Firearms Violence Prevention

After the December, 2012 massacre of 20 first graders and 7 adults in Newtown, Connecticut, the Washington Post published a letter by Eisenhower Foundation President Alan Curtis. The letter called for the nation to debate new policy by first reviewing the firearms control recommendations of the 1969 bipartisan National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence (the National Violence Commission), which received extensive media coverage at the time.

In 1969, Milton Eisenhower, Chairman of the National Violence Commission, joined 8 others on a 13 member panel to call for firearms control. President Emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, the late Dr. Eisenhower was a Republican. The bipartisan coalition-building lesson for today, was that a Republican like Eisenhower was able to work with Democrats and other Republicans to thoughtfully consider all options to reduce firearms violence – and, more broadly, to recommend bipartisan policy on all forms of individual and group violence.

The Eisenhower Foundation again proposed firearms control policy in its fifteen year and thirty year updates of the National Violence Commission.

The Eisenhower Foundation is the continuation in the private sector the National Violence Commission, as well as of the 1968 National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (the Kerner Riot Commission), which also recommended firearms control.