



The Police State

By: John Stossel - August 15, 2013

America is not a police state. But:

SWAT Raids: There are an estimated 150 SWAT raids in America every day. "Rise of the Warrior Cop" author, Radley Balko, says America's police have been militarized. Ohio Sheriff Russ Martin disagrees. He says its useful specialization.

Boston Bombing: After the Boston marathon bombing, police virtually shut down Boston. James Carafano of the Heritage Foundation says local officials and police were right to make that decision. Jim Harper of the Cato Institute says the shut down went too far.

Police Ticket Quotas: Police officers in Auburn, Alabama were told they must write 100 tickets every month. But the department denied that it had ticket quotas. Officer Justin Hanner was fired after he secretly recorded his boss giving the 100 ticket command.

Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentences: Greg Newburn, Families against Mandatory Minimum's director in Florida, says one-size-fits-all jail sentences are expensive and cruel. The Obama administration finally agrees. Karen Garrison's sons were locked up for more than a decade because of mandatory minimums.

Prying Eyes: Julian Sanchez covers technology and privacy at the Cato Institute. He says cops can turn your phone into a listening device without even touching it.

Civil Forfeiture: Increasingly in America, police use something called "civil forfeiture law" to take people's property even if they haven't been convicted. This gives police an incentive to make accusations in order to get stuff. Tulsa Oklahoma police officers drive around in this Cadillac Escalade:

Money the police confiscate keeps growing:

Government always grows. Even in stupid ways. During the Occupy Wall Street protests, barricades were placed around a sculpture of the Wall Street bull and police officers were stationed there. Even though the protesters have been gone for almost two years, the police are still there, and the barricades remain, forcing pedestrians to walk in the street, next to cars. The neighborhood association has asked the police to remove the barricaded for more than a year. No response. When we asked, we also got no response.