

# Ex-General Gets 3 Years in Guns Theft

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Carl C. Turner, once the Army's top law enforcement officer and the Nixon Administration's first chief U.S. marshal, was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday for stealing 136 firearms that had been given to him by the Chicago police department for Army use.

Turner, a retired major general, pleaded guilty on April 10 to the charge, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and \$5,000 fine.

Eight other charges of soliciting and stealing gifts of firearms, possessing illegal firearms and stealing government

owned guns were dismissed on a government motion when Turner pleaded guilty last month.

Turner still is charged with four counts of income tax evasion for the years 1965 through 1968. He is accused of evading payment of \$16,679 in taxes by understating his income for those years by \$48,647. Trial on those charges is set for June 7.

Turner, 58, served as chief U. S. marshal from March 2 to Sept. 5 in 1969. He was chosen by Attorney General John N. Mitchell. A native of Altus, Ga., Turner served on active Army duty from 1942 to 1968. He is married and the father of two children.

Before passing sentence in

Alexandria, U.S. District Judge Oren R. Lewis criticized letters sent to him by several U.S. Senators in Turner's behalf as "self-serving declarations written to ease the conscience of the senators who wrote them."

Turner's transactions in confiscated firearms with the Kansas City and Chicago police departments, charges that he did not report income from the sale of some of the weapons, first were made public during 1969 hearings before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee.

After the sentencing, Judge Lewis refused to release the letters written to him or name the senators who wrote them.

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MAJ. GEN. CARL TURNER  
... faces tax charge next

## TURNER, From A1

Referring to them from the bench, he asked, "How can a man write a letter that says the general has an impeccable record after these events? Wouldn't it have been better if they had at least mentioned his transgression and asked that his prior record be allowed to offset it?"

Lewis was critical of references by one of Turner's lawyers, T. Brooks Howard, to the general's past achievements, including the facts that he is a 33d degree Mason and once received a medal from FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

"I don't believe he wrote a letter, did he?" Lewis said, referring to Hoover and riffling through the Turner probation report in front of him. "In any case, all that happened before these events took place."

Howard told Lewis that he believes Turner's avid interest in his gun collecting hobby led to his downfall.

"A late friend of mine was so devoted to collecting old bottles that he used to go into deserted houses when we were hunting to look for them," Howard said. "When I would say, 'We ought not to be in

here, we're trespassing,' he would say, 'I'm not going to steal anything, I'm just looking for old bottles.'"

These police officials knew Gen. Turner was a gun collector, and the fact he was provost marshal had something to do with it too. When they had some confiscated guns they were going to destroy, they just couldn't give them to him fast enough."

Commented Judge Lewis in rejoinder: "But the disturbing thing about it is that he didn't keep them all for his collection. The naked truth is that he sold them for commercial gain."

Turner stood at attention as Lewis passed sentence, then remained standing with his head bowed during much of the follow-up discussions between his lawyers and Lewis.

The judge agreed to stay execution of the sentence for one week. He ordered Turner to surrender at 10 a.m. on May 17 to U.S. marshals who worked under him only two years ago. Under federal regulations, a prisoner may be eligible for parole the first time after serving one-third of his sentence.