

Stricter handgun laws

By Dennis Sodomka

The shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace undoubtedly will spawn new attempts to restrict the availability of handguns in this country.

One of the most impassioned pleas for gun controls came Tuesday from Mayor Richard J. Daley, who urged Congress and the state Legislature to prohibit the manufacture, sale and mailing of handguns.

"A handgun is made to kill human beings," said Daley, who assailed legislators who refuse to approve gun-control laws.

"We have weak people running away from gun legislation, wanting to hold referendums," he said. "There is no reason for handguns."

BUT ONE of the men most opposed to gun control has been Wallace himself.

In his campaigns for President and for governor of Alabama, Wallace has come out as a strong "law and order" man, but he always defended the right of the individual to own a gun. And so did many of his backers. Less than 20 feet from where Wallace was shot was a car with a bumper sticker that said, "Register Communists, not guns."

envisioned; Wallace

May 16, 1972

☆

13

opposed them

A PAST president of the National Rifle Assn. (NRA), which lobbies vigorously against gun control legislation, told The Daily News that Wallace agreed with the NRA stand.

"At a meeting with Detroit sportsmen last month, Gov. Wallace spoke to us for about 30 minutes and his outlook was the same as most sportsmen," said Harold Glassen, a member of the NRA executive council and past president.

"He believes in mandatory penalties for misuse of guns. But he believes there is no need for registration. He says it is not the gun, but the person who misuses it that is to blame."

UNDER several gun control proposals being considered by Congress, Arthur Bremer, the accused assailant of Wallace, would have been unable to obtain a handgun legally. Wallace was shot with a .38-caliber pistol.

A bill introduced by U.S. Rep. Abner Mikva (D-Ill.) would prohibit anyone from owning a handgun but members of the military, policemen and members of pistol clubs.

It would prohibit the domestic manufacture of the one million handguns made annually, including 600,000 assembled here from foreign-made parts.

Another proposal, by Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), would extend to domestic production the present ban on imported

small-caliber handguns. Excluded from the ban would be weapons the Treasury Department rules can be used for sporting purposes.

The Nixon administration and Atty. Gen.-designate Richard Kleindienst have opposed such proposals while trying to draft a bill outlawing cheap, small-caliber handguns without interfering with the rights of citizens to own guns.

THE LAST federal gun con-

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, Tuesd

trol measure — spurred by the assassinations of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King — was the Gun Control Act of 1968.

It prohibits interstate shipment of pistols and revolvers to individuals and out-of-state purchase of handguns, rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

IT TOOK Treasury Department officials 10 minutes to trace the gun that wounded Wallace. But they said they

couldn't have done so without the 1968 gun control law.

With the serial number of make of the weapon, the gun was quickly traced to a Mil-

waukee retail outlet that sold it to Bremer.

GUN CONTROL supporters have cited the lower gun-crime rates in states with gun control

laws and compared them with such unregulated states as Alabama, where the murder rate is one of the highest in the country.