

Shooting Sprees Often End When Another Gun Arrives

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I noted with interest the outcome of the July Fourth attack on people at the Israeli airline ticket counter. The attacker was armed with two automatic handguns with extra clips of ammunition and a knife. His intentions obviously were to kill as many people as possible before anyone could stop him. He was shot and killed by an armed Israeli guard, but not before he killed two people. If the armed guard had not been on the scene how many others would have been killed?

Certainly there would have been many others before police could have arrived on the scene. The usual scenario is the shooting does not end until someone else with a gun arrives.

University of Chicago criminologist John Lott, Jr. wrote a book *More Guns, Less Crime*, in which he presents some interesting facts. He cites statistics that show many law abiding Americans use a gun they own to protect themselves or others from crime; it runs from three quarters of a million to three million people each year. He presents factual proof that in areas where citizens are allowed to own guns, crime and gun related crime rates decline.

Britain and Australia have the most strict gun control laws in the world. For years prior to the enactment of these laws, British police carried no firearms while the public was allowed ownership of several types of firearms. Now the public is disarmed and the police have to carry firearms.

In Australia gun related crimes have increased according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Armed robberies went up 39 percent, assaults involving guns rose 28 percent and gun murders increased by 19 percent. A gun buy-back program bought 640,000 guns at a cost of \$57 per Australian. Prior to the new strict controls, crime was in a decline and today gun crime is up.

In a recent column, Cal Thomas mentioned what a prominent Australian columnist and radio talk show host told the *Washington Post* about the main point of the gun laws. The heart of the thinking of anti-gun zealots was "the whole country feels better". Thomas asks the questions, so facts don't matter, just feelings?"

When you reflect on his question you begin to realize that it sums up pretty much the heart of the thinking of most left wing liberal zealots on all subjects.

For many years we had few or no gun control laws in this country and we had few or none of the shooting spree that are becoming commonplace today. Murders and crime were less common 50 years ago than they are today. The difference is not because we do not have enough gun control laws. There are 22,000 federal, state and local gun laws on the books at present, most of which are not enforced.

Both Thomas Sowell and Mona Chareu believe the reason for the change is cultural pollution. Stowell says, "Value clarification" programs under a variety of names encourage children to create their own personal rules of conduct, independent of the traditional morality taught to them by their families, churches and other social institutions. Such programs are nothing more than all out war against morality that have been conducted in our public schools from coast to coast over the past generation.

Chareu says until we confront and correct our moral agnosticism, until parents demand and end to cultural pollution, we will not see an end to the carnage.

Stowell asks one more interesting question – why those who are the most vocal against guns are generally the most reluctant to put criminals behind bars and keep them there.

Further: How many gun control advocates have even noticed, much less protested, the fact that John Hinckley, who attempted to assassinate President Reagan and grievously wounded press secretary Jim Brady in the process, is now walking the streets again on furlough? Instead they have exploited the shooting of Jim Brady to pass laws disarming more citizens who never shot anybody.

When you hear such people say “Only government should own guns”, remember over 56 million people were murdered by their own governments in the 20th century.

The House overwhelmingly passed a bill to allow airline pilots to carry guns; the Senate votes on the bill today (7/16/02). I predict New York’s two senators will ignore facts in the case and vote to make the whole country feel better.

Remember, they belong to the party that feels honest, responsibly citizens owning guns are a greater danger to the nation than selling long range missile technology to communist China for campaign contributions.