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Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner: "Those were my guns!"

Gen. Turner Admits Selling Seized Guns

By Morton Mintz
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Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, retired Army provost marshal, admitted yesterday that he pocketed the proceeds from the sale of guns he obtained from the Chicago Police Department.

He also acknowledged to a Senate subcommittee that he did not pay income tax on proceeds from these and other guns that he sold privately during the last five years. His income from these sales, Turner said, was about \$6,800. Turner admitted he had

falsely certified that he needed 397 firearms donated by the Chicago Police Department for training purposes and that the Army would destroy them later.

But he said he signed the receipts after Superintendent of Police James B. Conlisk Jr. virtually pleaded with him to take the confiscated guns for his personal use because "this is the way we clear our records."

The former provost marshal, who is a collector, gunsmith and lecturer to Boy Scout and civic groups, asked Senators why he should not have accepted the word of Conlisk, "a man of great integrity."

"You're a man of integrity, too, yet you signed a false statement," Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) said. "Why should we accept that?" Turner did not answer.

In Chicago, Francis Sullivan, spokesman for Conlisk, told reporters, "The general is engaging in falsehoods."

The subcommittee also expects to question Turner today about charges that he covered up improprieties imputed to William O. Wooldridge, who for 26 months was the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Seated near Turner yesterday was Paul T. Duellman, a Chicago police lieutenant who had prepared the gun receipts for Turner's signature. He also denied that Turner had given any hint about getting the weapons for personal use. He added that the way the police department clears its records of 12,000 confiscated guns a year is by melting them in a blast furnace.

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CLUBS, From A1

Turner insisted that Conlisk and possibly also Duellman knew that he had retired from active duty two weeks before taking a final batch of 136 guns last Nov. 14.

But Duellman and Conlisk's aide, Sullivan, said they didn't know of Turner's retirement.

Subcommittee chairman Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.), who opened the hearing with a warning to Turner that he is under investigation by several federal agencies, summoned Conlisk and Police Chief Clarence Kelley of Kansas City, Mo., who supplied 96 guns to Turner, to testify today.

Turner's failure to report \$6,800 in profits on arms sales and trades in the years 1964 through 1968 enabled him to avoid payment of an estimated \$2,000 to \$2,500 in taxes.

How, asked Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.), could the police chief of the Army be so "incredibly naive" as to evade taxes on what every other gun dealer would recognize as income?

Turner said he had not regarded a hobbyist's profits on trades as income until just recently, when he was convinced otherwise by his lawyer and accountant.

Then, a few days ago, after

the subcommittee subpoenaed his original returns, he filed amended versions that also corrected "omissions, mathematical errors" and "a lot" that had been inadvertently "left out."

Turner also acknowledged he got about 200 guns from an illegal shipment of 5,000 new pistols seized by federal agents at Fort Bliss, Tex. He said the local provost marshal knew of his interest in firearms and offered them to him.

He acknowledged two checks totaling \$1,957 for 23 guns he sold to Pine State Gun Shop, Fayetteville, N.C., whose owner, Earl Reddick faces federal charges of violating the 1968 Gun Control Act. Turner said these were "th

cream of the crop" from the assortment given him by Chicago and Kansas City police.

"Did you give that money to the Army?" asked Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) "No!" Turner shouted. "Those were my guns!"

Under questioning, Turner said he may have sold even more guns but could not remember. He said his ledger book, in which he listed all gun acquisitions and sales, vanished a few months ago. "I wish I had it back," he said. He acknowledged he did not report the loss and gave the subcommittee a substitute ledger, which listed only one of the 700 guns from Chicago, Kansas City and Fort Bliss. But he said he did not intend to deceive anyone.