

That means that if a handgun ban “worked,” more innocent people would be killed, as handgun-wielding criminals switched to sawed-off long guns—which are three times as deadly as handguns.

The only way to avoid such unintended results is to concentrate upon regulating actions instead of attempting to regulate things.

If that means building more prisons, and dealing more harshly with those “victims of society” who prey upon society, so be it.

On Civilization And Hurricane Hugo

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In time of disaster, whether manmade or natural, whether in war, famine, earthquake or tornado, the rats come out of their holes.

When Hurricane Hugo devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands, about 200 escapees from a damaged prison joined gangs of thugs—including police and National Guard troops—who looted and robbed and terrorized both citizens and tourists (some of whom reported fending off armed gangs of robbers who tried to break into their hotels).

Reports of what happened have been quashed by the Governor’s Office, but as an indication of just how serious it was, the anti-gun *Washington Post* had a front-page photo of a hotel owner standing guard with a rifle.

And an article in today’s edition opened by quoting a note sent from St. Croix with a pilot. It said:

“Mom and Dad,

“Still alive. Take the worst you’ve heard and double it.

“Please send 9mm/.45 automatic.

“This is not a joke.

“Love, Mark”

(The *Post* didn’t tell us whether he got the gun; nor whether a “waiting period” or licensing law prevented his parents from buying one

when needed. It didn't mention that importing the gun into St. Croix would have violated local law, and that for his parents to have given him any gun, or for the pilot to have taken it to him, would have violated several laws, including the 1968 Gun Control Act.)

The pilot who carried the note told the *Post* reporter, Michael York, that a few days after the hurricane, he and some friends drove into town and were confronted by a car containing four armed Rastafarians, members of a Jamaican religious cult.

"Essentially, they said we were white boys who needed a good beating," the pilot said. "After it was clear that we had guns too, we were able to get away."

Constance Holmes, for 10 years an attorney on St. Croix, told the reporter that when she checked her office she was terrified to find "gangs of looters but no police."

"I went straight home, and I have slept with a .38 beside my pillow," she said. "I could see that *it was the only way to be safe.*"

What about the common people of St. Croix, who generally aren't allowed to have any kind of firearm? How did they stay safe?

The short answer is, they didn't.

We heard reports, not only of looting and robbery, but of rapes—which hasn't been confirmed, but probably happened. That's the kind of thing that happens when disaster strikes, the rats come out of their holes, and the law-abiding lack the means to defend themselves.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)—which is being roundly criticized for its clumsy handling of the Hugo devastation—reportedly has regulations and an (unconstitutional) Presidential Order allowing them to declare all firearms contraband during a disaster.

Whether such a disaster is manmade or natural, that is the one time that no one—not FEMA, not police and not a marauding gang—is going to take my guns without a fight.

To guard against such a terrible day, and the horror of being disarmed and helpless to defend our families against marauders—in or out of uniform—is one reason for the Second Amendment's guarantee of the right of *the people* to keep and bear arms. And that's one reason I will continue to do everything within my power to defend that right.