

Wayne

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Wayne

DAVID GREGORY:

Here with me now in the studio, Wayne LaPierre of the National _____^{Noun} Association. Mr. LaPierre, welcome back to the program.

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

Thanks, David, good to be with you.

DAVID GREGORY:

So, the legislative moment has arrived here on Capitol Hill. What's going to happen with _____^{Noun} safety litigation?

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

Well, I mean, you just heard Mayor Bloomberg, but he's going to find out this is a country of the people, by the people, and for the people. And he can't spend enough of his \$27 billion to try to impose his will on the American public. They don't want him in their restaurants, they don't want him in their homes. They don't want him telling them what food to eat; they sure don't want him telling them what self-defense _____^{Noun} to own . And he can't buy America. He's so reckless in terms of his comments on this whole _____^{Noun} issue. He talks about _____^{Noun} buzzing. He's talking about machine _____^{Noun} . None of these _____^{Noun} are machine _____^{Noun} . He--

DAVID GREGORY:

But is he going to have an impact politically? He wants to be a counterweight to you. He wants to go into these races

in 2014 and spend along with you. Are you preparing to arm politically people who agree with you, candidates and whatnot, in 2014?

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WAYNE LAPIERRE:

We have people all over, millions of people, sending us \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 checks saying, "Stand up to this guy that says we can only have three bullets," which is what he said. "Stand up to this guy that says ridiculous things like, "The N.R.A. wants _____ Noun _____ with _____ Noun _____ on them." I mean, it's insane, the stuff he says.

DAVID GREGORY:

All right, but let me ask you about background checks, because the mayor referred to the polling. 90% of Americans want universal background checks. Here is this survey from Quinnipiac this week. Among those people who own _____ Noun _____, 85% support. Are you thwarting the will of the American people by standing in opposition to universal background checks?

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

No, not at all because here's the thing: The whole thing, universal checks, is a dishonest premise. There's not a bill on the Hill that provides a universal check. Criminals aren't going to be checked. They're not going to do this. The shooters in Tucson, in Aurora, in Newtown, they're not going to be checked. They're unrecognizable. N.R. A. supported the national instant check system on dealers. We're a billion--

DAVID GREGORY:

That

was a reference to 1999 when you testified supporting--

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

Yes. We're \$1 billion into this system now. It's not fair, it's not accurate, it's not instant. The mental health records are not in the system, and they don't prosecute any of the criminals that they catch. It's a speed bump for the law abiding. It slows down the law abiding and does nothing to anybody else.

DAVID GREGORY:

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But why not try to create a system where you could have a better opportunity to trace a Noun that was used in a crime, even if it's not 100%? I mean, because you've used such incendiary language, the idea that there's going to be a federal registry, which does not exist today, on legal Noun owners, even though Proper Noun Sporting Goods and others participate in this.

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

We've been trying for 20 years, and the N.R.A. is up on the Hill right now trying to get this existing system on retail dealers to work. But here's what they want to do. They want to take this current mess of a system and expand it now to 100 million law-abiding Noun owners. Every time a hunter wants to sell a Noun to another hunter in Kentucky, every time a farmer wants to sell a Noun to another farmer, they want to make them go somewhere.

Where are we go, down to a Walmart? Is Walmart going to want to see them walk in the door? The local police station,

are they going to want to do it? There's going to be a bureaucracy, there's going to be a diversion of police resources.

DAVID GREGORY:

But isn't that preferable to a big loophole where you have 40% of sales, private sales, one on one where you've got no ability to trace it?

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

Here's the loophole: Society, the H.I.P.A.A. laws, the mental health laws, the medical records. The Adam Lanzas, the _____ Noun - Plural in Aurora, the _____ Noun - Plural in Newtown, they're unrecognizable. They're not going to be in the system. Who is going to be in the system? You and me, and our names are going to be in the system. There is going to be a list created; that list will be abused. Some newspaper will print it all. Somebody will hack it. There will be a registry. Obama's own Justice Department says they want a registry on this thing.

DAVID GREGORY:

But you've been negotiating with some on Capitol Hill, like Senator Manchin. Is there any kind of background check you'd be willing to support, or at least not oppose actively, that could allow this to pass?

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

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We want to fix the existing system on retail sales because our people are the ones that are going through it and are getting delayed. It doesn't work. Nobody gets prosecuted; it's completely ineffective. And the N.R.A. wants to

do the thing that makes people safe, and I've been talking about it, I know the media doesn't want to talk about it, which is putting security in schools, armed security--

DAVID GREGORY:

Wayne, you keep saying that. Every time you've been here, we've talked about it, and I'm going to talk about it in a minute. But I just want to nail down this point because I think it's significant. Are you prepared to support something that would have some kind of-- will some kind of background check pass Congress?

WAYNE LAPIERRE:

We are working on a bill right now that will hopefully at least get the records of those adjudicated medically incompetent and dangerous into the check system that applies on dealers. Most of the states still do not even do that. We need to see if we can get that done. We're looking to get better enforcement of the federal _____ laws.

We're working on laws to beef up the penalties on straw purchases, and illegal trafficking, which we want prosecuted. Look, we're five million families; we're 80,000 law enforcement families. We're 11,000 law enforcement trainers. We want to make people safe; that's what the N.R.A. does every day.

DAVID GREGORY:

You've opposed the assault weapons ban. There will be a vote on this, separate from the main bill. Nobody really thinks it's going to pass but the vice president and the president are arguing that it should. Here's what Vice President Biden said this week; I'd like you to answer his challenge.

