

# Senators Move Slowly On Gun-Control Action

By the Associated Press

Facing a maze of roadblocks, sponsors moved cautiously today in an effort to steer gun-control legislation toward Senate action in the aftermath of the Texas massacre that left 16 dead and 31 wounded.

Despite prodding by President Johnson for legislation "to help prevent the wrong persons from obtaining firearms," there appeared little likelihood of immediate action.

Sen. Thomas H. Dodd, D-Conn., author of a controversial gun-control bill approved by the Senate Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee, asked for a special meeting of the full Senate Judiciary Committee to pass on it.

Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said he would call a meeting at "the earliest opportunity" but indicated that might not be until next week.

## Fate Uncertain

In any event, Dodd said he doesn't know whether the measure, designed to control the interstate shipment of firearms, can get full committee approval.

If a bill comes out of the Judiciary Committee, it must go next to the Senate Commerce Committee. A member of this panel, Sen. Thruston B. Morton, R-Ky., said he believes some legislation can be worked out.

But Morton pointed out the pending bill would not have

prevented Charles J. Whitman from amassing the arsenal of weapons he used in his sniper attack from the University of Texas tower in Austin.

## Data to Be Required

As approved by the Juvenile Delinquency subcommittee, the bill would ban the mail order sale of pistols and revolvers and limit over-the-counter sales to persons 21 years or older who made purchases in their home states.

Rifles and shotguns could be sold directly to persons over 18. But for mail order purchases, buyers would have to supply age, residence and criminal record, if any, and comply with state gun regulation laws.

Sellers of rifles and shotguns by mail would have to submit this data to the police chief

of the purchaser's home town. If the latter made no objection within seven days, the sale could be completed. Any felony record would bar a sale.