

Dart Gun Wires Enemy for Sound

By George Lardner Jr.

Ben Jamil opened a gray attache case, pulled out a long-barreled handgun, and waved it at the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee.

Into it went a metal-tipped dart, with a transmitter no bigger than a postage stamp inside.

"Be careful where you point that," said Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), only half-joking.

"The troops are on the road," said Jamil, picturing himself in Vietnam. "They're apprehensive of an ambush ahead."

He fires the dart. It lands in a "TREE," ACTUALLY A BIG PIECE OF CARDBOARD IN THE BACK OF THE HEARING ROOM. The Vietcong bushwackers are now "wired" for sound.

"You could use it in Central Park, too," Jamil's public relations man added later.

The gun, which has a range of about half a mile, isn't ready for marketing yet. Powered by carbon dioxide pellets, it shoots so hard that he

transmitter in the dart often can't survive the trip.

But once it's ready, it will probably be available to the military, defenseless young women and just plain snoopers—first come, first served.

Imagination Captured

"The adult comic book world of James Bond and Napoleon Solo," the 33-year-old Jamil told Long's Senate antismooching subcommittee yesterday, has "captured the imagination of the man in the street."

Besides helping private detectives and security-conscious businessmen, Jamil said, his Continental Telephone Supply Co. in New York believes in satisfying "the man who wants to act out his daydream of being a flesh-and-blood James Bond."

Jamil moved into the "security and surveillance" field two years ago and now reportedly grosses \$4.5 million a year.

At Continental, Jamil said, "we simply set ourselves up as merchants and not judges or moralists on who has a right to use these devices."

Even some auto salesmen like to use them, he said. A salesman might install a transmitter in a car, leave a couple alone there to "think about it," and then listen in from his office.

Gives Explanation

"Maybe they'd say, 'if he throws in the whitewalls, we'll take it,'" Jamil said. So the salesman throws in the whitewalls.

To show his concern for proper use of his wares, Jamil emphasized that he works both sides of the street: Continental sells antibugging devices, too. But here sales are slow.

Robert A. Huerta, a New York private detective whose business is "debugging" and "defensive bugging," needs a personal touch, he said.

Among his clients, Huerta said, are major oil companies, drug firms, Hollywood stars and politicians. He said he checked over the old Senate Office Building suite of an unnamed U.S. Senator earlier this year. He found no tap.

"Aren't we causing this Nation to become neurotic?" Assistant Subcommittee Counsel

Benny Kass asked the last witness, Barry Levine of New York City. Levine was Jamil's sales manager but has now set up his own bugging and debugging company.

"Neurotic, I think not," Levine said. "Security-conscious, yes."