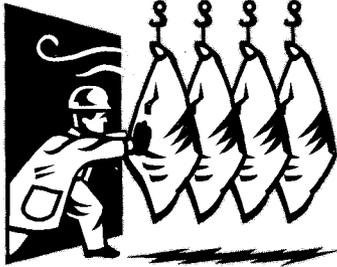




▼ **Stun Gun.** Mr. Smith, Mr. Wesson, meet Mr. Nader. The latest gun control scheme would apply federal health and safety regulations to firearms. Writes Violence Policy Center analyst Susan Glick in the *Los Angeles Times*, "If handguns were held to the same standards as every other consumer product in America, they would likely be banned."



▼ **Cattle Prod.** The General Accounting Office says more than one-quarter of the federal government's \$1 billion food inspection budget is wasted on a single antiquated process. While safety measures to check for infectious bacteria go unfunded, notes the GAO, federal inspectors

squander \$271 million a year eyeballing cow and chicken carcasses for visible signs of disease.

▼ **Kangaroo Court.** Did ads for Bill Clinton's 1996 re-election violate campaign laws against "express advocacy"? Certainly not, despite the bleatings of campaign reformers and the Federal Election Commission. Clinton may deserve to lose the White House, but not over this.

▼ **Old News?** Greedy geezers and the redistributionist crowd get an unexpected reprieve: Stock market gyrations and the Clinton scandals all but guarantee that Social Security reforms won't take place before the 2000 election.

Communications Commission, calling for a rule that would let parents screen out alcohol ads from their television sets with V-chip technology.

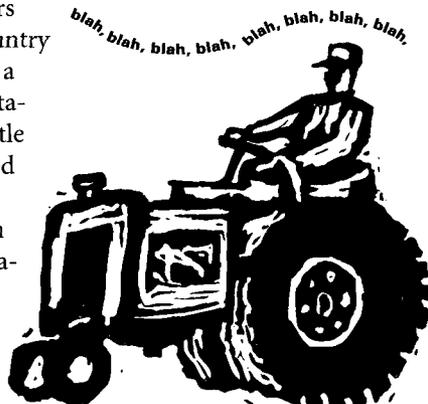
## Unauthorized Transmission

By Michael W. Lynch

In Tioga, North Dakota, the sole radio station offers both kinds of music: country and western. Roy Neset, a local farmer, asked the station many times for a little variety but never received satisfaction. So Neset made an agreement with a Colorado talk-radio station and retransmitted its signal from his home satellite dish over the five-mile ra-

dius where he does his tilling.

The local radio station doesn't like the competition. Its manager complained to the Federal Communications Commission's field office, which in turn convinced the obviously underworked U.S. attorney in North Dakota to sue Neset for the crime of broadcasting from home to tractor without a license.



So why doesn't Neset just get a license? The FCC won't give him one for his 30-watt transmitter, even though the entire FM spectrum over his farm lies fallow. Since the Carter administration, the agency hasn't issued any broadcast licenses for transmitters of less than 100 watts.

Neset is not the only victim of this policy. The Institute for Justice, which has mounted a First Amendment defense of Neset, reports that over the past year the FCC has initiated actions against approximately 100 microbroadcasters, from groups offering original programming such as Free Radio Berkeley to retransmitters like Roy Neset.

## Ageless Hostilities

By Jason Brooks

A July rally in Washington intended to rejuvenate supporters of Social Security got nasty when a group of seniors encountered a cohort of libertarian-leaning youth. The National Council for Senior Citizens, an advocacy group that opposes any changes in Social Security, held a rally at the Capitol to "bridge the generations" on the issue of old-age entitlements. Seniors carried signs bearing such messages as, "Don't pit the young against the old."

But many of the 2,000-strong protesters—who consisted primarily of retired union workers—seemed to be more interested in preserving the welfare state than in intergenerational harmony. When one young person asked what will happen when the Social Security trust fund runs out in 2029, a senior remarked with a shrug and a smile, "I won't be here."

## QUOTES

**"If the marketplace had its druthers, you'd have slavery and children doing labor."**

—Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.), addressing the National Association of Black Journalists, July 31

**"There are a lot of sight gags in our house."**

—Tipper Gore, in the July *Good Housekeeping*

**"[Gambling] raises an almost metaphysical challenge to our belief in an ordered cosmos, governed either by providence or a fundamental rationality....In our post-modern times, too many of us tend to think that the cosmos is a kind of chaos—that we have been thrown into the world for no higher reason than to pursue our own pleasure-fantasies."**

—Adam Wolfson, executive editor of *The Public Interest*, in the August 14 *Wall Street Journal*