

Anti-gun Congressman Denigrates Gun Owners' Manhood

The Daily Caller reported on August 26 about an oft-repeated trope that anti-gun propagandists like to claim. Illinois Congressman Sean Casten was hosting a Zoom meeting with local college students when he went on a bizarre tirade against people who own guns. Casten appeared to interpret the Second Amendment protection of the right to bear arms to extend only to “well-regulated militias” and rhetorically asked, “unless you’re a member of well-regulated militia, tell me why you need to own a gun, right?” Casten then added that “having small genitals is not a sufficient reason to own a gun.”

This was surely done to get some cheap laughs from the immature students in the meeting, but it also reflects the juvenile and overly simplistic viewpoint that Casten has when it comes to firearms. To Casten, the Second Amendment does not protect the right to bear arms at all, and anyone who disagrees is to be belittled and mocked. It is upsetting to think that someone who is so ignorant of the history of the Second Amendment and whose mind is clearly in the gutter has been elected to Congress. Casten, who is a Democrat, is being challenged by Republican Jeanne Ives, who publicly chastised Casten for his ridiculous comment. Ives went so far as to post on YouTube an excerpt from the Zoom meeting where he made the remark for everyone to watch for themselves.

In an e-mail to the Daily Caller, Ives’ campaign communications director, Jeanne Murphy, wrote, “Sean Casten references Justice John Paul Stevens’ dissent for the minority in *Heller v. DC*, which established the individual right to self-protection. Since he likes history, John Paul Stevens — after he left the bench — wrote an op-ed calling for the abolition of the Second Amendment.... That is what Sean Casten is referring to, as he ridicules law-abiding firearms owners as just ‘guys with small genitals.’ Sean Casten sold himself to IL06 as moderate in 2018. He represents decent professional people.... In this clip, he takes a radical position and describes

those who oppose him in the most offensive, degrading terminology that he can possibly think of. Sean Casten has shown us who he is — an extremist, and what he wants — to abolish freedoms and make government your keeper. Our question to voters: Is that what you want?”

Toy Gun Sets Off Student Punishment

In a story about COVID craziness, the public-radio affiliate in Colorado reported on September 18 about a young student who ended up getting severely punished for having a toy gun at his home. CPR.org reported that 12-year-old Isaiah Elliott was participating in an online art class from his home when the incident occurred. According to his parents, Isaiah has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and is sometimes disruptive during these online learning sessions. During this particular class, Isaiah was acting a little unruly and picked up a toy gun and pulled the trigger while pointing it at his computer camera.

The art teacher warned Isaiah that if he didn’t stop his bad behavior, she would remove him from the online meeting, and Isaiah calmed down. The art teacher followed her training and reported the incident to the school’s vice-principal, who questioned whether it was a toy gun or a real gun. The art teacher admitted that she wasn’t sure, so the vice-principal contacted the local police, and two school resource officers went to Isaiah’s home to talk to him about what happened. Isaiah’s mother, Danielle, was surprised at how quickly things escalated over a toy gun and told CPR.org, “I am almost in my 30s and I didn’t even realize that having a toy gun in the home would ever even come to something as insane as that.”

Isaiah was suspended for five days for his behavior. His story soon went viral, and many perceived it as gun-phobic bureaucrats overreacting to a harmless toy. One gun-rights organization is already pushing back. The National Association for Gun Rights (NAGR) is assisting Isaiah’s family in pursuing legal action against the school district. Dudley Brown, the president of NAGR, stated, “School officials

inflicting a five-day suspension on a small boy for having a toy gun in his own home is disgusting.... Instead of apologizing to the parents, the school took the outrageous step of sending law enforcement to further intimidate the child and parents.” NAGR issued a press release and identified similar cases that have happened in other parts of the country where students have been penalized for showing toy guns during online remote learning sessions, and stated that someone needed to take a stand in defense of the children. Brown added, “It is our hope that a big win here [in the case of Isaiah Elliott] will send the message to bureaucratic bullies everywhere to back off and stop harassing innocent children.”

Teen Robbers Learn Harsh Lesson

The Associated Press reported on September 14 about two robbers who picked the wrong target in Des Moines, Iowa. Police say two teenage suspects tried robbing a group of people in north Des Moines, but an adult member of the group drew a gun he had concealed on him and fired at the suspects. Both suspects were wounded by the gunfire and were later treated at a nearby medical facility. One of the wounded robbers died from his injuries, while the other suspect is expected to survive. Law enforcement stated that the vigilant citizen who drew his gun and shot the robbers had a valid concealed-carry permit.

Investigators reported their findings of the shooting to the Polk County Attorney’s Office; the shooting was determined to be justified self-defense, and no charges will be filed against the shooter. The Associated Press also reported that the deceased suspect was later identified as 16-year-old Liem Deng. It is tragic that a person so young had his life come to an end, but that is the risk that is taken whenever someone perpetrates a violent felony. It’s unfortunate, but criminals and aspiring criminals should always know that anytime they threaten someone with deadly force, the intended “victim” could be armed and willing to use his firearm for self-defense. ■

— PATRICK KREY