

## RESOLUTION

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30,000 Americans die as a result of gun violence, and another 236,000 Americans suffer non-fatal firearm-related injuries each year; and,

WHEREAS, the human cost suffered by the victims of gun violence, their families and our communities is disproportionately borne by African-Americans; and,

WHEREAS, homicide is the leading cause of death for black males aged 15-29, according to a December 1990 study by the Federal Centers for Disease

Control (CDC). Firearms were involved in 78 percent of these homicides; and,

WHEREAS, a young African-American male is nine times more likely to be murdered than a young white male, according to the same CDC study; and,

WHEREAS, the percentage of violent crimes against African-Americans in which the offender had a gun was nearly twice the percentage of violent crimes in which whites were the victims; and,

WHEREAS, Health and Human Services Secretary Louis

Sullivan recently stated that during every 100 hours on our streets we lose more young men than were killed in 100 hours of the ground war in the Persian Gulf; and,

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recently reported that gunshot wounds among children in urban areas increased 300 percent from 1986 to 1988; and,

WHEREAS, if current trends continue, one in every twenty-five African-American male children now in kindergarten will be murdered with a gun before he

reaches the age of 18; and,

WHEREAS, The disparity of firearms laws in the various states allows for easy criminal access to and transportation of handguns across state borders, thereby undermining the efforts of local law enforcement officers to keep illegal guns from flowing into their communities from other jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, a uniform seven-day waiting period would allow local law enforcement to conduct criminal record checks of prospective handgun purchasers, and mandate a "cooling off"

period for those who might purchase weapons in the heat of anger or in the depths of depression and therefore help reduce the toll of gun violence in America; and,

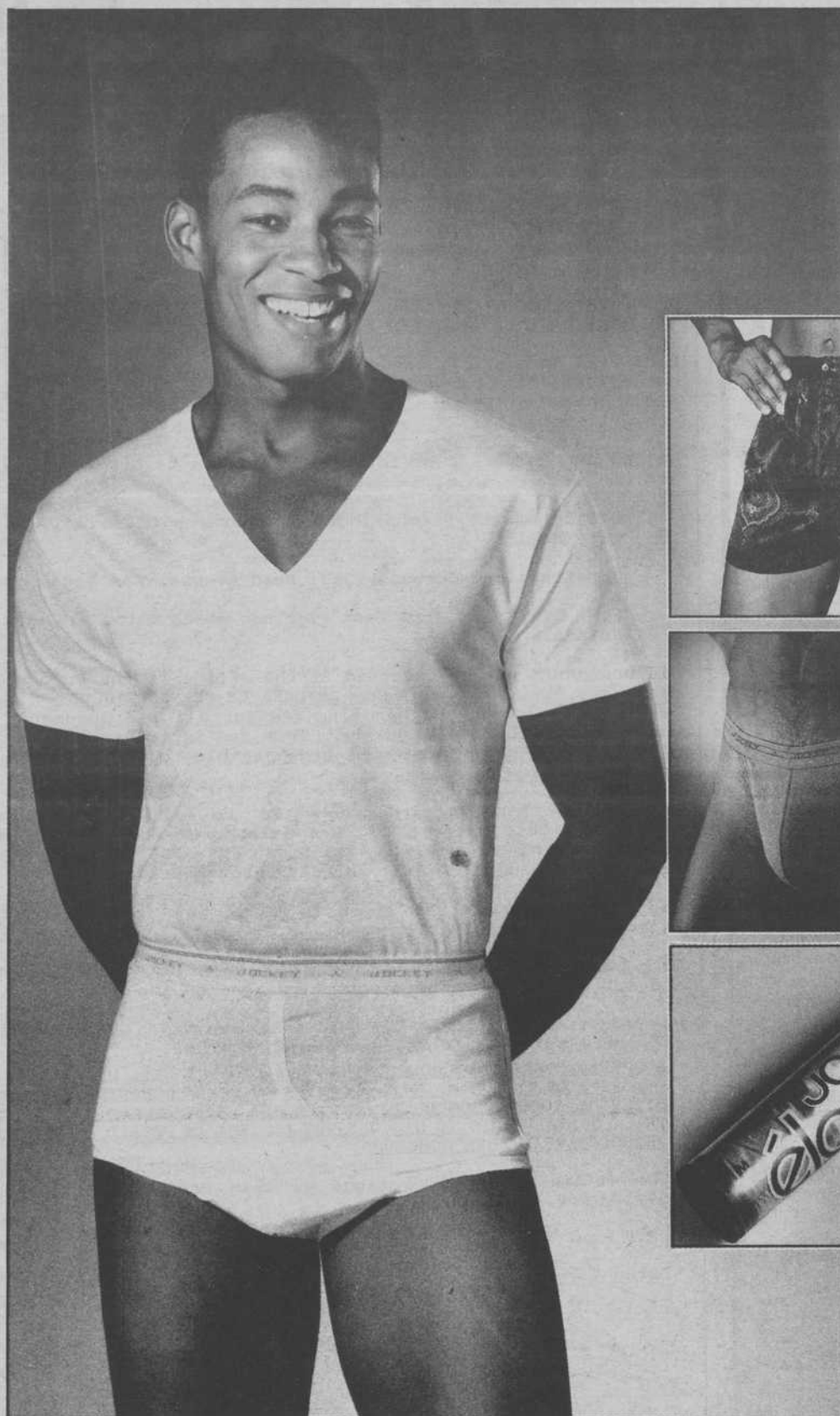
WHEREAS, the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (The Brady Bill), which was introduced in the 102nd Congress, would institute a national seven-day waiting period on handgun purchases through dealers; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, through its branches, state conferences and staff, call on

members of Congress to pass the legislation and the President to sign into law the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1991;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National NAACP Office develop an informational package on the Brady Bill to be disseminated to all NAACP units and major black organizations; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Washington Bureau work for the passage of the Brady Bill during the 102nd Congress..



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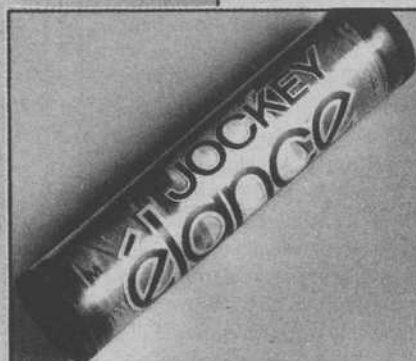
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