

Talkin' to America

Interview with Mark Spungen
February 19th 2009

INTRODUCTION

Aaron Zelman: This is **Talkin' to America**, I am your host **Aaron Zelman**. Our guest today is **Mark Spungen** he is the author of "**Neither Predator nor Prey**" - a novel about a future America that many of us really don't want to have come about.

Mark, welcome to **Talkin' to America**.

Mark Spungen: Thank you Aaron, I am glad to be here.

Aaron Zelman: - Mark, I'd like you to tell us a little bit about your book and why you might agree with me that a lot of Americans wouldn't want this scenario in your book to play out and happen here.

Mark Spungen: The book takes place in not the very far future, and it was based on some premises. I started the book in 2005, so a few things might have changed but not many, where there is very strict federal gun control passed, but it's a time of great economic downturn, so the Feds are not doing very well financially so they concentrate what resources they have in Wyoming, but their gun control efforts in Wyoming don't go over real well. So they blackmail the Governor with a very ugly form of blackmail to impose martial law in one of the counties and then it goes downhill from there. And nobody that I know wants to see this scenario play out, but it is a realistic scenario.

Aaron Zelman: Tell us what you mean by "goes downhill".

Mark Spungen: The martial law does not play out very well - this is without spoiling the story for anybody, and then the Feds impose the blackmail and I'm not going to tell you what it is but it's a very ugly form of blackmail. It's not a depressing book and it's actually a very funny book too. There's a lot of, even though it's a serious depressing subject, there's a lot of humor in the book, so, it's a very upbeat book.

Aaron Zelman: Well, what message do you want people to take away from your book?

Mark Spungen: Well, this is a novel. If very strict gun control is passed, at least in Wyoming, it will be very unpleasant consequences and we don't want to see that here in Wyoming, but we're not going to shy away from it either. So, in a sense it's a warning. All we want to do is be left alone. That's all we want. If we are left alone the book won't play out, and if we're not left alone then it'll become a work of prophesy rather than a work of fiction.

Aaron Zelman: What percentage of gun owners do you think will agree with you?

Mark Spungen: Well, there's those that'll agree and those that will actually do something about it, you know, cause they say talk is cheap, so a lot of people - "oh yes, yes, this is what I would do" - but when push comes to shove the actual numbers would be very small, which in itself wouldn't be

a problem because it wouldn't take very many people to, you know, to actually carry out what happens in the book.

Aaron Zelman: What percentage of gun owners do you think would actually carry something out?

Mark Spungen: A fraction of a percent - you know, there's the three percent that we keep talking about - I actually mention that figure in my book - of who wouldn't comply. But there is passive compliance and there is active, there is passive non compliance and there is active non compliance. There are many who would just hide their guns somewhere, and then there's others would resist if they were personally attacked, and then there is the very tiny percent who would take active counter measures, very tiny percent - probably no more than a few dozen in the state.

Aaron Zelman: What kind of message do you want the government to take from your book?

Mark Spungen: The message that I want them to take from my book is that, all we want to do is be left alone. You know, Wyoming is still a prosperous state - we produce mineral resources, we generate electricity, we send more money to Washington than we get back and all we ask in return is to be left alone. You know, this is a hunting state, it has a strong gun culture, we just want to be left alone. And, if they don't leave us alone they are going to find that they are going to be in over their head, because any law that's passed to be successful, has to have a wide base of public support and here it would have very little public support.

Aaron Zelman: What kind of support, or lack of support, are you getting from the county Sheriff?

Mark Spungen: Well - it depends - and this is an important theme in the book by the way - I go over that in the book about the Sheriffs. What they say and what they'll do - you know, it's hard to say, you know, some talk a good talk but would they do the right thing? There's a few that I'm sure would and there's others that you won't know 'till the time comes. Some of the Sheriffs are very good strong second amendment people, and they wouldn't cooperate.

Aaron Zelman: People around the county and who live in a different state - what kind of feedback are you getting from those folks?

Mark Spungen: The feedback I have been getting and I have actually sold the book in three foreign countries, though the people in Canada, Australia and Switzerland haven't given any feedback, but the feedback I get is that this book has given them hope. That they read this book and they think if indeed it ever comes to the state where they can no longer have their guns, resistance would not be futile - it could be successfully accomplished.

Aaron Zelman: Our tax dollars have been used over the years by the government to create what they call "non lethal force" items, or "defense design" items to take people on. In other words they claim they can be, oh half a mile away and zap you with some kind of a ray gun and the question then arises, well what are you going to do with your M1 Garand and such?

Mark Spungen: A lot of this high tech supposedly that they have - I'm not very - I'm skeptical that they even have this stuff. You know, supposedly they have cameras that can read licence plates from outer space but they can't see 100,000 people coming across the southern border every year, 200,000, and they can't see things coming across the Iraqi border, so, I really wonder if to the quality of your technology how much is hype and how much of it is real. Their technology is geared to protecting their power - all of the government force if, you know, their law enforcement is geared to protecting their power, and we're not challenging their power, you know, if they come to take our

guns we don't care who's in charge and who's the Governor and who's the President and who's the whatever, we just want to be left alone. And their offensive power and defensive power it isn't set up to deal with, you know, a few scattered individuals who are willing to stand up for their rights.

Aaron Zelman: You mention if they come to take guns, based on what you see in Wyoming, what else would the government have to take for people to finally join the fight, so to speak?

Mark Spungen: Well, in Wyoming there's a lot of dissatisfaction and it's not just guns are just one part of the equation. What these people want is total control and total power, and here we have in Wyoming, we have a large agricultural and ranching community and the wolf introduction just isn't real popular. And we have a large outdoor - people who like to hunt, who like to camp, who like to ride their vehicles, and larger and larger areas of land are being closed off and there's many dissatisfied people like the uh, I go over a lot of this in the book, like the salvage community. If you have an older car it's really hard to get parts because the **EPA** closed down most of the salvage yards, and there's dissatisfaction on almost every front because all they want is more and more control, more and more power over every aspect of your life.

Aaron Zelman: I wonder if you could elaborate on that a little bit - you'd mentioned to me about how enforcement of unpopular laws had generally been unsuccessful.

Mark Spungen: Well sure, the classic case is of course your **Volstead Act Prohibition**, you know, people, and there it was actually more support for that than there would be support for firearms prohibition, but there were so many people that know, "I want to drink", that it just wasn't successful. People wouldn't inform on others and then when it came to the jury level, many juries wouldn't convict despite the weight of the evidence, and so eventually it was such a failure that it went away. War on drugs - you know, totally non successful. There's a certain element of people right or wrong use drugs and there's enough of a market where there's enough of a supply, and there are many government laws. The 55 law, you know all it did at the end it turned into a giant revenue raising measure, so many people ignored it because they didn't believe in it.

Aaron Zelman: You made a comment to me before that, it's your opinion that the vast majority of the population does not care either about gun owners or gun law enforcers, and you also said that neither of these groups could expect much support from the general public. Can you elaborate on that?

Mark Spungen: Yes I can, and that's an important theme of the book too. Most people, and probably in excess of 90%, don't really care about much of anything, they, as long as they have a cold beer in the refrigerator, a fresh roll of toilet paper in the bathroom and the game comes on when they turn the television on. Just about everything else doesn't matter that much. So, if there ever is a struggle where say, the gun grabbers come to wherever to take guns, aside from the people who own guns that are going to keep them and the enforcers who want to take them away, the rest of the people don't care - they don't care if you get arrested and lose your house and your guns or if the enforcers meet dead ends. They don't care one way or the other.

Aaron Zelman: You mentioned in an earlier conversation about some tactical issues and among them was that careful planning, intelligent execution and keeping your mouth shut, will offer high probability of success. That sounds like something they taught me when I was in the marine corps - can you elaborate on that for people?

Mark Spungen: Exactly, uh, most military principles are based on common sense and this is too. People who for some reason go against authority - silence is your most powerful tool, because

once you are identified they have enough power that you're pretty well finished. So, you have to remain anonymous, so, and the best way to remain anonymous is by keeping your mouth shut. Like, there's a famous saying in Wyoming about wolves, the three "S's" - if you're a rancher and there's wolves they say shoot, shovel and shut up, and uh, the shoot, shovel and shut up doctrine could apply to other forms of resistance also.

Aaron Zelman: Well let's just play with that for a moment, because you are talking about remaining quiet and not being noticed, not being on the radar screen so to speak. Well, what about the folks who are very vocal in the defense of the second amendment today.

Mark Spungen: This of course is conjecture you know, but there's act... no, I don't want to sound paranoid here but there's actually some talk that if there ever was the legislation passed and they decided to have an enforcement effort, one of the first things they would do would be to have a decapitation strike, where the most vocal people would be .. and they're not above planting evidence and trumping up charges and putting things on your computer - so, actually it I know there are many ways of fighting the struggle and I greatly admire people like yourself, and I am very vocal too but you have to realize that your vocalness carries a possible price.

Aaron Zelman: Take **JPFO** as an example. If the Federal government decided to go after a Jewish civil rights organization, they in effect would be waving a red flag, putting up billboards saying - "we're going to go after everybody". Now if that happened do you think more people would join the fight?

Mark Spungen: Well, that's hard to say because uh, you know, while you picked on the topic of a Jewish gun rights organization, there are Jewish gun grabbers like Lautenberg and Feinstein, and who would be the ones leading the fight, so and, they would say you know, "how can you accuse us of..." , you see what I mean?

Aaron Zelman: I know where you're going with that but to make a long story short, the Feinstein crowd, and the Engel-ites, and the Schumer-ites and the Feinsteins. I wouldn't go to the extent of saying they were very Jewish, number one, because Jewish law is very clear, that says if someone comes to kill you "arise quickly and kill that person". So they're not too Jewish in their thinking. I think one of the reasons that a lot of so called, alleged Jews who are supporting gun control is because they don't know any better and two, they want to ingratiate themselves with those who are in power, and the most notorious gun haters in America are the Kennedys and the Clintons and a host of people like that. And so I think that the Jews who are promoting gun control - it's just simply puppets on a string, and doing the bidding for the real power behind the curtain. You made the statement here that gun owners are the best and brightest enforcers and will only be bullies and thugs. What do you mean by that?

Mark Spungen: Well, I mean it exactly like that, because, you go to ... I'll give you an example - you go to a place like Camp Perry Ohio, which is your national championships and, you go out on the line and there's several million dollars worth of equipment laying on the line, much of it unattended, you know, and nothing ever gets taken. The you talk to the people that, you know, the gun owners that you know and that you meet - these are people with who hold jobs and have stable family, who pay their taxes, who are productive members of their community, and you look at the ... well, when I said bullies and thugs all you have to do is look at the, what happened up in **Ruby Ridge Idaho**, and you have to look at what happened in **Waco Texas**. These are not the best and the brightest outside burning these places down and killing women who are nursing their babies.

Aaron Zelman: Staying at a Camp Perry there seems to be a sense of honesty amongst gun owners. Maybe that explains why a lot of gun owners don't go into politics.

This is **Talkin' to America** - our guest today is **Mark Spungen**, I am your host **Aaron Zelman**. We are talking about Mark's book "**Neither Predator nor Prey**" and Mark, if you tell people where they can order the book.

Mark Spungen: Right, uh, the best bet would be to get on my web site which is [www dot neither-predatornorprey - all lower case - dot com - all lower case](http://www.neitherpredatornorprey.com), now www.neitherpredatornorprey.com.

Aaron Zelman: We're talking about things really going bad in America, through the economy and through government actions, but what would you recommend people do so we can avoid this catastrophe?

Mark Spungen: Well, the catastrophe at the national level - there's nothing you can do. All you can do at this point is try to avoid catastrophe at the local level, and, which starts in your own home. You need to have hard assets of some kind. You need to have sufficient guns and ammunition to protect your hard assets. You have to network - you have to have a community network of like minded people, who are willing to at least maintain some sanity in your town and your home small community, 'cause at the national level there's nothing we can do at this point, that's my opinion. You can only carve out little enclaves of sanity.

Aaron Zelman: OK, you're saying there is nothing you can do at the national level, but surely millions of Americans could have some type of impact on the national level?

Mark Spungen: I'm a very optimistic person and a cheerful person but at the national level, at my level, I can't change anything nationally. All I can do is try to carve out a little enclave of sanity and freedom where I live, and most of the people I associate with feel the same way, and hopefully Wyoming can remain a bastion of sanity and freedom.

Aaron Zelman: Let me ask you a question that would apply not only in Wyoming but to everybody else who is listening in the states they live in. Do you think it's worth the effort to reach out to politicians, your senators, your congress critters and ask them, tell them, instruct them, inform them, about what you don't like or what you think the consequences will be, or what you want them to do or not do?

Mark Spungen: Well yes, and the reason for that is for your own peace of mind. You want to work through the system as much as you can and then if things go not the way you'd like it to, you can at least have the satisfaction of knowing I did everything I could working through the system. I think it's more of a peace of mind thing than to expect any real success.

Aaron Zelman: OK, so someone reaches the point where they say "OK I have done everything I can to work through the system". Once they have come to that conclusion what kind of steps should they take from that point forward?

Mark Spungen: Well, like I said, you try to carve out your own little bastion of sanity and freedom. Like I said, you prepare yourself as best you can at the local level. You have your network at the local level you establish, you know your friends and you get them all on the same sheet of music at the local level, and then when things collapse we ... we're in for some very ugly times in this country because you have this huge entitlement class - I go over this in the book too - huge entitlement class and they can no longer be entitled for much longer, and when they don't get their entitlements

it's going to be very ugly. The big cities are going to be very ugly places. That's why if you have your own little bastion, away from the cities, you it won't be nice but it won't be so bad.

Aaron Zelman: The last **Talkin' to America** show we did was with a financial analyst **Robert Meier**, and it's on our website at **Talkin' to America, JPFO.org**, and he talked about the things you are talking about and what he sees for America and it's not pretty and he believes the government will get desperate. So it'll go just beyond "things won't be nice" - we'll have a desperate government trying to keep itself afloat. Tell me what kind of feedback you're getting from people all over the country who have read your book.

Mark Spungen: And, and I mentioned, the main feedback that I've been getting is, that "you've given us hope", you know, 'cause there's a lot of people that think "but I can't possibly go up against the government", but if you choose not to comply you're not going up against the government - as I mention in the book, with this, what's coming down the road, they're going to be very busy in the big cities. They're not going to have a lot of resources to devote to people who decided not to turn their rifle in. So you'll be dealing with a very small portion of the establishment, a very tiny portion, there will be very few enforcers trying to enforce against very few resistors, which means the odds aren't anywhere near as bad as what they might appear to be. And people tell me "you've given us hope, looking at it that way I feel that I might have a chance, resistance isn't futile".

Aaron Zelman: You talk about what's coming down. Would you like to elaborate on what you think is coming down?

Mark Spungen: Well, you see, and I don't know and hopefully it won't come down, because uh, they know this, I'm not giving any secrets away. The the power, the people that want to keep control and they want to take your guns, and guns are just part of their agenda, have been very successful in my lifetime, and I'm 64 years old. Uh, your rights are continually whittled away, your gun rights have been continually whittled away but, they've been whittled away just a little bit at a time, and they control the schools, there's hatred of guns in the schools and hatred of guns on the media. There's fewer young people being raised up in the gun culture, so if they were smart they would continue this for another generation to a generation and a half and they would win without a struggle. So, I don't know this is going to come down but I suspect they might get greedy and move too soon, and so with any luck I'll be able to live out my life and my son will, and not be bothered but we don't know. So, I can't I'm not predicting when anything is going to come down or when it's going to come down. I don't have that ability.

Aaron Zelman: I don't think it'll just be greed, I think their arrogance may be their downfall, because they'll make some faulty decisions. But you touched on something that's kind of interesting. What do you suppose gun owners can do to reach out to their own children so that they become part of the gun culture?

Mark Spungen: They, they have to raise them into the culture - I know I certainly did. When my children were six years old they started shooting, and uh, if you look at children who shoot, and I've worked - well I haven't worked personally with juniors - we have a junior program in our association and the junior shooters are your most disciplined westick (?) best behaved, most responsible children and you're actually doing them a great favor because this is a very important part of their education, and uh, you know, you need to inculcate this into your children, this is critical otherwise you know, without - well when we die it dies. So every gun owner has an obligation to perpetuate the culture.

Aaron Zelman: I think you're right and I think by perpetuating the culture as you put it, we're also helping the kids understand world history and what's happened to so many people who have not been able to defend their lives because of gun control schemes.

Mark Spungen: Exactly.

Aaron Zelman: By the way, if people want to know more about this, **JPFO** has a film called **Innocents Betrayed**. It shows the eight major genocides and their full gruesome appearance, and also a book, **Death by Gun Control**. Mark, we're at a point to where I think I am going to ask you to tell people again where they can get your book and what it costs, and all that good stuff.

Mark Spungen: The book is twenty dollars post paid and the web site, which has all the ordering information, is www.neitherpredatornorprey.com, all lower case, and uh, I ship as soon as I get the order so, and uh, I've had seventy or eighty feedbacks and uh, nobody told me they'd got ripped of, so I've been getting very good feedback. You will benefit from reading this book.

Aaron Zelman: OK, why don't you take a minute and wrap up and just review something you want to share with people so they'll have a message they can take away from what we have talked about today.

Mark Spungen: The message is, that you as a person were born with free will - you make the decisions that are important in your lives and in your family's lives and in your community's life, because evil people a long ways away who sit in positions of power tell you you have to do something. That in and itself imposes no obligation on you. You know, you need to be a good person, you need to be civically responsible, but you need to do the right thing and you need to be able to ... and if you don't stick up for your rights history is, comp - you know, thousands of years of people who didn't stick up for their rights. Very bad things happened to them. And people who stuck up for their rights, maybe bad things happened to them, but at least they went out with some respect and honor and dignity.

Aaron Zelman: Very good, very good. Well Mark, I want to thank you very much

Mark Spungen: Thank you Aaron.

Aaron Zelman: for being our guest. This has been **Talkin' to America**, our special guest has been **Mark Spungen**, he is the author of **Neither Predator nor Prey**. I am your host **Aaron Zelman**, and please remember if you won't defend your rights don't complain when you lose them.

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