

NEW N. O. CRIME FIGHT PLANNED

J.P. 10/3/67
Will Apparently Center
on Arms, Repeaters

Superintendent of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso Monday announced a new crime battle plan which will apparently center on illegal firearms and repeater criminals.

Giarrusso's announcement came one day after the critical shooting of Police Sgt. Lloyd Verrett, who tried to stop a hold-up at Mighty Duke's bar, 2600 Louisiana ave., Sunday.

Although he declined to reveal details of the program, Giarrusso said its results will be apparent within two months. It will be a community project bolstered by close cooperation of District Attorney Jim Garrison and Mayor Victor H. Schiro, he said.

TWO PROBLEMS

He cited the wounding of Sgt. Verrett—who was shot four times and remained in serious condition Monday following surgery—as an example of two serious law enforcement problems.

One is illegal firearms, and the other is the recidivist—the repeating violator who lives almost entirely outside of the sphere of lawfulness.

Both men arrested in connection with Verrett's shooting were ex-convicts.

Giarrusso hinted that the new enforcement program will do much to combat illegal firearms and repeaters, but would reveal no details as many legal problems have to be worked out.

RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

"One of our constitutional amendments grants a person the right to bear arms, and this makes it very hard on police," he said.

He said the intent of the amendment is not applicable to modern society and that the courts have done nothing to bring laws up to date in this area.

Of the program's prospects, Giarrusso said: "We think this will be an effective tool for con-

trolling crime in the community and we'll be able to prove it. Just give us 60 days."

Giarrusso said that Mayor Schiro and Garrison have offered their cooperation.

Garrison maintained Monday that "something must be done about all the loose firearms in this city."

PROPOSED BILL

He noted that a 1962 firearms control bill proposed by his office was not acted on by the Legislature, and added that apparently a strong lobby defeated it. The bill "never got out of the committee stage," he said.

"The people against stiffer firearms regulations seem to argue that all these guns are necessary so that they can go squirrel hunting.

"We tried to amend the bill so that it would apply only to ex-convicts, but the lobbyists seemed to think the ex-convicts should be allowed to hunt squirrels also," he asserted.

Councilman Maurice Landrieu, acting mayor in the absence of Schiro, who is in Spain, said there is very little the city can do in view of the flow of arms into and out of the city. He suggested that anything effective must be done by the state.

Garrison agreed that a state law may be the best method of dealing with the problem.

TWO MEN BOOKED

The two men arrested and booked with armed robbery and attempted murder are Richard Brown, 21, 318 S. Dorgenois, and Henry Johnson, 19, 2507 Belmont pl.

Giarrusso said that Johnson has been convicted of attempted simple burglary, and Brown, of theft. Brown was awaiting trial on an auto theft charge at the time of the shooting.

Verrett, like most sergeants, was riding alone Sunday when he received a call for a possible holdup at the bar. Police said Verrett at-

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