

The Left Can Be Turned (But You Should Stay Armed)

By Alan Korwin

After a long exhausting joust with one of those “I support the Second Amendment but...” guys, I discovered a way to turn them, with ease. Agree with them instead of arguing against them.

No, you don't have to sell out, compromise on principle or even give an inch. Yes, it surprised me too. Watch. “We should ban/modify/restrict/limit/ control/confiscate the really bad guns (or all the guns) by taking these limited common-sense rational simple measures; why wouldn't that work?” he says. We had started by trying to figure out how to save schoolkids from being slaughtered by their sociopathic classmates, a discussion motivated by the murderer at Parkland high school.

He couldn't see it, and no amount of reasoning or cajoling on my part moved him an inch past any specific idea he had, all of which were aimed at guns. Several external anecdotes seemed to have impact: 6,000 inner-city murders for the past few years but virtually no murder trials – “Well that ain't right,” he admits, and it's not exactly a gun thing. We endure two-thirds of all gun-related deaths as suicides, a medical issue getting inadequate medical attention (and he's a doctor, OK, this raises his eyebrows). But he remains clinging to a hope that mandatory gizmos to stop guns from firing will be a solution. Later it occurs to me, he has classic “Ungun Disease” – guns are OK as long as they don't work.

I reach a breaking point, ready to give up, so I do. OK, Doc, let's say you get all your wishes, every “bad” gun is removed, Americans are only left with, well, what exactly? Aha! He doesn't know. We're both surprised. It's a turning point. We fill in the blanks together. First though, we take this side trip down the “who takes the guns” road. “They should take all the guns away,” becomes uncomfortably clear. It is paralyzing. Government takes them. Now, the current administration is compared by the gun-grabbing opposition party to Nazis. That irony stops even hardcore leftists in their tracks when it strikes home: They want to take the dangerous guns from citizens and give them to...Nazis?

By agreeing on their adamantly held positions, their positions collapse of their own weight. Who'd a thunk it? We went through it step by step. It was a piece of cake not a tiresome no-winner debate. Check it out – his proposals, one by one, when accepted and explained back to him, fell apart.

Somehow removing all the no-good guns left 100 million Americans armed in their homes with only maybe revolvers, or hunting rifles, maybe shotguns. This will stop children (or jihadis) from committing mass murder, how, exactly? It doesn't even address the problem. It just flatly violates the Fourth Amendment. And the Ninth. And the Tenth. Why even mention the Second? Or the fact that attempting such monstrous acts exceeds the bounds of anything politically possible (a point he's not willing to concede). We agree it's a boiling point for revolution. Like last time more than two centuries ago. That won't do. This is almost too easy.

So let's concede that point too. As a fan of “democracy,” something our Founders recognized as an aberrant precursor to mob violence and end to freedom, we face the fact that we the people could vote ourselves into slavery. If the culture, the electorate and mass media (well, the media is already there), get to the point where they ban guns period, how does that disarm the inner-city gangs that are committing all those murders? Once again it doesn't even address that problem. EVERY gun criminals hold is ALREADY banned. And the rational approach – start with the gangs and the illegal guns first – oh, that's never part of any of the rationing, locking, paperwork-enhancement schemes, as good as they are (or aren't).

This is now hanging by its own petard, in its own special light. I raise the strictly rhetorical point that I'm technically a utopian pacifist, in favor of no weapons of any kind on the entire face of the Earth, in an era of enduring peace, prosperity, abundance and harmony. Until then, disarm everyone, CRIMINALS FIRST. Then maybe I'll talk to you about MY guns – while I'm fully armed. I did say it's utopian (loosely translated, "utopian" means nowhere).

And that can't happen until we somehow manage to eliminate what I call The Four Horsemen of Human Havoc: Angry, Hungry, Stupid and Wicked. No one has ever proposed a way to do that. Hungry can theoretically be eliminated but so far little progress has been made, so neighbors are at neighbors' throats. Stupid is genetic, deeply imbedded in much of humanity, not much hope there. Angry is deep inside almost everyone, with a few "Mother Teresa" types and the rest acting out as they see fit. And Wicked – deny it if you must – but evil exists in the world my friends, so to paraphrase our former president, cling tightly to your guns and your religion.

Award-winning author Alan Korwin has written 14 books, 10 of them on gun law, and has advocated for gun rights for nearly three decades. See his work or reach him at GunLaws.com.