

of energy. It's not energy. It's the way you carry energy. That's electricity.

We shouldn't have any deficit of electricity with more nuclear power plants. Yes, they are safe. We've never lost a person operating them. With more wind machines, with more solar, with more micro-hydro, with more true geothermal, we need another word for these heat pumps that are looking not at the zero cold and trying to heat that up. It's like trying to make it colder to heat your house up in the wintertime or trying to heat up hot air to make your house cooler in the summertime.

If you're looking at 56 degrees here, that's a whole lot more efficient. We call that geothermal. We've got to have another word for that, because true geothermal is tapping into the molten core of the Earth. That, for all practical purposes, is infinite and will be there for a very, very long time. With these sources, we can produce all the electricity that we would like to produce, but that is not true of liquid fuels. They are finite.

One of the first people to recognize that—and he was for several years a pariah and then he became an icon—his name was M. King Hubbert. He gave what I think will be recognized as the most important speech of the last century. I believe that speech was the 8th day of May in 1956. And he gave that speech in San Antonio, Texas. He was an oil geologist. He gave it to a group of oil people.

As you look back in your history books, you will find that at that time we were king of oil. We produced more oil. We used more oil. We're still doing that. We're using more oil than anybody else. And we sold more oil and exported more oil than any other country in the world. And M. King Hubbert told them something that was just audacious and seemingly ridiculous. He said, Notwithstanding the fact that we are so big in oil today, in just 14 years the United States will reach its maximum oil production. And no matter what you do after that, oil production in the United States will go down.

How can he make that kind of a prediction? He made it because when he looked at an individual oil field, he saw that the exploitation of that field produced kind of a bell curve. Sometimes a little distorted bell curve, but kind of a bell curve. When you first started pumping, it really came out. And then you reached a peak and then it was harder and harder to get it out until finally it tailed off and you'd gotten all you could out of the well.

So he rationalized that if he could add up all the little fields in the United States, he could get all the little bell curves and you get one big bell curve. When he did that, it reached its maximum in 1970. And so he made that prediction in 1956. Right on schedule, in 1970, we reached our maximum oil production. And no matter what we've done since then, like building more oil wells in all the rest of the world put together, for instance, today we produce about half the oil we produced in 1956.

The second speech—and I don't know if these two men even knew each other—was given by Hyman Rickover just about a year later. It was the 14th day of May, 1957. It was a speech given in St. Paul, Minnesota. And you can pull this one up. It was lost until a few years ago. Just Google for Rickover and energy speech and it will come up. I think you will agree with me that it was probably the most insightful speech in the last century.

And in it he noted that oil is finite. He said in the 8,000—I didn't think it was that long; those are his numbers—in the 8,000-year recorded history of man, the age of oil will be but a blip. We're behaving as if it's going to be forever. He called it this "Golden Age." Please, please Google for Rickover and energy speech and pull it up. I think you'll be fascinated by the speech.

One of the things he said in it was how long it lasts is important in only one regard: the longer it lasts, the more time we'll have to plan an orderly transition to other sources of energy. That's not quite what we're doing. And I'm not sure that he would agree that drill, baby, drill is an orderly transition to other sources of energy.

I have just two charts of the probably hundred-or-more charts that I've used from time to time in talking about this subject—and the subject is peak oil.

Let me show you these two charts. This is a chart that ends in 2008, and it has the oil production followed by the two major entities in the world that have the most credibility in this—the EIA, the Energy Information Administration, and the IEA, the International Energy Association, which is a creature of the OECD in Europe. And these were their two curves. You see they're leveling out up there. The headline was: "Peak Oil: Are We There Yet?"

And I want to show you another chart. And you can not find these curves anymore. They were kind of disquieting, and they're taken down from the Web site. These are the curves put up by the IEA, International Energy Association. Here we're following the production of oil. You can go back here—way, way back for hundreds of years. Every time we needed more, we could produce more oil.

The different colors here, natural gas, liquids on top—they have that growing. That will grow. Nonconventional oil, that's from the oil shales. That's growing. That will grow. The dark red there really should be a part of the blue down here. It's just enhanced oil recovery, squeezing a little more out of the fields we're pumping from, like putting live steam down there and CO₂ and so forth to force it out. This is the fields we're now pumping, and they're admitting that we're reaching peak oil, plateau here, because they have them tailing off.

Now, this chart was done in 2008, and the one below it was done in 2010. I'll come to that in just a moment.

In order to keep the total liquids going up, you notice what they've done

is projected two huge fields here, that by 2030 they said a fourth of all the liquids we're getting, only a fourth of it will come from the fields we're now pumping, that three-fourths of it will come from something else. And half of the total is going to be from fields that we're not getting anything from now. That's a pretty tall order.

Then, in 2010 they did this other curve down here, and they have reversed the two on top here. And different colors. But they're the same thing. And they've included the dark red here down with the oil fields that we're now pumping. And notice this goes to 2035. Up here, by the way, they were going to peak at 112 million barrels a day. Now we're stuck at 84 million billion barrels for 5 years. They have it going up to 112. Two years later, reality is setting in. Now it goes up to only 96. And they go out 5 years further to 2035. Notice the precipitous drop-off in the fields that we're now pumping.

Now, we have some irrational exuberance, as Alan Greenspan would define it, in our country about our ability to get some additional gas and oil out of things like the Marcellus shales and the fields out in the West by horizontal drilling and fracking; and these are represented in these two curves here. I think that one can say, in analyzing history, with considerable confidence that these two wedges here will not occur. By the way it's 600,000. It sounds like a lot, doesn't it? 600,000 barrels.

□ 2100

We use 84 million barrels a day. In 11 or 12 days, we—the world—use a billion barrels of oil. So if we're getting 600,000 from the Bakken oil fields out in the West, that's almost literally a drop in the bucket, isn't it?

I'd just like to close, this last chance probably that I have to come and chat with you here on the floor. It's been a huge honor to represent 660,000 people in the First District of Maryland, to come here to the Congress to talk to maybe a million, a million and a half people listening to us out there. Thank you, constituents, for this honor. Thank you for listening.

I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 30 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank the Democratic leader and leadership for giving us the opportunity to come to the floor as the Congressional Black Caucus. Perhaps some other Members may be joining us.

We wanted to just add our word of sympathy and condolences to the families in Newtown, Connecticut. We will all grieve for a very, very long time, and rightly so, the loss of the 20 innocent little children and seven adults

who lost their lives in an utterly senseless and horrific act of violence.

The people of the Virgin Islands, like the rest of our Nation—and indeed the world—mourn the loss of the 27 people gunned down in Newtown, Connecticut, last week. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and the entire town and they will continue to be for a very long time. Our hearts especially go out to them throughout what we know will be an extremely difficult Christmas season.

The President and many others have reminded us that we have been here far too many times even in just this year. As he said at the ecumenical service a few evenings ago, it's time to act. It's not enough to sympathize with the families who lost loved ones. We have to take action to protect our children and to protect all our citizens. To that extent, I've signed on to the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, sponsored by Congresswomen MCCARTHY and DEGETTE, which would prohibit the transfer or import of large-capacity ammunition feeding devices manufactured before the date of enactment, as well as four or five other bills sponsored by Congresswomen MALONEY and MCCARTHY, Congressman PERLMUTTER, and others, to improve background checks, to slow the trafficking of guns, and to keep them out of the hands of individuals who should not have them; as well as the PROMISE Act, which is a prevention bill.

I'm joined this evening by Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE of Brooklyn, New York, who has long been an advocate for ending the gun violence in our communities and providing the kinds of assistance, both in intervention and prevention, that we need in so many communities around this country. She has been a leader on so many issues, and I'd like to yield her such time as she might consume.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I've joined my colleague, Dr. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, Representative of the Virgin Islands, here tonight in remembrance of the 20 first-grade children and six educators who were mercilessly gunned down last Friday at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, innocent victims of senseless gun violence.

To the families, educators, and the community of Newtown, Connecticut, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Brooklyn, New York, I wish to express my most profound and deepest condolences.

I believe, like so many across this Nation, that the families of these victims, the families of children in every community in the United States, have some very important questions for Members of Congress. I also believe that as their representatives we have an obligation to provide them with answers.

Question: Why? Why have we allowed our communities around this Nation, from a supermarket in Tucson, Arizona

to a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, to a shopping mall in Oregon, to an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, to the streets of Brooklyn, New York, why have we been so reluctant in protecting them? Why have we left them unprotected, vulnerable to gun violence, death, and the terror that such actions inflict?

Who will speak for the people whose lives were cut short, struck down, maimed and traumatized for life? When will we realize that these incidents are not inevitable, that we have the ability to prevent gun violence and an obligation to do everything in our power to make gun violence a thing of the past? The answer to these questions will define this generation of Members of Congress. Our answers will determine the future of our civil society.

Americans have the right to demand answers from this Congress. We have the authority to keep the guns away from the streets of our cities and towns. In the 11th Congressional District which I represent in New York City, the New York City Police Department reported 274 victims from 226 incidents involving gun violence, and that was in two neighborhoods in the district that I represent. The majority of these crimes were registered in just two communities; 274 victims from 226 incidents. Now, fortunately, not everyone perished in these instances, but one incident of death is one too many. The repercussions of the trauma that comes from those who witness these incidents, who dodge the bullets in our communities, is immeasurable.

We have the authority to focus our efforts on penalties for gun trafficking and unlawful sales of firearms. We have the authority to prevent the retail sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines or clips that are designed for military combat use. We have the ability to register handguns and micro stamp munitions to trace ownership and origin. We have the authority; we only need to have the courage to act.

The Newtown tragedy has highlighted a vexing issue that we as Americans must address. It is imperative that we set aside our differences in the 113th Congress to pass legislation that will increase accountability among gun vendors and owners, support local law enforcement to stem the tide of gun trafficking across our Nation, reduce the number of illegal guns on our streets, and remove access to high-powered militarized weapons and ammunition which have no place in our communities.

Madam Speaker, this is not a Republican problem, it is not a Democrat problem. This is an American problem, and this is a problem we must have the courage to address.

I want to thank my colleague for yielding. As I drove up to the Capitol for this Special Order this evening, I reflected on the flags waving at half-mast over the Capitol, an indication of the deep grief and sorrow that our Nation faces at this time. I think to my

own community, where I've attended far too many funerals of families that have been devastated by the heinous act of gun violence.

□ 2110

I think about a former colleague of mine. As a member of the New York City Council, I unfortunately count myself among the victims who witnessed my own city council colleague being gunned down before us. And so, what we need to understand is that while these incidents may seem remote from many families, the implications of what can happen in our communities extend beyond what we may hear in the news but affect tens of thousands who may not have been the immediate or intended target of gun violence but have been a witness, have been family members, community members, that have a love and a care for the lost one who were taken senselessly and needlessly. Let us muster up the courage to act. I yield back.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman CLARKE, for joining us. Again, thank you for your leadership, and thank you for those words that you have uttered on behalf of our communities and the community of Newtown and children and our citizens across this country.

Flags are flying at half-mast across this country. I know whenever I would drive at home last weekend, and I would see them, our thoughts and our hearts went out to the people of Newtown because we knew that that was why they were that way. Like my colleague, I recall going to funerals with my children, something that I never had to do, funerals of their friends.

In his column just a few days ago, Nicholas Kristof quoted David Hemenway, a public health specialist at Harvard, who reported that children 5 to 14 in America are 13 times more likely to be murdered with guns as children in other industrialized countries. And that ought to be a call of action to all of us.

He wrote, and I agree:

Let's treat firearms rationally as the center of a public health crisis, a public health crisis that claims one life every 20 minutes.

If only for the sake of our children, we have to act and really need to begin with renewing the ban on assault weapons.

The homicide rate in the United States is 6.9 points higher than rates in 22 other populous, high-income countries combined. This gives me great pause when I think that the homicide rate in our neighboring Puerto Rico is more than four times higher than that of the U.S., and the Virgin Islands' rate is even higher than that compared to the United States overall. The last reported in Puerto Rico was 36.2 per 100,000, and the Virgin Islands is closer to 60. We, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have pleaded for more Federal help. And we can begin by passing the assault ban next year and the other related bills.

The United States has the highest rate of gun ownership in the world, an average of 88 per 100 people. I understand that the next highest is Yemen, somewhere around 56 per 100 people. But the rate of gun ownership doesn't always directly relate to the number of homicides. Honduras, with the most homicides by firearm at 68.43 per 100,000 has only 6.2 firearms per 100 people compared to our 88, while Finland, which has a relatively high one, 45.3 guns per 100 people, only reports about 19 per 100,000 homicides by firearms.

So while we must do what is required to reduce guns in our community, assault weapons in particular in this country, there's much more work that has to be done.

As Attorney General Holder said earlier this week, and I'm quoting him here:

As a nation, I think we have to ask ourselves some hard questions. We need to discuss who we are as a nation, talk about the freedoms that we have, the rights that we have, and how those might be used in a responsible way.

I recently wrote to my fellow Virgin Islanders, as we looked at ours being one of the highest homicide rates in the Nation, I also think we need to go further in examining what we have been doing or what we have not been doing in our territory and across our Nation that has created an atmosphere where gun violence is escalating to a frightening and totally unacceptable level, and where in many districts, gun violence has turned, in my district, has turned against law enforcement. Six officers have been injured by gunfire this year in the Virgin Islands, and one, Colvin Georges, died as a result of his injuries. And communities across this country are experiencing the same thing.

I know that many feel that guns are needed for their and their families' protection. But reports show that keeping a firearm in the home increases the risk of homicide by a factor of three. And on the whole, guns are more likely to raise the risk of injury than confer protection.

The killings in Newtown, Aurora, and other places are horrific mass killings by disturbed people, and we need to find a way to prevent them from getting access to any kind of firearm. But gun violence is happening every week in neighborhoods across our country, and these, too, demand our attention, including gang-related gun violence. Gang violence is a growing epidemic across this country. Congress has to work toward passing and funding legislation like the Youth Promise Act, which helps communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges to develop a comprehensive response to youth violence through a coordinated prevention and intervention response.

To go back to where we are in the United States compared to other countries, data compiled by the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime con-

firms Americans are living with greater risk of gun-related death than are residents of other developed countries. From 2007 to 2009, the U.S. averaged 10,987 homicides per year by firearm compared with an average of 182 in Germany, 75 in Spain and 47 in the United Kingdom. Mexico, though, averaged about 5,980 annual homicides, still half of ours, by firearm during that same period. Colombia was higher.

Roseanna Ander, executive director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab, has said that the U.S. is an outlier in lethal violence among developed countries. Other countries have similar rates of rape and battery, Ander said, but because so much American violence includes guns, the rate of death is so much higher.

The steady gun violence leaves especially young blacks and Latino men particularly vulnerable and more likely to die in a shooting. Federal data shows. In each year from 2006 to 2010, homicide was the leading cause of death for African American males ages 15 to 24, more than the next nine causes of death combined, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Persistent gun violence is part of a complex cycle born of poverty and residential segregation, as is poor health and substandard education, which all are related to the poverty and the persistent gun violence, challenges that the Nation has yet to truly face and address.

That's what Sampson said, and I agree. And he also said:

Guns are readily available. Gun violence thrives, in part, because exposure to violence makes children more likely to engage in violence themselves. It makes them have difficulty learning and, therefore, climbing the economic ladder.

So we can make a big difference. But to make that difference, we have to have the political will. We have to be able to stand up to the NRA, which has gone silent in the face of this tragedy, and other organizations that have blocked us from doing what we know in our hearts is the right thing to do.

It is our responsibility, as Congresswoman CLARKE said, to do what we must to protect our children and to protect our other citizens. President Obama has set up a task force which will be headed by Vice President JOE BIDEN. He is calling on us to ban military-style assault weapons, to ensure that background checks are there for all gun purchases, and to make access to mental health services at least as easy as it is to access guns.

□ 2120

I would hope that we would not see the partisanship or the brinksmanship that we're seeing right now on this fiscal cliff issue, and that we'll all work with our Vice President and our President to truly memorialize the children that are being laid to rest this week and not have them be martyrs to our inaction.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would love to yield to our Congressman from Louisiana. I'm sure that he will add a lot to this discussion.

I talked about the fact that African-American and Latino males have high rates of death due to gun violence, and one report that goes back to 2004 rates Louisiana as number two.

So I'll yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana, CEDRIC RICHMOND.

Mr. RICHMOND. I thank the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands for yielding and commend her on her passion as a physician and someone who has taken an oath to preserve life and to make sure that people can live out their years in a meaningful way and die of natural causes.

I will just say that I'm from Louisiana, which our motto is we are the sportsman's paradise. We like to fish and we like to hunt. We like to have a fishing pole and we like to have a gun. The difference is that the guns we use and the guns that sportsmen use are rifles, and you don't need high-capacity magazines in order to hunt deer, to hunt dove, to hunt ducks, to hunt rabbit. You just don't do that.

I rise tonight in support of my colleagues because, especially in our urban cities, we are losing far too many of our children, our fathers, our mothers, our sisters, and our brothers to gun violence. And every once in a while, we'll have an event that will shake the confidence of our country and make us take a step back and rationally look at our gun laws in this country and say, Wait, we've done far too much. We've expanded the Second Amendment too far. The Founders of the Constitution, when the Second Amendment was crafted, had no idea that we would have AK-47s with clips that can hold 50 rounds.

I can just tell you about an incident in La Place, Louisiana, about 6 months ago where a gentleman was denied benefits at an office and decided he was going to his car and he was going to go back inside. One of those Good Samaritans, an older lady, called the police and said there was a man armoring up in his car. State police and our sheriffs responded to it and found the man in his car. When they found him, he had more ammunition in his trunk than State police and our sheriffs put together. He had an AK-47, another rifle, and so much ammunition.

But the scary part to that story, and why this Good Samaritan was so key, is when they arrested him, they went to his apartment and he had a suicide note there in his trailer. He had every intention of making sure that he could go in there and kill as many people as he could, even if it meant him dying. When the thugs and the criminals have more guns and more ammunition than our first responders, then we have a problem.

In urban cities, when our kids have better access to guns than textbooks, then we're a country that went wrong.

We're not talking about every American's basic right to bear arms, because that is sacred, it's in our Constitution, and I believe in it. But when we start talking about assault weapons with high-capacity magazines, we're talking about weapons of mass destruction.

If you look at Newtown, if you look at Aurora and you look around our country at the incidents that have happened, these are not incidents where one or two people lose their life. If we tally the number of people in the United States that die because of gun violence, if another country entered our soil and did that to us, we would declare war and we would go out and find those people responsible. But here in the United States, we have taken the Second Amendment to protect things that are just indefensible.

I will join with my colleagues, and I will say, when I was in the Louisiana State Legislature, I authored, every year I was there, an assault weapons ban, a bill to close the gun show loopholes, to have a gun registry. I'm not suggesting here today that we do everything I did in the State legislature, because some things went very far, but what I am challenging America to do is to challenge the NRA, the liberals, the gun control lobby, whatever you want to call them. We should all come together in the name of the citizens of the United States that we've lost and have an adult conversation about can we do better, because we can.

We don't need clips that allow people to take out a whole neighborhood. We don't need guns that you can shoot through police vests and through the police car door and through their shield and hit their body sold in our sporting good stores in this country.

At some point, we have to come together. We can't just come together and pray and mourn. People are tired of mourning, and people are not fed up, but people have given up on prayer. When you see incidents when you have to bury your children—when you drop a child off at school you expect to go there that afternoon and pick them up and talk about what they learned today and do they need help with their homework, you never imagine that you're going to go there and find your child deceased with multiple gunshot wounds because of assault rifles with high-capacity clips.

We are the United States of America, always in search of a more perfect Union. We can do better, we have to do better.

I will close with my own little paraphrase from a song, and it's to the Members of Congress. We had an incident that shed light on this earlier in our term in which our colleague was a victim of gun violence.

We should be careful of what we do, because the life we save may be our own.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman RICHMOND.

The three of us have been here on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus

to add our voices to those across our Nation who are mourning the loss of those who were killed last week in Newtown.

The gentleman said more access to guns than schoolbooks. It's really true. There's more access to guns in most communities than schoolbooks and computers for many children; more access to guns than to decent housing; more access to guns than a decent job; more access to guns than quality health care, especially mental health care.

So, colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we need to act, and we need to act in the name of those beautiful first graders and all of those across this country who have been lost to gun violence over the years. I hope that we will take that kind of action.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

WISDOM THROUGH PRAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, first I think it's important to let the people of Connecticut who have suffered so and lost loved ones know that they will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. It is such a difficult time, and they need our support. It is a difficult time. I think so often when we look for wisdom in different places, I believe what Proverbs said, Solomon should have known:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

In the early days of our country, people sought wisdom through prayer. The Constitutional Convention, when they could not reach an agreement after nearly 5 weeks, 80-year-old Ben Franklin stood up and the contentiousness stopped.

□ 2130

Someone wrote that George Washington looked like he had a very much relieved look on his face. 80-year-old Ben Franklin was overweight, suffering not only from gout but from arthritis, had a cane, had to have help getting up and down sometimes; but his mind was still brilliant. That's when he pointed out why we have not once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding. We have his whole recorded speech because he recorded it. He wrote it in his own handwriting. Madison was taking notes, but we have Ben Franklin's speech, and it has provided such solace to me.

He pointed out to his friends that there were times when every one of them could remember back during the Revolution when they asked God for specific things and God answered their prayers. That was all part of the Constitutional Convention, and he said these words:

Our prayers, sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible an empire could rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that, unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Then he went on. He said:

I also firmly believe, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel: We shall be confounded by our local partial interests, and we, ourselves, shall become a byword down through the ages.

Then he went on to make a motion that just as they had during the Revolution with the Continental Congress that this Constitutional Convention Congress should begin every day with prayer.

So he made the motion and there was great discussion; but unlike the Revolutionary days, they didn't have money. This was a Constitutional Convention that had just convened. These people came together to write a Constitution. They didn't have money as a body. They had no chaplain. They couldn't afford to hire a chaplain, and they figured only with an independent chaplain that they could agree on could they have somebody come in and lead each day with prayer as they had during the Revolution. So that was put off until such time as they could hire a chaplain, which happened as soon as we became a Nation and the Constitution was ratified.

But Randolph from Virginia followed up Ben Franklin's motion. He said, Okay. Basically, they're saying we don't have money to hire a chaplain, but one thing we can do: Here we are at the end of June 1787. We're about to celebrate our country's birthday again, our anniversary; so why don't we just agree to all go to church together—listen to the same pastor, hear the same sermon, worship God all together as a Constitutional Convention? They all went to the Reformed-Calvinistic Church, and the pastor apparently did an excellent job because, when they came back, there was a new spirit. They had their disagreements, but there was a spirit of cooperation.

I heard some of the comments of my friends earlier across the aisle, and I know their hearts. I know DONNA CHRISTENSEN has been extremely gracious to me, personally. Good people. Good people with the best of intentions. I think the world of JOE LIEBERMAN. I was visiting with him on Sunday morning of his ideas to have a commission come together and not just jump quickly to some politically correct solution. Let's do the right thing by America, not a knee-jerk, which like the assault weapon ban did nothing. In fact, Columbine occurred during the middle of the so-called "assault weapon ban." Every gun is an assault weapon.

The machetes in Rwanda—the worst genocide that we know of in human history. 800,000 or so with machetes? Of course, we know during World War II that the genocide wasn't just 800,000,