



Exercising the Right

Ammunition Tax

In an October 15 editorial, Frank Miniter, writing for the NRA publication *America's 1st Freedom*, discussed the latest tactic of the gun-control crowd to repeal the Second Amendment through indirect means. Miniter's column discussed the various measures currently being proposed, such as microstamping ammunition, which adds to the cost of shooting. Another runaround being exploited by gun controllers is to tax ammunition so prohibitively high that it ends up having the same result as banning guns.

Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D) of California has proposed a new law that he said would tax gun and ammunition sales to help fund new counselors and school resource officers at public schools in order to deal with potential school shooters. "We are not banning guns or ammunition, but we would tax that.... And to me that's a small price to pay," Cooper said to KCRA.com. Of course, to Cooper, the tax may be "a small price to pay," but to working-class citizens who are just making enough to survive, increased taxes such as those proposed could prohibit the purchase of a gun or ammunition.

As the NRA's Miniter wrote, "Bans, restrictions, fees and taxes do one thing and one thing only — they further burden America's 100-plus million gun owners, which is what [gun-control groups] are really after. If they can make gun ownership and use more expensive and difficult, then they can discourage the poor and those who don't have the time to navigate the bureaucracy from utilizing their Second Amendment rights. If they can make the Second Amendment too burdensome a right for many to utilize, then, over time, they calculate that the large voting bloc of law-abiding gun owners will shrink into a smaller constituency. This would then allow them to further restrict or even ban Americans' right to bear arms."

Concealed-carrying Clerk

KFDM.com reported about a shooting on June 11 at a convenience store in Orange, Texas, that showed concealed carry could be the difference between life and death. Police say a man entered Crawdad's Convenience Store shortly after 2 a.m., pulled a gun on the store clerk, and demanded the cash from the register. The employee immediately pulled out his own gun, which he had concealed inside his waistband, and fired at the robber. The thug, shot in both the chest and the neck, ran from the store. The frazzled clerk called 911, and authorities soon arrived on the scene to discover the body of the deceased suspect lying at a nearby intersection.

Investigators discovered the "gun" they believe the deceased suspect used in the crime and quickly determined that it was a toy gun. Police believe the deceased suspect, later identified as 55-year-old William Jerome Broughton, a man with a criminal record, used the toy gun because it looked real, and he wanted the clerk to think that he would shoot if the clerk didn't give him the money. Unfortunately for the criminal, his plan worked too well because the clerk believed the toy gun was real and, acting in fear for his life, used lethal force to defend himself. Detective Captain Robert Enmon of the Orange Police Department told KOGT.com that the burglar "had a toy gun that resembled a real one" and that the clerk fired his own gun only when he "felt the use of force was necessary because he feared for his life."



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Brazen Pharmacy Robbery

WGAL.com reported on October 25 about two masked robbers who burst into a pharmacy in the middle of the day in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lancaster police are still investigating the incident, but they say preliminary reports show that one of the assailants was armed and brandished a firearm in the holdup. In interviews with the witnesses, police determined that the two masked men might have been trying to steal both cash and pharmaceuticals, but an armed employee confronted them. Police say the armed employee fired at the masked men, hitting one of them several times. The uninjured accomplice fled from the scene on foot and is still being sought by authorities. The injured suspect was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment and is expected to make a full recovery.

Lancaster Police Chief Jarrad Berkihiser told WGAL that the suspects “came here in broad daylight to Smithgall’s Pharmacy on the corner of a major thoroughfare in the city of Lancaster, so this was their target.... And the fact that shots were fired, I’m sure the second suspect’s not sticking around for any reason.”

Mentally Ill Giant

The *Kitsap Sun* out of Bremerton, Washington, reported on October 25 about a deadly encounter between a homeowner and a knife-wielding trespasser. The incident occurred the prior month when 6’ 6” Cody T. Brooks entered the front yard of a homeowner and began threatening him. Investigators say the much larger Brooks was armed with a knife and was making aggressive and bizarre statements to the resident, who was relaxing with his girlfriend on his porch. The homeowner tried to de-escalate the situation, but Brooks would not be calmed. Concerned about what might occur next, the homeowner asked his girlfriend to retrieve his gun. The girlfriend got it and handed it to the homeowner, who chambered a round in an attempt to scare Brooks off. Instead, the deranged Brooks grabbed the homeowner by his neck. The homeowner was left with no other option but to fire at Brooks in self-defense.

Police believe the first shot hit Brooks in the lower abdomen, but that Brooks then lunged at the victim, who then fired another shot into Brooks’ chest. The injured Brooks lumbered away, suffering from mortal gunshot wounds, and collapsed in the street. Kitsap County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Chad Enright would later report, “Given all the facts and the forensic analysis of the crime scene that corroborated the homeowner’s version of events, we believe this case appeared to be self-defense.” Enright also noted the huge size disparity between the aggressor and the victim, as well as the deceased suspect’s history of bipolar disorder and violent behavior. Brooks had apparently made delusional statements to the victim that Brooks was a CIA and FBI agent and that he was going to cut him.

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