

Lawyers: The Weapons Ban We Really Need

America is afraid. We're afraid in our businesses, afraid as we drive down the street, afraid when we see someone coming up the walkway. And the ruckus over banning certain types of weapons overlooks completely one entire class of weapon which probably has visited more suffering on the people of America than any other. But, it is one which is protected by the most powerful special interest group ever to exist in this country.

I call upon Congress to make a top priority of passing legislation banning the production and use by private citizens of attorneys, especially of the type known as "trial lawyers" so favored by criminals. Furthermore, I propose that we launch a buy back program to begin ridding our cities of the monstrous excess of lawyers that so plagues us. The use of attorneys should be restricted to official purposes, and then only by those properly trained in their use and handling.

Ok, I know all the arguments the pro-lawyer lobby uses (and the cliches like, "*When lawyers are outlawed, only outlaws will have lawyers*"). First, they will trot out our time honored "constitutional right" to keep and bear attorneys in our own defense. Then comes the seemingly rational argument that lawyers are merely tools, neither good nor bad in themselves; "It's how they are used that should be the issue".

But that is just the issue isn't it? The misuse of attorneys. Not only are lawyers used in sensational robberies and innumerable jail breaks, they are at the center of the epidemic of violence by citizens against one another.

Who doesn't know a family that has suffered at the hands of some creep with a lawyer? There's just something about getting their hands on a lawyer that brings out the worst in people. They escalate situations which might have been settled amicably, into tragic confrontations. Then there are the equally tragic accidents caused by people untrained or careless in the use of attorneys.

Furthermore, the easy availability of lawyers is a national disgrace. Turn on the TV, open the newspaper, even drive down the highway, and we are assaulted by ads for lawyers making sensational appeals to the basest human emotions of greed, fear, and anger. And any thug or loony with the price can walk in off the street and get anything from a cheap "*Saturday night shyster*" to a high powered firm with 20 or 30 hot shots. Who, I ask you, has a legitimate need for such fire power? Is that legal overkill the "right" envisioned by our forefathers?

"What's the use of banning lawyers now, there are already so many?" That's another favorite line of the pro-lawyer lobby; but, if there are too many lawyers out there why not get some off the street with a buyback program? After all, it works with guns doesn't it? Some buyback programs offer only cash inducements, but one innovative city offers free counseling for anyone who turns in a gun. Free counseling so people can face life without a lawyer for a crutch might well be a successful program. At any rate, governments' chief responsibility is protection of the people and that can be accomplished only by forcing an end to our self destructive love affair with lawyers.

The preceding commentary was my last column in the now defunct Tuskaloosa Magazine, #77.

Update? More of the same; much, much, much more.