

It is a good day for Liberty.

I heard a story about three muggers who decided that an 80-year old man walking with a cane would be an easy target. The old man knocked the idea out of their heads with his cane. They had attacked Colonel Rex Applegate. The Colonel taught close quarter fight to the OSS during WW II and had forgotten nothing. I chalked it up to a story that, if it was not true, it should be. Recently I learned IT'S TRUE. John Taffin writing in the June 2017 Guns Magazine recounted the story. On inquiry he said that he heard it from the Colonel's own lips.

I celebrated my birthday at the Missouri Valley Arms Collector's gun show. Actually my birthday was the week before, but it is my birthday and I can celebrate it any day I want. There was no cake, and I had to buy my own presents but it was worth it. One vendor was selling a Marine Officer's sword for \$600. I thought this a little pricey for a sword whose sole purpose is to lead men across heavily mined beaches and into massed machine gun fire while batting away bullets. Of course, they do save the Marine Corps money. Otherwise they would have to give their officers guns and ammunition; and ammunition costs money. I found a great deal on a 1914 US Army sword, the one designed by General George Patton. This was the last sword adopted by the US Army and just in time for WW I when it was discovered that batting away bullets is easier done by tanks. Knowing of my interest, the vendor revealed to me that this sword was carried by General Custer in the Battle of the Little Bighorn. So I paid the extra dollar. During WW II many of these swords were discovered in Australia and were cut down into machetes and dropped to Filipino guerrillas. Many others were cut down into fighting knives. This was a more practical use for quality steel in the mid-20th century than swords. The vendor promised he could find me one of these knives to match my sword; one used to scalp General Custer. This would be a wonderful symmetry for my collection. It will be harder to obtain one of the machetes.

According to John Lott there are approximately 16.3 million licenses to carry concealed weapons in the United States. A number of people have multiple licenses but this is the best estimate. The remarkable figure is how few licenses are revoked for criminal behavior of any kind. Only Florida and Texas keep track of how many licenses are revoked for crimes and the number is miniscule. According to statistics more police officers are convicted of felonies than licensees.

The NAACP has issued a travel advisory for African-Americans traveling through Missouri. Bloomfield Press reports that the Second Amendment Foundation has issued its first travel advisory ever -- avoid California if you're armed. Their rules and attitude toward gun possession have gotten so bad, that the risk to you from government is greater than the risk you face from criminals. Police who say they would never confiscate guns no longer live in that state. This is a great program. I say they should add my birthplace, New Jersey, to the list of travel advisories. Who has other suggestions?

Alan Korwin of Bloomfield press suggests the following:

Media's "Gotcha" Gun Question, Destroyed

Here's a trap question media people expect you to answer their way, or come off as a radical lunatic: "Do you support background checks on all gun sales?" We all know this is a registration scheme, and the bills themselves aren't really about crime control. Overlook that. You're supposed to say yes, of course, it's only reasonable, what has an honest person got to hide, it's just common sense, must stop crooks at retail level, why on Earth wouldn't you do background checks, you mean they don't already...

The good answer, for the purpose of this joust, is, "Not as currently run." Then reporters are on unfamiliar ground, you're in control, and you get to inform them. 1 - A background check system should be separated from a gun registry or database of innocent people, which the current system includes (and maybe add, don't you agree?). 2 - The alternate BIDS system would do a better job, at lower cost, and won't create illegal and dangerous registries (and maybe add, would you support that?).

BIDS is like Wanted Posters, where the list of bad guys is routinely sent to retailers to check, instead of sending the names of tens of millions of innocent people to the FBI. Then ask the reporter, what do you think about that, and

start interviewing the person trying to skewer you. Read about BIDS:
<http://www.gunlaws.com/BIDSvNICS.htm>

I would add that you remind the inquisitor that there has been a background check system operating for over twenty years. Since such a system already exists, exactly what are “background check” advocates trying to do?

One of the hoplophobe leaders says that the violence in Charlotte was caused by guns. People threw things and a car was used to kill a woman and injure others; but guns did it. There were people with guns there, but no one was shot. If the nazi driving the car had been shot that might have been helpful. One cannot stop a car with pistol fire. Shooting a tire makes the car a trifle harder to handle but those of us who have had flat tires know that the car will not stop. A WW I French fighter ace said that he never tried to shoot down an aircraft. He shot the pilot and the plane became irrelevant. Of course the plan did not become irrelevant; the plane fell out of the sky onto whatever was beneath it. If the driver of a car is shot the results are unpredictable. The car may coast to a stop; or not. When the Skidmore Bully was killed a body spasm caused him to press down on the gas pedal of his truck. The truck was still in park so it did not go anywhere and roared full-throttle until the engine seized up. If it had been in gear something bad might have happened. Shooting a homicidal driver is unpredictable. However, allowing a homicidal driver to continue is predictable. Until Star Trek phasers become commercially available we are forced to apply imperfect answers to horrible questions.

One columnist claims that the racist demonstrations in Charlotte “are” America. The writer states that his African-American friends tell him that racists like this have always been around. I’m sure that they have. But look at the numbers. Estimates of racists at the protest have hovered around 50 bigots. Photos indicate that there might have been more, perhaps 100. Estimates of counter-protesters have been five to ten times that number. The racists have started a defense fund for the racist strongly suspected of driving his car into a crowd. Three days later it raised \$2,300 of its \$50,000 goal. In the same period a medical fund for one of the injured counter protesters has raised \$110,000 of its \$120,000 goal. This is America.

I do not wish to be reviled, as President Trump has, for being insufficiently critical of racists. Yes, some of the counter-demonstrators do not appear to have been peaceful. Photos and accounts are vague at best. My experience has been that racists are the bad guys. They are vile and violent. I have very strong prejudices on this point.

We shall overcome.