

When It Comes to Your Safety You're Basically on Your Own

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It's a given fact that we are faced with ever-escalating threats to our personal safety. We are reminded daily that we can expect future terrorist attacks here in our homeland.

Couple that prospect with already existing domestic crime related violence and it does not paint a very pretty picture.

The perception of many, mostly politicians, that now wince we are aware of the danger we are taking positive steps to prevent future attacks. The message is, "trust us, we will protect you." The cold hard facts of life are such that very little is being done to protect us from future violence more than was done in the past.

The Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King verdict serves to illustrate my point exactly. The government did absolutely nothing to prepare for the inevitable chaos that followed and little to stop the violence while it was going on in the immediate area.

The response was to pull out all law enforcement and let the conflagration burn itself out. Very few of the persons responsible for the carnage were ever charged or brought to justice.

The fact is that law enforcement's role is much more pronounced and effective in finding and bringing criminals to justice than it is in protecting us from them. How often have you read of someone who is under an order of protection being brutally murdered? We had a classic example in the '60's here in Herkimer County. A young lady protected under such an order was in the courthouse to lodge a complaint that her boyfriend was violating same. He followed her there and shot and killed her in front of police officers. I was reminded of that a few months back when he was released on parole.

Our legal system calls such actions justice. In my humble opinion actions such as that jeopardize all honest law abiding citizens and betray our trust in the officials we elect. Ultimately we the people have to accept direct responsibility for the results when we choose leaders that allow such a system to exist.

Former Governor Mario Cuomo to my mind represents the perfect example of a leader who went out of his way to preserve such a system. How many area residents remember the Willow Nursery murders that occurred just north of Rome? Four innocent people that worked there were lined up and executed by robbers who were after a rare coin collection. What incentive did the killers have for committing such an atrocity? Constant bragging by the Governor who promised in every campaign that if the likes of them were ever sentenced to death he would commute their sentence. I am proud to say I have never wasted a vote on that man. In my opinion he may have been responsible for the deaths of more innocent people than any other elected official in the history of New York State.

We are led to believe that we are much safer from terrorist attacks than we were prior to September 11. I for one do not believe it. Airport security is not one iota better than it ever was from all published reports. The only real difference is that the regular screeners have been replaced by government employees at three times the previous costs sans the accountability that was somewhat present before.

Mickey Mouse procedures such as putting Vice President Gore, various congressmen, senators and eighty-year-old women thorough intensive searches does

nothing to alleviate my fears. On the contrary it makes me all the more apprehensive. Real meaningful measures that would actually protect the public are stymied and thwarted by the A.C.L.U. and liberal politicians like Mario Cuomo.

The bottom line is we as individuals are directly responsible for our own welfare and safety. We cannot wholly expect or depend on others for our basic safety. It extends to our health, or children's health, home safety, travel safety and national defense.

Ultimately each and every one of us should be accountable and responsible for our personal safety above all other dictates.