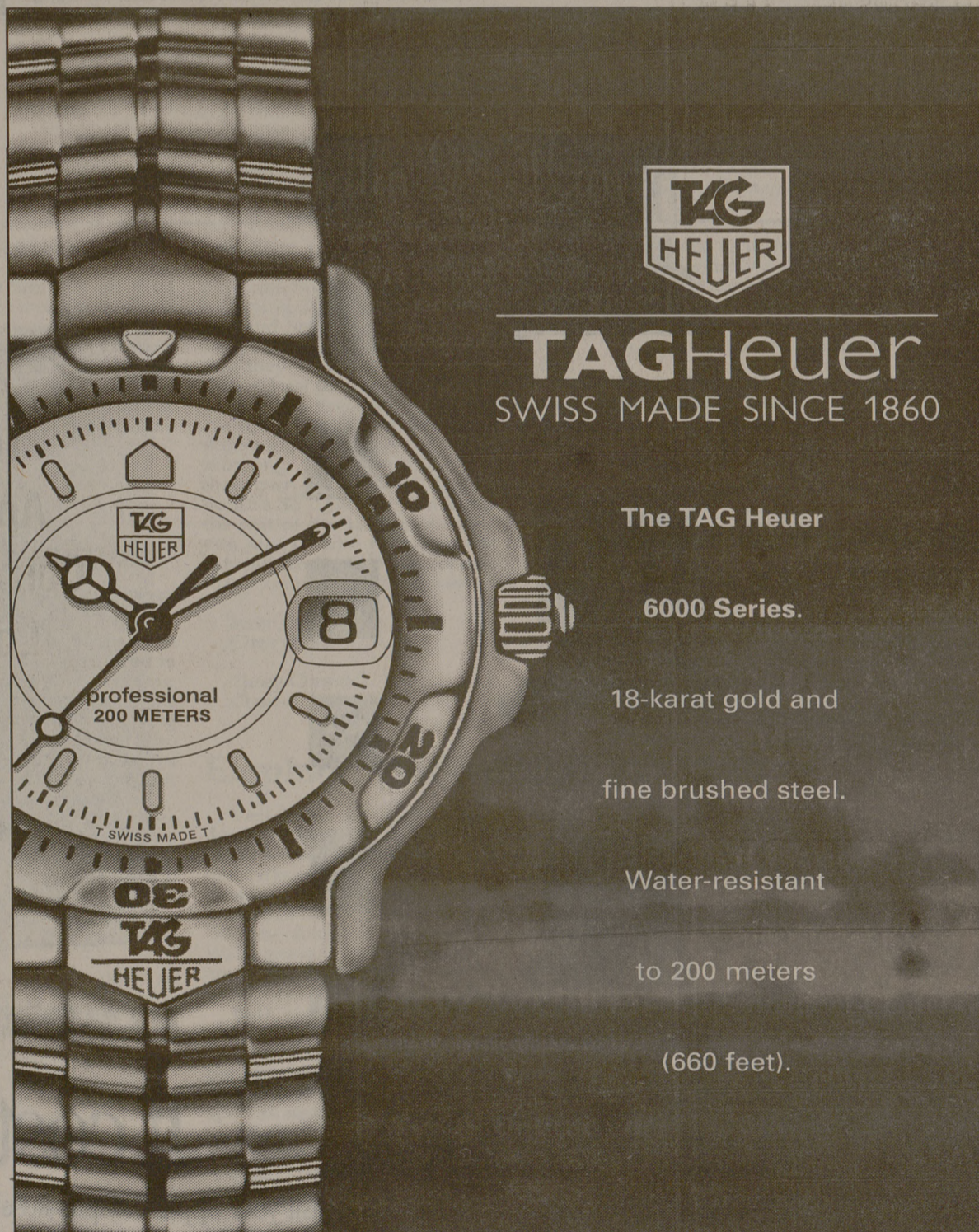
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