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Weekly Thoughts on Music, Nature, and Politics, from the Catskill Mountains

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

WITH THEIR LIVES IN DANGER... OUR "POST MILLENNIALS" MAY HAVE FOUND THEIR "VIETNAM"

I was exactly the age of these kids when the Vietnam War escalated.

I was about to turn 18 and had registered for the draft but was going into Architecture School so I would soon have a "Student Deferment".

But then right at that exact time... the "Student Deferment" was understandably declared *unconstitutional* and the military went to a "draft lottery" where they picked numbers out of a pot like on today's "Powerball". And if your number came up toward the bottom of the list... no matter what you thought you had planned for your life... you were now going to be risking your life in a war that was illegal and never to be won. [If you haven't seen the Ken Burns Doc.](#) Do so.

I was lucky. #182. High enough to where I wasn't going to be "called up" until we were fighting somewhere on the West Coast.

It was frightening times... and it made me an avid reader of politics and history... which continues until this day... nearly half a century later.

But these Florida "kids" seem so much smarter than I ever was at 17.

The speech today by Wayne LaPierre (NRA) was totally disgusting with him just rubbing America's face in it with a plan to “harden” all of our schools so that American kids can be “educated” in places that look like prison camps! Look at the rest of the world! How stupid are we?

And none of this is politically left or right... as it's simply about people making a lot of money. All of those “School Platoons” are going to need a lot of high-end ammunition. Big bucks for gun makers!

I hope “the kids” and their parents had an effect on Trump the other night. Which is hard to believe as I'm sure he is so “hardened” that he won't “bat an eye” when he has to throw Don Jr. “under the bus” in the coming weeks. The man seems to have no soul. He is evil on empty.

But back to Mr. LaPierre at that stupid Maryland conservative “clam bake” they have each year just before anything can bloom.

This time... LaPierre went out of his way to attack the FBI as being the reason for the recent shooting. I've read and talked too much about this shit already but everyone knows that there were mistakes and missteps on all sides for the past year on this guy. A total “clusterfuck”.

But why did Wayne LaPierre *really* go after the FBI?

Could it be this story which I caught when it broke on [CNBC](#)?

Basically... it says that Putin and Russia are now being investigated by the FBI for possibly funneling Trump campaign money from Putin to Trump through the NRA. Its like the ultimate political “Bond Movie”!

No wonder they spent [30 million](#) to get him elected!

So why haven't more picked up on this story? My bet is that the FBI has shut it down. Also suspicious was non-coverage of the [Dallas Morning News](#) story about Russian GOP funding in 2016.

My own personal solution for the AR-15 assault weapons would be to ban them like we did in 1994 (with Reagan's, both Bushs', and Clinton's backing). And then do a "buy back" program offering "\$10,000 - *no questions asked*" for any assault or military weapons. Today you can buy an AR-15 for the price of an iPhone. And suddenly "Real Americans!" everywhere will look across at the wall where they see 10 AR-15s and think... "Is the revolution really going to happen?"

And we would destroy tens of thousands of guns. At a lot less than a 24th Aircraft Carrier (Russia has 1 and China is building their second).

And it could stimulate the whole economy by pumping money into people who will spend it. Sure it'll be on meth and hookers... *but still!*

But these kids are the only thing that has given me true hope in this country in a long time. I honestly think that this may finally be a crack in the NRA wall. Marco Rubio deservedly got totally hammered the other night. And Rick Scott has moved to an undisclosed location.

As Pete Townsend once said...

"The Kids Are All right"... And they may be our best hope yet.

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