

7:40 P.M.

FACILITATOR: So if we were to give advice to government in terms of public policy, what would this advice be? (looks at P8).

P8: I don't know; government can't really do much.

FACILITATOR (TO P8): But certainly, government must play some role.

P8: Well, how about putting gun detectors in schools? That is practical and makes sense. That is why all of the shootings have happened in rural and suburban schools. The big city schools already have them. I really have a tough time with all of this social engineering. A kid kills two kids and suddenly we need governmental mandated child care, gun control, and economic reform. Pretty soon government will control our lives totally. I heard the other day that they want to collect DNA samples of all Americans. Once we allow government into our lives a little bit, we are on the road to total government control and domination. We have to draw the line somewhere and prevent government intervention in our lives.

P6: We need to reform the juvenile justice system. If you are old enough to kill, you are old enough for capital punishment. Quit all the plea bargaining and make these kids responsible. It's like when I was a kid and did wrong. My parents would whip my butt and pretty soon I figured out that it wasn't worth being bad because the whippings really hurt.

P4: This sounds good, but in reality I doubt whether a kid is going to be rational and say, "I am not going to kill because I don't want to be put in prison or face the electric chair." These kids are not rational in the first place. I have never bought the death penalty as a way to stop crime. Crimes of violence are not rational and the death penalty or any deterrence only works if the person committing the crime has rational ends or goals.

P1: That is why government must teach values from an early age. When I was young and did bad, my dad spanked my butt. Nowadays, when a parent spanks a kid, the kid probably has a lawyer and sues the parent (laughs in the group). I know that you think this is funny but I read just the other day about a kid who was suing his parents for spanking him. What they now call "abuse," my dad called "discipline." I whip my kids good when they need it and they are good kids, not hoodlums.

P2: I'm glad that you are not my dad.

P1: Yeah, I wouldn't put up with your lifestyle (brings moans from the group).

7:50 P.M.

FACILITATOR: Let's get back to what we want the government to do in regard to the school shootings.

P3: The government won't do anything because we haven't fixed the campaign finance laws. Was it coincidence that senators who have received thousands of NRA dollars oppose any reasonable gun regulation? At least, the government should play a stronger role in regulating what is on TV, the Net, and what music can be downloaded. Have you seen some of the video games that they put out? My gosh, people are biting each other's heads off and there is violent murder. In my time, we played video games like *Frogger*, *Asteroids*, and *Pac-Man*. These were harmless and fun games. But things have changed today. Now *Doom* seems almost mild. I also think that we need mandatory ratings of shows and the outright banning of some acts like violent murder on any media outlet. As a society we can start to eliminate some of the sickness that may influence our children toward violence or violent thoughts. The violence that our kids are exposed to is harmful to our society. I know all about the First Amendment, but this is the twenty-first century and we need some value clarification.