

## **Winsome Wisdom – Guns or Butter?**

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My first exposure to economics as a science occurred in the fall of 1969. As I began the pursuit of my MBA, one of the topics covered in Economics 601 included the fiscal dilemma faced by the federal government: the expenditure balance between the military (guns) and social welfare (butter). The origin of that phrase familiar to anyone who sat (or slept) through an Econ course at college is unclear, but it's one of those hooks you never forget

For some unknown reason, those words elbowed their way into my head in reaction to the recent tragedy in Florida. I guess it was some subconscious link with the word "guns." Add to that my memories of the years 1969 through 1972 when I served in the Air Force as a captain in security police squadrons in Texas, Oregon, and the UK. One of my assignments was as OIC of a weapons training facility.

Whatever the reason, there it was! Guns or butter?

Let me say at this point, I am one of the over 250 million people in America who are gun owners. In fact I own several. Primary reason for ownership: protection. I have a Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit, so twice a year I hit the range and do about 30 minutes of target shooting. And though I enjoy the experience, I hope I am never in a position to have to put it to use. But if so, I am properly trained and prepared.

The tragic events of Columbine, Las Vegas, Charleston, Sutherland Springs, and now Florida remind us that evil continues to slither its way through the planet, our country, and even our communities. We know for sure the bad guys have guns because they regularly violate the law by using them to achieve their goals: take your money, take your life. The question has always been and continues to be... how to stop them once they attack.

Unfortunately, with each tragic event comes the same old hackneyed political hot potato debate: gun control or something else. Guns or butter? And the outrageous behavior continues.

In light of recent as well as past tragedies, I have expressed my views to Sens. Corker and Alexander, and to Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, and not for the first time. Maybe this time, there will emerge a plan that will create a measureable positive result.

Something is terribly off plumb when we fear for the lives of our children and grandchildren while they attend school. When I was a kid, the only thing that scared me at school was those mean Hawkins boys.