Your on the Street Reporter

Uyless Black

Banning Dangerous Weapons

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July 24, 2012

Hello from Your on the Street Reporter. Today I received a bootleg video from a source known to me, but whose identity must remain anonymous to the readers of this report. This source has used a cell phone to record a Senate subcommittee meeting held yesterday, obviously behind closed doors.

I played the video back in QuickTime in order to pause the film to record the following dialogues. The names of the lawmakers are not revealed.

To aid in your following this hearing, the text within brackets and bold text are mine.

The recording pick-ups the meeting:

Senator One, "We can no longer ignore this issue. [Reporter: Weapons used in the Aurora movie theater killings.]

Senator Two, "It's not an issue and we're not ignoring it! As I've said…how many times…. it's dead in the water. And how many times must this committee revisit the right? [Reporter: He is referring to the Constitution and its clause about the right to bear arms. We shouldn't even be here discussing a non-starter issue."

Senator Three, "I side with [Senator Two]…always have… but the calls these past few days tell me the mood is changing---a lot---about the issue; especially assault weapons. Gentlemen, I can't continue to ignore it. In my state, I just can't kick this can down the road anymore."

Senator Four, "[first name of a Senator] I've received the same response. But all of us need to keep in mind there are other views…and they are…just as valid. Look, the so-called arms this guy had were not much more than the average citizen keeps in his home. Keep that in mind."

Senator Five, who looks perturbed, "Average citizen! What citizen keeps an arsenal in his closet? We've got to move off the dime. At least with a press release….and soon! "

The video goes off, then on a few times. It comes back on with:

Senator One, "OK, we've got a consensus on the matter. Ah…Um… thank you gentlemen. We'll get a release out for tomorrow …No legislation in the works…nothing of that sort…a committee is being formed to look into the matter.

Senator Four, "I still don't like it [name of Senator One]. Goes against my grain and the grain of my constituents….I…" [Interrupted]

Senator One, "[Name of Senator Four] …I know, but we are doing something about it. We can't not do something!

As we've agreed to, our release will be:"

The recording shows the Senator reading from a sheet of paper:

> "In light of the Aurora movie theater tragedy and America's overwhelming response to this travesty, Congress has assembled a blue-ribbon committee of esteemed and respected Americans to examine the possible banning of Batman paraphernalia."

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A postscript: Batman masks don't kill people. People wearing them do.

Banning Dangerous Weapons
Report Two

July 25, 2012

Hello from Your On the Street Reporter. The report I sent you (segment one, dated July 24, 2012) was a satire. I did not think I would be writing this revelation to you. However, over 50 percent of the responses to my spoof thought the Senators' deliberations were serious, and the bogus press release was real.

At first, I was surprised---even taken aback---by this seeming naïveté. But after receiving some replies from readers whom I know, and whom I know to have first-rate intellects, it hit me like a 2x4 to the head:

Congress habitually addresses matters that are so trivial and irrelevant, ones that have absolutely nothing to do with the welfare of this country, that these readers were not at all surprised that a Senate subcommittee was looking into banning Batman paraphernalia because this comic book character's masks and capes were considered to be dangerous weapons.

Comical? Hardly, that is the pathetic irony of it all.

Meanwhile, our lawmakers ignore the issues that matter to the future of this country. They fixate on soft issues or issues that will not alienate super PACs…while America slowly sinks into irrelevance.

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