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# 'Saturday Night Specials' Aid Big Private Arsenals

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. manufacturers are turning out hundreds of thousands of cheap but deadly handguns known as "Saturday Night Specials."

It's all perfectly legal, and federal officials can't agree on what to do about what one of them termed "a mammoth problem."

The problem arises, ironically, from attempts to keep tabs on the rapidly growing arsenals in private hands in this country and to limit the importation of firearms from abroad.

To get around the ban on imports of cheap, small caliber pistols imposed by the Gun Control Act of 1968, a number of U.S. firms are now selling Saturday Night Specials assembled from parts shipped in from overseas.

In addition, new domestic manufacturers are springing up overnight— and, according to one Internal Revenue Service offi-

cial, "sometimes they close down the next day."

The most recent public estimate was given in public testimony before a Senate subcommittee last year by Associate Deputy Atty. Gen. Donald E. Santarelli.

Figures supplied him by the

IRS, Santarelli said, indicated domestic production of the weapons which figure so frequently in Saturday night hold-ups and other crimes rose from 60,000 in 1968 to 700,000 in 1969.

Primary bars to agreement have been the political sensitivity of the gun control issue.