

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

IT'S NOT ABOUT GUNS

"From secrecy and deception in high places, come home, America." George McGovern, Democratic Senator

Here we go again, a radical Islamist attacks the homeland and Progressive Democrats scream for gun control. Folks, their argument has little to do with guns but everything to do with control over your life. Second Amendment rights have no place in their world.

The mass murder of 49 innocents in Orlando, and why the FBI failed again to stop a terrorist they were investigating, should be debated by our political leaders. Instead, we have to endure Progressive Democrats engaged in a sit-in on the House of Representatives floor, politicizing the tragedy to push their gun control agenda. Obama applauds their actions while a compliant media loves the theater.

Progressives believe that a nationwide assault weapon ban will minimize violence. But what exactly is an assault weapon? Writing in *Stanford Law & Policy Review*, Bruce Kobayashi & Joseph Olson offered: "Prior to 1989, the term "assault weapon" did not exist in the lexicon of firearms. It is a political term, developed by anti-gun publicists to expand the category of "assault rifles."

David Kopel wrote in the *WSJ*: "What some people call "assault weapons" function like every other normal firearms—they fire only one bullet each time the trigger is pressed (semi-automatic). Unlike automatics (machine guns), they do not fire continuously as long as the trigger is held. ... Today in America, most handguns are semi-automatics, as are many long guns, including the best-selling rifle today, the AR-15, the model used in the Newtown shooting. Some of these guns look like machine guns, but they do not function like machine guns."

In the late 1980s, more than two decades after the AR-15 was first sold to the American public, the anti-gun lobby began a systematic campaign to liken it and other "military-style" firearms to machine guns. With the help of the media, the American public soon began to think that an assault weapon was, like the assault rifles it resembled, a machine gun. In 1993, Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (AWB) that defined assault weapons as semi-automatic firearms that shared too many cosmetic features with their fully automatic counterparts.

After the AWB became law, the *Washington Post* delivered this editorial: "No one should have any illusions about what was accomplished [by the ban]. Assault weapons play a part in only a small percentage of crime. The provision is mainly symbolic; its

virtue will be if it turns out to be, as hoped, a stepping stone to broader gun control.”
The same illusion holds true today.

In 2004, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expired and it was not renewed. A 2004 Department of Justice report concluded: “Should it be renewed, the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement. [Assault weapons] were rarely used in gun crimes even before the ban.” Furthermore, legislators had misjudged the popularity of so-called assault weapons. In his memoir, Bill Clinton wrote that Democrats lost control of Congress in the 1994 midterm elections because of the AWB. Other Democrats have stated that the AWB may have cost Al Gore the 2000 presidential election.

Since the Obama Administration has NO strategy for defending the country against radical Islamic terrorism, he wishes to make atrocities like San Bernardino and Orlando a rallying cry for the Progressive’s fetish control over citizens. Obama is bringing in Syrian refugees en masse in the middle of the night on UPS planes. These aliens cannot be properly vetted, and undoubtedly include future terrorists. Did gun control laws in Paris and Brussels stop the madmen? How about the murder rate in Chicago with its strict gun control laws?

Progressive Democrats are now trying to take away our due process rights as stated in both the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Under their way of thinking, a gun owner will have to prove that he should not be on the government’s terrorist watch list. Democrat sit-in leader John Lewis, of all people, should know the implications since he was once himself the victim of a Transportation Security Administration mistake that placed him on a terror watch list – the very same list he now wants used to determine who can legally buy firearms under his “no fly-no buy” mantra.

The rifle used in the racist slaughter of five white Dallas policemen would still be legal under an assault weapons ban. Per CBS New, the rifle was a 70+ year old relic that that would not meet the definition of an “assault weapon” under most state laws, including California.

The question remains, why do Progressive Democrats wish to disarm a citizenry whom radical Islamists desire to kill?