

1 CNN Newsroom  
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3 2:18:50 p.m. Eastern

4 (...)

5 ALISYN CAMEROTA: I just want to pull up the suspect's picture for a moment, because these suspects,  
6 these violent young men are starting to look alike. This guy -- I mean, from Columbine through Sandy  
7 Hook through Uvalde, now now. Is it too much to ask, Steve, when one of these guys comes into a gun  
8 store, is it too much to ask the gun seller to do a cursory check on social media? Because had he, there  
9 was, you know, a well of information on the violent ideation that this guy had.

10 STEVE MOORE: Well, the problem is that they're not really asked to, and they're not really allowed to, in  
11 some ways. They are retail merchants. It would be as if somebody -- as if you went to a liquor store and  
12 somebody at the register checked your social media to make sure that you hadn't driven drunk before.

13 The gatekeepers are the government, essentially. It is not the retail establishment.

14 CAMEROTA: I like that analogy, Steve. Because I used to be a waitress, and for a while, we were told to  
15 run up the alcohol tab on people -- on customers who came in because you got them to pay more that  
16 way. Then the law changed, and you couldn't serve somebody who you knew had been drinking,  
17 because they were killing people on the highway. And so, once you recognize --

18 MOORE: That's a little different, though.

19 CAMEROTA: I understand. None of these analogies are perfect, Steve. I get it. None of these are perfect.  
20 But my point is, you can sometimes see them coming a mile away.

21 (...)

22 2:23:37 p.m. Eastern

23 CAMEROTA: Furthermore, commissioner, he also was able to purchase all -- as we just learned in a press  
24 conference an hour ago -- all these weapons locally and legally using his own name. However, he  
25 purchased them at different places. Is there no such thing as a database where a gun seller can look to  
26 see if somebody's recently, in the past day, purchased an AR-15? Would that help, commissioner?

27 CHARLES RAMSEY: Well, it would help if there was some kind of database, but also, where's the law that  
28 says you can't buy, you know, guns in different places? I mean, we need to really sit and think through  
29 what we want. What's the balance?

30 I mean, you know, Steve mentioned, how much intrusion do you really want from the government in  
31 terms of looking at your Facebook page or what have you? I mean, where's the balance? And we've got  
32 to find the balance, because, you know, there are a lot of people that have crazy stuff on the internet,  
33 but they don't act it out. And so, how far do we really want to go?

34 It's easy to find this stuff after the fact, but you know, in real time, not necessarily that easy. And right  
35 now, people are able to go from store to store and buy guns. They're, you know, just -- the laws just  
36 need to be changed, I think.

1 But there's another part of this, because right now, we're talking about mass shooting, but there are  
2 shootings and homicides, gun violence that occurs on the streets of our city every single day in America,  
3 and it's not just the guns, it's the idiots that use guns to commit crime. And some of these guys just need  
4 to be in jail when they get caught using a gun to commit a crime or carrying a gun illegally.

5 I mean, I know that's not popular to say right now, we want to treat everybody with care—

6 CAMEROTA: But wait a minute. Hold on. But hold on, commissioner. Just help us understand that.  
7 You're saying that somebody who uses a gun in the commission of a crime is not going to jail?

8 RAMSEY: There are some that are being -- we've got people right now that are out on the street that  
9 have got pending cases against them for various gun violations, assaults, things of that nature. I mean,  
10 that's not uncommon. It is not uncommon. Not in every city, but in many cities, that's what's going on  
11 right now. There's no question about that.

12 And so we've got to look at the entire system. We want to blame everything just on guns. We got to look  
13 at the people who are using these guns. And so I understand what you're saying. But we've got to be  
14 able to find that balance of just how much can we actually do, proactively, when it comes to really  
15 looking at people who have not yet committed a crime?

16 And this guy, when he bought that gun, he had not yet committed a crime. And so, how far do you really  
17 want to go when you're talking about people like that? That's one group. But then you've got another  
18 group of folks that are out there committing crimes and are still on the street.

19 (...)

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