

OWNING HANDGUN IS EASY ON COAST

Stores Can Sell Them to All
But Those Curbed by Court

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California law, like that of most states, carries virtually no restrictions whatsoever on the ownership of rifles or handguns.

Only convicted felons, narcotic addicts and people judged by the courts as dangerous for mental reasons are prohibited from owning such weapons.

The average citizen, without a license or a permit can walk into any weapons store and purchase a rifle, a pistol, or a semiautomatic weapon. Certain forms of firearms however, such as machine guns and sawed-off shotguns, are prohibited.

Under current law people buying firearms from a registered dealer are required to fill out a registration form that is then filed with the state. And before they can take possession of a gun, there is a five-day waiting period while their identification is checked against Department of Justice records in Washington, D.C., to determine if they are ineligible to own a gun.

An Obvious Exception

Filling out such a registration form or going through the identification check is obviously unnecessary when the weapons purchase is private.

It is specifically illegal here to conceal a gun on one's body or in one's car without having a permit from the local sheriff or the police department.

In recent years, according to Bion Gregory, chief counsel

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to the Senate Judiciary Committee in Sacramento and an expert on state gun laws, these permits are getting harder and harder to get.

In addition, other state legislation, Mr. Gregory explained today, makes it illegal to carry a loaded, visible firearm in cities or incorporated areas.

According to a spokesman for the National Rifle Association in Washington, D. C., California gun laws are average. New York and Massachusetts "tie for the first place" in having the most restrictive laws, he said.

Least Restrictive States

The least restrictive laws, he said, are in certain Southern and Western states where it is legal to carry a loaded weapon anyplace anytime with no registration required.

The New York State Sullivan law makes it almost impossible for the average citizen to buy a handgun legally.

The act forbids ownership of any kind of handgun without a permit issued by the police department. New York City, according to the rifle association, has only 550 such permits in effect to people who are not policemen or security guards.

Last April, Massachusetts passed the so-called Bartley-Fox Act that requires mandatory imprisonment of one year in jail for anyone who possesses any handgun without having gone through a double licensing procedure.

Sacramento Off List

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 (AP)—A Ford Administration drive on the use of illegal hand guns directed at 11 cities does not include Sacramento, Calif., where a woman was charged today with attempting to murder the President.

After the alleged assassination attempt, Mr. Ford discussed the problem of serious crime in the nation with the California Legislature. He had chosen the topic days before the visit.