

Firearms Bill Ready In House

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House, heeding appeals to approve legislation Sen. Robert Kennedy had fought for in the Senate, appeared ready today to pass a bill banning interstate mail-order sales of pistols.

Kennedy and his brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) sought during Senate consideration of the bill to include a ban on interstate mail-order sales of rifles and shotguns, but the Senate declined to do it.

A mail-order rifle killed their brother, President John F. Kennedy.

Acting within hours of the Los Angeles shooting, the House voted against sending the bill to a Senate-House conference committee where it might be altered.

The gun-control provision is part of a sweeping crime-control bill that has several other controversial sections. These include giving police power to wiretap and "bug" some suspects and would make police use of confessions easier than is now possible under Supreme Court rulings.

Pickets gathered outside the National Rifle Association headquarters in Washington. One placard read: "Congress must act on gun bill."

Franklin Orth, executive vice president of the NRA, the strongest group opposing the legislation being debated by Congress, said even if the proposed restrictions were already on the statute books, it is doubtful they would have prevented the shooting.

He noted Kennedy's assailant apparently violated several California laws by carrying a concealed, unlicensed, loaded weapon,