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## TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

### GUN VIOLENCE: WHY MUST WE GRASP AT STRAWS?



By Stephen L. Bakke  January 29, 2016

#### *Here's what provoked me:*

*There has been a lot of writing and debating recently about what to do next regarding reducing gun violence. Then a brilliant (NOT) opinion writer suggested that the answer is somewhat simple: Make gun violence as politically incorrect as is smoking – look what we've done in that area. Many pundits ignore that, overall, gun violence has come down a huge amount. But that's not the issue here. Any gun violence is too much and we need to look deeply into our culture to see the entire picture. There are no easy answers. I had some ideas that I wanted to offer.*

#### *Here's my response:*

#### **Gun Violence: Why Must We Grasp at Straws?**

According to the Minnesota Poll (Report, 1/25), "Respondents back tighter gun laws but many are not sure they'd be effective." A letter on 1/26 essentially advised "we'll never know without trying." Other recent writers demonstrate disagreement and uncertainty.

Then Linda Carvel proclaimed an answer in "A new game plan: Treat gun violence like smoking" on 1/27. She recommended making gun violence as "politically incorrect" as smoking.

This reminds me of a recent Mallard Fillmore cartoon picturing an enlightened Obama stating: "And, like with drugs, America has a huge problem with drug related violence!!...which we can fix, just by making drugs illegal!!...You'd think somebody would've thought of this stuff..."

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



We don't know what to do, and now just focus on the obvious:

- Gun laws need to be enforced and any "holes" filled.
- Laws must be made uniform.
- Understanding the impact of mental illness is necessary.
- Gun free zones and confiscation aren't likely answers.

Having done the obvious, we find ourselves "grasping at straws." Some things we tend to ignore because their examination fosters accusations of political incorrectness. Nevertheless, the following questions deserve examination as to their impact on hatred, racism, and even gun violence:



- Have government programs institutionalized "urban poverty plantations," prime breeding grounds for violence?
- Has de-emphasis on family structure led to changes in attitudes affecting violence?
- Are dysfunctional lifestyles becoming more acceptable?
- Has morality been redefined?
- Has the reduction in moral absolutes led to tolerance of previously unacceptable activities?
- Have there been changes in the definition, and sanctity, of life?

Think about those things as part of the solution ..... please!