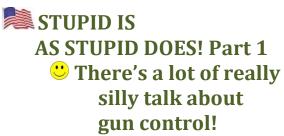
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In recent weeks you received several reports on the topic of the 2nd Amendment and gun control. Here's a recap of what I've concluded so far (refer to those reports at my website under the "Policy and Political Commentary" tab):

- Obama prefers quick reaction over careful study of the problem of mass violence;
- the Founders were reacting primarily to the threat of British tyranny and its intention to disarm the American Colonies;
- the Founders were also very sensitive to the right of general self defense;
- the term "militia" must be understood to represent an individual's right to bear arms, as well as more formal, hopefully temporary, joining together to form a military;
- there are in fact modern applications for establishing a "militia" (e.g. school security);
- recreational hunting can't be stretched into a modern interpretation of the intent of the 2nd Amendment;
- since the 2nd Amendment is part of the "unalienable" Bill of Rights which were "endowed by our creator," it is unlike another phrase in the "Constitution" and any elimination thereof would be a Constitutional war beyond imagine it won't happen;
- embedded in all of what the Founders said and wrote seems to be a presumption of order and competence, achieved through rules, regulations, and limited controls – i.e. gun control of some kind isn't contrary to their intentions;
- after reviewing modern legal commentary, I find that they DON'T preclude some form of required training, control, and regulation;
- given the extreme comments by certain leaders of the gun control movement, some "paranoia" by gun enthusiasts can probably be understood and forgiven;
- strong supporters of aggressive gun control include a very interesting cast of characters some just conventional progressives, some slightly (at least) unsavory politicians, and some very disgusting contemporary and historical characters;
- the current definition of "assault rifle" is based mostly on appearance not firepower, i.e. based on cosmetics, not how lethal it is! What a waste of time and resources!; and
- regarding the status of "Rights" in our country, we must guard against the temptation of making the government the provider of this myriad list of "manufactured rights." Neither they, nor the legitimate "Unalienable Rights" can possibly be provided by government only protected against being infringed upon.

Humans are by nature imperfect and "fallen." Is that an argument for eliminating all means for them to do harm to others? Nay say I! To the contrary, it is an argument for the best among us to have means available to dissuade those few of the "fallen" who would want to do others harm. – Stefano Bachovich, obscure but very wise political

pundit, and an enthusiastic and prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's major "go to guy."

A "banish all guns" friend asked me recently, "Why are the gun lovers and NRA so obsessed with their efforts to promote and ensure the rights of gun owners?" My only reaction was to declare "because so many people talk like you and if they could, would totally eradicate the possession of firearms in the United States." It's similar to the old scientific principle that an action will create an "equal and opposite reaction." And the reverse is also true. Gun enthusiasts create a huge reaction among the gun control advocates.

But it's not just the anti-gun citizenry that makes gun enthusiasts act extraordinarily paranoid – just think about what some "leaders" have said over recent months and years. What else would you expect but a serious and feverish reaction?

A vote has been held in Congress, but the battle isn't over! Obama, Biden, Feinstein, and the mainstream media have all pledged to see this battle through to a satisfactory liberal/progressive conclusion. Conservatives must stay vigilant, continue to learn more about the issue, and be ready the next time the Constitution is challenged regarding the topic of gun control.

I've tried to put together a "digest" of some of the foolishness we have been listening to. For someone like me who has no real interest in firearms, from a personal standpoint, this type of "crap" is what helped convince me to check out the facts for myself. Read this and work up a good "head of steam" for the reports to come. This digest will be continued and concluded in the next report.

The NRA's efforts to guarantee that American mass murderers are the best equipped mass murders in the world is not limited to murderers who use assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. The NRA is also in the business of helping bombers get away with their crimes. – MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnel

..... our laws and our interpretation of the Constitution, I think, have to change. – New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg

It used to be we were dealing almost exclusively with hunters There's a whole new sort of group of individuals now who own guns for one of two reasons: self protection or they just like the feel of that AR-15 at the range They like the way it feels. You know, it's like driving a Ferrari. – Joe Biden

[I]t is true that the vast majority of gun deaths in America are not the consequence of the use of an "assault weapon." But that begs the question of whether assault weapons have any real utility either in terms of any sporting or self protection needs. – Joe Biden (Because they are not generally used in crime, we should ban them? Makes sense??? – not to me!)



If you live in a city and you think you need protection of your home, you're way better off with a shotgun than an assault weapon. Trust me. It's not even close. – Bill Clinton, obviously following Biden's advice about firing a shotgun off the balcony or through the door.



It's why we have call boxes, it's why we have safe zones, it's why we have the whistles. Because you just don't know who you're gonna be shooting at. And you don't know if you feel like you're gonna be raped, or if you feel like someone's been following you around or if you feel like you're in trouble when you may actually not be, that you pop out that gun and you pop ... pop around at somebody. – Democrat Rep. Joseph Salazar of the Colorado state legislature, in a floor speech explaining why women don't need a gun for self defense – particularly because they are inclined to overreact. Ladies – how 'bout that?!

Tell your attacker that you have a disease or are menstruating; vomiting or urinating may also convince the attacker to leave you alone; if your life is in danger, passive resistance may be your best defense. – Just some of the "tips" provided by the University of Colorado for female self-defense, intended to discourage the desire of some students to have a gun for self defense. Hey! Cool! It's all clear to me now!

[People who support gun rights - with their money, their voice or their votes - are guilty of] corruption and endangering public safety the second amendment itself was a threat to the nation's security. - Those are just a couple of the statements made by Garry McCarthy, Chicago's police superintendent.

So many gun accidents occur because guns almost never indicate whether a bullet is present in the chamber. A gun owner might remove the gun's magazine and believe the gun unloaded, when in fact it still contains one potentially deadly shot. Why not require guns to be equipped with indicator lights? – CNN's David Frum

There are still thousands of Americans that are being murdered every single day. – Newark Mayor Cory Booker – Booker then followed up on Twitter with multiple corrections: Just caught myself mis-speaking on ABC. It's hundreds being killed everyday not thousands. Sorry about that - then moments later: Sorry again, officially it is approximately 30 people murdered every day due to gun violence. – Made up stats – he's got no idea what he's saying. Those differences do make a difference in our search for the right solutions!

The Houston Independent School District discontinued firearms safety training when it was pointed out the training was developed by the NRA. This was the widely known Eddie Eagle firearm safety program. – This program is popular, responsible, professional, and effective. Once again, our youth are "kept in the dark" about responsible gun use and ownership.

A North Carolina Eagle Scout, who also was an avid skeet shooter, realized one day his shotgun was in the car he drove to school. He went to the office to call his mother to come and get the gun, and was overheard on the phone call. Result? – expelled for one year, just a few weeks before his scheduled graduation. – Stupid is as stupid does! For sure!

More stupidity and foolishness to follow in a few days!

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