



EXERCISING THE RIGHT

Clutching Their Pearls?

A comical story out of New Hampshire reminds us how fragile and disingenuous gun-grabbers can sometimes be. Michael Graham, writing at InsideSources.com, explained on March 6 that both the media and prominent Democrats got their facts wrong when they thought New Hampshire legislators were publicly mocking gun-control advocates. The incident unfolded at a hearing on a proposed “red flag” law. In general, so-called red flag laws are laws that allow a citizen to petition a court to remove guns from a gun owner owing to fears that the gun owner may harm himself or others. Second Amendment supporters worry that such laws may be used to slip around due process, with gun owners having their guns taken at the discretion of a judge without being able to defend themselves. The hearing on the law brought both supporters and critics to the statehouse, and one such critic immediately assumed the worst about state legislators wearing pearl necklaces.

Shannon Watts, a member of the group Moms Demand Action, which Graham described as “an anti-gun group backed by liberal billionaire Mike Bloomberg,” posted a series of tweets making the accusation that the pearls were intended as an insult aimed at people concerned with gun violence. As an example, one tweet from Watts read “Male New Hampshire lawmakers on the hearing committee wearing pearls to mock @MomsDemand volunteers and gun safety advocates.” Her messages soon went viral and leftists on social media, as they are known to do, quickly repeated and amplified the messages without checking on the facts. The outcry got to such a fevered pitch that Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from California Kamala Harris even chimed in and lambasted the Republican politicians. “These moms are fighting to confront gun violence and protect our children. They don’t deserve to be mocked,” Harris wrote to her millions of followers on Twitter.

But the truth would soon come out that the pearls were actually a symbol of a women’s group, which had given them to both male and female legislators. Kimberly Morin is president of the New Hampshire Women’s Defense League, which identifies itself as a pro-Second Amendment organization and is opposed to the proposed red flag law. “We’ve used pearls as a symbol of support for the right to bear arms — particularly the right of women to defend themselves — for years,” Morin told InsideSources. “They’ve become a symbol representing the Women’s Defense League and our fight for women’s rights, for freedom, and against gun control,” she explained.

But leftists rarely admit mistakes, and they continued to promote the lie that the pearls were meant to humiliate opponents. Such tactics leave Morin pessimistic about having any constructive dialogue with the opposing side in the gun-control debate. “How can we trust them in a discussion about something as important as the Second Amendment when we can’t even trust them not to lie about us over something as simple as the pearls?”

Second Amendment Sanctuaries

Most of our readers are familiar with “Sanctuary Cities” or “Sanctuary States,” Democrat-controlled municipalities or states that refuse to cooperate with the federal government in enforcing immigration laws. Now comes “Second Amendment Sanctuaries,” where a similar concept is being applied to the topic of gun-control legislation. KDVR.com reported on March 6 about how Weld County in Colorado



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became the third county in the state to pass a resolution declaring it a “Second Amendment sanctuary county.” The resolution was passed by the Weld County Commission, which stated that the commissioners supported law-enforcement officers in their decision to not enforce the state’s proposed red flag law. The resolution expressed “support for the Weld County Sheriff in the exercise of his sound discretion to not enforce against any citizen an unconstitutional firearms law.”

Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer released a statement explaining that this “issue isn’t an issue of safety as much as it is an issue of protecting the constitutional rights of citizens.”

Sheriff Steve Reams reiterated such a stance and said, “I have a duty for public safety but also have a duty to protect the Constitution.”

Of course, Americans can’t just rely on the discretion of an elected county sheriff to not enforce unconstitutional laws, but such a measure might be our best option at the moment until more proactive steps can be taken to defend the Second Amendment.

Gun-rights Activists Use Social Media

Guns & America, a self-described “public media reporting project on the role of guns in American life,” ran an interesting piece about how young gun-rights activists are using social media in an innovative way to advance Second Amendment guarantees. The piece profiled Patrick Parsons, a member of the organization Georgia Gun Owners, who regularly livestreams himself in front of the Georgia Capitol on Facebook, reaching thousands of people every day.

In his livestreams, Parsons discusses various laws related to guns but primarily focuses on the burgeoning “constitutional carry” movement that this column has previously covered. Parsons explained that constitutional carry “simply makes the weapons license optional.” Parsons also advocates the use of lobbying apps that make it easier to send messages to your legislators. Parsons views social media as “the great equalizer.... Twenty years ago, we didn’t have this on any issue.... No matter what you believed in, left or right. Now we have the ability to connect directly with people.” The Facebook page for his organization has more than 400,000 followers, which is far greater than the other pro-gun group in his state, but this large Internet presence hasn’t yet translated into success in the political world, as “constitutional carry” doesn’t look like it will even be considered during this year’s legislative calendar.

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